

2014-09-01 09:37:00

Private Message to Inigo and Alberto Sandoval



 [alt_lana](#)

Thank you so much for the things you said last night at supper. It means everything to me to make you proud. I know that you had other notions about what might happen when I married, but I'm so pleased you understand the importance of the work and pursuits I'm choosing. After all, it's Orion's task to carry the name forward to the next generation.

I will put your gift to good use, I'm sure. The rod of discipline should not be spared, indeed. I positively look forward to the first miscreant who thinks my lessons not worth attention!

I hope that Mama and Abuelita understand that I've not set aside my work for the Aurors. I keep saying that it's merely an external appointment, but I think they wish to believe I couldn't be called to duty should a need arise. Please be sure they understand? I don't mean that I want them worrying unnecessarily. Only, it doesn't do to have Mama telling her friends that I've left the department for more natural pursuits. Honestly, what would Auror Lestrangle think if that came to her ear as though I'd characterised things that way to Mama? But, of course, she doesn't hear what I tell her.

I'm entirely settled in my new quarters, and am running through all the material for this first week. I feel so very fortunate to have Headmaster Dolohov as a mentor. The curriculum he designed is a small miracle of good sense and ingenious set pieces.

But, oh! I must run. I promised to meet Madam Pince for tea and time has run away from me.

Love to you both!

[2014-09-01 10:45:00](#)

Order Only - Private message to Sarah Fawcett



 [alt_draco](#)

Alright, I have you down for the same subjects as Hermione and I. I didn't take Runes while at Hogwarts, mind, but Hermione told me ages ago that I'd be a good match for the subject, so I reckon I might as well see what I can learn, so long as we're having these study groups.

Hogwarts would have been a load of naff this term, anyway, what with Sandoval living in the castle, someone other than Raz teaching Defence, and Moon swishing about as Head Boy. ~~Though I would have~~ I wonder if he'll start wearing sleeveless robes again? I would have been made to study Greek, too, since I already know Latin and French. Knowing three languages is plenty if you ask me. And 'research skills'? I told Hermione that if the new Headmaster were being honest, he'd just call the new curriculum "lessons in how to be like Antonin Nikolaevich Dolohov." Thanks, but I'll pass.

Do I sound convinced yet?

What did you do last year when the term started? I suppose it's just another day at Moddey and Sherwood. I might go for a fly, if you or any of the others want to join.

Now that Hogsmeade will be more populated, there may be opportunity to take a look around the village for a suitable location to cast the *Fidelius* charm. Near the village (but not directly inside it) seems best, since its proximity to the castle would make it easier for anyone escaping to get to the safe house. We'll need to make sure we've got the glamours mastered first, though. Oh, and Hermione and I discovered a brilliant charm that makes you speak with a Welsh accent for a few hours. No one will talk to someone from Wales, right? Wait til you hear it - it makes me sound like Teddy. Completely revolting.

See you later, yeah?

2014-09-01 11:12:00

Order Only: Private message to Sirius and Tonks



 [alt_lupin](#)

Nott's death is public -- being blamed on a 'home invasion,' as if anyone with the Mark wouldn't have their house warded well enough to keep out common lawbreakers -- and you can make out Dolohov's galleon in the picture, if you look closely enough.

But that's not the bit that kept me up. Here it is: 'Chipstead Camp: a fortnight of unruliness and unrest put to rights by a squad of Our Lord's loyal werewolves under the leadership Fenrir Greyback and Gandr Sharpe. Camp administrators could not be reached for comment; however, a Ministry spokesperson confirms that a review of management at Chipstead Camp is underway.'

It's not even full moon. Greyback and his mates just went and ... terrorised them, I guess.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2014-09-02 01:18:16**
(no subject)

Frank and I heard rumours on a few of our visits about werewolves being used for ~~enforceem~~ for subduing camps where there's trouble. We heard they've got wands, but it's not magic they're said to be using mostly.

I'm sorry, love. It's ugly. And it's been going on for a while. I mean, I haven't been on a camp visit since I got knocked up, and it was before Frank got laid up.

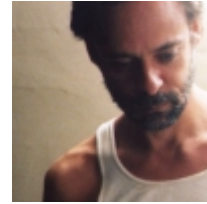
I suppose if it's making the paper now, it's probably true. Not that I doubted it, really.

2014-09-01 14:16:00

Private message to Septima and Auri

Summoned by Our Lord.

Septima, I am dreadfully sorry, but will you welcome the children and preside over the Sorting if I am not back in time?



 **alt_antonin**



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-09-01 22:59:52**

(no subject)

Nevermind: we have returned.

2014-09-01 15:05:00

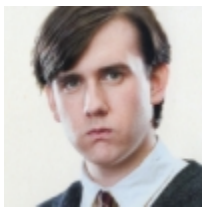
Order Only: Juniors


Anyone know what's happened? It's going down the train that Hydra and the other two were summoned by their Dark Marks, straight out of the Prefects car. Bundy says she heard Finnigan fainted when it happened and Hydra had to bring him round.



 [alt_ron](#)

Is that all just a load of rubbish? Or did they really get called off the train by the LP?



 [alt_neville](#) at **2014-09-01 20:22:23**

(no subject)

It's true. Evelyn saw it and came and gave me a quick word about it. (Broke up the Prefect car's cosy chat, it sounds like. So the rest of them decided to send a group out to patrol the train, and Evelyn was one of them).




 [alt_neville](#) at **2014-09-01 20:26:41**

Private message to Ron Weasley

Blimey, Ron. The two of us are going to have to be extra careful this year, sharing our dorm room with a Council member. Like it wasn't stressful and dangerous before.

Ugh.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-09-01 21:14:32**

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

Too right about that. Not that he wasn't already dangerous enough, but there for a while after Dean was gone, things were a bit better. Knew it wouldn't last, though.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-01 20:28:27](#)
(no subject)

ToshThe Headmaster, too.

I haven't gone to see if Savitha or MissLana have.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-09-01 21:36:59](#)
(no subject)


As far as I can tell it was a blanket summons, and the Dark Lord was in quite the temper.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-01 22:01:24](#)
(no subject)

Savitha? You mean Auror Desai? Is she teaching this year? I've heard she taught Defence for a while during the war.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-01 22:12:54](#)
(no subject)

Savitha Desai is teaching Defence again, yes. (Some of you know her from the CCF work a year ago, I know.) Also going to be head of Slytherin - there wasn't much choice there, mind.

Sorry, I should have written sooner, but Tosha was being cagey until everything was settled, and sorting myself out here has been a bit all-consuming this week.


Um. Lana Sandoval-Pennifold you knew about. A Posthumous Gimlet for Potions - apparently he was an early student of Horace Slughorn's and delighted the position's opened up. Egalantine Marwick for the actual history classes, he's written several books (and if any of you want to borrow them, I do have copies somewhere.)

The other two won't be living in, but will be here a few times a week. Ethelbert Gordon-Kinley who wrote that book on Londinium a couple of years ago, who is quite the classical scholar, for Latin

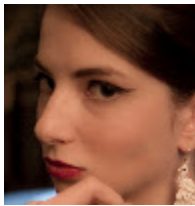
and Greek. And Gordon Holcomb, who I've known for ages, for rhetoric and composition. (He's very pleasant but I suggested him because he's particularly good with younger children, and not at all threatening.)

Oh. And Carolus Milland - the real one - is back as caretaker. I think there was some back and forth about it until quite recently.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-01 22:03:15](#)**
(no subject)


I don't know, but I'm still short of Prefects and that means we've not got enough to patrol all the cars and I've just been informed that Whitacre had to break up a scuffle between Kelley Drumgoole and Marlon Strangeweale that involved boiling skin hexes (not *boils*, but actual boiling skin) and without Hydra there to assist, he got hexed, too, and now he's in the Prefect's car, moaning and nursing a burn.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-01 22:10:03](#)**
(no subject)

Come draft me and Pansy, we'll help. You're Head Girl, we're mates from your House, people will talk but it's better than the alternative. (Anyway we're 7th year Slytherins, we ought to be able to keep a bunch of marauding OWL students in line.) You saw us earlier, we're right near the Prefect car.

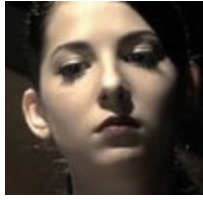


 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-01 22:13:13](#)**
Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy

Honestly, I have half a mind to Cruciate Drumgoole and Strangeweale. I know it's not the sort of thing our Order group approves of, but they don't know what some of these students are like. They simply don't respond to any other form of discipline, it seems.

But I won't actually Cruciate them. Yet.

Anyway, yes, I'll come fetch you as soon as I've checked on Whitacre.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-01 22:20:03](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy

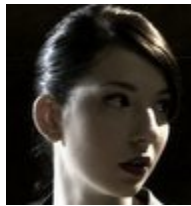
There's a variant on petrificus totallis that'll leave him wishing you'd done something quick like cruciatus, if you leave him in it till we're back at school. Even though all you did was petrify him to keep him out of trouble. So long as no one lets him out, anyway.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-02 02:43:44](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy

Honestly, though, there's a difference between using it completely vindictively, and using it because nothing else will work, and you need to keep your authority as Head Girl. At least I think so.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 03:56:07](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy

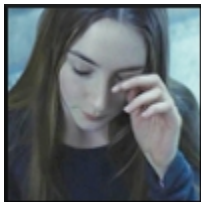
I agree, but do you think the rest of the Order is going to see it that way? They wouldn't yell at her -- well, Terry might -- but there will be hand-wringing. And it's not like she can avoid it by not telling them, it's always the subject of massive gossip when a Head Boy or Head Girl casts cruciatus so everyone will know.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-09-01 22:20:02](#)

(no subject)

Dolohov just came through the floo. He looked horrid. Sent me out of the offices immediately. But he was going for the lemon and potion I'd left out.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-02 00:05:42](#)

(no subject)

We're all back. Came through Headmaster's floo.

See you at supper.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 00:28:56](#)
(no subject)

What happened?

Glad you're back.

2014-09-01 19:46:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

Write when you've finishd the feast.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-09-02 01:35:54**

(no subject)

I've a few moments. Trying to look like I'm eating; the journal will help as an excuse.

I'm fine. Just tired, *solnyshko*, and my joints ache. No hope that Bella would show mercy, I suppose.

I am glad I had extra lemons on hand for the children; they are rather worse for wear. Except Hydra; I do not think anything would crack her shell. But the other two -- maybe now they will believe me that I did not name them Head Boy or Girl as a favour to them.

...хуй, I've just remembered I have a meeting with the Head Boy and Girl after the feast. What a miserable day.

How long do you think He will enforce His prohibition on our squabbles this time? My joints say He is at least in deadly earnest for the moment.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2014-09-02 01:55:02**


(no subject)

Narcissa and the elf have been solicitous here. Am grateful.

Deadly earnest.

And who can guess? For now, certainly, He's asserting His prerogatives. Demanding life, giving death. All belong to Him.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-02 02:19:40](#)**
(no subject)

I can't imagine what changed His mind since Friday. I really did think we left Him reconciled to our adventures. Only thing I can think of is the attempt on Mulciber having woken Him to how many of our company we have lost in the past half-decade or so? Or perhaps He just wishes to keep us all on our toes.

We're finishing up here; off to be avuncular. Give N my love.




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-09-02 02:45:01](#)**
(no subject)

That's His right, of course.

The memory of Rowle, howling. Almost makes the rest worthwhile.

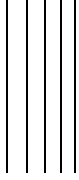


 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-02 03:27:38](#)**
(no subject)

I almost thought he'd wet himself. And Mulciber, too -- if we are not to be allowed our vengeance (yet), at least there is that mental image to carry with us.

And the Head Girl's written to me to postpone our conference for the evening -- I had underestimated how much babysitting the firsties would need -- so I'm to bed soon, which will at least bring this day to a conclusion. At least the students will be less of a trial than the Shambling Horrors of the Deep. (Or at very least, a different sort of trial; I am certain none of them have ever tried to eat each other, for instance. Though I shouldn't jinx myself.)

Sleep well, зайчик мой. Or at least sleep restfully.



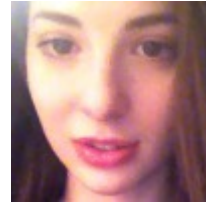
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-02 03:38:52](#)
(no subject)

Rest well, Batya.

2014-09-01 19:50:00

Order Only (Juniors)

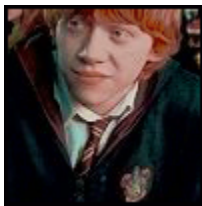
So I guess we'll be calling her Professor Desai, not Auror Desai. And Professor Sandoval-Pennifold, not Auror. (THAT'S a bit of a mouthful. Shame she couldn't have married someone named Smith. Or changed her name. Or something.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Hydra looks a bit peaky, but Finnigan and Patil look ghastly. It's hard to tell from over here, but I don't think Finnigan's eaten a thing. Dolohov, Desai, and Sandoval don't look so good either -- well, Dolohov looks almost normal. He's eating, anyway.

We've got a good crop of Firsties. They're SO LITTLE. Kind of shocking how tiny they are.



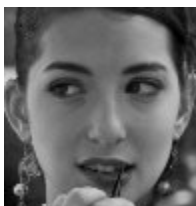
 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-09-02 01:01:36**

(no subject)

Yeah. Finnick tried drinking a bit of tea, but he gagged on it. Looked like he couldn't swallow properly. And he's sitting like he's all bruised on his seat. Reckon he may be.

I KNOW. The ickle firsties!

Sniffly lot we got. I said Cheers to one of them, and he went pale as a ghost and looked like he might be ill.

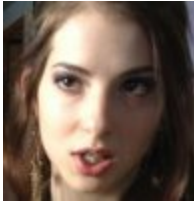


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-09-02 01:03:34**

(no subject)

~~Maybe he heard you'd interned with the Aurors~~

You're awfully tall, that was probably it.



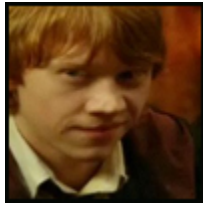
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 01:05:47](#)

Private message to Ron

Do you suppose they all got cruciated? They certainly look like they've been cruciated, and Cedric mentioned Dolohov going for the potion and lemons he'd left out.

I feel bad for Hydra, if so.

Not so much for Patil and Finnigan. I mean, I wouldn't wish it on them, mind you, but remember how much they lorded it over some of us that we'd got the wrong end of some git's wand and they hadn't?



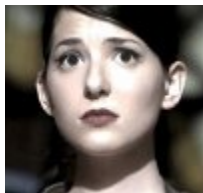
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-02 01:22:39](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Oh, Cruciated by the LP. Now that's rich! Had all their dreams come true when they got made Councilwizards, didn't they?

I reckon being cruciated by him's worse than having it from Umbridge. Or Sandoval. (And, oh, isn't that a happy thought!)

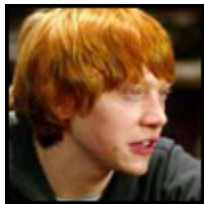
Brilliant. I'm soooo looking forward to this year.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 03:48:14](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

It's really not likely to IMPROVE either of their disposition. Or were you being sarcastic? It's hard to tell in the journal.

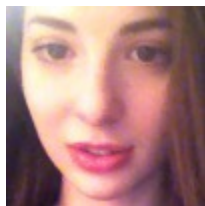


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-02 04:37:12](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah. Just thinking that it's funny they were so smug when we were taking that curse from Head Girl Sandoval and Madam Umbridge back then, and now they're finding out what it's like, but from somebody loads worse.

Thing is, now we've got Sandoval back, I reckon there's a good chance we'll find ourselves back on the receiving end sometime. Not that I plan to give her--or any of them--an excuse.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 04:51:51](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Ugh, too right.

At least we won't have her as a teacher...except, Dolohov may INTEND to teach us all but what if he gets sick again? we probably shouldn't count on not having her as a teacher.

Maybe I should ask Dolohov to write me a little excuse note, 'this person is studying to be a Healer and should not engage in any serious Dark-slash-NOBLE magic in class; please do not cruciate her for turning down the opportunity to practice her cruciatus skills.' Just in case. Because she's going to think letting someone study Noble Arts who's following the Healer's code of ethics is UTTERLY naff.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-02 02:49:12](#)

(no subject)

What did you all think of Dolohov's speech?

It's funny. We've known ever since we lost Professor McGonagall that someone else would be sitting in that chair tonight. But it still felt like, I dunno...

All those new faces at the staff table, too.

I guess until now it didn't really sink in for me how different it's going to be this year, that someone's going to be running the school who isn't in the Order.



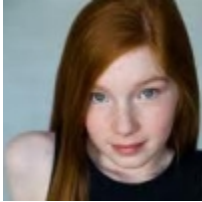
 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-09-02 02:55:51](#)


(no subject)

I thought that the Hat sounded rather melancholy this year.

I mean, it was things we've heard before, all about the different strengths of the different Houses. But there was that bit about how we needed to reach across the gaps. Did you notice that? It sounded almost sad, in a way, you know?

I wonder if it's noticing how there are practically no half-bloods coming anymore. And I wonder if it's aware of all the muggleborns who SHOULD be coming, but who aren't there to be Sorted?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-02 03:33:45](#)

(no subject)

I suppose that makes the last verse make a bit more sense, if that's what it was trying to get at. Something about everyone all being too much the same.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-09-02 03:42:57](#)

(no subject)

Well, the Hat definitely knew who I was right away, when I was sorted. So yeah, I guess it must be aware of all the others like Hermione and me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 03:46:57](#)

(no subject)

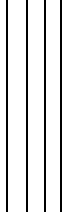
Maybe we should nick the Hat to find the babies. Might be safer than trying to check the Book.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-02 04:38:59](#)

(no subject)

You think it would tell us where to look for them? Or would we just have to take it to every camp and try it on all the sprogs to see if it Sorts any of them?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-02 04:52:38](#)
(no subject)

Trying it on babies would be very inefficient. I'm thinking one of us would just put it on and ask it.

2014-09-01 20:18:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan and Ed Bones



 [alt_evelyn](#)

I've told Brendan already, but I thought I'd pass along to you both that Hangleford and Pandya got off to a rough start. Hangleford is the thin boy with curly brown hair, and Pandya wears glasses. I don't think it's too dire, but they did get into a shoving match about something on the train where Pandya's glasses were broken and had to be fixed, and neither were pleased at all to be sorted into the same house.

I also wanted to thank you both for being so welcoming on the train today. It's a shame we had to leave off so soon. I very much look forward to working with you this term, as does Brendan, I'm sure.

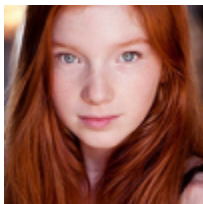


 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-02 03:45:35**

(no subject)

Wizard. Of course they wound up in the same House.

Thanks for letting me know.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-09-02 04:36:33**

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Who knows? They may end up the best of friends.

I don't mean to presume, but I hope you're feeling better. I've heard that ginger tea with lemon can do wonders to settle one's stomach.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-02 04:53:10**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Had some, thanks.

2014-09-01 21:06:00

Order Only: Private message to Tonks

I don't know about you, but I always get weirdly melancholy when I see Hogwarts is starting up again for the year. I mean, I enjoyed Hogwarts well enough, even though I know you didn't, but the way Mum and Dad talk about how it used to be for them... they were always so careful to make sure not to make us think our experience at Hogwarts would be like that, but sometimes I think about what Hogwarts was like for them versus what Hogwarts was like for us, and what Hogwarts was like for me versus what Hogwarts was like for you, and I just get so angry.



 **alt_charlie**

We'd better have this licked by the time it's Bea's turn, is all I'm saying. Much less when it's time for Baby.

Speaking of Baby: did you finish off the raspberries and blackberries I sent down for you? If you're still having cravings, let me know. As far as I can tell, nobody else has found the thicket I'm picking -- or at least if they have, there's still plenty left.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2014-09-02 01:38:12**

(no subject)

Ooooh, berries!


(Mind you, yesterday I couldn't stand the thought, but I'd give every galleon in my pocket for some right

now!)

I know, I get a bit funny at the start of September, too. Not because I'd ever want to go back to being a student, but I suppose it's another reminder that if I'm not careful, I'm going to look up one day and find I've gone and got old, and I want to have done something before that happens.

Do you know it's been four months since I've made a camp visit?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-09-02 02:11:51](#)
(no subject)

I'll send you down a few quarts tomorrow, then. Or Wednesday at the latest, if my shift runs late and I don't get a chance to go picking again, but we've been finishing up on time lately, miracle of miracles. Anything else you're craving? You know you only have to say the word, luv -- I'll go running anywhere you send me.

I'm not going to be that tedious person who says "but you're doing THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK A WITCH CAN DO" like you're only good for making babies, but, well, you are making a person, and I have it on good authority that's rough work. I'm not surprised you haven't had the energy for camp visits. I know you miss it, though. At least we don't have Snape using up all the Polyjuice anymore so it's not so urgent that you be doing as many of the visits as you can? (And oh, Merlin, now I'm imagining Malfoy doing camp visits. Although it might be good for him, knock some of those airs straight out of him, but you know he'd never be any good at being delicate with parents.)

And I know what you mean about wanting to do something. We are doing something important, and we're doing it as well as we can, I do believe that. But there's still that nagging feeling ... I wonder if it's being about to become a father. I mean, you've been through all this before, but I keep catching myself thinking about Baby and realising he or she is already changing so much about how I think.

I don't want our kid to grow up in this world. In twelve years I want to be able to stand on the platform with purebloods and halfbloods and Muggleborns and all of us wave at our kids and worry about nothing more than whether they packed enough pairs of socks. And I think we're on our way there, I have to believe we're on the way there, but I don't know if we're heading there fast enough.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-09-02 02:53:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes, please!

And thank you for not being that person who goes on about mothering that way. I do, actually, think there are loads of other things I can do that are worthwhile, thank

you very much, and I intend to continue doing them. Even if some of them have to wait until I can morph enough of me to not be recognised or Apparate again or, you know, do much of anything without running out of breath and needing to sit and put my feet up on cushions.

Do you know when I'm sitting, if I bend over to pick something up off the floor, I lose my breath completely. And it's not as if I've got ginormous yet.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-09-02 03:06:22](#)
(no subject)

Didn't mean to sound as if I were shouting at you. Because, of course, you aren't one of the ones who need to hear that.

Guess I'm a bit sensitive about that, yeah?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-09-02 03:17:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'd have to be right slow to go on about how witches are best suited to making babies and nothing else, because if I did, Dree would hex me into next week! But no. You have so much to offer. And you're a right nift person on top of it, too. I'm glad I know you.

And no, I didn't take it as shouting. But even if it was I wouldn't mind, you're allowed a little bit of shouting at me if you want. (And a whole lot of shouting at Dumbledore, but, well.) Are your feet still bothering you, then? I'll wander down and rub them my next time off if it would help.

I've always wondered that about Mum, you know. She spent so much time and effort raising all us lot, and I know she enjoyed it and I know it was something she wanted to do. I don't think she regrets it, not at all. But sometimes I wonder if there was something else she wanted to do, before she wanted to be Mum. And, I mean, she's doing other things now, but ... I don't know. It's hard to think about what your Mum might have given up, to raise you.

Make you a deal right now? Once Baby's done cooking, anytime you feel the need to go do something that isn't mothering, you let me know. I'll come take over.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-09-02 04:23:28](#)
(no subject)

I know you will.

And it's not as if I'm not good for anything at all now. If I needed to, I reckon I could still hold my own in a duel. If anything, I believe my standing balance is a bit better just now, probably because I've been staying the same shape most all the time. Well, nearly. But the truth is that the way I'm changing with the baby is much less discombobulating than the ways I usually change.

Mind you, I haven't forgotten what it's going to be like when it stops being dormouse sized and turns into a hippogriff.

That's when I'll start feeling really nostalgic for school days!



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-09-02 04:54:28](#)
(no subject)

Ha! You were awfully oddly shaped by the end of when you were carrying Bea, yes. I hadn't stopped to think about how odd it must have been to not be able to morph. I wonder if Baby will be a metamorph too, or if the Weasley traits will win out. I guess I'll hope they don't, it could be a bit awkward to explain why Mr and Mrs Ponds have a tiny ginger.

I was thinking yesterday, the appointment with the Healers to do the charms to find out what sex Baby will be is in what, two weeks? And then I freaked out a little, because that makes this even more real, and it was already pretty real. We haven't really talked about it, but are you hoping for one or the other? It might be nice for Bea to have a sister, but likewise it might be nice for you to have one of each.

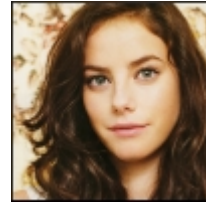
And I know we're going to have to be careful with names and all, and I don't actually like naming children after dead people, because it always strikes me as not letting the kid grow up to

be their own person. But still, if Baby is a girl, I think her middle name should be something for your mother. Not her name, that's too risky, but something that reminds you of her. And if Baby's a boy, I think his middle names should be Arthur and Ted. (Although 'Ted' might make people think of Nott, and that's nothing good there -- but it would still be nice to honour your father.)

I'm pretty sure you could not only hold your own in a duel, but you could out-duel me one-handed. At least from what Frank says.

2014-09-01 21:06:00

Private message to Headmaster Dolohov and Linus Moon




Headmaster,

The post-feast hustle and bustle has taken even longer to manage than either I or Linus anticipated. In light of the late hour, and the fact that some of the new Prefects are still coming to us with questions, I believe it may be best if Linus and I were to postpone our meeting with you that was scheduled for this evening - if, of course, you're amenable.

 [alt_daphne](#)

-Daphne




 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-09-02 03:20:23**
(no subject)

Yes, that would be fine. I do want to be available to you whenever you need me, but there's no need we must meet tonight. Get some rest after your long day.

Perhaps you and Mr Moon might join me for lunch tomorrow, if that suits? I'll have the elves arrange a nice meal.




 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-09-02 03:21:26**
(no subject)

That sounds lovely.

Enjoy the rest of your evening, sir.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-09-02 03:29:13**
(no subject)

Thank you, my dear, and you as well when you do. I am confident the house is in good hands.

2014-09-02 00:10:00

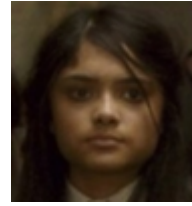
Private Message to Su Li

Oh, for ~~Laksh~~ Merlin's sake, I'm all right. Just tired.

But thank you for making sure Dunstan and Brocklehurst didn't try pulling back my curtains, anyway. I wouldn't have wanted to start the year off by hexing their noses off.

And no, despite what Midgen said (*yes, I heard her!*), none of us are 'in trouble'--what put that into her featherbrain? It was just Council business, that's all.

Now, tomorrow morning, be sure there's lemon water by the bed, will you? Ta.



 **alt_padma**

2014-09-02 09:48:00

Private message to Padma

You all right, then?



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-09-02 15:05:09**

(no subject)

Much better this morning. You?



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-02 15:07:48**

(no subject)

Yeah. Just -- still a little off-colour. Wondering when I'll feel like myself again. I don't want to ask



 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-09-02 15:15:39**

(no subject)

What was that even *about*? Just because old Nott got done in? We didn't have anything to do with it.

I suppose it's one way to make sure we don't go round squabbling with anyone else on the Council but it's not as if we have anyone to squabble *with*, right?

I mean, even if Lana Professor Sandoval-Pennifold or Professor Desai turn out to be awful teachers, which is practically impossible, I don't think we'd try to resolve our marks by trying to *kill* them!



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-02 15:20:49**


(no subject)

I'm pretty sure it's not just about Nott. Mr Rosier's mentioned things in the past. The Council has factions, you know, people take sides. You might

not have anyone to squabble with yet but once you have a bit of influence people will want you on their side, surely.

I'm not explaining this very well. I'm really tired today.

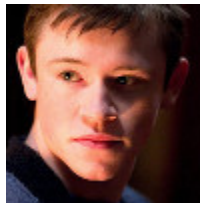



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-09-02 15:45:04](#)**
(no subject)

Should have made Longbottom get you remedies. Su Li did for me, and kept everyone else away, and it was so helpful.

Not sure you could get Weasley to step and fetch for you but maybe you could adopt a firstie to fag for you for the year. Maybe keep a lookout for a good one in your crop.


I'm going to see if I can enlist one of ours but I haven't had a chance to look them over properly yet. For now, though, Su Li's just ever so obliging.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-09-02 15:51:39](#)**
(no subject)

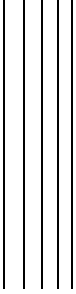
Good thought about Longbottom. I wouldn't trust a potion from Weasley, he'd probably spit in it.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-09-02 19:10:17](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I know; I mean, I heard about how Mr Malfoy and the Mulcibers hate each other and how he fell out with Mr Baddock. But what I mean is that we don't have any factions *yet*. (Also, does that mean Mr Nott didn't die in a 'home invasion')

Ugh, did you see Lestrage is inviting us to take a run? I spent the whole morning in bed, I'm not even sure I could walk around the grounds, honestly. But maybe it would actually help? (She probably knows things we don't about post-Cruciation recovery. I think it wasn't the first time her mum's done it.)



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-09-02 19:33:10](#)**
(no subject)

A run? Is she utterly cracked?

I don't know, maybe you're right. She's probably an expert.

2014-09-02 10:31:00

Private message to Seamus and Padma

Yesterday's was an especially long summons, wasn't it? When our Lord makes an effort to subsume us with His message, He doesn't do it by halves. I anticipate that He may offer a refresher when we're next called to court. It's been known to happen before. Repeat application of such lessons ensures that we think of Him first in all matters, and ourselves second. Rightly so.



 [alt_hydra](#)


But I know that neither of you grew up with Council Members for parents (excepting Uncle Rosier), so maybe you weren't expecting it. I don't know.

I hope that you awoke feeling refreshed and more fully yourselves again, but better acquainted with the measures that He must employ to sharpen us into an extension of His will, and His will alone.

I might go for a run tonight, while the weather is good and coursework still light. If either of you would care to join.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-03 00:23:20**
(no subject)

If you haven't gone yet, I'll join you.




 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-09-03 00:34:33**
(no subject)

Hydra,

I'm up for it if you're still interested.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-03 00:50:17](#)
(no subject)

Good.

I'll meet you both at the entrance to the Great Hall.

[2014-09-02 16:57:00](#)

Private message to Lana


If you are done delving through the library, my dear, do come on up before supper for a drink and a chance to ask any last-minute questions before I throw you to the third and fourth years tomorrow.



 **[alt_antonin](#)**

(Unless you would prefer otherwise, I will observe the third-year class, but not the fourth-year: the fourth years are already accustomed to learning from me, and I would not wish to split the classroom authority unless you would prefer the safety net.)



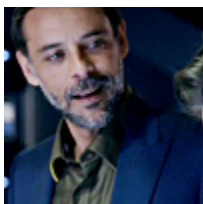
 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:32:09](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you, the aperitif was just the thing before dinner, and going over it all once more afterwards was reassuring. You've been so very generous, helping me prepare, Antosha.

I honestly do think I'm ready, but tell that to my stomach! I'm taking Septima's advice and turning in now so I can make an early start and feel that I'm rising virtuously with the sun rather than that I'm being roused from sleep by nerves. Whichever it is, I'm committed to starting the day at 5:00 in my wonderful workshop. I do believe you thought of everything to kit it out. My best hours for study and experimentation will surely be those early hours before any of the sloths are up.

I'll expect to see you along with the third years, then.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-03 05:51:26](#)**

(no subject)

Anytime, my dear. And that is not simply polite protestation: as your magister it is my duty to provide you with anything you need to succeed in your apprenticeship, and an hour or two spent helping you rehearse your lectures is so far from being a chore it is not even in the same neighbourhood. (As to the butterflies -- the first time I took a classroom of beginning students myself I was, oh,

a year or so younger than you are now, and despite my own magister having made me deliver my first lecture to him six times in a row beforehand, I had stage fright so vicious my hands would not stop shaking for two days. You are doing just fine.)

I think you are ready as well, and you may believe that if I did not, I would not be shy in saying so. One word of warning, however, that I heard from my own magister and pass on now to you: it is all too common, among those drawn to the Arts, to believe that asking for help is a sign of weakness, and thus to believe that one must appear as though one has everything fully under control at all times. (A problem, I observe with delightful understatement, that is even more common among our brotherhood.)

I will tell you again, and as often as I need to: I do not expect you to be perfect at this on first foray. Teaching, as a discipline, is shockingly harder than it appears. (And easier, in some ways, as well, and certainly never boring.) It is a rare beginning teacher who does not get over her head at least once. I will never view questions or requests for help as a sign of failure.

That magisterial lecture aside: sleep well, Professor, and enjoy your time in the morning. I am accustomed to rising fairly early and having a pleasant jog around the lake before breakfast; I will stop in and see how you are doing. (After I have bathed, I promise.)

2014-09-02 19:23:00

Another Year Upon Us



 [alt_daphne](#)

Welcome, one and all, to a new school year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. I would like to take pains to make this welcome especially known to our new First Year students, as well as to those who join us this year as new or returning Professors. To Professors Desai, Sandoval-Pennifold, Gimlet, Marwick, Gordon-Kinley, and Holcomb: we are most honoured to have your expertise to guide us. In the time he has been at Hogwarts, our newly appointed Headmaster Dolohov has aptly demonstrated the value of an in-depth, substantial, and nuanced magical education, and I know that we may all rest assured that these appointments were filled with the utmost perspicuity.

While we all look forward to the rigour and perspective that our new Professors will bring to the classroom - indeed, to the very capacity of our wands and minds! - we do not forget those who taught us so well before, and left us far too soon.

To all those in Second Year and above, I hope that before you retire this evening, you will consider taking a moment of silence to reflect on and remember Professor Rabastan Lestrangle and Headmistress Minerva McGonagall. Remember them fondly and remember them well, and embark upon this new school year with their wisdom in your hearts.


To those in First Year: Now that you have settled in and completed your first day of lessons, please direct any lingering concerns or questions to your House Prefects. Remember that the school rules were carefully covered by the Headmaster at the Welcoming Feast, and that a list of said rules are clearly posted in each House common room. Failure to familiarise yourself with these rules will not be accepted as an excuse for breaking them in any way, shape, or form. This warning applies to students of every year and every House; trust that your Prefects are adept at disciplining students who fail to adhere to these rules, whether by carelessness or deliberation. One may hope that any misbehaviour will not require intervention by either the Head Boy or Head Girl, but should it come to that, expect a full and thorough reprimand.

And to All: Remember that Hogwarts has stood on this ground for centuries, and that the very legacy of Wizarding and Witching

England is embedded within these walls and foundations. You owe it to yourself and to all of Wizard and Witchkind to extend that legacy far, far into the future. The strength, loyalty, and constitution of the Protectorate is intrinsically connected to the strength, loyalty, and constitution that is fostered within this very castle. Aspire to become the calibre of Protectorate citizen who those residing in the future will look back on with admiration and reverence, just as we look back on our great Founders today.


May we all stand together, in future's favour!



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-03 02:43:24](#)
(no subject)


Very well said, Miss Greengrass, and thank you for the kind words.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-03 03:07:13](#)
(no subject)

You're entirely welcome, Headmaster.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-03 02:52:58](#)
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Daphne,

Well done, what. I've a feeling we shall all see a much brighter future with leadership such as yours.

By the way, I had quite an engaging chat with your sister on the train yesterday. I say, you never led one to believe her quite so accomplished. Nearly as deft as you yourself, what, with social niceties.

-Justin




 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2014-09-03 03:02:34**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Oh, but she's only imitating me and my social niceties!

I joke, but in all truth Astoria has, in the past, been completely horrid. It's middle-child syndrome, Mother says. My sister's got a stubbornness to her that is not at all the good kind, but I suppose you have to live with her to fully appreciate the extent of it.

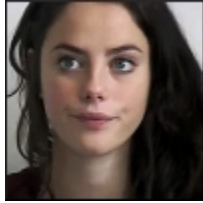


 **[alt_justin](#) at 2014-09-03 03:08:09**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Perhaps. My mother always said that one never gets on with one's own siblings as well as others do, what.

-Justin



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2014-09-03 03:18:09**


Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Perhaps your mother had a sibling she didn't get on with, as I do. For from what I can see, most siblings get on well enough. Ron always spoke very fondly to me about most of his older brothers, and Ginny too, of course. And the one he didn't speak fondly of - well, he had very good reasons not to.

And it's hard to even imagine the Longbottom children quarreling.

Astoria and I just seem destined to grate on one another. Who knows how it came to be.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-03 03:29:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Yes, well, I've had occasion to agree with Ron about his eldest brother, more than once, sadly. Though with considerably less cause, what. But it's bally well unfortunate that they have had to shoulder more than their share of hardship. Losing two members so in such quick succession, even if it was in service to the Protectorate.

We spoke about that, in fact--your sister and I, I mean to say. She asked about Ron and Ginny, specifically, and we talked about how strange the summer has been for all the Weasleys.

And for you, too, I'm sure. I must say it's jolly difficult for all of us to be back at Hogwarts without Malfoy but for you, I imagine it's a particularly bittersweet feeling. I say, I'm sorry if it's painful for you. I do assure you, I sympathise.

Have there been Head Boys and Girls from the same House? I suppose one could look at the rolls and see how long it's been since they both represented a single quadrant of the school. Surely Draco would have made an excellent Head Boy, what, and I should say it would have been a bally well different year if we had any other Head Girl.

-Justin

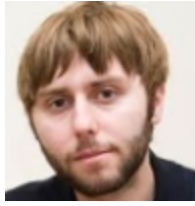


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-03 03:36:48](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

I've not heard of Head Boys and Girls hailing from the same House in the same year, but yes, one would have to look back to be certain.

If Draco were still with us and had been made Head Boy, I'm sure that he would have set an example that this school would not have soon forgot. I nearly asked the students to take a moment of silence in his honour, as well, but it didn't seem quite appropriate - even if I plan to do it myself, later.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-03 03:40:53](#)


Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Yes, quite. Jolly good form, you. His is quite the lesson in the importance of holding to what is right and proper.

And your remembrance is a credit to him, well done.

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-03 03:44:08](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

One can only imagine how different things would be if Patil were Head Girl.

In all honesty, Daphne, Astoria was rather charming, if a bit uninformed. Still, do you think there might be hope of bringing her round to the idea of a Galleon, eventually?

-J

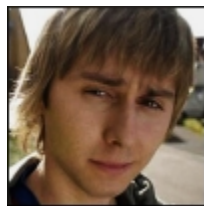



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-03 03:45:54](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

You talked to her on one train ride and you're already *charmed*?

Ugh, she's getting better at this than I had realised. I'd best look into it before it gets out of hand.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-03 03:48:45](#)

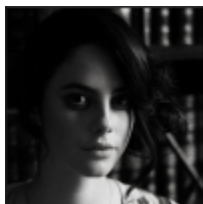
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

What? No, I don't mean I think she's anything like ready to hear about the Galleon *now*, of course. Only that there seems at least a glimmer of conscience.

Please don't fuss on my account. It was a simple conversation, no harm in it at all.

I'm off to bed, now, though. Good night.

-Justin



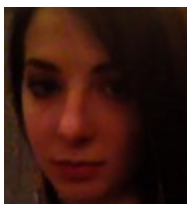
 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 03:57:42](#)**

Order Only

I hope what I said was alright.

When I'm old and famous I want to be able to look back and see that I said the right thing, and that I

didn't lie.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:03:23](#)**

Re: Order Only

It's perfect, Daphne.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:05:30](#)**

Re: Order Only

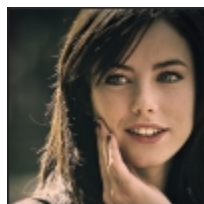
Oh, good!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:38:40](#)**

Re: Order Only

Good show. You're going to be brilliant at this, y'know.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 05:00:27](#)**

Re: Order Only

Cheers, Ronald!

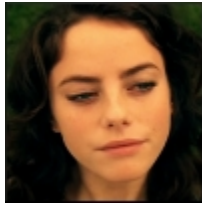


 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:39:12](#)**

Re: Order Only

Better than anyone else would have done, and that's the truth. It's uniquely you, Daphs.

Let's hope that when you're old and famous everyone will have already looked back on Sandoval's rubbishy "loyalty oath" and hexed her hair on fire.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 05:04:29](#)**


Re: Order Only

Oh bloody Holda, it's as if you rang a bell, Draco. Now Lana's pestering me about that oath again!

I think I shall feint as if I fell asleep so that I have time to ponder an appropriate response. I shouldn't like her to believe that I fancy her rubbishy oath as anything other than sublimely brilliant.

(Thank you, though, for the rest of what you said)



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2014-09-03 04:36:43](#)**

(no subject)

Well said, Miss Greengrass.

Have you given any thought to my suggestion about reviving the oath?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 14:00:43](#)**

(no subject)

Good morning, Professor,

I did think about it, and quite carefully. I went back through my journal and re-read your welcome message from when you were Head Girl, and I was struck by your eloquence and your commitment to upholding the virtues of both our school and our Protectorate. I am cautiously confident that those virtues, instilled by both yourself and your peers, were seeds that have by now taken root in the best of us. Thanks to the seeds

you so carefully planted, I can extend faith to our students--faith that they are on the verge of flourishing into a unified and dedicated whole; a model of acumen and righteousness that will shine a light for those in the years to come.

(I say "cautiously confident" not to diminish the success of your efforts, but to acknowledge that there will always, *always* be a few bad Bott's Beans to spoil the bunch; those who show themselves unworthy of the faith I have placed in them will be dealt with accordingly, and shall be denied all faith thereafter.)

Do you think that you yourself will revive the oath within your own classrooms? It would be quite like establishing your own Hogwarts' legacy, now that you've returned! For the oath really does reflect your own insight and bearing, which I submit have played no small part in your abundant successes. I aspire to have insight and bearing of my own, but shouldn't like to obtain it by resorting to mimicry of any true originator.

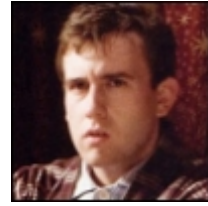
I do, however, hope that you will find the rest of my tenure as Head Girl quite in keeping with the spirit of your example.

(For anyone reading who is unacquainted with Professor Sandoval-Pennifold's loyalty oath, which was issued on the the second of September exactly five years ago, I suggest you turn back in your journals to find the entry. It truly is worth remembering.)

Sincerely,
Daphne G. Greengrass

2014-09-02 21:48:00

Order Only: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom



 **alt_neville**

How's Artie taking it all, now that things are really starting to sink in for him?

I'm glad for you that he's in the know. Especially because he's been such a decent bloke who has treated you right.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-03 15:27:42**

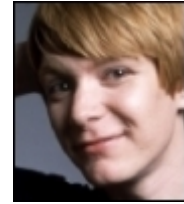
(no subject)

We had a very long talk over the weekend, and he had no end of questions. I think he was too nervous to talk about it on the train, even though we could've made sure we weren't overheard, but he kept shaking his head and sort of grinning at me every now and then, and I could just tell that he was thinking about it.

When we were talking this weekend, he said that reading everything about what they'd been up to these past few years made him wish he'd known about it ages ago, and that it was a jolly good thing he'd met me, otherwise he might not have ever had the chance.

2014-09-02 21:50:00

Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson



 [alt_george](#)

Fred and I are in a funk, now that you're gone (well, especially me), and Hitty actually BURNED THE TOAST this morning. And then she wanted to wallop her head with the frying pan until Fred managed to convince her that the carbon char on the toast was JUST what we needed for some of the metallurgy experiments we're doing with Fu.

Things aren't nearly as fun without you around. I'm also grieved to tell you that Fred's already starting to misfile things again, after you spent so many hours this summer getting our administrative records unscrambled, too.

Miss you, and not JUST because of the shortage of private snogs. Fred's always good company, and I know you have Perks at your side there at Hogwarts. But it's just not the same.

Expect incoming giant care package tomorrow. Someone I miss so much definitely deserves a WWW special delivery.

I won't insult you by telling you to be careful, now that Dolohov's Headmaster. Oh yeah, and especially with Lana Sandoval-Pennifold swanning around Hogwarts, too.

But blimey, I'm sure thinking it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-09-03 15:18:08**

(no subject)

It's funny, being at school after working all summer is making me feel all itchy. Like I don't quite belong here any more.

I just want to be done, and get back to doing things that really matter. (Not just perfecting false bogeys. You know what I mean.) It was nice to have my own schedule this summer, with Mr Snape and the shop and all, and I was also terribly spoiled because I could see you whenever I wanted, too.

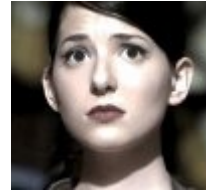
The care package this morning was absolutely lovely, and made me laugh, and I've shared some of the samples with the firsties (they are so teeny).

I don't work with Sanoval at all, really, and Patil isn't throwing her weight around too much, so it isn't bad so far. Everyone's nervous about the new standards, and there are all of these noticeable spaces where people used to be, and we've had no end of awkward moments when someone brings up anything that relates to the end of last term.

I miss you quite a lot. Hogsmeade weekend is ridiculously far away.

2014-09-03 10:21:00

*Order Only: Private message to
Madam Pomfrey and Charlie Weasley*



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Charlie, just to give you the background on this, when I was little and still living with both my parents, I got burned very badly and instead of taking me to St Mungo's (because I might have been taken away right then and put with foster parents) my parents found a private Healer. Who was awful, and hurt me on purpose (though he did heal me in the end).

Anyway until this summer I didn't know his name, but I saw him a few times at St Mungo's. I guess he's working there now, some of the time. He oversees part of the potions dispensary. I wasn't sure the first time if it was him, but the second time I saw him, I needed to talk to him and when I heard his voice -- yeah. It was definitely him.


(Don't -- I mean, just so you know, I didn't tell Ron about it. He had his own stresses to be going on with this summer. Since he's your brother -- well, anyway, I don't know how much you tell each other.)

His name's Hubert Drubble.

The reason I'm writing to Charlie is because on the last day when I was making a delivery to St Mungo's I saw him arriving and he was taking off some protective gear and stowing it in a sack -- leather gauntlets, for sure, really thick like to protect his hands. Anyway what worries me is he's working with dragons -- at the preserve, or maybe at some other preserve, because dragons can't let you know if someone who's supposed to be Healing them is actually hurting them to get their jollies. If he's working with Creatures of some kind I'm sure he's not treating them like he should.

And Madam P, I just wanted to let you know that's who it was, in case, I don't know, you ever need to refer someone. Don't refer them to this bloke.



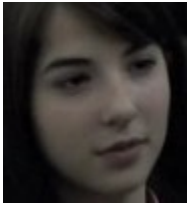
 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-09-03 17:51:29](#)**
(no subject)

Ugh, I'm sorry you had to run into him. I won't say anything, don't worry.

I don't know the name, and I do know everyone who works up here at Stornoway, and nearly everyone else who works with dragons elsewhere, too -- it's a very small world. There are a few folks doing work elsewhere, though, so if you describe him for me, I'll see if he rings a bell.

It's not tremendously common for people-Healers to work on dragons, though -- humans and dragons are different enough that it would be odd to go through all the process of a healing apprenticeship and then work with dragons instead. So whatever he's doing, it's probably not dragons.


What else did he have with him? And what color were the gauntlets? If they were leather or dyed dragonhide, he's definitely not a dragonman -- you can't use dyed gear or the dragons will decide you're too strange for them, or sometimes even decide you're prey if it's cow leather.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-03 22:10:31](#)**
(no subject)

Oh! It was dyed. I think it may have been mixed cow leather and dragonhide, but I didn't get a close up look. But from the colour it was surely dyed.

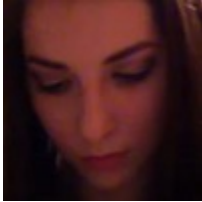


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-03 19:06:10](#)**
(no subject)

Drubble? I don't believe I've heard that name, though I suppose I could have met him when stopping by the dispensary at some point.

That's certainly interesting about the leathers. I suppose he could have an odd avocation or a second position elsewhere. Or he could have visited a hunting preserve of some kind, but that seems a strange thing to do so close to one's shift that there'd be no time to change before going to work.


I believe I'll see what I can find out about him, unless you'd prefer I didn't ask a few, careful questions.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-03 22:11:19](#)
(no subject)

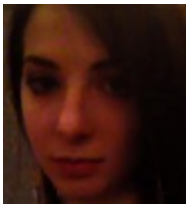
No, you can look into it.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-09-03 19:10:52](#)
(no subject)

How old a person would you say he is? He should have been a student here at some point unless he's foreign.

I rather pride myself on remembering people, but, of course, I don't always.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-03 22:16:32](#)
(no subject)

Not foreign. I'd say he's about Mrs Weasley's age or maybe a little older. Younger than Professor Vector.

I think he was in Ravenclaw House just because of something my parents said at the time but I could be wrong. Or mis-remembering.

He's about middle height, a little heavy but not really fat, keeps his hair on the long side but it's pretty stringy, he ought to wash it more often. Has a prominent mole on his left cheek. ~~I remembered the mole~~ He bites his nails.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-09-04 05:47:16](#)
(no subject)

Doesn't wash properly? Bites his nails? Shocking habits for a Healer!

No wonder they've got him stuck down in the dispensary, but even so... who would hire him even there?

Positively disgusting.

There's my excuse to speak about him with Madam Merriman when we're next on the Floo.

2014-09-03 14:38:00

Private message to Tosha and Barty

- Gentlemen,

Now that we have been thoroughly persuaded to put pursuit of bigger game on hiatus, I wondered if you would be willing to assist me with a small side project I've been tending to the last month or two.

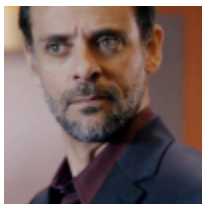



 **alt_rodolphus**

I find myself dissatisfied with the number of branches on the Lestrangle Tapestry. You both know that the Missus and I wanted more children than the two we have, but fate made mockery of our efforts. No more can be done for that, but the longer I look at the truncation beneath Raz's name, the more I wonder how it was that he never once impregnated a single witch. His appetite for female company was legendary, and yet he left no heirs behind. Unless there is one or more that we don't know of. I aim to discover just that.

While I cannot say I relish sorting through my dead brother's various liaisons, it's a necessary task. I have already accounted for the notable relationships, but the many flings, one-nighters, and prostitutes must be accounted for, as well. Raz wasn't the sort to shag and tell if he could help it, but women do talk, and gossip will out.

May I send both a copy of the list I am compiling? If you know of any other names that should be added, please make adjustments as needed. Barty, I know that you and he visited Pseudonymity several times. And then there are those mysterious years in the 80s when he was frequenting Borough Market on the regular. Though I prefer he not have sprogged up some wayward Halfblood, I intend this investigation to be thorough, no matter the outcome.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-09-04 00:37:42**
(no subject)

My absence from the Protectorate for so long does mean I am unlikely to be able to add any more names to the list, but yes, do send it along.

Back issues of the gossip rags may help.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-09-04 02:23:35](#)
(no subject)

Ah yes, but you are well acquainted with the bereaved widow. Perhaps she came to you with tales of his indiscretions?

A fine notion, re: gossip rags. I scarcely glimpse them myself, and of course the Missus can't be bothered. Shouldn't be too difficult to track down.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-04 06:07:59](#)
(no subject)

I can help you there. With the gossip sheets. Professional research. Have years' worth. Plenty of room at Marlborough for them, so why not?

Expect Victoriana Greengrass is already on your list. That's the one I know he had doubts about in that regard. But so far as I know, he ruled that out.

Send your list along. Should make interesting reading.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-09-04 14:52:51](#)
(no subject)

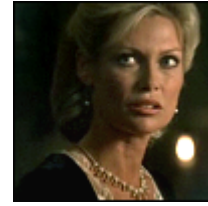
Just what I like to hear.

I'd already crossed née Montague off the list, but never heard that Raz had doubts about her. When was that? Spirited girl, as I recall; too much so even for him. One wonders how her mild husband manages.

Before he married, he had a long-standing 'arrangement' with a serving witch in Hogsmeade. After that the trail runs cold. Either he was faithful to his wife or learned absolute discretion.

2014-09-04 18:42:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch and Rodolphus Lestrangle



 **alt_narcissa**

Nic Broome just came in person to see me. He delivered a summons. I'm to come to Court tomorrow.

Given what greeted all of you on Monday, I know I ought not dare to hope. But - perhaps Our Lord's recent stance on fighting among your numbers has also brought about a reconsideration in certain other quarters?

In either case, I feel the need of moral support. Would you be willing to escort me into Our Lord's presence? Perhaps He wishes to discuss the matter further, and be convinced, in which case additional voices to plead for clemency, to remind Him of Lucius' past service, would be of great use.



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2014-09-05 03:00:45**
(no subject)

- Narcissa,

I cannot say that I have any inkling as to why our Lord has summoned you, but consider me at your disposal for whatever you should require.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2014-09-05 03:56:40**
(no subject)

Thank you, dear heart.

Barty tells me you've embarked on your own foolish quest. What do you hope to find? And what do you mean to do if you do not like what you find?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-09-05 04:17:16](#)
(no subject)

I happen to think it not foolish, but necessary. Perhaps you are not yet able to relate, but one day you may.

If I do not like what I discover, then I will determine what must be done to remedy the situation. And should I dislike it so much that I find it unbearable--well, that's what Obliviation spells are for, hm?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-05 13:18:00](#)
(no subject)

You misunderstand, dear. Foolish not because of its necessity, but because it is borne of sentimentality, family loyalty and curiosity, and because it is unlikely to bring about the end you desire. Much like my errand this afternoon. Nonetheless, we persist, do we not? Because we must do, or go mad.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-05 04:18:29](#)
(no subject)

Of course I'll stand with you.

Broome gave no indication what motivated the summons?

Just home. In the library. If you're up, I suggest a glass of Tosha's finest to take the edge off. I'll pour.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-05 13:20:16](#)
Private Message to Barty

Thank you. For last night. And for - for being such a rock these last weeks, in particular.

2014-09-05 21:20:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco and Hermione



 **alt_harry**

The dormitory is really empty. They moved the beds around and I think it might actually be smaller, like the room shrunk or something, but I'm not sure. It feels weird. And too quiet.


Greg and Vince are the same as they ever were, not like that's any surprise. I think they were both sort of glad not to be on the council, though. Blaise is the prefect, I mean, who else would they ask, really, but we haven't talked a lot since we've been back. It's not like we spent a lot of time talking before this term or anything, but I was thinking about picking up poker again, and Daphs said he'd be up for it as long as it didn't look like I was trying to replace you or something, so that might be good. And I'm going to ask Finnigan if he wants to join in too. Can't hurt, right?

I have no idea who we'll pick up as our other Chaser, and with Derwent out too, I've got to find at least one other spare, so we'll be trying out this weekend. How many firsties do you think will show up? Remember the tryout where Oglethorpe ran into the hoop and knocked out two of his teeth?

Anyways.

What've you lot been up to this week?




 **alt_draco** at **2014-09-06 15:40:48**
(no subject)

How should I know how many firsties are going to show up? I don't even know how many firsties there are.

I can't speak for Hermione, but I've been reading/studying/researching, listening to records, ignoring Kreacher, practising duelling with anyone who is halfway decent (and there aren't many who are), and wishing something horrible would happen because it's honestly boring most of the time. But if I let on that I'm bored I'll be loaded down with a list of mundane tasks like foraging around the forest for potions ingredients that I could easily steal from an

Apothecary if it didn't cause everyone to clutch their pearls and yell for smelling salts.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-06 20:50:06](#)

(no subject)

Heh. Well, you are pretty good at it. Stealing, I mean.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-06 20:52:33](#)

(no subject)

And there's loads of firsties. We've got at least seven or eight in Slytherin. I sort of lost count. One of them's named Alecto, I know that much. It's probably a good thing that most of the younger years weren't around for the Carrows.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-06 21:17:28](#)

(no subject)

Do you know when the first Hogsmeade weekend is, yet?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-06 21:54:31](#)

(no subject)

I think it isn't until the end of October. Daphs'd know for sure.

[2014-09-05 21:48:00](#)

(no subject)

Tryouts for Quidditch will be on Sunday from 4-6. We've got a few spaces to fill. Anyone who is interested in the Chaser position should see me for the formations we'll be running before tryouts begin.



 [alt_harry](#)

Ced, I was thinking of putting together a pick-up game tomorrow morning to get back into things. You in? Anyone else who wants to can come to the pitch at eight. Madame Hooch, don't worry, I won't let any firsties up in the air who haven't passed their test yet.

It's good to be back.




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-09-07 02:47:18](#)

(no subject)

Thanks Harry. It was nice to be on a broom just for fun.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-09-07 02:50:49](#)

Private Message to Harry

Were we ever that little and excitable? Racing about everyone chasing the quaffle.

But it was fun.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-07 04:16:42](#)


Re: Private Message to Harry

It was, yeah.

Maybe next month we can do it again? Might have two sessions instead -- three and lower and fourth and higher just to give the more experienced ones something worth doing?

It was really funny watching them try to fly using only their knees, though. Where'd you think that variation up?



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-09-07 15:04:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Sure, I'm up for flying whenever. We might not be able to plan ahead, Scottish weather, and we wouldn't want to scare them all away (or annoy Poppy) by making them all fly in our wonderful

cold rain.

2014-09-06 00:03:00

Private message to Linus Moon



alt_antonin

In the distraction of this week, I have forgot to ask you: I have found myself with a very large amount of data I must check carefully for irregularities. Do you think you might have several hours a week to apply yourself to the project? It will undoubtedly be tedious, eye-crossing, in need of exceptionally close and detailed study, and precisely the sort of thing you find immensely rewarding.

I do not know how long it might take -- I can easily see it stretching to requiring several months for the full analysis -- and I would have to request utmost confidentiality, of course. But it strikes me as something you would enjoy.



alt_linus at **2014-09-06 20:35:21**
(no subject)

I should of course be delighted to put my skills to use in any way you see fit, sir! As I have developed a new system of scheduling revising and various duties, I anticipate that I shall be able accommodate that. It can slot neatly into the spot left by certain Astronomy work, as Guild Master Bright and Professor Sinistra haven't a project for me at the moment.

(Did I tell you how positively exhilarating it was to have an internship with Magical Transportation this summer and also do various small projects for the Guild? It was the best of Astronomy and Arithmancy, and I could practically feel the theoretical nuances interlocking and augmenting each other. It was quite satisfying.)

Might I also say, sir, that I am grateful for the guidance you have been providing Miss Greengrass and myself as to our duties as Head Girl and Head Boy, especially as regards nuances of the complicated structures of, well, one might say power here at Hogwarts and in the wider world? I feel certain that if we heed your guidance, we shall be on course to have our best year ever at Hogwarts.

[2014-09-06 13:36:00](#)

A reminder

Tonight, I'll have my office open for anyone who wishes to spend part of the evening in conversation. No obligation to attend, of course, but there are refreshments from my favourite bakery to reward a climb up the stairs. No particular topic in mind, but I'll take suggestions for next week.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

Tomorrow afternoon and evening, anyone who has concerns about a telescope is welcome to come up. Gilly Chadwick will be here to help me with a few adjustments to the school telescopes, and she has let me know she'll be glad to look at student questions as well. (Any of you who have an interest in magical item construction might also find it interesting.)



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-09-06 17:53:56](#)**

Order Only

Tosha and I picked up our usual Friday evening conversation last night. I got him to talk a bit more about why he picked Lana (more what I hoped - that he thought she'd be easier to manage than most of the other prospects.)

And then I got him talking about some of his diplomacy, partly because they're good stories, and safe enough, and partly because I thought it might be useful.

Do you know if there've been changes in the Department of Magical Affairs in America in the last few years? (Or their Secretary of Magic?) If not, I took some notes after he left - he doesn't always mention names, but often there's descriptions of someone, that I don't know, might be useful down the road. Or if there's other places - he's been in quite a few, obviously.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-06 17:58:33](#)

Order Only - Private message to Harry

You doing all right, first week back?

Mum's decided that you deserve your own care package. Welcome to collect it whenever, or I can ask an elf to bring it down.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-06 20:54:44](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

I'll come up, yeah?

It's okay. The dorm is weird. And I'm not sure what I think about Desai yet either.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-06 21:40:44](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry


When you like. The dorm would be, yeah. And you don't need to make up your mind about Desai yet. She does know her field. And you can learn things from her. You can learn things from anyone.

She started teaching right after I left school, and of course I asked my younger sisters and brother about her, when I started teaching. Sage didn't go past the OWL in Defence, but Temp and Theo both had her. Theo was all over himself wanting to please her, get one of those smiles or a bit of praise. ~~He is such an overgrown puppy.~~

Temp's more savvy. She said how everyone went on about how glorious it was to go out and fight with her. But no one really talked about the people who died - students, younger than you now. Or about how she treated the people who didn't go, or who aren't made for fighting or just weren't good enough for her to pay attention to.

The school used to be a lot more Gryffindor than it is now. In what people valued and talked about, even those first years of the war. She used that, to shape things the way she wanted. Not sure what that means for now.



 **alt_harry** at **2014-09-06 21:58:19**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

Good to know.

I'll keep an eye.

And yeah, she knows her stuff. So I plan on learning as much as I can from her.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2014-09-06 18:15:31**

Order Only - Private message to Mum

Note to you and Dad coming (Nashira should be there later today.) It's very hard, being back. Even with changing things around so it doesn't look so much the same.

Still can't think straight most of the time, and I'm so scared I'm going to slip and give something away because I'm stupid and slow and my head isn't working right.

Mostly managed last night by asking questions and listening (and well, the American Witches books give a perfectly good excuse). And Gilly's coming tomorrow, partly to walk through classes for the next week or two with me and make sure I haven't forgotten anything (and partly to check the telescopes, because I tried, but I'm sure I missed half a dozen things).

Storm told me he and Dittany had told you and Dad this week. Don't fuss - they told me as soon as they knew Hyssop'd have a brother or sister, so I'd have time. (This is Storm, remember? Thinks ahead like that.) Life goes on, yeah? Has to, or what's the point? And I feel - well, all sorts of things these days, but I don't want to be that kind of bitter and selfish. Trying very hard not to be. I'll go see them when I can manage the apparition to Yorkshire again.

2014-09-06 15:39:00

Private Message to Karo

No, I am *not* planning to come home for supper, late or otherwise. Ned and I still have another test of the archives this afternoon.



 [alt_ptolemy](#)

Who's coming, anyway? Oh, right. You said. Your parents. Well, you can entertain them on your own, can't you? Just play some of the new symphony, you said you wanted opinions on the second movement. You don't need me for that, surely?

If this goes well I'll be home by ten. Eleven at the latest. If not--well, we'll have to discipline certain of our technicians first. This project has gone on far too long without adequate results.

2014-09-06 15:57:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

Accompanied Narcissa yesterday to answer
Our Lord's summons. Rod, as well.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

He granted her freedom of New London and permission to return to Malfoy Manor, but she's not to range further. Wanted us all to understand it was only as a favour to us that He was moved to be lenient. (We're on notice, in other words.)

There were stipulations: if she leaves Cottesmore to move elsewhere, she must allow access to a list of 'security consultants' (Crabbe, etc., as you'd suppose--Bella, Rod, you, and I are included). Also demanded that she allow Him and His access to the St James house. Apparently its wards have held. She conceded the point. Trust there will be nothing there to damage matters.

As it was, He nearly reversed Himself when she begged His favour for L. An unfortunate presumption.

Stringent correction followed.

Have had a quiet day here, recuperating. Perhaps tomorrow for testing her new freedoms.

How goes it in your dominion?

2014-09-06 20:32:00

All Year 3-5 Noble Arts Pupils

It was a beautiful day today, was it not? A fine day to visit the Creatures pens, to explore the gardens or walk by the lake, to lunch outdoors, to enjoy a game of pick-up Quidditch or Flight & Pursuit, to indulge in an afternoon nap, to play snap or gobstones or chess after supper, to sit in your common room, chatting the evening away with friends old or new.



 [alt_lana](#)

I trust you've enjoyed every minute.

Tomorrow, however, I expect we'll all rise early and apply ourselves to the work of preparing for the week to come. To that end, I remind you that you've a two part assignment to prepare, an assignment that begins with careful reading and then proceeds to thoughtful writing.

First, you are to closely read the first section (a mere 5 or 6 pages, depending on the translation) of *Intra profundis*, wherein you will find an elegant summary of the various branches of the Arts -- things like blood magic, binding magic, compulsion magic, disruptive elemental magic, magic to direct fortune or misfortune towards others, magic that impacts others in more direct or pronounced ways. The work dates from Roman times, so it will interest you to see where the differences and similarities lie between their understanding of these disciplines and our own. Remember that when I say you are to 'closely read', that means you are to engage the material until you understand it well enough to summarise it from memory and to answer questions about it.


Second, you must select one topic from those covered in the introduction that sounds interesting. Locate and read the section about that topic in the main body of the text. You must then write 12-15 inches in a reasonably-sized, legible hand (no less, but also no more) analyzing whether that practice would or would not be considered Dark by at least two of the definitions we discussed in lessons. I am not asking you to regurgitate facts about the type of magic, I am asking for your well-reasoned and well-articulated thoughts about how it would be classified under the definitions we have been discussing.

I trust you've already begun, as the total reading amounts to 20-25 pages and the time required for thought, analysis, planning, drafting

and perfecting the required essay will not be insignificant. In any case, I urge you to apply yourself to the task tomorrow. Do not deceive yourselves into thinking that you can cobble something together on the fly before lessons next week.

I'm pleased that the term is off to such a strong start, and I feel certain that you're as eager as I am to dig into our shared topic and explore it as fully and vigorously as we each are able. None of us wishes to get off on the wrong foot, surely.




 [alt_evelyn at 2014-09-07 03:52:08](#)
ORDER ONLY

She's combining Practical and Theoretical.

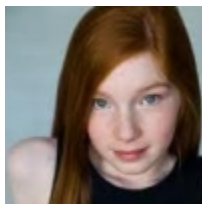
This is most likely the last weekend I'll be allowed in the Forest.




 [alt_ron at 2014-09-07 04:17:30](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

I reckon you're right about that.

How is she? Is she going to be wretched? (I remember that assignment, by the way. If you want to have a look at what I wrote for it, I can probably find it.)



 [alt_evelyn at 2014-09-07 04:43:16](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY


Sometimes she talks to us like we're all utterly thick, and it looked like it was painful for her to give us House points while we were talking about things in class the other day. She likes to call on people at random, so there's no keeping my head down.

I wonder how much patience she'll have for the Theoretical students, as we won't be used to that side of things. I suppose we'll find out. For now, it's not too far from what we were doing before. We'll see.

I really don't care for Marwick, though. He kept looking over at me during the first lecture, like I was some sort of specimen on

display, and said we'd spend at least a month covering the rise of the Protectorate, because that's his specialty.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-07 04:49:48](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, if you need help, let me know. There are loads of us who could help you with casting if it gives you trouble.

Are you--

You going to be alright with that part?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-07 06:04:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

How I feel about it doesn't change that it's something I have to do.

It feels silly to admit, but it makes me a little sad to think that this would change me enough so that Firenze could tell that I was different. That he'd see me in a different way.

You've done difficult things because it's important and necessary, and you've been so very brave about it. This is a far smaller version of that. I can do this.

I do believe I will need help, though. Thank you.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-07 16:11:31](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

Evelyn,

I say, perhaps we ought to expand our practise in the secret room, what, to include more of the dark spells Professors Sandoval-Pennifold and Dolohov will be requiring. Then all the Galleoneers will have an opportunity to improve their skills in, shall we say, less hostile environs.

-Justin




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-07 17:51:52](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Yes. I think that might be a good idea.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-07 20:18:19](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Firenze and his ilk are hypocrites. You know what the centaurs did to Sam Montgomery, don't you?

They prefer the company of the so-called innocent because they see it as non-threatening, and for no other reason beyond that. It's not a value they hold on to for themselves whatsoever.

[2014-09-06 22:16:00](#)

Attention Students and Staff

I should like to solicit the help of all students and staff in aiding our newest residents to settle into life here. Perhaps you've forgotten, but the first weeks away from home are filled with a bewildering number of new tasks and routines. On top of that, there are new skills to be mastered.




 [alternity](#)
 [alt_poppy](#)

While it may seem trivial to those who've grown accustomed to it, negotiating meal times can be one of the most difficult of those new things. Our young friends often need guidance regarding appropriate eating habits.

Remember: too much sugar in the teacup can be as unfortunate as too many slices of turnip roast or too much pudding.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **[2014-09-07 03:58:44](#)**

Private Message to Madam Hooch and Professor Vector

Rolanda, I've Walburga Hornby with me this evening, who tells me she had her first parcel from home today and has made the unfortunate choice to consume its entire contents this evening. If you would be so good as to come collect her after breakfast, I believe she will be feeling more herself by then.

Septima. I've Aengus Witter here, who reports that he 'found' a handful of pastilles in the common room, which he ate in quick succession, failing to notice until he'd finished the sixth or seventh that his hair had begun growing at an alarming rate. By the time he reached me, he was as thickly furred as a bugbear and was being quite swarmed by chizpurples. (I will speak to Mina about ridding us of those.)

I'm afraid that the cure for this is proving traumatic. Of course, it was absolutely necessary to use a strong depilatory potion. He might have suffocated had I delayed treatment. Allow me to assure you, he is quite well now, but the idea of returning to his dormitory in his present state is more than he can contemplate. (I wonder if there might not be some tension in his dormitory that bears looking into.) As he seems genuinely undone by the thought of returning to

Ravenclaw tower tonight, I will allow him to stay here until breakfast, but I see no reason he shouldn't go along for the morning meal.

2014-09-07 17:44:00

private message to Ernie

So did you see that the Headmaster sent a private message to Moon? Maybe he found out about the poetry. Because Medusina Iskanderian said that Violet Shelby told her that Lucas Beckinsale and Hereward Whitby were making noise in the corridor outside the library and Moon did his nut.

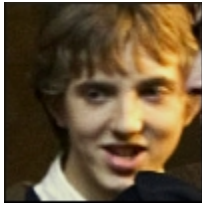
And he is making them both memorise poetry to recite at breakfast tomorrow morning as punishment. As if anyone wants to hear poetry at that hour.




 **alt_megan**

It should have been you. As Head Boy, I mean. Honestly.

This is going to be the worst year ever.



 **alt_ernie** at **2014-09-08 14:39:12**
(no subject)

I think the Headmaster was as surprised as anyone by the recitation, Megs. Anyway, I doubt he'd be writing to Moon about something like that. He probably just had some boots he wanted ~~liek~~ polished or something.

2014-09-07 17:48:00

Defence classes

My dear students.

Having had a week to evaluate your preparation and abilities, I've decided that my NEWT classes this week will run under what we used to refer to as 'Salazar's rules.' This means that you have the right to -- and in fact are expected to -- cast offensive spells at me during class from the moment class begins until the moment class is dismissed.



 **alt_savitha**

However, once you have made this attempt, you become fair game. A legitimate target for both me and every other student in the class. You are, naturally, allowed to block, counteract, and otherwise defend yourself. Spells that cause permanent damage may not be used -- I'll post a list of curses I don't want to see outside my classroom door, be sure to take a look before you come in to class.

House points will be granted for style; taken for stupidity. Naturally, should you succeed in *landing* a curse on me, House points will be *generous* -- also, you're then exempt from becoming fair game.

We may play this little game in some future class sessions throughout the year -- probably not every time, it's far too distracting.

Some of my OWL classes MAY be allowed to have a Salazar's Rules session later in the year; we will just have to see how it goes. This is a privilege earned through skill and dedication. Persuade me that you might actually have a chance at not making a fool of yourselves!



 **alt_savitha** at **2014-09-08 01:01:15**

Private message to Antosha

It's so very odd, being back here. Has it really been only eight years? So many memories! Seeing that glint in the eyes of children destined to serve Our Lord -- inviting them to battle at our side.

Though possibly the sweetest memory is the one of that wretched little goblin's innards spread across the walls outside the Great Hall.

Would you care to meet for tea some evening?



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-08 01:49:08](#)


Re: Private message to Antosha

I am so grateful you were willing to come back and teach for a few years, my dear. I know you have many other things to be doing. Yes, tea would be lovely -- tomorrow afternoon, perhaps? (Evenings, alas, are spoken for; my apprentice has never taught before, and so these first few weeks I am being most exacting in supervising the lessons she will teach in addition to delivering the lessons she has bargained for.)

I do regret I had already left the country by the time Hogwarts was taken; it would have been most satisfying to see.

And the use of Salazar's rules -- most suitable. I have been meaning to use them in my own classes for the past two years, but then discovered the little darlings' education in the Arts had been so deficient I had entirely too much ground to make up. Shall I let you know which ones to watch out for, or would you rather be pleasantly surprised?



 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-08 04:34:27](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

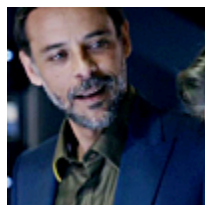
Oh, do share. I have infinite faith in the power of youth to surprise me, regardless of how much I know going in.



 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-08 04:43:54](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

And tomorrow afternoon would suit, as soon as I'm done with my classes.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-08 05:05:47](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Come on up whenever you're free, then. I'll have the elves put together some treats and I'll give you the gossip.



 **alt_antonin** at [2014-09-09 01:57:06](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

We ought to know by now that any plan involving you and me getting through a discussion with anything approaching alacrity is doomed to failure. By which I mean: I believe we made it through discussing most of the sixth-years -- or, at least, I cannot think of anyone I did not cover -- but I suppose I ought give you the rundown of the seventh-years.

Having consulted the records to see who is taking NEWT Defence: you met many of them through CCF last summer, but in case last summer is as far away for you as it is for me, I shall simply go through them all. Finnigan and Patil you've met through Our Lord's service, of course. Finnigan is as solid as one might expect from Stephen's foster-son, though he can be too diffident at times. Patil is quite intelligent, although more than a touch politically naive and convinced the world turns around her -- more so than teenagers usually are, that is. Crabbe and Goyle are very much their fathers' sons. Parkinson is clever when she sees enough reason to be clever, but ~~Lyoushka~~ ~~despairs of her sense of~~ her loyalty to her friends is almost Hufflepuffian, and she places more value in her associations than in her connections for her future -- to truly engage her, you must engage the remainder of her confederates.

Our Lord's son, meanwhile, truly shines in Defence; he was Rizzer's prodigy, and I believe you will find him one of your best.

Of those who are not Council or Council families: Zabini can be promising when he forgets that he is allergic to anything resembling effort, which makes it a pity that he does not often forget. Weasley has quite the knack for Defence and the Noble Arts both, and I'm certain you haven't forgotten his head for strategy; he's the one who spent the summer interning with the Aurors. Greengrass is the sort who always knows the right thing to say and is always looking to smooth over difficulties; if you are planning group or team work, she is a good choice to place in a group that cannot seem to get along. Bones is quietly capable; she will never be a frequent contributor in class, but when she does have something to add, it is usually insightful. Smith thinks more of himself than is warranted, but there are glimmers of hope in there, underneath the self-importance. I am certain

Dunstan and Bundy must have some talents in Defence, having continued to NEWT study, but when I last taught them they both seemed frightened of their own shadows in my classroom. Bulstrode had promise in the Arts early in her OWL year, but it faded quickly.

Of the ones I most have my eye upon: Perks is all intellectual curiosity, about just about any topic you might imagine; I am encouraging her along the path to Healer study, as she's an interest in the topic and you know as well as I how much we could use one. Finch-Fletchley is on my very short list for apprenticeship, once S-P has finished her Mastery or I've the time to supervise two. Moon, meanwhile, is in frequent and desperate need of a reminder of reality, but the boy can make numbers sit up and dance: he ought not be trusted in public unsupervised, but he has the uncanny ability to sift through a mound of data and identify the patterns -- or the pieces that do not fit the patterns.

Oh, and this year was far more split by Umbridge's interference than the sixth-years: Patil, Finnigan, Macmillan, and Jones all had a tendency to lord their status over their fellows, for instance. They have all seemed to arrive at an unspoken agreement that they will not mention that year again, but the fault-lines are still visible if you know what you are looking for.

I'm certain I'll forget six things I meant to say as soon as I close my journal, but if you've any more questions about the lot, do let me know.



 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-09 04:24:46](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

You passed over a few. Neville Longbottom, for one. He's the son of two Aurors -- treasonous Aurors, but neither was any slouch in a fight. Defence ought to be in his blood. Is it?



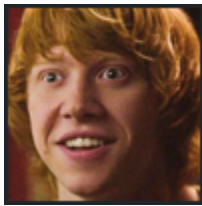
 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-09 21:49:16](#)**


Re: Private message to Antosha

I always forget about Longbottom; he likes to encourage it. He is the poster child for keeping his head down and his mouth shut.

He took my Theoretical class, and was careful to give the answers I was looking for, but never quite seemed to believe them -- well, that's due to the sort of stubborn scruples we are slowly stamping out. Raised by his grandmother, though, so he got quite the dose of it. Rizzer used to say he was decent enough in Defence, but of course that was more than a bit awkward.

I would characterise him as stubborn and a bit thick -- though not as thick as he likes to be viewed as -- and lacking motivation to do much more than grubbing in dirt.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-08 02:56:55](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you, Professor.

Sounds like the most interesting lesson we've ever had!



 **[alt_savitha](#)** at **[2014-09-08 13:01:27](#)**


(no subject)

Be careful, young man; you realise that since you drew attention to yourself, I'll be watching you much more carefully.

(Though I'd have had my eye on you regardless.)

Don't disappoint me.




 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-08 13:46:36](#)**
(no subject)

Reckon I'm good for it.

I'll give it my best, anywiz.

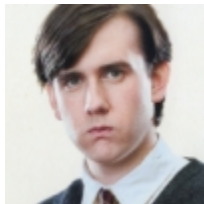



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-08 19:34:24](#)**
Order Only

Bloody nightshade, do I ever wish I didn't have to miss this.

No offense to Raz, may he rest in peace, but this sounds like the way NEWT level Defence ought to be taught. She's basically giving you all lessons in how to overcome her in an actual, real duel. Unless she's too clever to actually respond as she would in a true life or death situation, which may well be the case.

You might not want to show her *all* that you're capable of, on that score. That goes for the rest of you, too.




 **[alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-09 01:20:19](#)**
Re: Order Only

I'll want to learn anything she's willing to teach us, but I'd rather have her underestimate me, yeah. Dad's taught me a lot that's specific to the old style of training Aurors, and I don't want to tip my hand there.

Except that if Headmaster Dolohov's giving her tips about the students, he'll probably tell her that I *like* being underestimated. He figured that one out eventually.

I'd offer to show you my notes at hols, but I don't write quickly enough to get everything down when she's lecturing. Which isn't often, anyway. Ron's and Justin's notes will probably be better.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-09 02:20:50](#)

Re: Order Only

I reckon the tricky bit about trying to go unnoticed is having people *notice* that you're trying to go unnoticed. Still, you've managed it for six years so something you're doing is obviously working.

I think there's enough of you in Defence that we'll sort out the situation with the notes easily enough.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-09 01:30:45](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. Hold out for F-F's notes. Or Sally Anne's. Mine'll be rubbish. I mean, I'll be able to tell you all she said and show you the spells, but you won't get much from what I write in lessons.

Expect that doesn't surprise you.

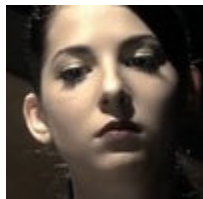


 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-09 02:22:54](#)

Re: Order Only

And why would you expect that?

Surprised none of you use a dictation quill, though. Unless Desai doesn't allow them because she thinks it'll give students opportunity to drift off during lecture.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-09 03:00:39](#)


Re: Order Only

I don't use a dictation quill for several reasons, but one is that they write down every last thing the professor says instead of just capturing the main points. Makes it harder to revise.

If you'd like a complete transcription, though, one of us could get one. She seems the sort who'd think it completely reasonable that we'd want to revisit her every word, so I doubt

she'd think twice about me using a dictation quill in her class and no other.



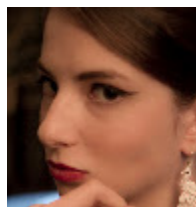
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-09-09 03:11:54](#)**

Re: Order Only

I don't use them because then the notes aren't in my own handwriting, which bothers me. However, there've been a few times when I've set up an auto-dictation quill next to me while taking my own notes by hand, just for comparison later.

Anyway, whatever you can manage is fine. Hermione would definitely find them useful, as would Sarah. And some of the others, besides, like Terry and Lisa.

But Hermione and Sarah and I are particularly interested in seeing the NEWT-level course work, since we won't be able to sit the NEWTs ourselves (not that they would have let Hermione, of course).



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-09 19:20:02](#)**

Re: Order Only

Right, I got hold of a dictation quill and a suitable roll of parchment; I'll set it going during class tomorrow and then send it along. You can let me know if everyone finds it useful enough to continue.

I can copy my own notes, too.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2014-09-08 04:11:28](#)**

Order Only

Is she bloody serious? ~~Raz would never~~

We saw just how bad that sort of disruption was last year in that very same class. Good luck all of you.

Anyone that wants some ~~sane~~ more normal dueling practice let me know and we'll schedule something in the evenings.

Dralworth made a dog's breakfast of the last match and I've been

asked to step up my practice time, so I'm going to be around in the afternoon and evening from now on.

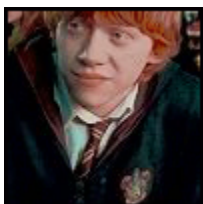


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-08 14:35:13](#)

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Well, it's official: Cedric's one of the grown-ups now.

Ron, what's she like, anyway? You met her through CCF, yeah?

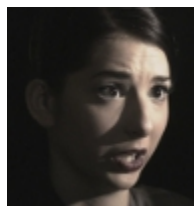


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-08 15:13:38](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Ced's one of the grown-ups except for the part where he keeps not leaving Hogwarts. It was... odd... Saturday that he was there running pickup Quidditch. It was like he and Harry were both seventh years, except you know he's not. I dunno. It doesn't feel that way with Sandoval, and she's not much older, but then she left and has just come back, and she's got a proper reason for being here ~~that doesn't seem like~~

Yeah, CCF and this summer, too. I... yeah. She's hard to describe. Definitely dangerous. I still figure my way into the Aurors is through her, whatever that takes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-09 03:04:45](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

'Definitely dangerous,' yeah, but what sort of dangerous, I mean can you be a little more specific about what I need to be careful of?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-08 19:18:30](#)


(no subject)

Professor,

I would like to know if Salazar's Rules will also allow for the advantages of legilimency, please.


From,
Hydra



 **[alt_savitha](#)** at **[2014-09-08 21:17:16](#)**
(no subject)

You may most definitely use whatever advantages you have, my dear.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-09-08 21:19:00](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for letting me know, Professor.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2014-09-08 21:27:22](#)**
(no subject)

It is good to finally see our Protectorate's premiere educational institution in the hands of those who serve the Protectorate best.

One can only hope that those long-established staff members, who are no doubt accustomed to more indulgent methods, shall follow the example set forth by Headmaster Dolohov and the new faculty.



 **[alt_savitha](#)** at **[2014-09-09 03:23:49](#)**
(no subject)

Why thank you, Bellatrix. We shall certainly have the opportunity to see what's been cultivated here in the last few years. I am eager to see what flowers I discover.

2014-09-07 22:37:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Evelyn

hey there sweetie.

I got a chance to read what you wrote the other day, and I just wanted to talk to you a little about it. I know you're a night owl like your old man, but if you're already in bed, we can talk more tomorrow.



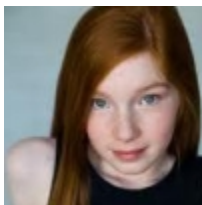
 **alt_frank**


first off, I wanted to let you know that your mum and your brothers and me love you beyond measure, and we always will. and that's the deepest, strongest sort of magic there is. your friends love you too, just as much as you love them, and you can count on that no matter what.

you know me and words don't always get on, but it's important you know that what you do in this class is not going to change how I see you.

we all have to try our best to point north and keep in mind what we're aiming for, and sometimes we need a good compass, but something that looks like it'll work on parchment might not hold any weight in the real world. especially a world like this one. when I think about what Auror Brodie does for her work, or what Justin, Hydra, and Ron are learning about and working towards, or what your Mr Snape and Draco are prepared to do, I see people I respect and trust, people I am glad to call my friends, people I would give my life for. good people. that's what I see.

we'll keep on muddling forward, as your mum likes to say. and there are some parts that will always be a struggle. but you've got a good heart and lots of people who love you, and that's a fairly decent compass in my book.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-09 00:22:00**
(no subject)

What Draco said helped. Even though it stung to hear it. He tends to be that way, I've noticed.

What you said helped too.

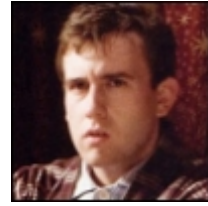
I suppose compromise has to be a part of things when you're not on

top. Or when you want to win the way we do, without destroying everything in the process.

And I see a good person when I see you, you know. When I read your letter for the first time, I knew that everything I'd read about you was utter nonsense, and that you weren't just a person who happened to have the same last name, you were my father who loved me, and that has made all the difference in the world.

[2014-09-08 20:26:00](#)

New year, new teachers



 [alt_neville](#)

I think it's rather a pity that now that we have a new Potions professor for the first time in seven years, we're getting less time with Professor Gimlet than we ever had with Professor Slughorn. It would have been interesting to compare the two teaching styles, but the one hour lecture we had on Monday last week and today hasn't really been enough to give me much of a strong first impression.


At least there's the long lab session on Tuesdays. In addition to brewing the assigned 7th year potions, I hope I'll have time to experiment with some new concoctions that'll tie to the independent research I've been doing in NEWT Herbology. I think I really have settled on what I want to do when I leave school: to develop new ways of cultivating plants so they'll be more effective in medicinal potions.

It's a little frustrating that the coldest seasons fall during the heart of the school year. I brought back samples of the plants I tended last summer, and I hope I've enough different varieties to make experimentation worthwhile. There are some medicinal potions in the 7th year curriculum, anyway. Hopefully that research'll keep me busy until the spring plants are up and out of the pots again.

I think Defence is going to be quite different, with Professor Desai, but again, it's a little soon to know exactly what that means. I'm afraid I'll be at rather a disadvantage since I haven't been through CCF training, though.

On the whole, though, I'm pretty pleased with how the first week's classes went. Transfiguration and Charms and *especially* Herbology were brill. As for the second week...we'll see. But I have a good feeling about this year. I liked the Headmaster's speech at the Welcoming Feast, and everyone seems to agree he's added excellent people to the staff to promote Our Lord's purposes here at Hogwarts.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-09 02:35:31](#)
Order Only

Professor Posthumous Gimlet drones almost as much as Professor Binns did. Except he seems sort of nervous at the same time. Maybe because he's new at this. Professor Slughorn may have spent a lot of time boasting about students he'd helped, but at least his lectures were livelier. Mr Snape, do you know anything about Professor Gimlet at all? I think he was a student here quite a bit before your time, but I wondered if he's published anything in those potions journals you read.

I'm sure we'll learn a lot from Professor Desai, but it'll be a nerve-wracking class.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-09 02:47:41](#)
Order Only - Private message to Neville

Neville,

I hope this will be good advice and not sound as if I'm being critical, because I do want to help. Only I think to some people your journal entry might come across as if you're feeling unappreciative of all the changes we've got at Hogwarts this year. I saw what my mother said on Professor Desai's posting, about how the faculty who've been here a long time are used to more 'indulgent methods.' That's her way of saying that professors like Brutka, Acton, and Sprout are all rubbish, and in your entry those are the only professors you're truly complimentary of.

So if my mother was to read this posting she might think you were insinuating that things were better before, and that the professors you've always had are the professors who are always going to be the best.


Fortunately I don't think she'll be bothered to read it.

I don't mean that you ought to behave as if you agree with my mother, only that you might say something complimentary about the new Professors when you feel the time is right.

I'm sorry - I don't want to sound patronising, really. It makes me

nervous when I see her leave a comment in the journals. It means she's reading and paying attention, and wants us to know. And there's always a reason she wants that.



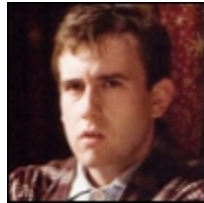
 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-09 03:29:16](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Neville

No, you're right, and I truly appreciate your pointing it out. I'll be sure to work in something specifically complimentary about both of them, soon. But part of it was that I didn't want to be

TOO enthusiastic about Professor Desai, frankly, because I was thinking of Professor Sinistra. I would think it would be pretty raw for her to read, 'you know we have a MUCH better teacher in Defence this year.'

I realise your mother doesn't particularly care about Professor Sinistra's feelings, though. I'll add a bit to the end of what I have now, and I hope that'll help.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-09 03:38:16](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Neville

Added a couple of sentences. Better, I hope?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-09 03:42:58](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Neville

Yes, quite a bit.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-09 03:41:20](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Neville

I don't think Desai will be any better, but she's new and she's different and that always gets peoples attention. Raz wouldn't have allowed Salazar's Rules because he would have foreseen it getting out of hand and fostering ill-intent between students. He always wanted everyone to have a jolly time, you know? And I don't think he liked to be a disciplinarian if he could help it.

My mother doesn't really acknowledge that feelings like that exist, so no, she wouldn't care about Professor Sinistra's.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-09 06:12:29](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Neville

I'm glad things are sorting themselves out with Herbology, love. Pomona truly thinks the world of you, you know. She was quite complimentary when she came by for tea a few weeks ago, and was going on about how she was looking forward to see what you'd make of your NEWT project.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-09 11:50:20](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Neville

Well, that's good, because I love working with her. It's my favourite subject, and I'm happy that I've hit on a way to be truly useful to the Order when I leave school. I think I'll be talking with Sally-Anne Perks a bit about her internship this summer, to see if we can think of ways to do some joint research. I'd like to think of us being truly a team by next summer.

Say hello to Mrs Wilson-Lee for me, would you? I learned so much this summer, working with her in the greenhouse at Moddey. I almost hated to give those books on plant genetics back to her--they were tough going at times, but that's a whole side of my education I could never get at Hogwarts, and it will help my research so much this year.

I miss you and Dad and Kevin. And Terry, of course. And I'm nervous about what this year might be like, without Professor McGonagall at the helm. The kids here like Professor Dolohov--but I keep thinking of some of the things we know he's done.

I'll do my best to keep my head down and stay out of his way. It's lucky, in a way that I'm a NEWT student, buried in my own projects. It's easy to avoid people if you're in the greenhouses most of the time.

[2014-09-08 21:37:00](#)

Order Only

Alice, Remus, Kingsley and Lee,

I have last month's reports on the products that moved best in the Emporium, and I'll forward it to you via owl. I think now that colder weather is coming, it's a good time to stock up on woolens and yarns, but I'm wary of stocking product that's 100% alpalca, as that's a product that's known to originate from New Bedford. Yarn mixes with a percentage below 50% I think we can get away with, though. (Unless, Bill, you know of another working farm in the Protectorate that produces Alpalca, and we can eliminate the problem with some creative source re-labeling?)




 **[alt_molly](#)**

The whittled artwork has sold well, as has the handmade lace and some of the hand-dyed long coats.


Along with the profit from my rents and the smidgen that Pansy and the twins were willing to set aside from WWW, we have a small but tidy sum which I can forward for the Order's coffers. Remus, should I send it--oh, it's the full moon tonight, isn't it? Never mind. When you're up and about again, please let me know what you think the best use of the money might be.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-09 06:02:42](#)**
(no subject)

Ta very much, Molly. Our friends in Argyll can certainly shift around things if we need more sheep's wool to balance things out.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-09 06:07:56](#)**
(no subject)

We do have quite a few cauldrons going in research, and experimental potions ingredients can get costly. I'll bet we'll make up for it come October, though. Halloween and all.

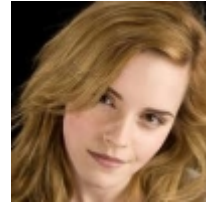
Speaking of cauldrons, Fred, George, I think I've managed to talk Gimlet into letting me work on a few side-projects we need to iron

out as part of my NEWT work. It's all for front of house, of course, but it'll still clear up time for you two to work on other things that have broader applications.

2014-09-08 23:03:00

Order Only: Private Message to Draco

It's so quiet when Mr Lupin's off being a wolf, isn't it?




 [alt_hermione](#)

Have you found a good house yet? I was thinking that we don't want anywhere more than a mile or two outside the village, in case people have trouble Apparating. But far enough away that it's not obvious where we've gone. Maybe we could trek up round Upper Feldring and see what we find?

Oh, and I was reading some of Professor Dumbledore's notes about Tom Riddle. I think we should go to Little Hangleton, you know, just to have a look round and see if we can find anything there of interest.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-09-09 04:21:32**

(no subject)

Yes, but he's so tetchy beforehand that I take the quiet as a welcome relief.

Not yet. I know just the sort of set-up we need, but I've not come across it. I'm envisioning a tasteful sort of country house with some out buildings that no one will notice if one goes missing. Not right away, at least. Some place where the owners don't come 'round too often. Trouble is, it's a small village and almost everyone knows everyone, and they're all probably just itching for something to gossip about.

Does that mean you want to take off soon? Little Hangleton...home of Salazar's ancestors. Bet it's a right cheery place, that. Do you suppose it's too much to hope that Tommy Riddle hid a part of his soul in warm and sunny Ibiza?



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2014-09-09 04:28:41**

(no subject)

I wonder if-no, nevermind. Awful idea.

I've never really thought about what's *near* Hogsmeade that's not within the village itself. It


seems to me there have got to be other places not too far away.

And yes, I think now that people are back at school we should at least try out our disguises and see what we can find out.

I feel bad for Harry, stuck there with just Zabini, Crabbe and Goyle. But I'm not really sure what to tell him about our plans, either. It seems like we'd just be gloating that we get to search and go on missions and he's got to keep up with lessons and such. Of course I wouldn't mean it like that but that's how it would probably sound.

Anyway, I imagine Little Hangleton's not going to be very informative, I mean, if it were, Professor Dumbledore would have told us already. But I just have a feeling we ought to see it. For ourselves, that is.



 **alt_draco** at **2014-09-09 04:46:59**
(no subject)

Yeah, I do want to see it, even if it ends up being decidedly not cheery. We can consider it a practise run to see what it's like to introduce ourselves to people as amateur artefact collectors, and ask them questions, and in general just get a sense of what it feels like to make ordinary conversation with wizards and witches who aren't in the Order.

Do you think it will feel strange for you to make that sort of ordinary conversation? Since you always had to present yourself as a downtrodden mudblood in public before, I mean. I suppose I will find it difficult not come across as some massively entitled prat. You'll have to keep me in line.

And what's your awful idea, anyway? You know I have to ask, now that you've said it.



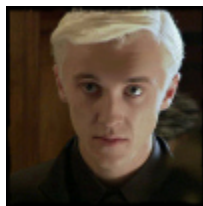
 **alt_hermione** at **2014-09-09 04:52:49**
(no subject)


Oh, my idea--well. It was whether I could find a way to get my Wolfsbane potion to--to the Smythstone enclave, you know, and if--if anyone

would use it if they got it there.

But see, that's really not a realistic idea, is it. So forget I said anything.

I don't know. I think what I'm worried about most is that I'll start a conversation and not be able to *stop* myself, after so many years of not being able to really talk to anyone. And I guess we'll just have to tell people that your family are well-connected or something, but I'll pinch you if you ever go too far.

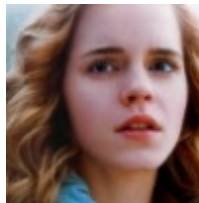


 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-09-09 04:57:57](#)**
(no subject)

Why don't you ask Black and Lupin? I don't know if it's realistic or not, as I know very little about the werewolf enclaves. But it never hurts to ask.

Alright, and I'll...pinch you, if you start doing that babbling thing you do.

Want to plan it out in more detail in the morning? I'll make breakfast. Really, I'm getting better on the scones, honest.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-09-09 05:02:44](#)**
(no subject)

Well, perhaps. I've a feeling I know what she-- what they'll say.

And you don't have to learn to cook. When you tell Kreacher to bake things he does it and doesn't even burn anything. You can just use spells when we're on the road, if you like. But yes, let's go over our stories in the morning, and think about the sorts of antiques we're meant to be looking for.

I'm going to bed now, though. See you tomorrow.

2014-09-09 00:50:00

Private Message to Spencer-Wells

Two dozen. Male. Reasonably healthy. 25 to 35. Delivered Thursday morning to Site θ. Another set, same criteria, additionally they must be as close as possible in physical appearance to the first set delivered to Site ε. Ward difficulties don't matter. Make it happen or Harkiss can deliver himself.



 **alt_rookwood**

Long term I need identical twins. Both naturally occurring and magically induced. Assign a liaison to work with Dunstan on notification, pickup and acceptable charms for inducing the magical side. Going forward all known sets under five will be turned over to Dunstan immediately with full health and personal history documentation. Both islands.

2014-09-09 22:55:00

Order Only: Juniors Business


So. Salazar's Rules tomorrow.

Anyone have any thoughts? I don't think we should try too much coordination going in this first time. She'll smell that a mile away, but I guess it wouldn't hurt to talk about it. Or at least remind each other we're playing the same side. Even if it may be difficult to tell that once it all gets started.



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-09-10 04:02:41**

(no subject)

Ron,


I say, sharp thinking, old man. Jolly good.

I don't suppose there's much point to holding back, what. If one plans to make an attempt, one might as well make it a bally well sincere one.

I thought to wait until someone else opened the floor, though, at least. I say, what's your plan? Do you know anything about Professor Desai's preferences that we could use to advantage?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-09-10 04:11:20**

(no subject)


Well, she made it pretty clear she wants to see what we're capable of if we make an attempt on her. So I'd say showcase something you know you can deliver, but something with a bit of imagination, yeah?

But something upper-middle-range. I mean, it's obvious none of us wants to show her everything we can do. But... well, some of us have reasons to want to impress her. Others of us not.

And, yeah. I don't plan to be the first to strike, unless no one does

until fairly late in the lesson. No sense making myself a target for too long. And then, I suppose my strategy will mostly be holding off attacks and not missing targets. I don't plan to do more than's necessary with other students, though. Leave room for improvement, I reckon.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-09-10 15:01:14](#)**
(no subject)

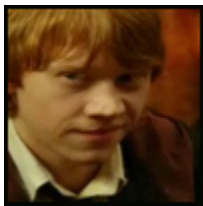
I have an idea for something to try, and I do plan to try it. But I won't go first, trust me.


Feel free to hex me afterward and I'll probably not do a good job deflecting. But if Seamus or Patil try, I'll do my best to dodge and return fire.



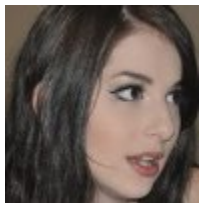
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:05:51](#)**
(no subject)

I'm staying out of it. I'm pants at duelling anyway.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:12:07](#)**
(no subject)

Healer's Oath. Blanket excuse.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:18:06](#)**
(no subject)

Oh there's plenty I could cast on Desai that wouldn't violate Healing ethics.

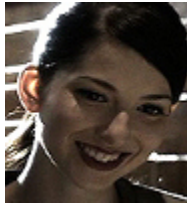
If I could cast it on her, which I could not, so I'm not going to try.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:19:36](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, alright.

So not Healer's Oath, but Slytherin's Creed.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:22:35](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. Salazar's other rules. 'By all means throw a curse if you can make it stick. Otherwise sit tight, smile, and wait for a better chance.'

(I just made that up, I don't know if Salazar Slytherin ever said that, but it sure sounds like something he might have said, right?)

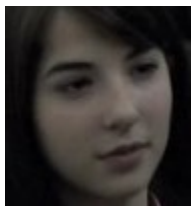
I bet we don't see Blaise making himself 'fair game' tomorrow.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:28:52](#)**
(no subject)

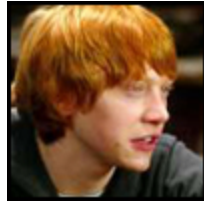
Zabini? No way.


Not unless there's an absolutely unmissable chance to zap Patil in the arse. He might do it then, if he could make it look like something he was just doing on a whim.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-10 04:31:37](#)**
(no subject)

Does it make you fair game if you hex a student who made themselves fair game? If Patil goes after Desai he'll go after her for sure. UNLESS it means anyone who wants can hex him. Anyway I don't think Patil will, either.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-09-10 04:44:29](#)
(no subject)

Erm.

No. You're only fair game after you make an attempt on Desai.

So you're right, Patil would have to take a shot before Zabini could go after her.

I think she might try if the right person implied that Councilwizards ought to set the standard. Actually, I wonder if Desai will do that. Challenge Patil and Finnigan, I mean. That would be interesting.

2014-09-10 13:28:00

Well, that was interesting

I wonder how long it'll take someone to actually land something that will properly hit Professor Desai? It was interesting to see who tried for it, and when, and who was holding back, or only taking shots at fellow students.




 [alt_pansy](#)

Linus, you should make a chart or something.

And go Milli! That was quite bold of you. Too bad Ron got your wand. I hope the counter hexes kicked in properly.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-09-10 20:43:39**

ORDER ONLY

The look on Megan's face. Merlin. Desai's really not fiddling around, is she?

Nev, the devil's snare was brill. And what'd you do to make Crabbe misspeak, Justin? Was it the tongue curse, or something else? Whatever it was, it worked pretty well. And Katrina, that was really brave of you, too.

Did you see how red Finnigan was getting? I think you showed well, Ron.

It figures Patil would hold back.

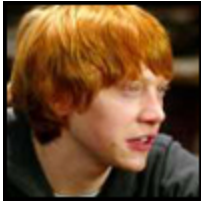



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-09-10 20:45:47**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

I hope Katrina isn't too hacked off.

Trying to score some points?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-10 23:51:05](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yeah. I talked to Kat. She's tough, y'know. And I was counting on you lot covering for her as much as possible without it being obvious, but yeah.

Scoring points with Desai. That's what I've got to do.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-10 23:54:17](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Good. It helps to know it's for a good reason.

And yeah, I figured you were. It's sort of obvious? I'm wondering if that's the best way to go. I bet she's expecting obvious from you, though. And you can certainly back it up. I mean, you were dead impressive against Finnigan.

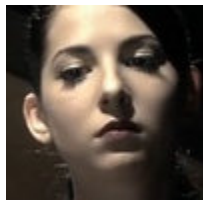


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 00:04:13](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

How's she been handling things? I really haven't had the chance to talk to her about any of it, and we don't normally talk much anyways.

Maybe we should do a meet up or something?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 02:47:45](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

How's who doing? Bundy? I saw her a little while ago and she was fine.

She knows Ron's trying to get into the Aurors, and why.

A meetup's not a bad idea. We could do some planning for the next time Desai does this.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 02:51:21](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

What I'm really not looking forward to is Desai hounding those of us who'd rather not make ourselves marks for our classmates. Next time I should probably try for her right before the end of class. (I mean, I expect nearly everyone else will, so...)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 02:53:21](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Kat, you mean? She was worrying a bit how she'd contribute, but I told her the thing is that when something comes up, we all do what's needed and it's not like we each have specific roles or duties or anything. I told something will come up soon enough. No sense worrying about it til it does.

And I told her to talk to Sue and you if she has a chance, because you've probably got things you could share about how it feels fitting in.

So, yeah, it'd be a good idea to get together sometime soon and just talk. I mean, Kat's close to Ev, too, but I think those of us who are just a year from leaving school have a different set of things to work out than the ones who've got longer, y'know?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-10 22:12:32](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY


Pansy,

It's 'Lexicomalorum,' what, and induces a form of dyslexia in the victim.

I say, next time I might wait even longer. Defending for forty minutes was more troublesome than I'd expected.

-Justin

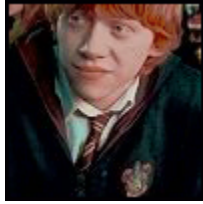



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-10 23:23:06](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

That's a mouthful. I suppose it would be, though.

Crabbe was an utter idiot for starting as early as he did. Well. He's an idiot regardless. I wonder if he actually thought he was good enough, or just didn't think through what it'd be like to have a giant target on him for the rest of class.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-10 23:44:56](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, it's not as if he listens or pays attention much. So having to fend off attacks probably just made time pass faster for him.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-09-11 00:33:51](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Lexicomalorum? Never heard of that one (and what's dyslexia?).

Does it need a particular wand movement when you use it?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-11 01:14:21](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Terry,

It's out of the *Arcanum Incantatoribus Insolitae*, one of the volumes I borrowed from Headmaster Dolohov over the summer.

Dyslexia is a condition in which one mixes up one's letters, or in Crabbe's case, one's sounds. Frequently one actually changes the orientation of letters or rearranges them, making it difficult to read or comprehend what one's reading.

As for wand movement, it's a simple slashing motion right to left, but it's a non-verbal spell. To answer your other question, I've been casting almost exclusively non-verbal for a few months, now.

Duelling against the likes of Professor Dolohov and Auror Crouch will sharpen the necessity to not telegraph one's moves, what.

-F-F



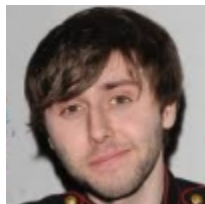
 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-11 03:36:47](#)


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

Merlin...I've never heard of dyslexia before. But now I'm wondering if that's something *I* have.

I've always been a slow reader, because yeah, sometimes the letters look weird to me. And when I started learning to write, Gran often said I was putting down my letters backwards.

Huh.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-11 03:50:04](#)

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

Well, writing certain letters backward is common, or so I was told, when one starts out. But one usually grows out of it with practice.

I say, I'd bally well no idea you had any sort of trouble like that. So sorry to have hit a nerve, old man. Perhaps Matron could perform some sort of...evaluation? I'm not sure how it would be diagnosed by wizards.

-F-F



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-11 04:09:12](#)

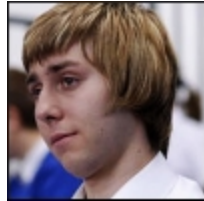
Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley


I don't know either. I guess I can ask her.

I wonder...is it something you learned about in France? Or maybe muggles know about it and most wizards don't? Because I would have thought Gran would have known about it, or learned about it, when she was trying to do

anything she could think of to get me to learn how to read and write.

In the end she just threw up her hands and told me to *try harder*. That didn't help very much.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-11 04:27:48](#)

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

It's rather common among Muggles, yes. No offence intended to Matron or your grandmother, what, but on the whole it does seem that Muggle medicine has a better grasp of this sort of thing.

Then again, it was Muggle doctors who thought I had some unheard of ailment, when it was merely magical ability. And come to think of it, Muggles can't do things like regrow bones or heal broken ones in half a second, what! So perhaps they each have advantages and drawbacks.

-F-F



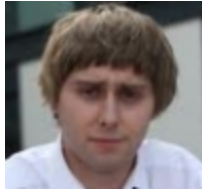
 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-11 00:20:20](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I actually had to stop myself from casting a spell to help Jones clean herself up after class ended. I don't think I've ever seen her face so red before, and I think she was crying when she left for the hospital wing. (Not that I'm blaming you, Ron, since the Professor ordered you to do it. I guess it shows how Salazer's Rules gets us started turning on each other, all us students, I mean.)

Yeah, the Devil's Snare. There aren't many Herbology-related hexes, so I figured at least I'd get points for doing something unexpected. Which I did, so it worked. But it isn't as aggressive as some of the other curses that were flying around, so I hope people will figure I'm not as much of a threat.

My wand hand was still stinging an hour later where Zacharias Smith tagged me. But at least I managed to land one on Dunstan.



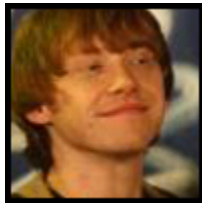
 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-11 02:01:16](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

Neville,

Yes, I say, it was jolly well done! Not something I'd have thought of at all, old man. I shall have to remember it in future.

-F-F



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 02:44:27](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

It was brilliant, really. Think it might've been the only thing that surprised her all lesson.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-11 03:32:03](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Thanks.

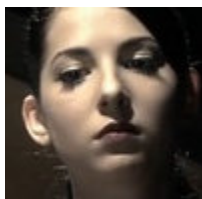


 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-09-11 00:30:33](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Of course Ron would show well. Always has good speed whenever we're in practise together, from what I can tell.

Did any of you try nonverbal spells? I've been drilling on those endlessly, because we need to be as quiet as possible whenever we're in the field. I can manage casting nonverbally only about forty percent of the time, though.

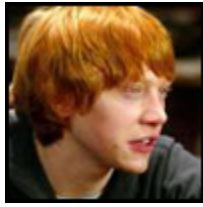



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 01:06:58](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I hit Finnigan with a stinging hex and I'm pretty sure I landed it (because I saw him jerk). Stinging

hexes are easy to cast, though. I can pull off the little spells silently, not the big ones.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:41:47](#)**

Re: ORDER ONLY

It's a funny thing in an exercise like the one today. There's a good reason to go verbal once the hexes start getting thick in the air: if you want credit for the ones you land, it helps if the teacher heard you cast it.

But, yeah, I spent a lot of time this summer practising nonverbal casting. You don't get accepted to the programme if you can't already do it at a high level--complex spells under challenging conditions.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-09-11 01:22:53](#)**

(no subject)

A chart is an excellent idea! If it were within my purview to award House Points, you would certainly have earned some with that suggestion.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-11 04:11:50](#)**

(no subject)

If you let me look at it, that'll be enough reward, thanks.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:42:04](#)**

Order Only

I got her once. Seventh year. Took a bit of planning and cooperation.

She gave me fifty House points. And ten to my confederate, she realised once I'd scored on her that she'd drawn fire deliberately.

2014-09-10 19:35:00

Private Message to Astoria Greengrass

Astoria,

Thank you for coming to the Hospital Wing to look in after me. I must say I was surprised you went to any trouble. It truly wasn't necessary at all, what. I'm not sure what you'd heard; I mean to say, yes, several of us did need some repair after this afternoon's Defence lesson, but Madam Pomfrey had me set to rights in a tick. It was nothing of remote concern. (One wishes one could say as much for Jones. She had a dashed difficult time of it, poor girl.)



 [alt_justin](#)

I say, one might accuse you of taking your Prefect's duties a step too far, but perhaps you were hoping for reports to prepare for your own lesson on Friday. Having survived the experience, I can assure you that, should you wish to participate, waiting until near the end of the lesson is a wise choice. I shouldn't have needed quite so much of Matron's ministrations if I hadn't seized an earlier opportunity, what. I confess that seeing Weasley's attempt presented a bally well irresistible chance.

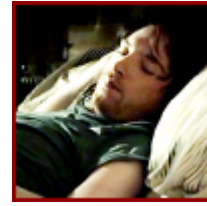
In any event, you were quite thoughtful to come up, though there was no need for any alarm.

Cordially,

-Finch-Fletchley

2014-09-10 20:03:00

Order Only: Private message to Rachel Brodie



 [alt_bill](#)

Had a helluva hangover this morning, but the potion cleared it up quickly enough. Thanks for not deserting me right away when you saw what shape I was in, even though I...wasn't quite in the mood you hoped when you arrived at my flat. And I'm sorry about that, too.

I told you the truth last night: I just don't do that--drinking alone, I mean. Frank warned me against using it as an escape, once I started working under Mulciber, and I've followed his advice, honest. It was just a couple of things that set me off, and they were such *little* things that it sort of took me by surprise. Like a conversation with Mum over dinner on Sunday. And a book I picked up casually last night to read. I'd forgotten all about the note Percy had written on the flyleaf.


I won't do it again.

Anyway, I'm glad you came over so I wasn't alone after all. And I liked hearing about your mum. I've never heard you say much about your own family before. I'm not sure if you believed me, but I really do understand your reasons why you don't think it's a good idea for me to meet her. It feels odd, I suppose, especially since you've met everyone in my family, but it makes sense.

~~I'd like you to believe~~

I haven't told you enough lately how brilliant you are.




 [alt_rachel](#) at **2014-09-11 02:31:57**

(no subject)


Well, your drinking habits are your own business, Bill, but I'm glad you don't drink like that often. It didn't seem good for you.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-09-11 03:02:07](#)**
(no subject)

No, it wasn't. I'm glad I didn't actually finish the bottle. That would have ruined me for work entirely today, even with the potion.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:34:21](#)**
(no subject)

Anyway, I can tell you without a doubt that my Mum would like you.

Then again, she'd like ANY man I was having some sort of proper relationship with and not just hopping into the sack with, if you follow my drift! You're a former Head Boy, working in a respectable job, the right age, good looking...

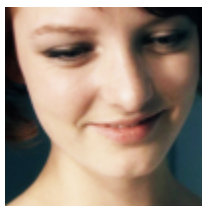



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-09-11 03:00:47](#)**
(no subject)

Careful, you'll give me a swelled head.

Actually, George and Fred used to tease Percy by calling him Bighead Boy when he was acting pompous.

So this is a proper relationship now, huh?




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-09-11 03:23:32](#)**
(no subject)

Well it's either a proper relationship or an AWFUL LOT of one-night stands.

Plus, I'm talking to you about my family. So I guess it's a relationship.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-09-11 03:26:22](#)
(no subject)

Excellent.

If you'd like to come over tonight, we could keep the winning streak going.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-09-11 03:28:02](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

Provided we're talking about another in the long streak of one-night stands, and not more talking about my family!




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-09-11 03:30:34](#)
(no subject)

More talking isn't what I had in mind.

At least until we're figuring out what to have for breakfast tomorrow morning.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-09-11 03:33:01](#)
(no subject)

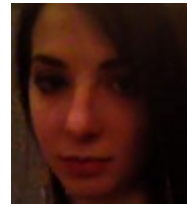
Bacon and eggs. But only if you're the one who's cooking.

See you in five minutes.

2014-09-10 20:07:00


Private message to Megan Jones

You all right, then?



 **alt_sally_anne**



 **alt_megan** at **2014-09-11 01:19:02**

(no subject)

Madam Pomfrey put things right again.

I was stupid.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-09-11 01:22:51**

(no subject)

~~Lying to Desai was probably pretty~~

I'm sure Moon deserved whatever you hexed him with.



 **alt_megan** at **2014-09-11 01:27:41**

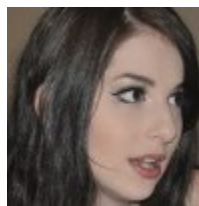
(no subject)

I can guess what you crossed out. And yes, it was. But he did.

Head Boy.

Stupid Moon.

It should have been Ernie. Not hexed. I mean as



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-09-11 01:31:04**


(no subject)

Oh yeah, you'll get no argument from me there.

I really don't know what the Headmaster was thinking, making Moon Head Boy.

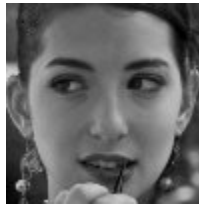
At least he probably won't cruciate anyone, right? I doubt he could actually cast it.




 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:09:06](#)**
(no subject)

Someone said the Headmaster made Moon Head Boy because of his father. Moon's, I mean. Something about political Abraxan trading and the changes this year. I don't really understand it, but they were saying it in the common room and they all went very quiet when Ernie came in.

And you are likely right that Moon couldn't cast it. He was Theoretical. He'd probably use Petrificus Totalis and then lecture them about methods of Cruciation down through the ages.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:20:38](#)**
(no subject)

I would ALMOST but not quite choose cruciatus over being petrified to listen to a lecture from Moon.

If it was going to be a lecture followed by poetry, I think cruciatus might win.

Anyway the politics with the school governors makes sense, I guess. Is Macmillan very cross?



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2014-09-11 02:53:38](#)**
(no subject)

He is putting a good face on it but I know inside he is shouting "WHY MOON?"

2014-09-10 22:00:00

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne and Pansy



 [alt_ron](#)

So, the thing is... I worked with Desai a fair bit this summer, and there are things she expects. Things I've got to do if I want her to push me forward for the programme.

It's-

There's just a way of doing things-

You have to act like you've got the right to do anything to anyone- especially people who aren't who aren't, uh well connected, y'know? I mean, it wasn't just people we suspected of doing something illegal that we- y'know

it was people we wanted to get information from, but also just

just anyone who got in the way

especially if one of the Aurors thought they looked like they weren't afraid of us or weren't impressed enough, but sometimes it was just, I don't know

Just because they were in the wrong place and got in the way or didn't get out of the way quickly enough

Ugh. Okay, it's like taking the wands today? I did it because I could and because it would leave them open, and I knew Desai'd think they deserved that because, I don't know, not just because they're halfbloods, Milli and Kat, but because they didn't defend their wands, for one thing, and Milli had that sort of stupid cross look and Kat had a moment where she couldn't decide what to do. If you show weak, she'll treat you that way and expect other people to.

You just, it's an Auror thing to establish authority straight off the top, so then people mostly just fall in and do what you say. Anywiz, they tend not to challenge you as much. So I knew I had to follow that today. If I hadn't, she'd have thought I'd got nothing out of the training this summer.

So, yeah. It's not pretty, I guess, but there it is.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:24:40](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.


I can see that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:26:49](#)
Private message to Ron

I sort of figured, this summer, that might be why you didn't ever want to tell me very much.

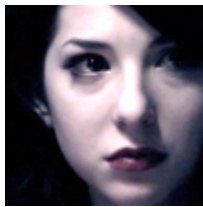



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 03:28:55](#)
Re: Private message to Ron

You think it's really wrong, don't you?

I mean, there're a lot of things I just, I couldn't think how to tell you about when they happened, so I

didn't



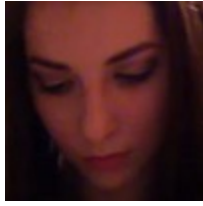
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:31:57](#)
Re: Private message to Ron

No.

I mean, I do and I don't. Of course it's wrong. Which is why we have to change things.

But we're not going to change things by asking people nicely and wringing our hands when they tell us to sod off, are we?

So you'll do what you have to do. I just hate what it's doing to you. Same with Hydra, actually.

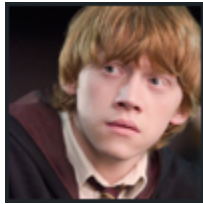



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:34:25](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

It's weird how I used to assume the grownups would have answers, if only we could talk to them properly.

Ha, as if.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 03:38:07](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 03:37:11](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I mean, I didn't kill anyone. I didn't even get licensed for the Cardinals. But I think some of it was almost as bad.

I mean, it's just the way they all think, and I had to try to think like that, too, so I'd have the right-

You know, it's not just what you do or the things you say, it's the way you stand and the way you walk and the way you look at people. And the tone you take. And, and there's a way tone you use to cast. Actually-

Merlin, I hadn't even thought it out until just now, but... y'know, a lot of the time Aurors use nonverbal spells. They're sort of arrogant about that. But there're times they don't. And that's when they want to really terrify people or, y'know, just make them stop short and give up. Because the tone they use when they cast verbally? It's really- it's- I don't know- it's cold. And it makes the spells more powerful than if you cast them the way we learned in lessons.

And when you use that tone enough, it's how you hear the nonverbals in your head, too.

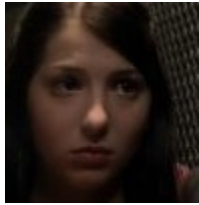


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:48:15](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Oh, yeah.

I know the tone you mean.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 03:52:53](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

You can tell me this stuff, you know.

I don't want you to

I mean

If you have to DO it you deserve to have people listen to you talk about it after. And I always will. If you want.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 04:02:46](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I don't know. I didn't want to think about it too much. It was like- if I didn't think it through or didn't think it over afterwards, then it wouldn't be real, I guess.

And, okay, this is mad, but I thought a lot about what it would've been like if Dad had been alive and I'd had to tell him what I was doing for that internship--because he would've asked and he'd have thought I should tell him so we could work out how to keep my head straight through it all. And I really didn't want to ever have him know the sort of things-

I just didn't want to say them.

I expect it doesn't matter now, though. You're going to see it. Twice a week in Defence.

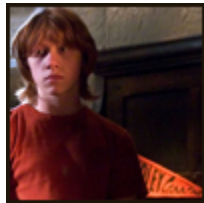



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 04:08:58](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Oh yeah. I mean I understand about not wanting to think about things, and feeling like talking just makes them more real.

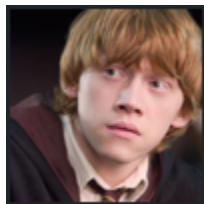
I wish your Dad were still alive. I mean I think he could reassure you better than I could. Even if he'd have made you talk about things when you didn't want to.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 04:13:18](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I do, too.

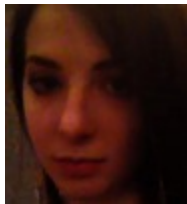


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 04:14:13](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

You mean about your Dad?

Or other things, too?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 04:18:40](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Oh, you know, that too.

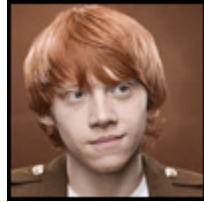
But I was thinking about this other thing that happened this summer, which is that I ran into that one Healer. The awful one, from when I was little. He was working at St Mungo's.


I didn't tell anyone, because I knew I might see him again. And the last thing I wanted to do was fall apart right in St Mungo's, you know? Better to just

Well, anyway, it worked and I was fine.

I told Madam Pomfrey about him after I came back to school. His name's Hubert Drubble, I'm actually really glad to know

that. I didn't know his name before and anytime I'd run into a new Healer I'd worry it was going to be him. Now as long as they have a different name I'll know it's not.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 05:55:22](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

You met him? Was it- Did he do anything to you?

Were you afraid of him?

What did Madam P say? Does she know him?

You know, Drubble's kind of a naff name, actually. Heh. Imagine having a name like that growing up. (Weasley's bad enough!) I expect he got the sharp end of a lot of wands when he was in school, don't you think? The git.

Sorry. Maybe that's awful. Only, it helps me if I can find something ridic about a person like that, lets me cut them down a peg or three in my head, especially someone who thinks they're all that.

Erm. That's not an Auror thing. Learned that one from the twins.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-11 04:06:06](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 04:17:24](#)

(no subject)

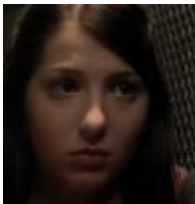
It isn't pretty, no.

But there's a point to it, yeah?

And there's a difference between doing something because it's what you have to do to fit in, and doing it because you think it's the right

thing.

And if that's what Defence is going to be like, then that's what it'll be, and we'll do what we can to help out. And we'll know why. And it'll be okay.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-11 04:20:49](#)**

Private message to Pansy

I've been talking privately to Ron and it's driving me a bit batty because on one hand I want to tell him he doesn't have to become an Auror, that there's a million other things he can do that will be just as useful to the Order, and on the other hand I don't want him to feel like I'm telling him I'll hate him if he does become an Auror.

I hate seeing what it's doing to him and I'm convinced everything I'm saying to him that's supposed to be reassuring is just making him feel worse.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-11 04:27:00](#)**

Re: Private message to Pansy

I know what you mean.

Ugh.

This summer, seeing what it took out of him, it was

I mean, I know he doesn't even like to talk about it to *us*, well, I mean, he might've talked to you about it, but I just know it'll get worse, and I just

Yeah.

I'm worried about him too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 04:33:14](#)


Re: Private message to Pansy

He really didn't talk about it to me, either. NOW he's talking about it and it's, well, it's not actually as bad as I'd feared, I'd sort of worried at one point that they were making him cast cruciatus on people but they didn't.

But

Yeah.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 04:29:32](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

And if he's feeling bad about it already, it's hard to suggest he do something different because then it's like we wouldn't be supporting him fully or something, or would be judging him.

I don't know.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 04:31:38](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Sometimes I think we'd be better off if we just ran away.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 04:35:30](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Yeah.

I wish we could go somewhere like France. Or somewhere further than that, even.

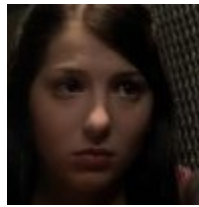


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 04:49:41](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Iceland. Or Ecuador. Or Australia.

Somewhere we wouldn't have to be afraid all of the time, and where we could talk about anything we wanted, and do whatever we wanted, and we could just *be*, and heal people, and fiddle with potions and joke shops, and make magical maps, or actually help keep people safe, maybe, like MLE used to do.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-11 04:34:28](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy


Right, exactly.

I mean I'm NOT judging him. Or Hydra or Mr Snape or Auror Lamont or any of the others who has to do something awful for the Order.

I'm not.

But hearing 'I'm not judging you!' is not exactly reassuring.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-11 04:42:52](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy


I know you aren't. I know. And you're not saying he can't pull it off, or he isn't brave, or skilled enough either.

Merlin, Sally-Anne, he became an animagus for this. We can say he doesn't have to, but he's worked so hard.

Maybe we can talk to Mrs Longbottom or Mr Lupin?

Or Rachel?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-11 04:42:59](#)**
(no subject)


Cheers, you.

Y'know, I couldn't do this at all if I didn't know you have my back. But I know you both do. And F-F, too.

But, yeah. I think it's going to be fairly awful in there. It's funny, I thought Dark Arts would be the horrible subject.

We should begin planning a coordinated attack to unroll in there in a couple of weeks that sets one of you up to tag Desai.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-11 05:41:27](#)**
(no subject)

All right, then.

I'd be willing to play it cautious so she'll underestimate me. We'll have to really drill outside of class, though.

And if Linus comes through, that might help sort out some things too.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-11 05:46:33](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. That was an excellent thing, putting him up to collecting data.

You can be rather brilliant, Fisheye. Scary how you manoeuvre people like that. You and Daphs.

[2014-09-10 22:54:00](#)

NEWT students: discussion



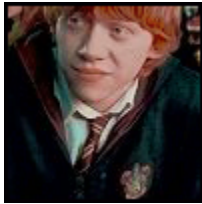
 **[alt_savitha](#)**


So, my dears. I thought that first session of Salazar's Rules went rather well. I'd like each of you to think about your performance today, and the performance of your friends and classmates, and share an observation or two.

What could you have done better?
What could those around you have done better?
What mistakes did you see?

You may share your observations by journal, or by scroll if you must (turned into my office sometime before our next meeting on Friday).

Speaking of Friday -- sixth years, on Friday you'll have your first session with Salazar's Rules. I would encourage you to read what the seventh years have to say about their experience and LEARN from it.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-11 06:21:24](#)**
(no subject)

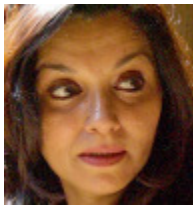
What could I have done better? I mistimed my spell against you. If I'd got it off half a second earlier, you'd have still been paying more attention to Smith and Bones. Or if I'd been able to cut it short and wait for the next time one of the others made a move, but it was too late for that by the time I realised I'd missed my opening.

I don't think there were any tells before I cast, though. Or did you know before you asked Bones that question?

What could those around you have done better? Bulstrode should have waited until next lesson, probably. She was too anxious, and by the time she tried it, she was so wound up, she might as well have waved a red flag to warn everyone she was about to do something major. She expected to fail, too. Not a great way to launch an attack. That's why, when you'd parried it, she hadn't thought what to do next, she was just sulking about how it hadn't worked, just like she expected it wouldn't. So, she could have had a better plan for timing her spell, and she needed to have confidence in it or not bother casting, and she needed to know what she was going to do

immediately after, and how she'd protect herself from there on.

What mistakes did you see? Li's wand work was shaky--maybe she was nervous--and Midgen just flat out had the wrong flourish at the end of her cast. Smith wanted us to think he was only half-trying, having a laugh about it, but really if you think you're not going to land a hit, you won't. Better to have waited. Goyle's technique was fine. Not good enough to catch you out, but his mistake was not thinking through what would happen afterwards: I mean, it was daft to jump in so early. Maybe he was aiming for the element of surprise, but he paid a high price for that bit of boldness, didn't he? I mean, we had nearly an hour to take it out on him.



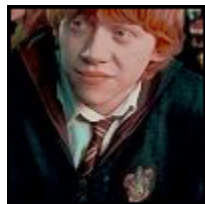
 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-12 03:39:53](#)

Private message to Ron Weasley

Excellent answers, Mr Weasley.

Regarding tells, it will be easier to explain in person; please drop by my office during my office hours and we'll go over it.

You may notice below I instructed your housemate Longbottom to seek you out for a bit of extra practice. If that will be a problem for either of you, please do let me know.

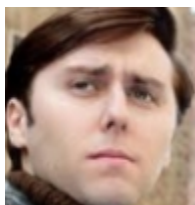


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-12 04:20:30](#)

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

Thank you, Professor. I'll come see you.

I'll see Neville's ready for next week. You can count on it.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-11 18:53:17](#)

(no subject)

Professor,

My timing was a touch slow, as well. I've been working on non-verbal spells and it felt suddenly odd to cast aloud, besides the fact that--well, one doesn't like to interrupt. I know

that sounds well daft.

Also, I allowed Zabini to land his shot when I was engaged with Crabbe and Finnigan. Obviously, I failed to block your counter-hex. Likely I could have waited until closer to the end of the lesson period for my first attempt, since the last ten minutes were more chaotic than I'd expected. Lastly, I ought to have made additional attempts after your defence held.

Our classmates who never made any attempt clearly need to trust that the lesson is worth potential failure. Or find their courage.

Other than Jones, whose misstep one need not revisit, Bulstrode and Bundy ought to have protected their wands; MacDougal should have chosen a spell she could cast without requiring multiple attempts; and Capper needs to work on his aim.

I'm sure there are other observations but those are the ones that jump straight to mind.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-12 03:26:47](#)
(no subject)

One doesn't like to interrupt?

Gracious, Mr Finch-Fletchley, we'll need to work on your oversupply of courtesy.

And you are absolutely correct that you were not limited to a single attempt. Having made yourself fair game, you really had nothing to lose, and unlike some of your classmates, you'd managed to keep hold of your wand. Why didn't you?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-12 16:32:08](#)
(no subject)

Professor,

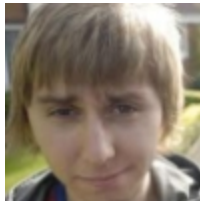
I've been thinking about your question. In fact, during our lesson this morning I was able to reconstruct the progress of Wednesday's lesson. The only reason I can conclude is that, having countered my hex once, you were no


longer the most immediate threat. There's a logic to continuing on the chance that one might succeed and thus no longer become a valid target for others, but the likelihood of that occurring before being disabled by someone else was remote--and, one might add, the onslaught of spells from other quarters was much more pressing, if you follow me.

Simply put: Had I remained fixed on targetting you, what, one or more of the other students would have done much more damage to me in the interim.

Rest assured I shall devise methods to protect myself in future, so that I may remain fixed on the primary goal.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-12 16:38:05](#)**

Order Only

Ron,

Remember that technique you were telling me about this summer? That shielding spell for times when partners aren't available. Deflecto-something, wasn't it? We ought to practise that, what.

I say, though, there's no reason not to brush up on our timing exercises for partner work in the field. Perhaps we ought to all approach the Salazar's Rules lessons as if it's a field battle, what, and each of us plan to partner one or more of the others to defend whilst the other strikes.

-Justin



 **[alt_millicent](#)** at **[2014-09-11 22:14:55](#)**


(no subject)

You want us to post here, Miss?

Alright. I guess when Weasley took my wand I should have punched him. In his *face*. But I wasn't sure if that was what you meant by fair game.

Crabbe made himself a target too soon. So did Goyle.




 **alt_savitha** at **2014-09-12 03:29:51**
(no subject)

Just as Hydra Lestrage may certainly use the advantage she gains with her legilimency, you may use whatever advantage you gain from your fists, should you in fact be so completely devoid of shame that as a Witch you consider punching someone in the face, like an animal, to be a reasonable course of action.

In this scenario, however, you would become a very special sort of fair game, should you fail at that point to regain your wand.



 **alt_pansy** at **2014-09-11 22:49:45**
(no subject)

I was one of the people who held back. I was curious to see how it would play out, and wanted to see the choices everyone would make. But I realise that it could've come off as being too cautious or cowardly, which would not be an appropriate impression to make in an actual scenario where defence skills are needed.


I believe I did a good job at observing, and gathered useful information I can take advantage of in the future.

Next time, I will do better by participating actively.

People on the whole tended to be cautious when they tried to target you, and as a result, tended to over think things. Several students used this as an opportunity to get even with people they didn't like, which could make them careless due to being over-emotional, and opened them up to attacks from unexpected sources because they were concentrating on only one or two targets.

It was tricky to keep track of who was open for being a target as the class progressed, and things became distinctly more chaotic. I'd imagine that some people will really excel in that environment, and others will fold rather spectacularly depending on how skillful they are and how good they are at adjusting to new situations quickly.




 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-12 03:33:50](#)
(no subject)

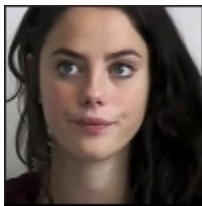
In my classroom, we don't prepare merely for artistic duelling but for a battlefield. Battlefields are distinctly chaotic, and your allies and companions will be very appreciative if you can manage to keep track of whom you wish to target.


I was disappointed in you, Miss Parkinson. Do better next time.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-12 04:03:29](#)
(no subject)

I shall, Professor.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-12 01:57:10](#)
(no subject)

Like other of my Slytherin cohort, I focused on observing rather than throwing myself into the fray, while nonetheless fully aware of how that choice might reflect on me.

What the lesson as a whole showed me is that in most cases, people perform precisely how others expect them to--whether those expectations are based on House or personality or overall school standings. I feel that this is something all of us could improve on: versatility; adaptability; aptitude. Why, I find it remarkable that even the responses written here are entirely in keeping with the individual who wrote them!


I have composed a detailed list on each student in the class and how their actions during the lesson directly pertain to the character traits that they are known for. Because I do not wish for the other students to be aware of how I've perceived them, I shall send the list to you by scroll, Professor.



 **[alt_savitha](#)** at **[2014-09-12 03:34:57](#)**
(no subject)

I have received your scroll, Miss Greengrass. Your observations were most intriguing and I am looking forward to seeing how they serve you in future class sessions.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-09-12 02:06:10](#)**
(no subject)

What I could have done better: The spell I chose had some advantages (like surprise) but some limitations, too: I had to wait until you were leaning against something wooden before I could cast it. I let several opportunities go by because I wasn't sure I could time it right. And the devil's snare didn't really erupt quickly enough from the desk to capture your wand hand, which was what I intended. I need to practise quick-acting spells.

What could those around you have done better: Dunstan needs to use more confident wand movement, which would give her greater power. MacDougal kept raising her wand as if she was going to do a spell, but then changing her mind. Since movement draws attention, that made it certain that she couldn't take you by surprise.

What mistakes did you see: Since you were in the center of the circle (and we all started out looking for opportunities to hex you), you tended to draw everyone's eye, even when others tried and then became fair game. When you moved closer to one side of the room, people tended to try to hex others on the *other* side of the room. But it might have made more sense to hex people closer to you, because their focus was more on you. It made me realise that the person moving is the most distracting.




 **[alt_savitha](#)** at **[2014-09-12 03:37:28](#)**
(no subject)

You made an excellent choice of spell, Mr Longbottom -- genuinely creative, though the limitations you've observed make it problematic as an offensive spell.


Over the weekend, meet with Mr Weasley and work on ten quick-acting spells suitable for this sort of use. I'll be very disappointed if I don't see you try one in a future class.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-12 11:34:22](#)
(no subject)

I will, ma'am. I have ideas for several and I'm sure Ron will have more to suggest.

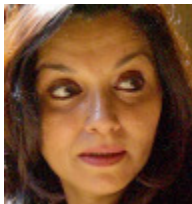



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-09-12 03:44:55](#)
(no subject)

I should have tried earlier in the lesson, because although things got more chaotic and distracting as more people tried, there's a clear strategic benefit to trying close to the end, and so you might have been taken more by surprise if I'd gone after you as soon as things started.

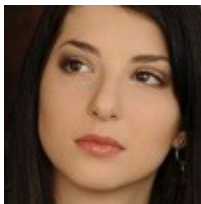
I should have expected that the moment I became 'fair game,' Weasley would come after me, and focused specifically on him.

The biggest mistake I saw was the opportunity wasted by all the people who chose not to even try.



 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-12 04:07:28](#)
(no subject)

That is an excellent thought, Mr Finnigan, if you truly believe yourself capable of defending yourself for the whole two hours.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-12 04:06:04](#)
(no subject)

Finnigan had an opening right after Ron took a shot at you. He went after Ron, instead of you, because he was focused on the opportunity to try to hex someone he disliked.

Actually, I saw a number of people make similar mistakes.

In terms of what I could have done better -- actually, I think watching was the correct decision for me. I should have taken better notes, though. I brought a dictation quill but of course it didn't record who cast what on whom.




 [alt_savitha](#) at [2014-09-12 04:12:12](#)
(no subject)

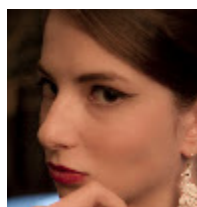
You might try borrowing notes from Mr Moon. I don't think he missed anything.

I want the four of you girls in Sytherin to meet this weekend for a bit of duelling practice. It's shameful the only one of you with the nerve to try me was Miss Bullstrode, especially given how incompetent her effort was. Practice ten spells, all quick to cast. See if you can get them very fast -- non-verbal, too, so you don't tell the whole world what you're doing. Be prepared to demonstrate what you've learned.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-12 04:40:26](#)
ORDER ONLY

I suppose we could come out of the gate firing next time around, show a bit of house pride. We shouldn't lay out all our cards, of course, but I wouldn't mind showing her we aren't entirely incompetent.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 15:08:17](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

I think she's trying to provoke us into being stupid.

I'm not saying we shouldn't make some plans for next time, but letting her taunt us into doing it as soon as class starts won't end well for any of us.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 15:12:03](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private message to Pansy

Here's another thing we should maybe talk about before next time. Ron's trying to impress Desai, because she's the one who can get him into that

Auror training programme (or keep him out).


I don't want to make myself a target and put Ron in the position of having to try to protect me OR having to ignore what's going on to impress Desai (because he'd beat himself up for it later). I think my best option is to keep it to the very end of class (or be the distraction to help set up someone else for success).



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-09-12 17:24:39](#)
(no subject)

You have already received my scroll, with attached charts charmed to each section, but please allow me to thank you again for a most informative and exhilarating session. Truly, these are exciting days, and we must all count ourselves fortunate to be able to learn from those who challenge us splendidly.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-09-12 19:49:46](#)
(no subject)

"What could you have done better?"

~~Everything.~~

I did not play by the rules and that was wrong. Rules are important. Also it was stupid. And disrespectful.

"What could those around you have done better?"

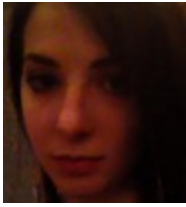
People who lost their wands should have been paying more attention to defending themselves instead of trying to think of what to cast next because of course if someone takes your wand away you will have lots of time to think of what to cast next but you won't be able to DO it.

"What mistakes did you see?"

Going too early. Or not going at all.

Also some people when they cast at you, didn't do the next thing right away. Like they were waiting to see what you thought of what they did. Which is understandable in class but if it were a real battle they would be dead in trouble.

Also, being stupid but that was me and I said that already. And I will try not to be that kind of stupid again.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 15:27:17](#)

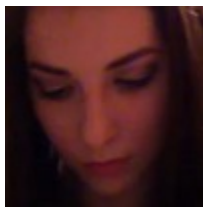
Order Only: Juniors' Business

I heard some odd rumours from another class about what exactly it was that Megan Jones did. So for Order members who are wondering, she tried to hex Moon, who wasn't fair game. She actually muffed the hex and got HERSELF -- but of course Desai spotted it and wanted to know what she was about.

She told Desai that Moon had TRIED to hex her and hadn't gotten his spell off. Which -- I mean, as if an Auror wouldn't have noticed? So Desai was furious at her, and she made Jones get up and stand in the middle of the classroom while she told everyone what an idiot she was, and then she had someone Ron a student she had Ron hex her because she was impressed with how he'd done in class and this was supposed to be his 'reward' I think. She had him use that spell Luna cast on Mr Shackbolt that time, that makes you wet yourself, only this one was a bit stronger and she had to go to the hospital wing because otherwise she'd just keep on -- yeah.

So. I think if Jones had owned up to hexing Linus, Desai would've punished her but it wouldn't have been so bad. If she'd told a lie that was less insulting, like if she'd said she was aiming for Ron and had muffed it, Desai might have let it slide.

Anyway I heard someone from fifth year who thought Jones got in trouble for going after Patil because how dare a little half-blood try to hex a Councilwitch, and that wasn't it at all. (Though Patil wasn't fair game either -- which was a shame, I'd have tried for her if she had been!)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 15:30:57](#)

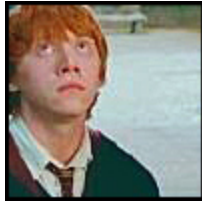
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron


I hope you don't mind that I told people she had you do it.

I also overheard a rumour from some firsties that Desai had you cast cruciatus on Megan. I told them that was ridiculous, you wouldn't be allowed even under the direction of a

teacher because you're neither Head Boy nor a Councilwizard.

I THINK I'm right, that if she decides she wants someone cruciated she'll either do it herself or have Moon do it. (Which, ha, I wonder if he'll be able?) Or Daphne. Ugh.



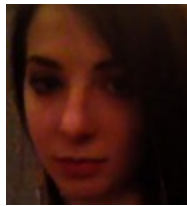
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-13 19:56:40](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Ugh. Yeah, okay.

Worst that'll happen, Bill will try talking to me again about what it was like for him, learning the cardinals. And then he'll make Lamont write me, which is fine. I like her, but I don't see what good talking about it does, just to y'know, talk about it.

I reckon it makes them feel like they're doing something for us.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 22:51:07](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Maybe we should think of it as something we do for them. Making them feel better about the things we have to do.

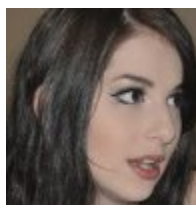
I don't know, another year and we'll be out of school, how long until we're acting like proper grownups, do you think?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-13 23:05:31](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

What, and fussing over Evelyn and Artie, telling them what they should be doing and don't get into anything dangerous, whatever they do?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-14 00:21:06](#)


Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

We'll be able to restrain ourselves with Ev and Artie, surely.

But you know some day I'm hoping we'll be able

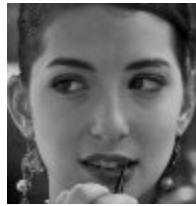
to recruit Gemma. It's going to be hard NOT fussing over her. (She'll be a firstie next year.)



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-09-14 01:05:14**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

No way. Gemma at Hogwarts already?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-09-14 01:09:24**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Well not until next year, actually.

But yeah, next year. Arista would've started next year, too, except she's at Moddey.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-09-14 02:23:32**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Yeah, Arista. Well, if she could come to school next year, she'd be way ahead, wouldn't she? I expect that for basic stuff, they're really getting a better start out there than we do here. Mind you, they don't have all the coverage we get, but I'd put Colin up against anybody in his year for core subjects, don't you think? I mean, maybe they don't cover things the way they turn up on the written OWLs, but the practical side's solid.

Arista's going to be sad, though, when next autumn comes and she's not starting here. She really wanted to come to Hogwarts.

I expect I should write her. Before she forgets who I am and decides it's really Malfoy who hung the moon.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-09-14 02:41:03

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

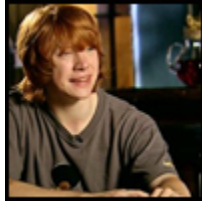
That would certainly get your attention!

Anyway, yeah. Actually it probably varies by subject. I think Hogwarts is a bit better for Transfiguration (now that Brutka's teaching it and not Carrow) but it's pretty slight. We definitely do better with Creatures, just because Professor Grubbly-Plank can arrange for us to see and even handle some rather rare beasts that Moddey wouldn't have access to. If you want to learn Divination, there's no one at Moddey who can cover that, but why would you ever bother, Divination's rubbish. Arithmancy -- Professor Vector's better at Arithmancy than anyone at Moddey but I expect the Moddey teachers are better at explaining things. Runes -- Moddey wins, because it has people who've relied on Runes as their main form of magic for years at a time, all those people like Terry and my Mum who were denied wands. Charms, Moddey wins. Defence, Moddey probably wins. Dark Arts, well, they don't teach that there, officially anyway, so Hogwarts wins there. Potions, Moddey wins. I can't even imagine getting to learn Potions from Mr Snape all the time, it makes me too jealous. Professor Slughorn was fine, but in terms of teaching you how to do things by feel so you can make the really complicated potions without muffing them, if you lack the natural ability that Pansy and Draco have -- there's no way I'd have gotten the O on my Potions OWL without Mr Snape. Herbology -- I'd say Moddey, in part because no one's peering over their shoulder and they can talk about things like how to grow fluxweed.

Astronomy, it's Hogwarts because there's no one quite like Professor Sinistra at Moddey. History, it's Moddey because there's no one quite like Binns ANYWHERE ELSE for which we can all be thankful (and I'm sure the new professor is teaching nothing but official lies.)

Anyway one way or another if Colin could come take OWLs -- okay from what I've seen he'd get Os on Charms and Defence for sure, and O or E in Herbology, Transfiguration, and Potions. I expect he could even manage an E or A in Dark Arts.

Hermione, on the other hand, could've gotten an O in absolutely everything. If they'd let her take OWLs. She could probably get an O in every NEWT right now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-14 03:36:17](#)

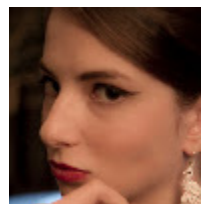
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Defence? You think so, really? I'm not saying they're not getting good training. Only, you think we're behind them? No way. I can totally take any of them.

And I dunno about Mr Snape. I mean, he's not very good with those of us who aren't already brilliant at Potions. I don't think I'd've gone on if he'd been the one to say who could go for the NEWT. I mean, he sort of has favourites and only really cares about them. And, well, he may be brilliant with just the three or four of you in his lab, but when we were having those OWL reviews, he was sort of tense with all of us at once. Imagine if he had two Houses worth of firsties to teach at a time. And then two Houses of second years... Yeah, I'm not seeing it.

Say what you will about old Sluggy, he was good at explaining things and calm about pretty much everything, even the surprises.

D'you remember the time the Boil Cure potion went up? And Patil got splattered? And Brockelhurst told her it looked like she had a map of Poland on her cheek! That was a great day in Potions!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-14 03:43:30](#)

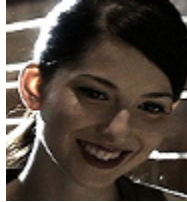
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Oh yeah you and Justin between you could probably put the lot of them on the ground, blindfolded and with your wand hand hexed.

But here's the thing neither of you has had just Defence classes in school, you've had those, AND CCF, AND you had your summer programme with the Aurors and Justin trained with Dolohov, AND you've had the chance to work with the

Order adults.

In terms of comparing first years, a first year at Moddey is probably a little better than a first year at Hogwarts -- well, although I wonder if Mrs Longbottom is stricter about people hexing each other, honestly we learn more here by breaking the rules than we ever do in class. Hexing people in the corridors like we're not supposed to.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-14 03:44:53](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Oh, and I reckon you're right about Mr Snape! It's hard to know what he'd actually be like in a classroom. And he likes me -- I mean, I'm not HERMIONE, but I'm the sort of student he likes to teach.

I don't even want to think about how he'd react to something like that boil cure explosion. It wouldn't have been pretty.

2014-09-11 15:03:00

Order Only Private Message to Cousin Hydra



Hydra,

I've been meaning to write since you left for school. Really, I meant to find a time to ask after you when I'd heard that OWL marks had come out. What I heard was that you're owed congratulations for having swept them with all Os.


 **alt_nymphadora**

I confess that made me uneasy. That and the fact that you've been training with the other person I know who swept his OWLs. My foster brother gives that sort of intelligence a bad name, rather. I hope he's treated you well enough, training you. I couldn't stand that--luckily I'm not the one aiming for work with the Aurors! (I wonder sometimes if it's anything you want to do or whether you're doing it because you can and feel you must.)

At least you've escaped to Hogwarts and don't have to take orders from the Grouch for a while. Are things going well? (I did read what Desai wrote. I thought it sounded exciting, actually, in a terrible sort of way. I think I'll suggest Frank make our training a bit more like that!)

All the same here. I keep getting larger and slower, while Bea keeps getting quicker. You can guess how that's working out!



 **alt_hydra** at **2014-09-12 02:10:23**
(no subject)

Hello Dora, it's nice to hear from you. I didn't sweep my OWLs because I'm intelligent like Auror Crouch. I just used my legilimency to cheat. Maybe I oughtn't have done, for as I told someone else, now I'll always wonder how I would have ranked if I'd just gone about it the normal way.

Auror Crouch is not a kind mentor, but then I didn't expect him to be. He is very frank about my shortcomings, which has been helpful. Or will be, I hope. I don't suppose I'll mind being an Auror. I don't imagine it's worse than being on the Council and it may be much

better. I too wonder sometimes if it's anything I want to do.

We've not yet done Salazar's Rules in the sixth year NEWT, so I don't know how it will go. I think Professor Desai wants to see what we're made of, but I don't know that I want her to know.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-09-12 21:56:08](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sorry you're having second thoughts about your OWLs. I can tell you that most everyone I know (possibly saving Auror Grouch) finds that standings and marks and even number of OWLs taken, let alone passed or aced... all of it was a lot less important as soon as we'd left school. And it hasn't been important since.

I'll grant that it couldn't have improved my chances of finding a better work placement if I'd done better on my OWLs and NEWTs. Mine were a mix of Os and Es, but I'd still be cleaning bogs and emptying rubbish at 4 in the morning if I'd got all Os, so you can't judge by my situation. Yours is entirely different, but--and this is just my view--I think yours is nearly as skewed in the other direction. If you want to be an Auror, you'll be able to do that regardless of whether your marks were perfect. The advantage of sweeping your exams is simply to shut the mouths of anyone who might otherwise say you were being preferred because of your Mum. And maybe it buys you a bit of caution from the people you'll train and work with, if they think you're a ruddy genius. That seems a good enough reason to me to say that taking the advantage you took was a sound decision.

It would be different, maybe, if you decide you don't want to be an Auror and need a cover for why you shouldn't be. Then it might have been clever to cock up a subject or two. Seriously, Hydra. Do you want to find a way out of doing it? If you do, we'll think of something. I hate to think of you having to go through what they'll put you through if it's not right for you. None of us would question it if you decided to do something--anything--else.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-14 15:49:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry I didn't answer right away. You caught me off guard, honestly.

I don't want to find a way out of doing it. That doesn't mean I want to do it, either, but... no one gets to do what they want, do they? Just like you do wan't to clean bogs. So until everyone gets to do what they want, I don't think it really matters.

Plus, I already do have something I want, and no one knows about it. If I can remember that I'll be alright.

Thank you for asking, though. Truly.

2014-09-11 17:57:00

Private Message to Tasha

Would you happen to have a copy of Böhm's translation of Vogel's *die ferne Berührung*? While Longstreet's is readily available his translation is too lyric and appears to fail to be sufficiently accurate in many key passages. I have the resources to replicate most of Vogel's work, it would be tedious and a waste of time to do so if I can consult a more precise text. I've replaced three owls after they lost their way to Malfoy Manor and returned with their letters still attached. Clearly insufficiently trained.



 **alt_rookwood**



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-09-11 22:20:11**

(no subject)

Lucius is indisposed, remember, Gus? ~~You were doing so well~~ Malfoy Manor has been sealed up after the unpleasantness earlier in the year.

I don't have Böhm's Vogel, but I do have Christophe Becker's -- it's a dual-language edition with the original facing the translation. I don't remember how good your Middle High German is, but even if the original is not helpful, I've always found Becker's work very faithful. Certainly much more so than Longstreet's. I'll send it along when I've a moment tonight.



 **alt_rookwood** at **2014-09-11 23:03:41**

(no subject)

Thank you, Becker's ought to suffice. My Middle High German is middling.

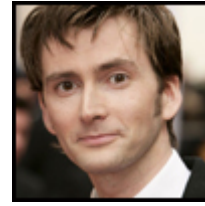
The problem with having performed unprecedented realm encompassing greater magical works is that they encompass the entire realm and propagate unprecedented interference within even the most basic research.

It is so frustrating not knowing for sure how the various wardings will effect things. I ought not need to test as much I'm going to from Vogel, but if we want to control things in the West a demonstration of our ability control events across the sea is in order. Given Vice-

Regent Periapt Nettle's minimal effectiveness, a demonstration that misfires due to the new wards would be disastrous.

2014-09-12 17:08:00

Private Message to A Dolohov



Batya. Several things.

1. Final report filed by Mulciber re. Nott investigation. Seems they had a v slow time of it, de-fusing all N's paranoid traps, hexes, warning signals, and all the torments and snares we set for him. Conclusions inconclusive. As expected. Have a copy for you. Amusing read.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2. Spent Tues pm and all today with the menagerie. Current trials rubbish. Respond to invigoration and enervation charms by shambling quicker or slower. No improvement wrt to commands. Only break in the futility came when He arrived this afternoon. Response immediate. Rank on rank, in formation. He seemed pleased with our persistence in face of unremitting frustration.

3. Narcissa's being cautious. Hesitant even. Has not yet gone to St J house to open wards as agreed. Anxious what they'll find when they search, apparently. Am certain it's being watched, but maybe necessary to attempt a stealthy visit to sweep for anything indiscreet. Will broach subject again.

And you? Squid sightings? Student rebellions against the kitchen elves?



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-09-13 03:25:55**

(no subject)

Auroras, actually, and not only the one I usually spend my Friday night gossiping with. Do go outside; the skies are beautiful. (If you can see them -- the lights of New London may block proper appreciation, of course.) Aside from that, the first week was full of the usual annoyances, but things have calmed considerably. I may be able to start joining you again soon for our weekly exercise in obedience training. (Which you may feel free to interpret in any fashion you'd like.)


Am glad He is pleased, of course, despite our lack of progress.

I will await your copy of the Nott investigative report with glee; I

could use some pleasure reading. As for N -- undoubtedly she is feeling reluctant to revisit the scene of past familial joys while she is in the midst of such familial sorrows. If I am back in New London this coming weekend I will offer to go with her, if she could use the support. Or you could, of course.

Not much else for me to report. Oh -- save that Gus was looking for a copy of an appropriate translation of Vogel's *die ferne Berührung*. Apparently he sent several owls to Malfoy Manner seeking approval to raid Lyoushka's library. He had been doing so well, too.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-13 05:21:33](#)**
(no subject)

Pssht. Having come down off the Astronomy Tower and warmed my hands, I see that the Dicta-Quill has not yet learned my accent well enough to distinguish near-homophones. Malfoy Manor, of course.

Now that I am not dictating -- Auri does not listen in, but discretion, valour, etc -- I've a wild-goose-chase idea for Mother's Little Helpers. It occurred to me the other day that since they are so responsive to Our Lord Himself, perhaps experimenting with commands through an activated Mark would do. One would have to be careful not to annoy Him through the activation, but perhaps the Little Shambling Horrors would recognise the flavour of His magic through the Mark. Worth a try as much as anything else we have done, at least.

And no, I do not know what Gus is working on, but I will follow up with him in a day or two and see if I, or my library, can be of any additional service.

Meanwhile: do not think that because I am no longer seeing you nightly over supper that you are free from my nagging. S-P is eager enough that I do not think you will have more than a year or two to beat her. Consider this your weekly reminder: Finish your damn Master-work already, dear heart.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 05:55:51](#)
(no subject)

Just back from Hampstead. Aurora was striking and no interference from lamps. You see? I do take your suggestions. Most of the time. Re. your last: if we succeed, I'll write it up. Until then, there's no claim to be made. 'Have not yet been ripped to pieces and devoured' is not a sufficient result to warrant the effort.

Re. Rookwood. The last three times I've seen him to speak to, he's complained that L is dodging his owls and refusing his firecalls. Thought it a poor joke the first time. On the contrary. Quite sincerely confused. Short-term memory as porous as a wheel of Emmenthaler. (Speaking of which, that is the one thing I miss from the days when you were abroad and generous with your special parcels. Should look into why no one seems able to source the stuff for import.)

As for the other. Quite willing to try any new approach you can suggest. Agree this is worth the attempt. At least He'll know we are making the effort. Cannot explain His patience in the face of failure. Honestly think it amuses him. Disconcerting to say the least.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-13 06:15:48](#)
(no subject)

When last I heard, the difficulty with import was in finding a wizard-made source that was willing to go through the certification process. Perhaps I will spend some of the favours I have amassed. I'm certain one of my pen-friends would be willing to put together a collection of the treats I miss. I ran out of chicory coffee a year or so ago, for instance, and I miss it more than I thought I would; the Ethiopian and Sumatra Mandheling varietals I have been able to source instead are high-quality, true, but sometimes one does not want quality, one wants something that will remind one of a specific time and place, and I've been thinking of New Orleans lately. I have the beignet recipe, and red beans and rice are easy enough for the elves to make, but I miss the chicory coffee and the crawfish étouffée. And the pralines.

...But I digress. (I will, however, drop a hint in the next letter I


send to Marja and see if she is feeling generous; she is in Washington at Department headquarters full-time now, from what I have been able to gather, but the holiday season is coming up and she might make a visit home.)

I reminded Gus again that Lyoushka is indisposed, but he didn't seem to register the correction. I am grateful that he is somewhat restored to his former acuity, but the short-term memory difficulty is disturbing, yes. I ought to probe Fletcher and see if he has managed to find a reason for Gus's decline -- I cannot think it natural, and that disturbs me greatly.

'Disconcerting' is an excellent word for it. There is a reason I am not certain which direction the obedience training is flowing. If He wishes us to spend time and effort chasing after mooncalves, that is certainly His right and I obey gladly, but I cannot help but wish He would make the point He is trying to make and let us get back to any one of the other dozen plates we are juggling.


And I have told you a dozen times: it is not about the results you achieve, it is about demonstrating the research methods employed. Half the Master-works in the scriptorium are reporting negative results, after all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:39:14](#)
(no subject)

Yes, yes, but I intend that we'll see this through to positive results eventually. And then there'll be something worth writing up.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-13 06:46:28](#)
(no subject)

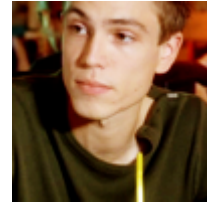
You could always choose one of your other projects instead -- you have done plenty of Master-level work in the past decade and a half, after all. Truly, were it not for the tradition, I would have bestowed the title upon you years ago. But -- tradition.

(I will give you another six months before I begin nagging in earnest. Still: Finish your damn Master-work already, *lapushka*.)

[2014-09-12 20:11:00](#)

Order Only: private message to Alice

Have you a bit of time soon? We think we've got a handle on those bloody stones finally, and want to brief you.




 **[alt_jeremy](#)**

Timeline's a bit different than we thought it might be, so we won't be scrambling to do anything with our captured one this month -- but we'll need everyone who can fly ley lines out mapping, as well as spotters in the areas Cecelia thinks are most likely. Down to two, now, which is handy.

And there are a few small concerns. Possibly. Tell you more when I see you.

When's good?




 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-13 01:52:31](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent. I can pull in Wayne Hopkins to give a hand along with our usual crew.

Sometime over the weekend? Perhaps before the session on Sunday. Should Cecelia be there too? I can ask her to come by if need be.




 **[alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-09-13 02:00:11](#)**
(no subject)

The more brooms the better, yeah.

Sunday's fine. Definitely call in Cecelia. It'll take the two of us to lay this out, really. It's, well, complicated, theory-wise.

You'll see.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-13 02:01:38](#)**
(no subject)

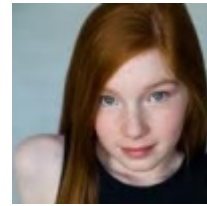
Here's hoping I will, then.

I'm sure that with you to translate, it'll make sense eventually.

2014-09-12 21:09:00

(no subject)

I've read about auroras and what creates them, and I know it's a phenomenon that's perfectly straightforward in theory, but the colours



 **alt_evelyn**

They really are quite stunning.

I don't think I've ever seen that shade of green before.

It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2014-09-13 17:35:24**

(no subject)

Such a reminder of the mysteries of the world around us.

Rather a few meteors last night, too, given that we're not anywhere near any of the big displays.

I did some experimenting after everyone else had gone to bed with capturing the display in a projection stone or two. Not at all the same as seeing it spread out on the sky, but still fascinating to watch.

(I'll have the tower open tonight, too, as it's Saturday, and we'll see how the clouds behave.)



 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-13 20:32:22**

(no subject)

Wonderful. I'd love to take a look at it sometime.

Thank you, professor.



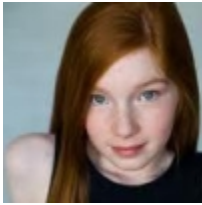
 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-13 20:37:13**


Private Message to Kitty and Artie

I wish I was a poet. Or a painter.

I had the most amazing dreams last night.

Kitty, you were dancing on a stage, except it was more like swimming, and you were wearing a dress that was just that shade of bright green, and you were glowing, and looked so very happy. And Artie, you were a meteor, and I couldn't even look at you, you were so bright, but you were cartwheeling above my head and shouting, and then the three of us were just looking up at the night sky and talking, like we'd done right before bed, and it was lovely.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-13 20:39:09**

Re: Private Message to Kitty and Artie: ORDER ONLY

I think the training session we've planned will be good. It'll make me less nervous in Professor Sandoval's class.

It's still odd to call her that.

[2014-09-12 21:56:00](#)

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Had hoped you'd be here tonight.
Cottesmore's unpleasantly empty now you've
both decamped.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-13 05:48:12](#)

(no subject)

You know me, dear: A homebody at heart. Cottesmore is comfortable but there is nothing quite like one's own room, one's own bed.

Have you been outside? It's quite staggering. Makes one feel thrilled-and unspeakably sad, all at once.

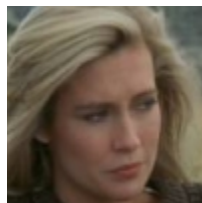


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:06:39](#)

(no subject)

Went to Hampstead to see it. Felt properly puny in the face of it.

Wondered if you might be seeing it, as well.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-13 06:10:40](#)

(no subject)

From the garden, yes.

What you mentioned, about...gaining access to St J's. His wards were quite strong. Not that I think there's anything of note but--well, do you really think your...friends...would be able to check, in advance of Crabbe's people?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-13 06:12:20](#)
(no subject)

Merlin, I ought not--have Ned and Ptolemy got things up and running again? Or are we still quite alone?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:21:39](#)
(no subject)

Monitoring is in place, yes. Rest assured, however, that you (and I and those you'd expect) are on Ned's personal list. Your thoughts are at least as safe as they've been in the past (the recent anomaly excepted).



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-13 06:29:10](#)
(no subject)

Good. You know, Ptolemy came to see me at Cottesmore just--goodness, perhaps it was last week, already. He only mentioned some sort of hiccup but didn't go into detail. But he seemed confident of a breakthrough very soon. So it must have worked, whatever they'd tried.

He's been almost as attentive as you and Toshenka, arranging for Scip's comforts.

Speaking of comforts, I ought to sleep. And so should you do, my love.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:35:24](#)
(no subject)

Pleasant dreams, I hope.

Until tomorrow.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:16:34](#)
(no subject)

If we can't, no one can. Have been observing their observation of the place: they're giving it due diligence, but I think a way can be found.

I'll report back in the morning.

Or. Meet me for lunch?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-09-13 06:20:55](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes. Lunch, why not? Cottesmore? Not out in public; I hardly need to be spotted by some reporter. I can imagine the headlines, if my first appearance in months is something so banal as a luncheon at *En Plein Air*.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-13 06:24:48](#)
(no subject)

Come here, by all means. If I'm successful, it won't be a conversation for the public eye.

[2014-09-12 22:50:00](#)

Order Only Private Message to Miss Perks

I'd hoped we might have a quiet spell tonight, but, alas. Not a private moment to be had.



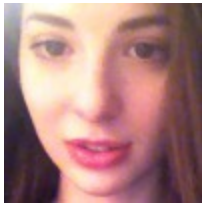
 [alt_poppy](#)

What I wished to tell you is that I've learned a bit more about Healer Drubble. I inquired first of a colleague, who serves on the hospital's Standards Board, and I found her reluctant to say much about the man. She acknowledged his department leaves something to be desired, but assured me that his work is adequately supervised.

I found the whole conversation... unsatisfying, so I put a careful question about him to Healer Nesbitt, a friend of many years, who has been at St Mungo's as long as I've been here. She's the sort people tell things to, and she's a good judge of what she hears. What she's heard about Drubble is that he works several shifts a month at one of the werewolf enclaves, a sort of work that is generally felt to be beneath a St Mungo's Healer. Let's say his reputation has not been enhanced by this becoming known at the hospital, but it's Effie's impression that he may have resorted to such employment because he's never been able to secure a full, stable position at the hospital.

There was a bit more to her report, but what follows is much less authoritative. She says she's not heard so much as gathered that there's something unsavoury about the man. (You could have told her as much, I know.) She couldn't be more specific, but she's got the impression that he might be involved in some dodgy business. I mentioned that Madam Merriman had been distinctly unforthcoming about Drubble, and I got a long pause in reply. And then she said, 'Well, either we'll hear eventually that he's been investigated and sacked, or we won't, in which case we can guess that someone's got a reason to keep him on staff and isn't at all interested in having anyone nose into it'. She suggested that in either case, I might do best not to raise the matter in other quarters.

So, that's that. At least for now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 15:16:12](#)
(no subject)


Sorry I didn't see this before, after I got back to the dorms I heard about the auroras and went up to the Astronomy tower and then got back really late...

Anyway.

If he's working in the werewolf enclaves that makes a lot of sense. I mean, they're sort of in the same position as my parents were, they can't just go to St Mungo's and the more respectable Healers don't want to have anything to do with them and that gives him a lot of power. A lot of latitude to do whatever he wants to people.

His job at St Mungo's didn't seem to involve any contact with patients. So if someone at St M's DOES want him on staff for some reason, they clearly have the sense -- well, I guess maybe they just don't think he has very good people skills. But it's also possible they know exactly what he's like. And want to make sure he doesn't draw attention to himself in the wrong way at St M's.

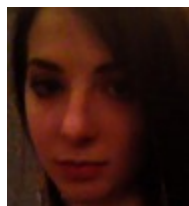


 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-09-13 20:04:57](#)
(no subject)

What a thoroughly unpleasant fellow.

I wonder if Bill Weasley could tell us at least which enclave he's assigned to. Perhaps there are records or complaints. We've talked off and on about reaching out to the werewolves, and this could be an opening. Or, if not that, at least we might see if we could spare those poor souls being victimized if he's using his advantage in the ways you suspect.

Any objections to my asking Bill to have a look? I needn't mention you at all.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-13 22:47:44](#)
(no subject)

That's fine with me.

I wouldn't

I mean, Hermione's mother lives in one of those enclaves, doesn't she?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-14 02:30:24](#)**
(no subject)


She does, which is one reason to wish to look carefully into whether werewolves are being subjected to cruelty under the guise of Healing. And it's a reason we might try again to make overtures towards the enclaves to see if we could make common cause with them against the regime.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-14 02:42:38](#)**
(no subject)

Can you let me know if that's where Drubble's been working?

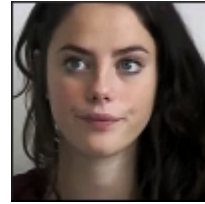


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-14 03:02:09](#)**
(no subject)

I will certainly let you know.

2014-09-14 10:39:00

Order Only - Sundays



 [alt_daphne](#)

I don't like them. Just when you've finished catching up on homework and other tasks and are ready to relax, you realise it's about to start all over again. And I don't mean to complain but it's even worse being Head Girl. It's impossible to just hide out and be alone, you're always needed for one thing or another.

So I propose that every Sunday, in the hours before and after supper, we ought to use the Hidden Room as a locale to gather and relax and do something enjoyable before the grueling week starts up again. Everyone can just drop by when they have a moment, so that it doesn't appear as if we're all disappearing en masse at the same time every week.

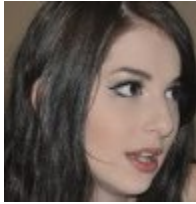
I think it would be a good reminder for me that we're all together in this, too, even if we're not all as close with each other as we might be. Forgive me for saying so, but as a newcomer I've noticed that there are some well-established cliques among this group. Its been a little disappointing, to be honest. I expected that a group of people who are all more or less willing to die together (though not at all eager for it!) wouldn't be so prone to clustering off in ways that mimic the school population at large. Maybe private journal messages are the refuge where you can all truly bond and express yourselves, which I'm sure is marvellous, but half the time I can't help but wonder if I'm missing something important, something that one of you might be struggling with or going through. And if you don't want it to be anyone's business but your very closest friends that's fine, and I understand, but perhaps you might give some thought to opening up to others?

Because there are some days that "The Order" feels to me like a group of loosely affiliated people who are signed up for the same super-secret journal messaging lock, and less like an organisation with a common goal, who cares about each of its members' unique position and needs.

But maybe if we can just meet up from time to time without the pressure of our established social roles within the school, that would be a good starting place!

Now does anyone know just how well the Hidden Room works? If I


really want to have tarts from Fleet's Bakery for tonight's gathering, will the Room provide them? Is it really that specific? I suppose I could just get some tarts from the kitchen elves, but those aren't nearly so nice.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-14 17:50:56](#)**
(no subject)


We've never been able to get it to supply food. Probably because it's not immune from Gamp's Law. The elves know where it is, though, and they'll provide food if you ask. But it'll be Hogwarts food, not Fleet's.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-14 17:54:37](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Well, I'll just place an order from Fleet's for next Sunday, then!




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-09-14 18:57:36](#)**
(no subject)

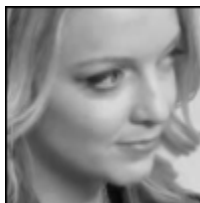
Miss Greengrass -


I've leftover pastries from last night (from both my favourite bakery, the Archetype, and Mum's baking.) If you'd like to come by, I'll be in my rooms until supper, and could let you have your pick.



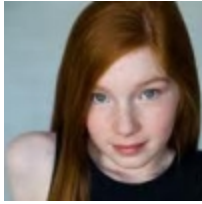
 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-09-14 20:47:23](#)**
(no subject)


That's very kind of you, Professor. Won't you want them for yourself, though?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-09-14 20:53:31](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, I'm quite well stocked. And I do the order (and Mum bakes) with the idea of sharing. No trouble at all to make sure you all have a pleasant treat.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-14 20:27:50](#)
(no subject)


That sounds lovely, Daphne.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-14 20:47:45](#)
(no subject)


I hope to see you there, then.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-14 20:52:13](#)
(no subject)

I'll come. I think it's a good idea. Though I must say that I don't really feel as if I'm a part of any clique. I don't think it's that surprising that people take advantage of the super-secret journal messaging lock feature, since we're so restricted from speaking freely in other ways. Some of us more than others.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-14 20:56:06](#)
(no subject)

Of course. And it's a feature that I've enjoyed and benefited from as well, and am grateful for. It's unfortunate that private messages are limited to two people; perhaps if they weren't it wouldn't come across quite so exclusionary.

I wasn't making an accusation, simply sharing an observation. No one need change the way they use their journals if they don't want to, certainly.

I'm glad that you'll be joining us, though.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-14 20:54:35](#)**
(no subject)

Say. Anyone know where the room's got to?

Or maybe it's just playing hide and seek with me?

I mean, very clever if you told it not to let me in.

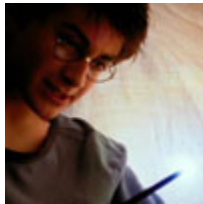



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-14 21:02:44](#)**
(no subject)

Ron,

I say, I'm having trouble, too. Apologies, Daphne, but if I don't come across it jolly well soon, what, I may have to skive off this time. I've a bally old tonne of reading for Professor Dolohov.

-Justin




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-09-14 21:07:29](#)**
(no subject)

It's moved. Probably because of what happened with Teddy last term.

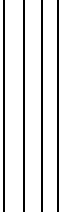
Try the floor above where it was before. There's a short dead-end corridor just past Brutka's office. That's where it is.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-14 21:38:58](#)**
(no subject)

How odd.

We ought to pass that along in the galleon, so no-one gets caught without a wand.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-14 21:46:49](#)
(no subject)


Sure. Someone other than me, my handwriting is rubbish when writing that small.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-15 01:14:50](#)
(no subject)

Well, this was a good idea. I had a nice chat with Kat Bundy, who's not someone I see as often, since she's not in my House. And the pastries were excellent, thank you Professor Sinistra.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-15 04:49:59](#)
(no subject)

That was excellent. Especially the pastries.

Kidding.

So you're going to order in from Fleet's next week?

I'll be there.

Say, I'm sorry about using the lock for private messages so much, but with Mum and all my brothers and Gin on here, it's just... lots of the time I don't want them seeing what I've said. I mean, if Queenie and Astoria were in the Order (yeah, I know, just go with the hypothetical, though, for a minute)--if they were able to read the lock, I bet you'd put more behind a PM, too.

But I take your point. We invited you in and now all you see are a bunch more PMs when you read the journals. That's rude of us. I'll try to do better.

2014-09-14 15:59:00


Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley



 **alt_poppy**

Bill. I've had something come to my attention about a healer with a rather unsavoury reputation who may have an appointment at one of the werewolf enclaves. I wonder if you might have access to any information about Healer Hubert Drubble. He's also got a part time appointment at St Mungo's and a friend has raised questions about him that got me thinking again with concern about the enclaves. If he is there as a bad actor, perhaps we could do a small good turn by seeing that someone looks into the matter? For starters, though, I should just be interested to know what you are able to find in the Protectorate Affairs records. If anything.



 **alt_bill** at **2014-09-15 02:17:54**

(no subject)

I'll see what I can find out, Poppy.

(Unsavoury how, exactly? Knowing which people he's managed to hack off--and why--might give a clue as to which rocks to turn over for information. And what to do to neutralise him, if that's what you want.)



 **alt_poppy** at **2014-09-15 04:39:56**

(no subject)

For a start, if you would, just see if there's confirmation in the files about his employment at one (or more, I suppose) of the enclaves.

I don't suppose I need to say this, but my hope is that you can accomplish this without anyone getting wind that there's interest in this chap's records.

2014-09-14 16:33:00

(no subject)

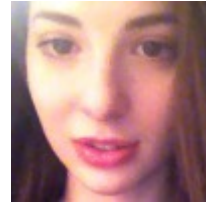
notice: hidden room now past Brutka's office in
dead end corridor. -DGG



 **alt_galleon**

2014-09-14 23:24:00

Order Only: Private message to Evelyn



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Hey, are you okay? You looked a bit dead on your feet when I saw you today at the gathering.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-09-15 04:45:16**

(no subject)

Oh.

It's just that I've been helping with project for the Octobori, and it's been taking up a lot of time. Jeremy came up with the formula this summer, and I helped some but really he did most of the work because I don't know as much about how to model energy transference and there are all sorts of angles and things to factor in too.

Anyways. It needs checking, and all these permutations done on it to see what the results would be under different conditions, and each permutation takes hours to complete, and then I've got to double check it. And it's absolutely got to be finished by the end of the month.

And it's sort of

I wish Fitz could check my work. Or Professor Vector. I'll probably run it by Professor Sinistra, only I'll have to explain the formula so she'll know what to look for because it's not really her area and I'm not sure I can explain it well enough, but it's very important I get it right ~~otherwise it could be very, very bad~~ so Jeremy has what he needs and doesn't have to fix any mistakes.

I really had a very good time. And it was good of Daphne to think of it. I hope I didn't come off as rude.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-15 04:50:29](#)
(no subject)

No, no, not rude, just tired.

I would think Professor Sinistra would be able to check for you -- I mean she did an Arithmancy NEWT, she wouldn't have been able to get a Mastery in Astronomy otherwise! But yeah, it's a shame Professor Vector isn't one of us.

I had a good time, too. Daphne's right, we do a lot of PMs. Of course, here I am, PM'ing you. But I didn't want to put you on the spot in front of everyone, especially since your parents AND your brother are all in the Order as well. (And of course Ron doesn't want Bill leaping in to give him advice and he doesn't want his Mum worrying. Sometimes I wish my Mum had a journal, other times I feel lucky she doesn't...)



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-15 05:02:08](#)
(no subject)

Sometimes it's wonderful, sometimes it isn't. And it's so very odd to have Artie being a part of things now too. I've spent such a long time not telling him things, you know.

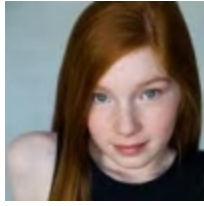
Daphne did have a point, yes, but it's hard to carve out privacy sometimes too, isn't it? Or sorting out when someone really wants advice or support, or just wants to be left well enough alone. I admire what Hydra's doing so very much, for one, but sometimes I don't know what I can say without coming off as utterly incapable of understanding what she's going through.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-15 05:19:39](#)
(no subject)

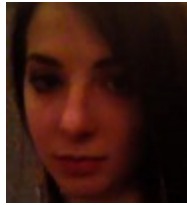
I don't know if Hydra has quite sorted out what she wants from people.

And, I don't know what to say to her, either. Only I do know I hate being fussed at. So I try not to do that.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-15 14:22:37](#)
(no subject)

I can see how that'd be awful. As would her being in the position of having to comfort people who are feeling guilty or sad on her behalf.



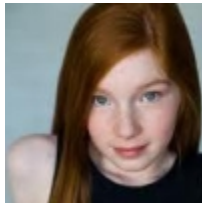
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-15 14:49:51](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, that's just it. I mean I don't want her to have to reassure me.

Back my second year I got cruciated by Lana Sandoval because Amycus Carrow thought I was spying on that thing he was doing with the rats. It was bad enough getting cruciated but then afterward I had to reassure Pansy, and then Morag because she heard it happen and went into hysterics (at least I could do that by journal). It was exhausting having people fretting about it.

My favourite reaction was Jeremy, actually, he didn't say a word to me at the time but at the quidditch match the next weekend he sat in Sandoval's favourite spot and when she tried to get him to move he said, 'what are you going to do, cruciate me? or do you save that for twelve-year-old girls?' Because I didn't have to say anything, or do anything. I mean if he'd told me in advance what he was planning I'd have had to try to talk him out of it, you know? But he didn't. It was odd. Made me realise he wasn't as bad as I'd thought.

Anyway that was a bit of a tangent. Sorry. I guess I'm just saying I don't want to add to Hydra's burdens but it's hard to show concern without doing exactly that.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-15 05:04:53](#)
(no subject)

And yes. Professor Sinistra should be able to help. I think I've been too focused on doing everything myself. Or worried about being a bother. Which I shouldn't be.

[2014-09-15 13:15:00](#)

Private Message to Karo

Hope you haven't made any plans because we are going out tonight!



 [alt_ptolemy](#)

The archives *work*! Going back to first September. Of course we'd prefer all the way back to June, to pick up anything we might learn about the planning for the Freedom Day disturbances but at least it's back up and running going forward.

I'll give you the technical explanations later tonight if you're interested. Of course, who *would* be if they didn't *have* to be, right? It boiled down to something about the older private messages and the number of people reading them, and that number not including the monitors but Cadgewell did...did something impossibly complicated and now the archives are updating automatically, just as they should do.

Oh, and Ned says he heard from Pugh that we since brought the monitors back in August, a whole crop of black market jewellers have been tidily set up and brought in by means of one of Revanche's fake journals. Another reason to celebrate.

I'm just glad Ned's the one dealing directly with the Drudge. He actually asked me if I'd rather make the reports to the Minister once in a while; I told him I'd rather soak my head in armadillo bile. What a fatuous arse. Fudge, of course, not Ned. Has to be the most boring patsy of the whole Protectorate.

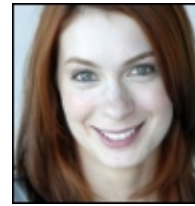
Oh, before I forget--I heard through the grapevine that Aunt Narcissa's back at home. Sent her a Harrod's basket but I was thinking we should see if there's anything else we can do to cheer her up. Give it some thought, will you? (Apart from releasing Uncle Lucius, that is, of course. Dammit.)

Anyway. Tonight. Go buy a new frock or something. I'll be home round six and we'll hit the town.

2014-09-16 20:46:00

ORDER ONLY

We're going to need everyone who can spare the time to help us with some additional fine tuned ley-mapping in the next two weeks in order to finalise our plans for bringing down the Octoboros wards. Sarah has come up with a set of maps that have the areas that need to be covered clearly marked, and, for the most part, they should be fairly low-risk.



 [alt_alice](#)

We have several rather nice brooms at our disposal should anyone need a loaner. Wayne, if you can pair up with Lee and Kingsley, they'll get you properly oriented and you can coordinate schedules. Stebs, I know you're a little less available, but if you do end up with a few free hours, we could certainly use an extra set of eyes.


In other news, Divyesh and Nicholas are currently undergoing training to replace Evelyn and Neville in their forest excursions and are hoping to join Colin and Luna the weekend after next, Draco and Hermione are making progress on their plans to establish a safehouse in Hogsmeade, and Ragnik has sent his first pair of working wands back to his clan for their approval and use.

I am also pleased to report that thanks to some hard work and rather clever manoeuvring on the part of the Players, a team of engineers and mechanics from Saltash, and the capable assistance of Danny Houser and Victor Scrim (our in-house engine experts), we're well on our way to having a working train engine of our very own. The team anticipates that this project will take two more months of work at least, and we still would need a supply of coal in order to make effective use of it, but they've made excellent progress over the last few months and I'm quite pleased. In the event where we may need to stealthily move a large amount of people or supplies, having this resource hiding in the sleeves of our robes would be most welcome.

We've also been developing some propaganda pieces for distribution to target the witches and wizards who are in the middle of everything -- we have some samples of possible radio programming and pamphlets that Arca has been working on. I'd like some feedback on them from people who know the sort of audience we need to reach most -- off the top of my head, Jeremy, Susan, Lee, Cedric, Daphne, Wayne, Stebs, I know your input would be quite valuable, and

whoever else would be interested in looking it over would be more than appreciated.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-17 03:50:16](#)

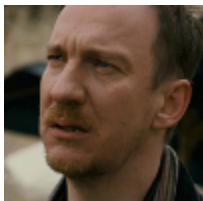
Private Message to Remus


Apparently, if I understood things properly from Jeremy and Cecelia, there is a 'very very extremely small' chance that we could cause a 'cataclysmic event' that would have 'global effects.' They emphasised the 'very very extremely small' part quite a lot. We have two choices, one to replace the active Emerald Octoborus with the inactive one, which should render the field inert, and the other is to set up the inactive Octoboros in a strategic location to 'trigger a cascade' which would theoretically accomplish the same, but is slightly riskier. (The 'slightly' part was also emphasised, but I'm not entirely convinced.)

Jeremy and Evie are running the formulas for both options, and Cecelia and Sarah have been working to sort out which runes to alter on the inactive stone depending on which version we settle on, so the energy fields will either be appropriately absorbed or redirected to trigger the cascade. To complicate things, they're still deciding where the ideal location would be for the second option, hence the need to engage in more substantial mapping of the ley lines (and additional calculations).

From what I can see, removing the working Emerald Octoboros and replacing it would have its own host of problems, as the security measures in place include some complicated spellwork that we haven't had the chance to explore in great detail, and we would be far more exposed. That, and it'd mean that Mysteries might have the chance to build yet another replacement and fix it again.

The word 'cataclysmic' keeps rattling around in my head.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-09-17 05:10:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

What exactly do they mean by a cataclysmic event?



 [alt_alice at 2014-09-17 05:51:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

Let me transcribe.

'There is a very, very small chance that ley lines the world over could either spontaneously cease to exist, experience a surge in energy, or drastically alter their patterns. We theorise that in the most extreme scenarios, this could result in massive earthquakes, shifts in oceanic currents, and volcanic activity. Coastlines would be threatened by tsunamis, the migratory patterns of birds, herd animals, and ocean life would be permanently impacted, and magical people the world over would experience a variety of impacts including an inability to apparate or fly.'

According to Jeremy, the odds of this happening were 'so small we can't really even assign it a meaningful number.'




 [alt_alice at 2014-09-17 05:54:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

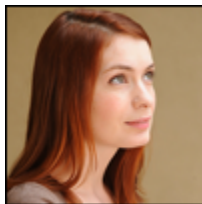
I might also add that they said that the completion of the octobori array has a roughly equal probability of causing the same impacts.



 [alt_lupin at 2014-09-17 17:40:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

Oh. Well, in THAT case, let's not worry about it.



 [alt_alice at 2014-09-17 19:28:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

Indeed.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-17 03:53:25](#)**

Private Message to Charlie and Bill

I'm assuming the goblins would be horribly offended if we asked whether they wanted training up in wand use.

We might phrase it as a chance for us to both learn from one another, but they're so secretive I'm not sure that would go over well either.

Would they even need training?

I'm putting my utter ignorance on display, but I figure it's best I show it to you instead of Ragnik.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-17 03:59:30](#)**

Private Message to Albus

I've worked up a list of possible candidates from Sherwood, our own people, the free zones, and some of the camp residents we've given wands to over the years to start testing for the capability to do the modified Fidelius. I was thinking you might train Tonks and Kingsley to administer the test, so all three of you could work through the candidates rather than putting it all on your shoulders, if you think that would be possible.

And you'll tell me as soon as your friends get hold of the artefact? I'd like to see if Draco and Hermione can learn how to use it -- they seem keen enough, and I think they'd prove quite capable.



 **[alt_albus](#) at [2014-09-17 15:35:50](#)**

Re: Private Message to Albus

They have made three dives. Last I heard, they were waiting for suitable weather, but thought they knew where the artefact must be within the ship now.

I will inquire again at the weekend.

As to the test, I can likely get free for a few hours Sunday, if you would arrange for Tonks and Kingsley to be available.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-17 15:58:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Albus

Good. Thank you.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-09-17 04:35:19](#)

Private Message to Daphne

I knew you'd be a valuable addition to our circle, Daphne.

I'll certainly take your insights into account as we move forward, and I appreciate your perspective. Keep up the good work.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-09-17 14:51:54](#)

(no subject)

Quidditch. For radio programming, yeah? Historical pieces, "ask your grand-dad" sort of things. Might get people talking about the good old days in ways beyond Quidditch.

Football, too. International sport. Remind people what they're missing by being cut off from the rest of the world, yeah?




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-17 16:04:59](#)

(no subject)

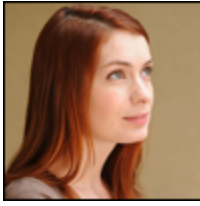
I know that Tessa our Headmaster is going to be away from Hogwarts for hour or two for supper on Friday night - would that perhaps be a time someone could check the Book?




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-09-17 20:50:22](#)

(no subject)


I could be in the office at that time.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-17 21:22:17](#)**
(no subject)

Take care, Cedric. We don't know what sort of protections he might've placed. Play it by ear, have an excellent excuse for being there should you need one, and don't do any magic unless absolutely necessary. Pomona and Poppy should be able to walk you through the process easily enough.




 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2014-09-18 02:32:06](#)**
(no subject)

I can be involved or stand guard to give warning of any arrivals. The offices have rearranged themselves rather extensively, but I'm mostly sure of the location of both the real and false book. I know he's consulted the abridged one at least once.

Who should I expect? Pomona and Poppy alone or Headmaster emeritus Dumbledore as well?




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-18 05:49:30](#)**
(no subject)

I'll come myself, I think. Easier to explain, as I assume his wards will log each visitor's presence.

I'd be hoping to catch him to discuss a matter or two of concern. I've never expected the Head of School to come at my summons for such conferences. And, of course, finding him out, but you present, I'll happily take the opportunity to see how you are faring.


That should do for cover, I'd think. Unless we trip a snare of some kind while accessing the book.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2014-09-17 20:52:46](#)**
(no subject)


I'd be happy to look over any literature you want, but it ought to be when I visit for training. I don't want to have that sort of thing sitting around my flat.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-17 21:22:43](#)**
(no subject)

Of course. Sunday, then?

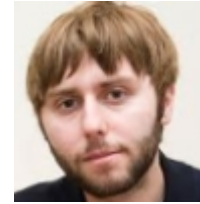


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-18 05:56:18](#)**
(no subject)

I've seen several of Arca's works, in progress, as it were. I think she has a nice touch and is clever about striking the balance between what's interesting and informative.

2014-09-17 20:05:00

Order Only: Defence



 [alt_justin](#)

Harry,

I say, well done today, old man. How are you feeling? Sorry I couldn't work out a better way to keep Finnigan and Patil from doing their best, what. I did recommend we go careful where the Lord Protector's son was concerned but Patil seemed to think Professor Desai would take that amiss.

Then again, of course, Professor Desai didn't give one much time to plan a properly innocuous spell, what. Still, one tried without making it seem to go too easy.

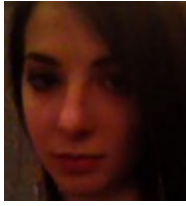
She didn't half seem pleased, though, which seems jolly good, considering she might have taken it differently.

For everyone else, Professor Desai had us organise in threes. I say, Patil presumed I'd be joining her and Finnigan and it seemed the wrong time to put up a fuss. When everyone else had all chosen partners, only Harry, Zach, Bulstrode and Jones were left. Bulstrode rather pushed her way in with Harry and Zach, leaving only Megan, but Professor Desai said that she'd a special use for her and called her forward.

When it became clear Professor Desai meant to make Jones defend against all comers, what, Harry volunteered to take her place. I say, Professor Desai took it bally well graciously, considering, and let him. Harry, what was the spell she recommended you use? Seemed to work a treat at keeping the worst of the rebounded curses at bay. Not all, though, what.

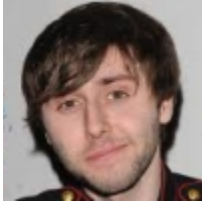
Perhaps if you decide to sacrifice yourself in future, you might consider appointing some of us as a replacement. No one of us can reasonably defend for a whole two hours at a stretch, alone; if we take it in turns, we stand a chance of keeping ourselves reasonably healthy.


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-18 01:11:01](#)
(no subject)

She didn't give us any time to form up our groups. Pansy and Daphne and I got together and I saw Zabini jerk his head at Crabbe and Goyle and they went to him like a couple of trained dogs.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-18 01:15:50](#)
(no subject)

No, indeed, she didn't. She rarely gives us time for thought of any kind, what. I wonder if she fears there shan't be enough time to get through seven years of her old teaching material in the one she has

with us!

-Justin




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-18 04:59:09](#)
(no subject)

Or if she's sorting out what our natural reflexes are, and is filing it away for later.

She says we ought to behave as though we're preparing for war. I don't know what she thinks is coming, but Draco's right, it'd be good to keep some things to ourselves.


I do agree that we might step in, but if we were to support Harry, we ought to make sure it's more than just us that do it. Finnigan and Patil would be tricky, but I'd bet Moon, Blaise, and possibly even Crabbe and Goyle would step in. And Jones, for what that's worth.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-09-18 05:00:06](#)
(no subject)

And it might be a good idea if we see that Milli doesn't have to look quite so desperate next time, if we can.

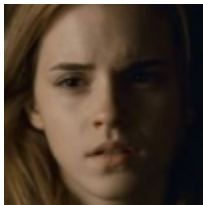


 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-18 01:47:35](#)
(no subject)

I'm fine.

She recommended I use a particular variant of the Shield Charm that's designed to blunt the effects of this spell. The regular Shield Charm won't do it.


Anyone want to lay odds on whether she'd have given that hint to Megan Jones?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-09-18 02:06:59](#)
(no subject)

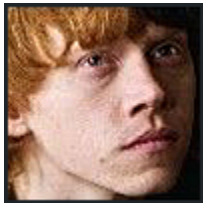
Are you going to make sure everyone learns it, including Jones?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-18 03:59:18](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Only next time it'll be something else, won't it?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-18 06:21:57](#)
(no subject)

She wouldn't have, no.

Listen, if you want to call me out to do something, like replace Jones or Bulstrode or someone else she's setting up for a trouncing, do it. I couldn't have done it the way you did, just jumping up to trade spots, but if you told me to, that'd be enough to cover it. Obviously, I'd do what you said. Out of respect. We all would, so. It doesn't always have to be you. And there may be times when you can't cover it by yourself.

Anywiz. I'm with you if I can do whatever it is without looking as if I'm doing it to deliberately undermine or challenge Desai.



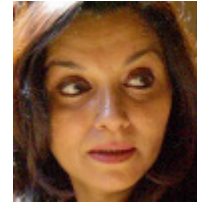
 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-18 13:55:49](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's good. Because if she has us split into groups of four next time, that's TWO left over.

2014-09-17 20:16:00

Private message to Antosha

In class today, my lesson plan did not go quite as I'd expected. I had them form threesomes, which left one out -- I was entirely correct in my prediction as to who'd find themselves unpartnered.



 **alt_savitha**

What I was not expecting was for Harry Marvolo to leap to his feet and demand to take her place as goat.

Should I have expected this?

We were working on the Shield Wall charm with Darios's variation; done correctly it packs quite a wallop. Marvolo said he thought everyone would learn more with someone truly excellent at Defence striking from the outside. Of course, my original plan had been to give everyone a shot at using it against a weak opponent, THEN adjust groups as needed to provide a bit more of a test.

I told Marvolo the defensive charm, obviously. Though in retrospect that may have been a mistake. If he wants to take the goat's place, he can take the goat's punishment.

(His group was -- oh, let me check my notes. Marvolo paired up with Zach Smith and Millicent Bullstrode, which was also not quite what I'd expected. I would assume a year ago he and Draco would have pulled in a third; do you know who it would have been?)



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-09-18 01:59:42**

(no subject)

He and Draco were inseparable, yes. Their third (or more) would usually vary; in my class last year it was Moon and Brown, for instance. Sometimes it would be one of their friends; sometimes Mr Marvolo would pull in someone he felt needed more tutoring. He is not the showy sort of leader, but he is a quiet leader nonetheless.

As befits the son of Our Lord, he is often driven, and Defence is his favourite subject -- he had been working with Rizzer for quite some time, after all. He also, I am afraid to report, escaped Madam Umbridge's tenure with a firm conviction it is his role to protect

everyone in Hogwarts, even when what he is protecting them from is a little pedagogically-mandated discomfort: he feels we have had entirely too high a death rate in Hogwarts throughout his years here (as to that, I cannot wholly disagree) and occasionally overcorrects. I would recommend that you have a word with him before your next lesson, and explain to him that there is a method to your choices. I have found him quite reasonable when he understands the purpose behind certain decisions. (And stubborn beyond all belief when he feels the decisions around him are arbitrary whim.)

Remember, also, that he does not know you as well as he knows many of the rest of our brotherhood, and Hogwarts has not, alas -- Rizzer excepted, and I dare to say myself -- housed the cream of our company during the years Mr Marvolo has been in residence. (Amicus. Alecto.) It was quite some time before he began to relax into my plans for the classroom as well.

Were he any other student I would of course advise the stick, rather than the carrot, but as Our Lord's son his role is ... murky. If he proves to disrupt your lessons too much, perhaps pass him out of your class and assign him independent work. He is certainly enough of a prodigy in Defence to justify it.

2014-09-17 22:26:00

Private Message to Rebecca Mackrell

You left your essay and your cardigan in my office, Miss Mackrell. I realise you'd as soon have left the parchment behind, but, really, it's this lack of attention we were talking about, isn't it?

You can hardly hope to succeed, can you, if you don't pull yourself together?

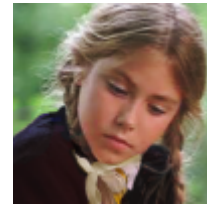


 [alt_lana](#)

2014-09-17 22:29:00


private message to Harry Marvolo

Thank you for ~~trying~~ today. Only I hope you don't get in trouble for it somehow. I don't think Professor Desai was pleased that you changed her lesson.



 **alt_megan**



 **alt_harry** at **2014-09-18 03:58:14**

(no subject)

If I get in trouble, I'll handle it.

We should meet sometime this week so I can show you the spell she told me to use to counter it. So you'll know, in case this comes up again.



 **alt_megan** at **2014-09-18 04:07:23**

(no subject)


That would be good for me to know.

I am not trying to tell you what to do but it is really OK if she does that to me. I mean not OK but I will get through it. She is not as bad as certain people were. And I can make it through whatever she does this year and then I will not have to think about her again because I will be away from Hogwarts and working at the Strettons. But you have bigger things ahead of you and I it would be bad if you got a blot on your record for trying to

But it was nice of you. So thank you. But don't feel like you have to.

But yes I would like to learn that spell.




 **alt_harry** at **2014-09-18 04:25:49**

(no subject)


It's not quidditch, her targeting you. Or anyone. It could have been Milli just as easily.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-18 04:27:19](#)
(no subject)

Anyway. I don't think I need to impress Desai. Not like some people do.




 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-09-18 04:29:48](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

You would think that Padma and Finnegan would not be that way because they are Council now but apparently it just made them more so.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-18 04:33:10](#)
(no subject)

Well they're the most junior Councilwizards. I think they're very worried about the impression they're making.

Not that it's an excuse.

2014-09-17 22:43:00

Private Message to Ceres Rittenhouse

I'm taking pity on you, Miss Rittenhouse. I'm sure that after your failure to cast even a whisp of a hex during today's exercise, you were feeling some trepidation about coming for your interview. I won't hold it against you so long as you're in my office at half-nine tomorrow morning.



 [alt_lana](#)

Note that I will be giving up my own research time to accommodate your timetable.

Your Housemate, Mr MacIntosh (who did keep his appointment with me), tells me that anxiety is a recurring problem for you. That's most unfortunate. We'll discuss practical ways to address that, but it would be most helpful if you were able to tell me the source of this difficulty and the ways in which it's expressed itself in the past. Come prepared for this discussion.

[2014-09-18 03:08:00](#)

Order Only Private message to Tonks

Shhhh, don't tell Alice I'm writing you (she asked me a question that will take twenty minutes for me to answer and I've only got three before I have to run off to the next house on fire) (yes, literally) (but I'm fine!), only my journal chimed at me and reminded me that today was a certain someone's birthday.



 **[alt_charlie](#)**

Happy birthday, luv. I hope it's a good one. (My present will be along as soon as we get this burn under control! Maybe it will be a happy-next-Wednesday present instead.)



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-09-18 22:33:09](#)**
(no subject)

A fire to fight? Sounds thrilling. At least the way you tell it!

I always have a spot of work envy, talking to you. I've got to admit, though, that things have really been lovely at the garden recently. We've got such a nice crowd of regulars. They're planning a bit of a party tonight. (I'm not supposed to know, but Ellie let it slip.)

And we had three people through the mews over the weekend--a middle-aged chap and two women about my age, running from a tannery somewhere. We never know where they really come from or where they'll be taken to, but I do enjoy being able to fuss over them a bit while they're here. We got them fixed up with warm jumpers and boots and proper warm socks. And fed them up a bit.


Oh. And I had an appointment Monday with Healer Le Grande at St M's. All's well with the Bap. S/He's got a bit bigger, though not as much as it feels to me, apparently, as the report says s/he's just in the 37th percentile for the nineteenth week. (It's twenty weeks today, can you believe it?) And I have it on good authority it's completely normal to be craving slabs of rare beef and mounds of spinach. Do you know how much spinach it takes to get a single portion cooked? At least it's given Kreacher something new to fume about.

Anywiz. I feel fantastic. For, you know, values of fantastic that include

needing to wee every four minutes. But, actually, I just feel really well, and I was thinking that what I most want to do this weekend is have a bit of flyabout. I think Bea, Ellie and I'll go out to the New Forest with a picnic and my broom. I found out there's a Floo at the warden's lodge, and that decided it. I'm seriously beginning to miss being able to Apparate. Just the convenience of it.

Let me know when you've got your fire out, and we'll go do something mad. I reckon I ought to take advantage of the good weather and my last days of being able to navigate reasonably well!



 **alt_charlie** at [2014-09-20 03:54:08](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad I was able to stop in for your party for at least a little while! I didn't get a chance to tell you the story, with everyone wanting a few minutes with the birthday girl, but I'll go through it when next I pop down. It really does better with the faces and the hand gestures. (Long story short, *someone* forgot that the Vipertooth kit can't be fed sweets no matter how good he is at begging, since it gives him hiccups. And that would've been fine, except it's been a bit of a drought up here lately, so everything's all too quick to go up.)

Nobody's hurt, although as of this morning the solo ladies are bunking in with us gents in the boys' barracks until we can get their barracks rebuilt. I was most chivalrous and gave up my bunk to Annelise, since we had more heads than beds. It was a good excuse to kip down with Dree and Em for the week.

Oh, speaking of Em, he says I should've told him it was your birthday and he's sending you some more of that peppermint cream he makes.

I can't believe it's twenty weeks, no. And I'm glad the Healer thinks Baby's all right even if she's a bit small. (Yeah, today I've decided she's going to be a she. Tomorrow I'm sure I'll change my mind.) I mean, you can't exactly say "my kid was conceived in the middle of a weird Beltane rite thought up by Albus Dumbledore to try to free the country from the Lord Pretender, do you think that might make her come out a bit weird?"

Anyway, I should be done with the worst of the cleanup here by

Monday or so. I need to pop 'round the Forest to check in with the centaurs, and Moddey to see how Ragnik is getting along so I can answer some questions Alice has and then New London to have a sit-down at Gringott's, but I should be at your disposal for mad adventure by the time you wake up mid-afternoon. Lady's choice this time, yeah?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-09-20 06:26:42](#)
(no subject)

I can't wait for your live re-telling of the blazing tale of the hiccuping Vipertooth kit, complete with faces, voices and real flames! There will be real flames, won't there?


And thanks, you, for coming all the way down here just to wish me returns of the day. Hope the cake made it worthwhile!

Tell Em thank you. Lucky thing my Healer says I've been doing well so far, keeping the weight in line with what the baby's doing. I did ask if I ought to be eating more since the Bap's on the small side, but he said I'm doing what I ought already. And, see, that means peppermint cream has been part of my Healer-approved diet since the start!

If we're lucky, it's warding against any Beltane-conception anomalies. No tentacles instead of fingers. No rooster comb on the crown of the head. No second mouth in the middle of the belly.

Do you really think the Bap's a witch? Bea thinks so, too. I haven't asked her why since I don't expect she has an answer for that. I wonder if you'll be right, the two of you.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-09-20 08:49:31](#)
(no subject)

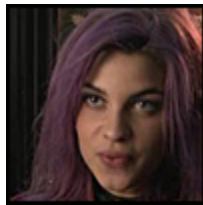
I wasn't thinking the peppermint cream for your diet, silly, I was thinking it for the footrubs!

And, I don't know whether I think she'll be a witch or a wizard! (Merlin, that sentence was tortured.) Last week I was convinced she was a boy, this week I'm convinced she's a girl. Next week, who knows? I suppose it all depends on whether

the Weasley influence shines through or not. We don't tend to girls, if you haven't noticed.

Every appointment you have with the Healer makes me breathe a little easier, though. I mean, I don't expect Dumbledore would have had us do something that would be dangerous to you or the Bap, and I'm not seriously thinking she's going to be born with a tail or two heads or, I don't know, a tendency to cheer for Puddlemere U. It's just that with the way Dumbledore was so squirrely about the details, and how he kept peering at you whenever he saw you this summer, I keep getting the feeling he's got plans in mind for her.

And after Alice told us about how Dumbledore was the one to suggest she and Frank have Neville, and Lily and James have Harry, both to fit the sodding prophecy, it all just makes me twitch a bit. The Bap's not even born yet and already I want to go kill anything that even looks like it's thinking about putting her in harm's way. With my teeth. I'm going to be one of those parents, I can already tell.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-09-20 20:00:23](#)
(no subject)

Oh, hilarious! You say peppermint, and I immediately think sweets!! What were those delicious peppermint chews you sent before? I thought, well, I thought maybe you meant Em'd made them.

Foot-rubbing, though, that's a wonderful thought! You know, if I had vaults full of galleons, I'd go to the spa every day and have someone wash my hair and rub my feet. Nothing feels better than having one's head and feet massaged, I think. That would be the life!


As for the Weasley influence, all I see is how it makes you care for one another and take up for each other. That and the hair, of course.

We had a nice afternoon for our picnic, by the way, and now I'm up having a bit of a rest before heading over to the garden for the evening. I'm feeling awfully comfortable and content today.

A bit older, but quite ridiculously pleased with everything.

Hope you're having an afternoon without hiccups!



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-09-20 20:32:32](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'll come down and rub your feet and wash your hair for you anytime you'd like. As long as things aren't on fire, at least.

And when all this is over, I'll take you to a spa for a week, and we can get our nails painted and drink silly drinks and lounge about in the baths and make people wait on us hand and foot. Promise.

2014-09-18 22:22:00

Order Only: Little Hangleton



 [alt_hermione](#)

We went to the village first, and tested our identities. No one gave us a second glance. But then again, there weren't many people there. What was that odd wizard's name, Draco? I couldn't quite catch whether he said 'Bernard' or 'Herman' and I really didn't want to ask him to say it again. He was so strange. But anyway, he told us that there weren't any important magical artefacts anywhere in the region, so he thought we'd be wasting our time, but he mentioned that there used to be a big house up on the hill, but it wasn't there anymore.

That sounded like someone had set up a Fidelius, so we went to look. We saw the graveyard from your memory, Harry, but right next to it there was a large crater. Like someone had set off a humongous explosion. Which must be why the house isn't there anymore.

And then not too far away there was this shack. It was sort of off in the woods, but not in a clearing the way you'd expect, it was all tangled up in the trees. Someone had been there and torn up the floorboards, so if there had been anything valuable there, it's gone.


It was all filthy and simply covered in grimy dust. Whoever lived there must have been really poor. It looked like no one had cooked a proper meal in years even before they all left or died or whatever. There were three beds, though, so we looked under and around them just to be sure that the robbers hadn't missed anything. On one of them there was a handkerchief embroidered with the initials T.R., and then someone had added (in much, much worse embroidery), M.R. Does anyone know who M.R. was? We think T.R. must have been Tom Riddle but why anyone would have added M.R. above Voldemort's initials is a mystery.

Oh, and we did find a letter, it's really hard to read now, all faded and the parchment's falling apart, but it was pinned inside a cupboard. It looked like no one had ever moved it because the pin was all rusty and nothing in the cupboard had been disturbed in decades.

Anyway, we've been deciphering the letter for a while, all of us here at

Grimmauld. Only not tonight because they're celebrating Tonks's birthday, so it's just me and Draco working on it right now, and we realised we hadn't actually reported to everyone else yet.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-19 04:10:04](#)

(no subject)

"Bernard" and "Herman" sound the same when you say them through a toothless mouth, apparently. But Hermione's right, he was peculiar. Actually, everyone we saw (all four of them) was peculiar. They took us for fancy New Londoners and weren't altogether friendly.

Funny, but if there was actually something of value in the shack no one bothered to cast any spells or wards to protect it. Maybe the person who tore up the floor was just hoping for a stash of galleons but didn't find anything other than spiders.

You don't reckon this M.R. was someone who was sweet on Tom Riddle, do you? Ugh. I've heard that the Lord Protector was a handsome youth, but someone would have to be mad to fancy him - just like my good old Auntie.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-09-19 04:11:30](#)

Private Message to Draco

You mean someone other than Hydra? Because she *did* fancy him--well, diary him, anyway. I think.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-19 04:13:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Can an eleven year old girl *truly* fancy someone? Or an eleven year old boy, for that matter? I fancied Lavender Brown when I was eleven, and just look how much my taste has improved since then.

I suppose M.R. might've been someone he manipulated, like Hydra.

Or have you a better theory? I'm all ears. Or eyes, as it were.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2014-09-19 04:14:35**


Re: Private Message to Draco

Actually, I think M.R. wrote the letter, too. But it doesn't make much sense. Voldemort couldn't possibly have any children, could he have? I mean, that are really his, not stolen like Harry was.

But if he did have, then M.R. could have been--his wife.

Ew.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-09-19 04:26:10**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Or a relative, another Riddle. Peculiar thing for a sibling or cousin to do, mind, but you never know.

Though, here's the thing: the handkerchief is high quality. Old, yes, but I can tell it was made of really fine linen, and someone poor enough to live in a shack is just going to use a bit of flannel rather than hand-embroidered linen.

And besides that, Voldemort really doesn't strike me as the marrying type.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2014-09-19 04:51:10**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Yes, and the other thing about that is that whoever embroidered the M.R. wasn't very good. And this letter, I think it's so hard to decipher partly because the person could barely

write.

Well, anyway. I guess we can try again in the morning. I think there's an emulsion that might make the ink reappear but I'm too tired to test it tonight.

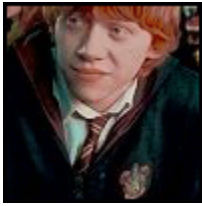



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-19 05:02:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Alright, see you in the morning.

And Happy Birthday.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-19 04:53:09](#)


(no subject)

Well, since it's not B.B. on the handkerchief, I reckon it's not her.

It doesn't just mean Mr T. R., does it? Don't know why anyone'd bother adding that, though.

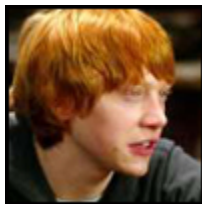
Have you sorted out what the letter says, then?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-09-19 05:06:38](#)

(no subject)

The handkerchief is also made of linen - too posh for someone living in a shack. Hermione also reckons that whoever did the embroidery also wrote the letter, and perhaps couldn't even write very well. So if we can restore the letter then we may discover who M.R. is. But so far it's still illegible. We'll try an emulsion tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-19 05:28:23](#)

(no subject)

Wonder if there's a way to find out whose shack it is. Or was. Maybe there're records somewhere, y'know, about property ownership. Or assessments or whatever. Bill would know, I reckon, but I'm not sure that sort of thing's kept at the Ministry or out in local offices.

But if it's really something that belonged to the LP, then it's

important enough to dig around a bit.


Did it look like the place was burgled a long time ago? The dust would've given you a clue if it'd been cleared away recently. I dunno. Maybe it wouldn't be clear if it happened a decade or two ago and that was a decade or three after the place was abandoned.

Yeah, I got nothing. Sorry.

Sounds more interesting than most of what we're doing here, though.

Where are you going next?



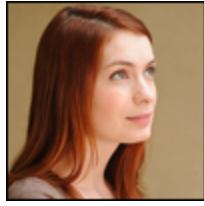
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-09-19 05:41:09](#)**
(no subject)


No, actually, I think it was burgled recently. That doesn't mean it wasn't in the past, either, but the area where the floorboards were removed wasn't very dusty or grown over at all. So that bit, at least, is recent.

It would have been helpful if we could have asked the villagers about the Riddle family, but that's not the sort of name one wants to go throwing around. Very few people know that was Voldemort's name, but even so - can you imagine what he'd do if he somehow got word that people were going around using the name "Riddle?"

Not sure where we'll be off to next. I'll leave that to Hermione since she's been doing the most research so far.

But it's been rather snitch, yeah. Bit like being that detective bloke, Sherlock Holmes. Have you read any of those books? They were written by a muggle, but I found some stashed away in 12G.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-19 06:29:38](#)**
(no subject)

It certainly does raise several more questions, yes, especially as you say it's been disturbed recently.

I'd bet a knut the explosion and the robbery happened around the same time, too.


I'd also bet several galleons that anyone who would've known anything about the name Riddle has had their memories altered, except for the fact that whoever dug up the floorboards seems a little careless, as if he or she did not expect anyone else would bother coming along after.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-09-19 14:00:40](#)**
(no subject)


If it's been burgled *recently*, do you think it might be worthwhile for Sirius or I to go back to the shack to see if either of us can identify any scents in our animagus forms?



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-09-19 14:01:50](#)**
Private message to Hermione Granger


Happy birthday, Hermione, by the way.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-09-19 14:28:16](#)**
Re: Private message to Hermione Granger


Thanks. You know, if Tonks' birthday weren't the day before mine, I might have forgot. It's hard to keep track of days. Do you ever find that?



 **alt_draco** at [2014-09-19 15:33:52](#)
(no subject)

Recently as in some months ago. Do scents linger for that long? I would think that mine and Hermione's would overwhelm any others from before.




 **alt_terr** at [2014-09-20 01:21:36](#)
(no subject)

Several months, that would make it more difficult, yeah. Or if the walls and roof weren't intact so that outside weather blew in to wash away any traces. And that's probably true about your and Hermione's scents, too.

I dunno; maybe Sirius would be better at this sort of thing than I would.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-09-19 06:58:22](#)
(no subject)


Are they anything like the Inspector Dallworthy books? I read a few of those. Does it make a difference that he's a muggle detective, then? Dallworthy always figured things out from runes or spell residue or caught someone out lying about what they'd seen in a duel or what curses they'd cast by the way they described them under interrogation. He never used Veritaserum, though, or Imperius.

Never put anyone under duress, either, for that matter.

Reckon that shows when they were written, doesn't it?

Anywiz. You liked the Sherlock Holmes ones? What's special about him?




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-09-19 15:48:19](#)**
(no subject)

I never read Inspector Dalloway, but yeah, Holmes is a muggle so he doesn't use spells, but he will analyze the scene of a crime the same way. Just without magic.

I wasn't sure it'd be interesting to read about solving mysteries without magic, but it was. It seems loads harder, that's for sure, but Sherlock Holmes is a massive swot and knows everything about muggle subjects like chemistry (similar to potions) and botany (herbology). He also just notices everything and treats it as a potential clue, and then he "reasons backwards" to arrive at the correct solution to the mystery.


So yeah, it's just him and his brain. Mad, eh?



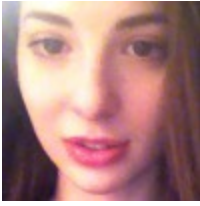
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-09-19 13:53:21](#)**
(no subject)

I can have sources that can try to find out--cautiously, that is. I'm afraid that things related to the LP's history in official records is likely to be either buried deep, destroyed, or have booby traps to alert them if anyone's snooping about it. But property records might be innocent enough, especially if the place is long abandoned. There might be clues that are safer to pursue in records about *adjoining* properties, since owners are sometimes identified in notes about borders. Anyway, I'll see what we can dig up.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-09-19 16:57:24](#)**
(no subject)

let me know if you need an extra set of eyes on that letter. I've got a few old tricks that might help.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-19 18:12:54](#)
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Hermione.

2014-09-19 00:47:00

Private Message to A. Dolohov

Batya.

Long day. Spent all afternoon in the westernmost pit of horrors. Same rubbish results. Until Our Lord arrived.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

He had Greyback in tow and made the flock perform tricks to impress him. G just the audience He hoped. Thrilled at the sight of them. Suppose they smelled of raw flesh to him.

Apparently senseless to the larger ramifications.

Idiot.


Did come home with a gift for you from Our Lord. One of the items we took from Sagittarius in March. Provenance of the thing will interest you; its properties should delight. OL has done with it whatever He thought worthwhile and has decided it might serve you well in your current role.

Intrigued?

Speaking of S. You remember that one of the artefacts was a wand fragment? And what we suspected of it? My theory's proved good, and it wasn't necessary after all to consult Ollivander. Took considerable time to dig up an alternative, but in the end, found an impeccable authority on the item. High certainty on the ID, plus unexpected information on other topics. A rich source, easily mined.

That was the high point of the week. Suppose it balances today's frustration.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-09-20 03:14:10**
(no subject)

Long day here, too, although not for any of the same reasons -- between the parents concerned about Savitha's hands-on approach to Defence, the parents who are still upset at Marwick requiring his own books for the History classes, and the parents who are still fussy about their precious darlings taking subjects that will not lead to an

OWL, I have been on the floo most of the week. I have decided I will give them all until next week to get their fussing out of the way, and then I will stop being quite so obliging. At least I had the joy of the seventh-years today, and dinner and that performance of *Der Stein der Weisen* with Aurora tonight to distract her upon her birthday.

I ought to be free tomorrow to join you, though. And I do hope most sincerely Greyback will not be; I find the little flock of horrors more tolerable company than our lupine friend.

Who authenticated the wand? And what has Our Lord decided to honour me with? (You know very well I am intrigued, but one hopes one has at least learned to cure oneself of reaching for every shiny toy.)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-20 06:00:08](#)
(no subject)

Re. the wand: a relation of the previous owner. One who gave him house room for several months and remembered its unique markings with perfect clarity. Gave over the memory with little fuss. In fact, I now possess a compendium of useful information, preserved in crystal phials marked BB.

I wonder. Is Binns' rival assigning her History of Magic? Imagine the students won't regret it, when they learn there'll be no further editions to expand that tome.

As for your gift, it's the silver armillary sphere I described to you when we collected it. Exquisite. It yielded far enough to Rod's probing that he was able to say two things with confidence: it belonged to the Phoenix, and it's calibrated specifically for use within Hogwarts castle. Monitoring movement around and within. Will be interested to know whether it cooperates for you.

Do come tomorrow if you're able. Would be very glad for your company.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-20 12:17:37](#)
(no subject)

I am up early enough this morning that I should have plenty of time to make it through Hogwarts' business and join you by nine or ten. I do want to stop off at Cottesmore first and check a reference, so I may see you there, unless you've had an early start yourself.

We do not use *History of Magic*, no, although Binns is undoubtedly still lecturing from it to an empty room. Entirely too slanted. I will be most interested in the memories, however -- it occurred to me too late that she might have been able to fill in some of the details about her nephew's (or was it great-nephew?) later life. A long shot, I know, but I still have not been able to find anyone who can narrow down the place of my father's death more closely than the general region. Ah, well.

I assume Our Lord kept the wand fragments? A keepsake, if nothing else.

As to the sphere -- it never surprises me to discover another one of the Phoenix's tricks, but it does amuse me greatly that the omniscience he pretended within Hogwarts' walls was aided by a pretty toy. Yes, I am interested. It ought to help me unravel some of Hogwarts' secrets I still have not unpicked.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-20 13:28:28](#)
(no subject)

Actually, no.

I've not mentioned it to Him. Yet.

Wanted to confirm



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-20 14:08:04](#)
(no subject)

Well, you'll certainly win His favour when you do make the presentation.

||| I am working down in the auxiliary pit, when you are free to join me. Mind the entrails, one of the poor bastards apparently remembered that mornings are supposed to include breakfast.

2014-09-19 13:20:00

Homework for next week: 7th Years



 [alt_savitha](#)

My dear students.

For next week, I expect each of you to write an essay exploring your own strengths and weaknesses in battle (by which I mean any sort of defensive or offensive magical experiences you have had; for some of you that might mean CCF, for others duelling club, for others merely the occasional skirmish with peers). I assure you that I will hold these in confidence; you need not worry about giving away your secrets to the very peers who could be your rivals as we practise these skills going forward. (Nor will I turn you over to the Headmaster for discipline, should you mention such illicit activities as hexing a classmate in the corridors!)

However, you should *also* each choose two classmates, one of whom can be a good friend and one of whom you know less intimately, and write about *their* strengths and weaknesses. You may most certainly pair up with some individual and each write about the other.

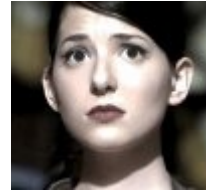
I am, of course, aware that there are rivalries and enmities not only between Houses but between classmates. I will look with particular favour on anyone who manages to write a convincing essay about the strengths and weaknesses of their most bitter rival, whoever it might be, or someone they tend to get on with poorly.

Remember: knowledge is power!

Essays are due Monday morning after breakfast; you can hand them to me directly if you wish, or bring them by my office. I want this information *before* I meet with you on Wednesday; it will help me to give you a more interesting and rewarding lesson that day.

2014-09-19 21:05:00

Order Only (Juniors)



 **alt_sally_anne**

I'm thinking about Professor Desai's assignment. Both in terms of not giving away more than we have to, but also in terms of who I should write about. Normally if I needed to write about a close friend it would be Pansy, but I'm wondering if I should write about Ron so that I could talk up something Desai might not know? (Since you need to impress her.)

It's tempting to tell her I 'duel like a hesitant Ravenclaw' (or however it was Mr Shackbolt put it) -- though really my biggest problem with duelling is I can't stop myself from flinching and so I end up taking too long to react. In an actual battle I might be able to patch people up so they could go back to fighting -- I mean if someone's hit with the entrail-expelling curse or something really horrid I wouldn't be able to do much about that, but if they got a blinding hex I might be able to fix it quickly enough they could still be useful. I also have excellent aim but only if I'm not worried about someone hexing me, which is not exactly useful in a proper fight.

None of that is any sort of real secret.

Anyway Ron if you want to have me write about you, I'll show you the scroll before I turn it in so you can be sure I'm not giving anything away she shouldn't know.

Probably no matter what I say about myself I'll definitely be classified as the sort of ally you sacrifice if you need to. (That was a jolly cheerful lecture today, wasn't it?)

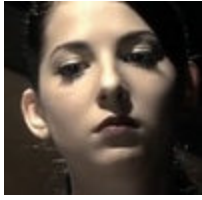


 **alt_daphne** at **2014-09-20 04:50:07**

(no subject)

I can't think of a single person who is so worth my attention that I would declare them a "rival." I would quite enjoy critiquing Smith, but I doubt Professor Desai wants to hear about his snogging technique.

I don't know Steven Capper well, though, so I believe I'll write about him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-20 04:59:04](#)
(no subject)

I tried to get Patil to write about me but I think she's going to write about Pansy, Daphne, or Justin. (I do think it's probably going to be someone she considers a rival.)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:01:40](#)
(no subject)


Oh, it will be me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:05:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you are almost certainly correct.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:10:11](#)
(no subject)

I sound as if I'm pleased about that, but honestly, I have a strange pity for Padma. She certainly needed to be Head Girl far more than I did. It almost makes me want to hand her the title, if only I could pretend that she wouldn't be dreadful at it. No, I'm better suited.

The thing about her is that she's so focused on succeeding that she never bothers to learn from her failures. And until she can do that, well--she'll never get to where she wants to be.

Oh, but if you write about her as your rival, you should mention that. I bet Desai would find it intriguing!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:16:44](#)
(no subject)

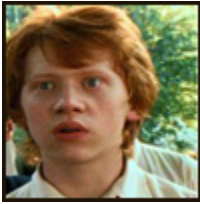
Well, she got onto the Council.


But I think that mostly just proves your point.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:18:18](#)
(no subject)

Doesn't it just.

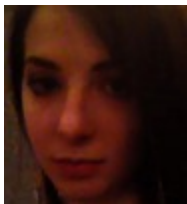


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-20 05:16:02](#)
(no subject)

Eh?

Oh. Erm. Didn't see she'd posted until just now. I was, er, advising some of our first years on strategic thinking.


Right. So, sure you could write about me. Why not? Should I write about you, then? It can't be Kat or Nev, really, because it's better if she's not sure how close or not we are. Guess I could write about Pansy. No secret we're friends. I mean, it's one of those things she'll have heard, how odd it is, the Gryffindor-Slytherin business.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-20 05:19:07](#)
(no subject)

Probably Pansy, so it doesn't look like we sat down with our quills and worked out the essay together, you know? (Since you're trying to impress her.) Nev would be hard, because he's definitely one of the people who's better than he lets on at school.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-20 05:36:31](#)
(no subject)


Well, it depends what we said and whether we made it look like a shoddy job or not. But, sure, I'll write about Pansy unless she wishes I wouldn't.

Actually, I might ask Harry. I mean, why not? We were head to head in CCF last summer and I know exactly the things I'd focus on in an analysis of his fighting style, especially the things that make me prefer to have him on my side than opposite.

Not sure who else I'll do. I mean, I'd see if I could get Goyle or Crabbe to let me talk to him, but that seems like taking the whole thing a bit further than's necessary. Can you imagine spending an hour, trying to get sense out of either of them? Same for Bulstrode, really. Just more trouble than it's worth.

Dunstan or MacDougal, maybe. I suppose that would be all right.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-20 05:48:50](#)
(no subject)

You should write about me because I'd like to see your thoughts.

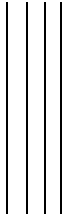
I can write about you too, if you want.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-20 05:52:40](#)
(no subject)

~~That sounds utterly naff.~~


This isn't coming out right. I mean, I want you to write about me because I think your analysis of my fighting style would be useful to me.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-20 06:36:06](#)**
(no subject)

I knew what you meant. And, yeah, it'd be great if you did. I want to see what you'll say!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-20 14:21:29](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not sure how much we could get away with. Desai's pretty sharp, yeah?

I mean, if it were for Professor Raz, I don't think I could claim to not know Nev very well, and if she's read up on us, which she probably has, I'm pretty sure she'll catch those public entries I made about Mr and Mrs Longbottom. But I'm not sure that qualifies as 'knowing well'.

I might go with MacDougal, only because of the falling-out we had.

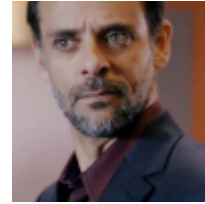
I think I'm overthinking things.

I'm going to say that I'm slightly better at shielding spells than offensive spells, and I can sometimes get distracted by what's happening to people around me, but once I'm focused, I can be fairly quick on my feet. I don't think I'll talk about the more advanced stuff that really clicked for me, like those linking spells we worked on at the end of term with Professor Raz, and the paired work we did at Moddey.

[2014-09-19 22:14:00](#)


Private message to Poppy

I stopped back in my office tonight when I returned to the castle and saw that my wards had registered your visit -- did you need me for something? I am sorry I was not there; I took Auri into New London tonight for dinner and the opera, for her birthday.



 **[alt_antonin](#)**



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-20 03:59:44](#)**
(no subject)


Ah, Antosha. I did stop up in hopes of catching you. I've two items of concern that I wanted to discuss, and it's never been my practice to expect the Head of School to come at my summons (short of a true emergency of some sort). I suppose it's too late to come up now. Perhaps you'd have a convenient hour at some point over the weekend?

I'm sorry, I'm not trying to be mysterious. The first is simply to alert you to the fact I'm still seeing cases of Pustule Pox; every Autumn it arrives along with one or two of the children, but the outbreaks are usually easily contained, and I rarely see a new case after the second week. I've alerted Heads of House and the Prefects that I've admitted four fresh cases in the past two days and have another suspect here, waiting to see if her fever will be followed by the usual rashes and blisters. It's nothing deadly, though the rare case goes to meningitis, and that can be serious. I tell you only so you'll know, should a parent contact you or should it otherwise become a matter of greater concern.

The second issue is a bit more delicate, and involves a new member of staff, so I'd hoped to speak rather than write about it, if you see. I've cared for several students this week unable to sleep because of anxiety about one course in particular, so again, it seems best if you are aware of the matter, whether there's need of intervention on your part or not.

Let me know if I might catch you this weekend. And please don't concern yourself for my having failed in my first attempt. I was pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with Mr Diggory and to satisfy my curiosity about his health and career prospects.




 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-20 04:11:42](#)**
(no subject)

I will be on Our Lord's business much of the weekend, but unless things go poorly I will be back by Sunday evening's supper. Perhaps after?

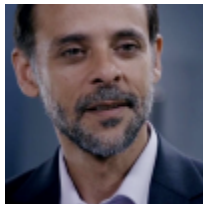
I don't recall the incubation period for Pustule Pox, but with four fresh cases in two days, this far into term, it is likely there is a carrier who has not yet been identified, yes? If you prefer to implement school-wide screening I will back you. Better to do it sooner than later.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-20 05:05:21](#)**
(no subject)

For better and worse PP incubates quickly. That's why it's generally possible to snuff it out in short order. That and the fact that if they've been exposed before they shouldn't get it again... though stranger things have happened, and ailments do sometimes switch their patterns without warning.


Let me see this through the weekend before we screen them all. Best to avoid all the worry that inevitably follows such a full-on effort. (Mind you, last time that was needed, we were having a dragon pox scare, but I'll tell you, it was not a happy afternoon when Rita Skeeter marched onto my ward, dicta-quill in hand and photographer in tow.)



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-20 05:13:28](#)**
(no subject)


Miss Skeeter and her employers have been made aware that she is no longer welcome on Hogwarts grounds, but I take your meaning. Still, keep me posted: I would rather the fuss than the risk of a wider outbreak. And we can always invent some other reason for your examining the whole school.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-20 05:42:32](#)**
(no subject)

You're quite right, of course: if it comes to it, we'll do everything necessary to protect the health of our students. I do have hope that we will escape without that being necessary.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-20 11:52:25](#)**
(no subject)

From your quill to the ears of the gods!

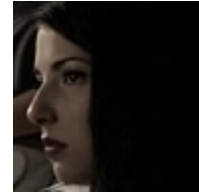
Oh -- while I am thinking of it, as I know it will slip my mind otherwise -- I am having a genteel but spirited debate about the budget, and am preparing my best arguments. Some reinforcement would not go amiss. When you've a chance, can you duplicate your books for me and send them along to Mr Diggory? Let us say, oh, the last five years' worth; that will give an adequate picture of the ebb and flow. The records I have from Minerva have the sums, but not the details, and I'm certain your records are much more detailed. A brief tallying-up of the list of supplies or ingredients you would purchase if you had room in your budget, along with an estimate as to what they would cost -- I will not hold you to that estimate; to the nearest hundred Galleons will suffice -- would also help provide some ammunition.

This is not urgent -- I will not need it for this month's Governors meeting -- and at our next staff meeting I will be asking everyone to do the same, but since I was thinking of it this morning I thought I ought mention it now.

2014-09-19 22:57:00

Private message to Padma Patil


So Professor Desai's assignment is to write about both a friend, and someone we don't know well. Ideally someone we don't get on with.



 **alt_sally_anne**

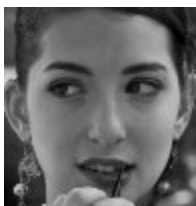
I think you and I should write about each other. I'm sure if Desai checks, she'll hear that we don't get on well (and so we'll both impress her that way). But also, we're both extremely busy and can just give each other a quick analysis of our strengths and weaknesses and not have to waste a lot of time trying to observe someone to do a good writeup about them.



 **alt_padma** at **2014-09-20 04:25:09**
(no subject)

Clever, Perks. Well, I suppose if you're going to write about me I can't very well *stop* you. It's so interesting that you consider me your bitterest rival. Most people avoid becoming the nemesis of a Councilwitch, but you're not half ready to lay down your life for your mates, aren't you?

Write about whomever you please. It certainly won't help you in Professor Desai's class.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-09-20 04:42:27**
(no subject)

I think of you as my academic rival, not my sworn enemy, but I don't have any sworn enemies that I know of and I don't think you do either so I thought 'academic rival' was the best I was likely to manage. (Unless you're seriously put out about Daphne being Head Girl? But Councilwitch is FAR more impressive.)

I was rather thinking we could trade some information to make things quicker and easier. But if you'd rather not, that's fine.

Oh, and congratulations, by the way. Being Marked while still a student is a rare honour and a truly impressive achievement. I just ~~hope Professor Desai~~



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-09-20 04:50:54](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you. But as a Councilwitch, I prefer not to disclose who I think qualifies as a rival, academic or otherwise.

2014-09-19 23:39:00


Private Message to Siz

Happy Birthday and may your stargazing always be clear.



 [alt_cedric](#)



 [alt_cedric](#) at **2014-09-20 03:51:25**

Order Only

If you wish engagement tomorrow, we could discuss the book and the wards in the Headmaster's office. With the others or not.

I'm in the room with it nearly every day. It itches not showing anything.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2014-09-20 18:03:05**

Re: Order Only

I'm awake now? If you'd like to come up this afternoon, we could talk, or I was thinking I might manage a fly to somewhere I can do a little short distance apparition practice.

Did it not go anywhere, then?

Last night was - it's like there's two of me. And Tosha was so careful and so attentive, and the opera was a lovely distraction. And yet, the other part of me, and the choices I've made, and all the everything. And feeling pretty useless still, though at least I could be sure he'd be gone for a while last night and give you and Poppy some time.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2014-09-20 18:00:00**

(no subject)

Thank you, appreciated.

2014-09-20 01:21:00

Private Message to P Marsh

Jenkins is complaining about being too ill to fly after passing through the wards, and his blasted recovery time is delaying the tests. On his first trip, he made it back that night. This time, even with freshly spelled flying leathers, Jondo claims it took him a full day of recovery before he could make the return trip. Dunstan has already had to find a trusted native courier to finish the trip from the shore to ε. And then after Jam-- or whatever his name is, returns, the leathers need to be respelled and he needs another day before he can make the trip again. Couriers with this clearance level and trust are few and far between. All this whinging will more than double the amount of time necessary for the first phase of Puppet Mirror. Are the leathers truly spelled as well as they can be? This delay is intolerable.



 **alt_rookwood**

[2014-09-20 14:14:00](#)

Order Only

Alice, I was unable to view the book last night, despite Cedric's opening the Headmaster's office to me whilst Dolohov was out. The book resides in his private, inner rooms, which were inaccessible in his absence.




 **[alt_poppy](#)**

As it was, however, he was immediately in touch upon his return to inquire about my having stopped by. His wards had registered my presence.

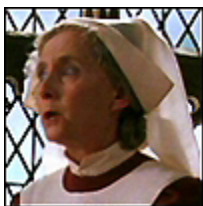
Not a surprise in itself, but a useful reminder that he is a master of warding and detection.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-09-20 20:19:34](#)**
(no subject)

It sounds as though the castle has rearranged the Head's rooms for him significantly. Odd that it should wish so much to please him.

As I doubt any of the Order in residence would be capable enough to undo Dolohov's wards and protections without him noticing, perhaps Albus might weigh in on other methods that might be employed.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-22 05:02:17](#)**
(no subject)


Let's hope the castle is being shrewd with him.
Flattering him.

I'm rather counting on the castle's protecting that Book from him, since we ourselves are powerless to do so.

I've always believed the castle has acted to protect us, up to and including Flitwick's last stand, though in the end, even she couldn't save him. I admit that I will be shocked if she proves simply to bow to the will of whomever might be Head at the moment.

If that should be the case, we could all be in grave difficulties before long.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-21 15:21:49](#)**
(no subject)

I see. Thank you.

As of now, I'm of a mind to not push things. Dolohov is sharp, and I don't want to push our luck.


For the time being, we might think of using the button network to give us an advanced warning, and train the few people with wands in the camps to test the newborns as well.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-22 05:04:04](#)**
(no subject)

I agree that caution is warranted where Dolohov is concerned.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-09-22 02:13:41](#)**
Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Poppy:

In answer to your query, here's what I've managed to pull together from various sources so far about Hubert Drubble. He's a contract employee at St Mungo's, working only half-time in the dispensary, in the afternoons. There's something that struck my source as a little irregular about this: he landed this job despite the fact that he'd been sacked from his previous position. My source said that normally St Mungo's is rather picky, requiring that any applicants to open positions have squeaky-clean work histories. I wonder (speaking from my experience as Corax Mulciber's former flunky) whether an allowance might have been made because he worked under an unreasonable boss.

I'm still waiting for word back about the circumstances under which he left his previous position, and who hired him at St Mungo's. I'll let you know what I've learned when I hear.



 **[alt_poppy at 2014-09-22 04:14:44](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

St Mungo's is extremely careful in hiring. To a fault, perhaps. At the very least, his background would have been scrutinised. In ordinary circumstances, anyway.

I don't know. The only reason I'm prying into this at all is that the dodgy reports about him--about his irregular work in the dispensary, about his unprofessional demeanor, even his hygiene--it simply smells suspicious. Very unlike the St Mungo's I know to take someone like this on. And your report compounds it.

Do let me know if you hear anything more. Now I'm truly curious.



 **[alt_poppy at 2014-09-22 05:04:48](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

And, Bill.

Thank you. I'm ashamed I didn't say so before.

Truly.



 **[alt_cedric at 2014-09-22 15:18:17](#)**

(no subject)


I'm in the room with the book most days. I'm there without his presence frequently. However, it's rarely at a time I can predict and there's even less chance of being able to predict how long I will be alone. If he doesn't know that there's anything special hidden there, and since nothing horrible has happened I'm pretty sure that's the case, he has no reason to create a particular ward that I might trip. I am also aware of most of the always on wards so I don't trip them accidentally again.

The next time I think I've got the time, should I try on my own? There won't be time to call someone else in and even if I didn't the visitor log would show that they stopped by.

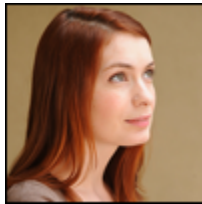
The rooms really did rearrange themselves for him. Once it was clear


I was staying on for him, additional space was added for me as well. Though that had the disadvantage of pushing me further from any sensitive information and away from his personal floor. ~~Aside from his obsession with the D~~ I hope that it's because he truly cares about protecting "his charges" and pushing all the students to be the best he thinks they can be. Of course orders from his lord would override that, but aside from that he really is all about good academics.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-22 21:32:35](#)**
(no subject)

That's not for me to decide. Alice?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-09-23 03:13:55](#)**
(no subject)

Don't risk it.

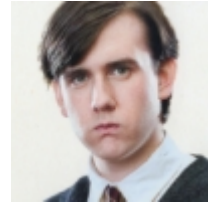
We have other methods that will be far less risky. It was hard enough with Minerva unable to communicate openly, but now we have a Headmaster who is decidedly not sympathetic in the least, is sharp, and knows his security measures.

It's not worth the risk.

[2014-09-21 19:32:00](#)

Order Only

I was stupid and left Professor Desai's assignment until tonight because I just wasn't sure who to pick. Or how much to reveal.



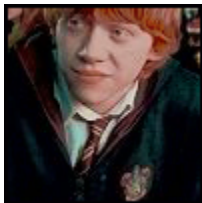
 **[alt_neville](#)**


My goal is to keep her underestimating me as much as possible. For myself, I'll say that since I haven't been in CCF, I'm behind in knowing as many defensive spells as the rest of you lot (I don't intend to let on about the old school auror stuff I've been learning from Dad and Kingsley).

Ron, I'm going to name you as the friend, and do what I can to make you look good.

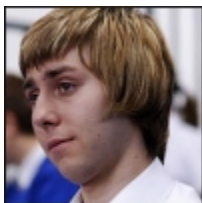
Justin--maybe this is a little weird, but I'm going to name you as a rival. If I do this right, maybe I can give her the impression that I'm the odd man out in our dorm room; that Ron and I aren't really as close as I'd like because you're better friends with him than me. After all, you two PM each other a fair bit, and not all of it is under the Order lock. I'm hoping maybe she'll pick up the idea that I'm jealous about it.


I'm going to have Evelyn look over what I've written, to see if I'm shading the hints just right.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-22 00:48:55](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, alright. Anything you need to ask about it, I'm in the common room playing chess with firsties.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-22 01:20:30](#)**
(no subject)

Neville,

Yes, of course, old man. Whatever you think best for yourself.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-09-22 02:36:17](#)
(no subject)

You did the Devil's Snare in your first class operating under Salazar's Rules, didn't you?

Sally-Anne is right; Professor Desai *is* clever. Perhaps it's not so much that you need to convince her that you're pants at Defence. If she talks with the other Professors (such as Professor Sprout) she might discover that you're really brilliant at Herbology, so she might wonder why you can't do well in her class. But you might be able to play it as if you really are obsessed with Herbology, so you stick to Herbology-based defences.

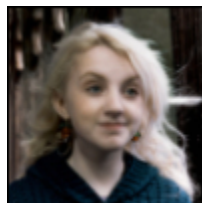
Of course, you can't conjure mandrakes and lob them at your classmates. Madam Pomfrey would be very upset, wouldn't she? But there are other aggressive plants you could conjure, like venomous tentacula. Or you could try the Sleeping Beauty spell.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-09-22 02:38:09](#)
(no subject)

Well, she ordered me to work with Ron on at least ten quick spells, so she'll expect to see some of those. But yeah, I suppose I could try to think of more Herbology-based hexes.

(What's the Sleeping Beauty spell?)




 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-09-22 02:45:22](#)
(no subject)

Oh, that's just what I call the idea; I don't think it really has an official title. I suppose you don't know the Muggle fairy story by that name, do you? I read it in a book on the shelves at the Burrow when I was being home-schooled by Mrs Weasley.

Anyway, in that story a young princess is cursed so that she falls into an enchanted spell for a hundred years. To protect her, the witch who is her godmother causes a huge wall of thick briars and brambles to spring up all around the castle where she sleeps, so

dense that no one can cut their way through. I suppose you could think of it as a Herbology-based shield spell.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-09-22 02:47:01](#)**
(no subject)

No, I've never heard of that story. Interesting idea, though.


They'd have to be REALLY thick briars and brambles to keep out hexes. Still, if the texture was woody enough, and tangled enough, perhaps it could work.



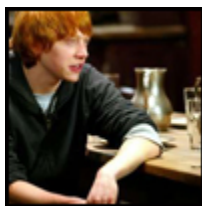
 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-09-22 02:48:45](#)**
(no subject)


Of course, it'd really limit what you could do, if you're stuck in the middle of the circle. Your enemy might not be able to see you, but you can't see him, either.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-09-22 02:50:32](#)**
(no subject)

That's true. I suppose you'd only do it if there was no other hope. Or if you thought there was a good chance you'd have reinforcements soon; then you could banish it.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-22 03:02:32](#)**
(no subject)

You think you could get brambles to grow fast enough to work as a shield?

I mean, if you really could, then I'd use it the other way round: trap your opponent. Make it start behind them.




 **alt_neville** at **2014-09-22 03:38:55**

(no subject)

Yeah, that would be better, I expect. Especially if you could set the parameters the way that Luna describes, so that each time your enemy tries to slash his way out, it would actually make the brambles thicker. He'd be forced to stop casting spells entirely so he wouldn't smothered and punctured to death. If you practised enough, you might get to the point where it would bind his wand arm up, tie him up, effectively. It'd be like Devil's Snare, except with thorns. Which could be--

Urgh. It'd be effective, anyway.



 **alt_luna** at **2014-09-22 03:26:31**

(no subject)

Oh, another thing I remember now: if someone DID try to cut their way through, new growth would spring up from each halved branch. So each cut actually made the hedge thicker.

2014-09-21 19:49:00

Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Yesterday afternoon was good. I'd been feeling the rust starting.


I knew I'd miss the flat. And sparring with you. And talking. Mind you, life in Gryffindor's not as bad as it could be. For now.

But what I'm really starting to miss? Having the Hawk and Hare just round the corner. When's the first Hogsmeade day?



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-09-22 01:46:56**

(no subject)

Ron,


Too right. We hardly knew we'd landed in the middle of a smashing pub district, what?

Has Longbottom behaved to your prediction, then? I expect you and Finnigan have been getting on as usual.

You were quite right about Professor Desai, as well, old man. Between her instruction and Professor Dolohov's I'm confident our final year will be our most rewarding.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-09-22 03:06:28**


(no subject)

Exactly.

And, yeah. Things are about the way I expected. How're things in Hufflepuff?

She's brilliant, yeah? I'm almost looking forward to NEWTs. Bring it on, right?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-22 03:19:19](#)
(no subject)

Well, we've not suddenly lost any dormmates, at least. Since Stebbs and Wayne didn't return last year, Ernie, John, Zach and I have got used to the arrangements.

How is Ginny getting on? If memory serves, she was close to Thomas at one time. And of course, you've said that of all of you, she was the one closest to your brother.

-J



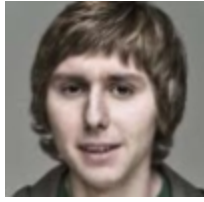
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-22 03:32:21](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. Gin had a hard time with Percy. She went really quiet for a while, and I still think she's working it out. I don't know, I suppose we all are.

It's complicated. I don't know whether she's really talked to anyone about it, either. I mean, maybe Luna or Honoria, but... y'know, Luna's peculiar. There're things she gets that other people wouldn't, so sometimes she's really, really perceptive about when people are sad or hurt or whatever. I remember walking into the kitchen and finding her with Mum a while after Dad died, and they'd were talking about something daft the way Luna does, but I thought it seemed as if Mum seemed- I don't know. I got the feeling she'd helped Mum somehow. But there are other things Luna just doesn't seem to twig to at all. She can be all airy-fairy. So I don't know if Gin would've talked to her or not.

Anywiz, about Thomas. I think by the time it happened, he'd burned bridges with her. Actually, maybe that made it harder with Percy. Because he'd done the same. Burned his bridges with all of us, including Gin. Even though she tried hard not to let him go.

So what you're really saying is... I ought to talk to Ginny. Be a bit of a better brother.




 **alt_justin** at [2014-09-22 04:01:07](#)
(no subject)

No, not at all, old man. I'm sure you're an excellent brother. It just occurs to me that we might include her a bit more, now and then.

-J




 **alt_ron** at [2014-09-22 03:15:14](#)
Order Only

Blech. Poor Nev.

Say. Have you had a chance to ask Dolohov whether we could get a classroom warded so we could spar properly? I meant it when I said I'm getting rusty. I talked to Desai and she said she'd support it, but she agreed it's Dolohov we should ask to allow us a room.



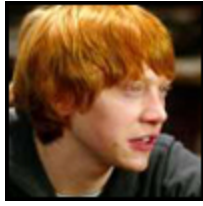
 **alt_justin** at [2014-09-22 03:29:19](#)
Re: Order Only


Do you know, I thought it rather odd when I saw his plan, what, because I honestly can't say I *do* know Neville all that well. The Longbottoms do keep themselves to themselves. Then, too, he bally well *wasn't* in CCF, just as he says, so I haven't had all that much opportunity to observe him or get to know him. He does seem jolly well reticent.

However, I'd already chosen MacDougal for my essay. I do appreciate the strategy of not laying all our cards on the table, if you follow me, but for people like you and me the line between tipping one's hand enough and tipping it too much is dashed thin.

As to your question: No, I've not yet. It's a smashing idea, though. I generally don't see the Headmaster at the weekends, but we'll go on our customary run in the morning and that ought to give me a splendid opportunity.

-J



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-22 03:59:39](#)

Re: Order Only

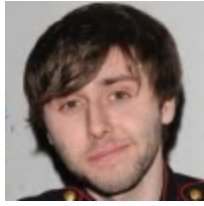
Well, it's not just that Nev and Evelyn stick together, but Nev keeps things ~~pr~~ secret. He just does. And I've just got used to knowing that he does. He's got his reasons. I mean it was years before we knew he was in touch with his parents and seeing them in the summers.


I expect we all have things we don't tell. Even our best friends. You must. I'm not prying. Just saying. Sally Anne does, too. Definitely. And, y'know, it's just how we get on.

I don't know whether Nev's better off or not for not having got into CCF and gone down the path we did. It's just a different set of risks he's running.

Come up with anything interesting about MacDougal? I wrote about Harry and that was... more interesting than I thought, actually. And then I went ahead and wrote about Crabbe. He's actually almost brilliant with Dark Spells sometimes. A bit like Thomas was, y'know: sometimes his work is loads more powerful and focused than you'd think he could manage. With Thomas it was that he'd get so angry, so, well, enraged, and it'd just pour out of him. I don't know where it comes from with Crabbe, exactly, though I've heard people talk about his father and I've got a guess.

I think I was probably meant to write about Finnigan, y'know, as a rival. But I was thinking about what she might ask us to do this week to follow up on this... and if I can avoid going head to head with Finnigan right away, I think it'd worth having to take on Crabbe, instead. Besides, I don't think anyone else is likely to take Crabbe seriously enough to write one of these about him. And the more I worked on it, the more I reckoned there was to say about him. So it was dead useful to have done.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-22 04:09:19](#)

Re: Order Only

Crabbe's a good choice. I thought about using him or Goyle but determined it's best not to be seen going after any potential Councilwizard, what. I chose Zach for my person I knew well.

On MacDougal, it was more a question of where to stop, if you follow me. There's the way she drops her arm after every cast, the way she can't focus when she's casting in lessons, and is jolly well always glancing at the Professor to see if she's doing it correctly, the way she struggles to cast nonverbally, so on, so forth. Rather too easy but I wanted to be able to provide a proper thorough analysis, what.

As for Neville, I can well understand keeping one's own counsel. None better! But I say, there's a difference between that and being wholly retiring. Mind, it's not that I don't like him; he's a good egg, our Neville. I simply don't *know* him.

-J

2014-09-22 09:03:00

Private Message to Klaus Lorimer and Amrit Gupta



 [alt_lana](#)

Mr Gupta, I've finished marking your most recent assignment and have found it as entirely catastrophic as your first effort. Your mind lacks discipline. Honestly, I've no idea how you landed in Ravenclaw. You must have exhausted all your ability to frame an argument when you bullied the Hat into Sorting you with us.

Of course, that means we absolutely must find a way to improve your performance. Can't have you continuing to let down the side with your poor showing in the standings.

I've spoken with both Headmaster Dolohov and Professor Desai and find that you are similarly mediocre in your Defence lessons. Having conferred, we believe you'd benefit from electing the Rhetoric and Composition class being offered for your year. I've told Professor Holcomb that you have added it to your timetable, beginning this week. I expect you'll find that it helps you with all of your academic work, as I expect your Latin lessons will, as well. We sincerely hope so.

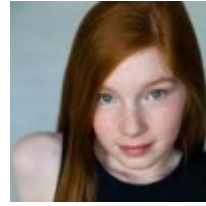
I believe in leaving nothing to chance, however, and, Mr Lorimer, that is where you come into this. As his Housemate and one of the most promising minds of your year, I am asking you to take Gupta in hand and see to it that he doesn't disgrace our House. To that end, I've also enrolled you in Professor Holcomb's Rhetoric lessons, which I believe will be beneficial though you are not in need of the sort of remediation Gupta requires. I've had a look at your timetable, and I would ask, as well, that you sit in on his Latin lessons. Yes, I know you've elected Greek and suspect that you've been tutored in Latin before now, but take this as a challenge, one Ravenclaw to another: you won't regret the review, if it is one.

Rest assured that Professors Holcomb and Gordon-Kinley are aware of the circumstances of your late enrollment.

2014-09-22 20:50:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Jeremy

When will you have the new numbers in, do you think?



 [alt_evelyn](#)

I've finally finished the iterations for the first piece of the formula. I've shown it to Professor Sinistra so she can double-check my work, because I feel like I've finally caught the hang of it only the fact it's been going so quickly has made me second-guess things, and once she's looked it over, I can send it along.

I think it's sort of mad that I'm

There's a part of me that is sad that we won't be able to write it up properly and tell people what we've done. Not for a while, anyways. And I've been reading up as much as I can on potential energy formulas, and I understand about a quarter of it. Or at least I think I do.

I hope these new readings are what we expect, I really do.

2014-09-22 21:32:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred



 [alt_pansy](#)

The samples have been distributed with glee. I feel like Father Christmas, only a witch instead of a wizard, and at the wrong time of year. The Slytherin firsties are particularly enamoured, as they had first pick, and have been like niffers after a galleon for more. I believe bats are in vogue with eleven year old girls for some reason or another, as those barrettes were snapped up the fastest, followed by spiders, and lastly cats.

I particularly appreciated the pictures in the order form -- excellent movement and timing -- who'd you get as photographer, again? They really did an excellent job.

I don't suppose you can set up a tent in Hogsmeade? I'd imagine there's all sorts of forms and licenses to apply for, and Zonko won't be happy and might try to stop it, but it's worth a try, I think.


I've been working on a few things for the Christmas line in my spare NEWT hours in the potions laboratory, but it's awfully frustrating to not have access to Mr Snape's space any more, so I can do more of that work on our Order R&D line. I know, it's too risky, and the castle's changed so much for Headmaster Dolohov, I wouldn't be surprised if it got rid of it altogether. I haven't even tried to see if it's still there.

Anyways. I'll send along my notes about the peppermint singing mints in a week or so, and testing out the permanent snowballs will be far too fun.

How's your mum been?

Give Hitty a hug and a kiss for me, and tell her that her plans for the pantry look absolutely lovely, and she should get it done in whatever colour she wants.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2014-09-23 04:53:06**

Private Message to George

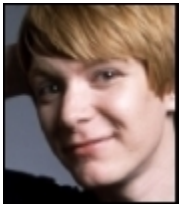
Hogsmeade is a month away, which is utterly ridiculous.


I miss you terribly.

I got the package you sent. It was lovely. And silly. And made me laugh. Rather like you, I suppose.

I've no idea if I can successfully slip away or not this weekend, but I'd very much like to try. Even if it's only for an hour or two. Or three.

I *miss* you.



 **[alt_george](#) at 2014-09-24 02:43:14**


Re: Private Message to George

Miss you, too.

Don't take the risk, really. (I know, I know, mad to hear me, of all people, preaching caution, but with Dolohov in charge, you really don't want to take the risk.) We'll make Hogsmeade special enough to make up for it, promise.

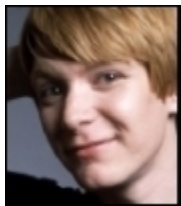
Love you, and a big canary creme to the Perks, too.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2014-09-24 02:49:44**

Re: Private Message to George

It'll be weeks and *weeks* til then. It'd better be, George Weasley. I'm depending on it.



 **[alt_george](#) at 2014-09-24 03:35:39**

Re: Private Message to George

Oooo, a challenge! I'm being put on notice, I see.

You know I work better under the pressure of heightened expectations.



 **alt_gredforge** at [2014-09-24 01:08:13](#)
(no subject)


Handing out packages with intriguing contents (or which go boom!) is always fun. You have discovered the key to our success.

We do plan to visit Zonko's in person again in about a week, to show him our Halloween merchandise. AND our spreadsheet. We love that rapidly rising graph, and we hope it'll impress him, too. He really would be mad to turn us down again. Maybe we can convince him to give us a niche in the store again. Either way, we'll continue to ramp up our owl order operation. We have two new owls, by the way! Castor and Pollux. We can't depend on the Owl Post Office having enough owls to spare when the orders come flying in thick and fast, the last two weeks of October.

Isn't that catalogue the best? We used Russ Cadwallader--he was a year ahead of us in Gryffindor. Very nice work; think we'll use him again.

Don't take any unnecessary risks; we're in a better position to explain any odd noises or load explosions. The really dangerous stuff, we squeeze into odd hours when we're at the Sanctuary working with Fu. (He loves our inventory, by the way, but is rather baffled at our wasting time at it when we could be, oh, experimenting with adapting battle armour. We tell him it's our inventory that *pays* for his battle armour. He shakes his head as if he doesn't quite believe us.)



 **alt_pansy** at [2014-09-24 02:59:05](#)
(no subject)

I'd look into getting your hands on the paperwork to set up a temporary booth too, before your meeting. If Zonko knows you're trying for it (which he will, I guarantee it), and that he can either compete against you or share in the profit, it might tip the scales. And if he agrees, that'd save you the trouble of actually having to bother with all those forms, too.

And yes, Russ is quite sharp. He's got a good eye. You might tell Powell about him, I'd bet a knut he could come up with some

brochures that'd really show off her business, and we could make sure it features our fireworks and party favours.

[2014-09-23 19:35:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey



 **[alt_bill](#)**

My source has added a few other tidbits about Hubert Drubble, and I hope you find them useful.


Confirmation that he was sacked from his previous position, and although I can't peek at the details, it was clearly for cause rather than a mutual parting of the ways at three months, like, 'this just isn't working out.

The person who hired him at St Mungo's was Healer Ogden Wenger. Does that name mean anything to you? I've not heard it before.

One more thing: I had out put the word requesting further information quietly on my analyst network, and I heard back from one bloke I didn't expect, someone who has at least one foot planted in the werewolf enclaves. Funny, because his personnel record has absolutely no record of him working there, but my source passed along, and I quote: 'Oh yeah, *him*. Urgh. Pulls a shift every once in a while, but when he shows up, he's late, often as not, and smells...ripe. As if he hasn't even bothered to spell wash his clothes for weeks.'

Make of that what you will.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-24 22:55:18](#)**
(no subject)

Most interesting. Thank you!

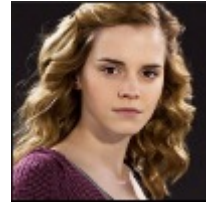
Wenger? Healer Wenger is an Experimental Apothecary, a researcher. I suppose it's not beyond reason that he'd interest himself in staffing decisions for the dispensary, but the picture that's emerging of this particular hire? Extremely dodgy.

I wonder if I dare ask a discreet question or two about what direction Wenger's experimenting has taken recently. Believe I'll start by asking Irma if she can see whether he's published anything lately. Or given a lecture somewhere.

Thank you, Bill. I do appreciate your taking an interest.

[2014-09-23 23:04:00](#)

*Order Only: Private Message to Mr
Snape*



You weren't at supper and I didn't see you downstairs or anything. Have you gone to Moddey? Bea wasn't nearly as temperamental tonight as she was yesterday.


 **[alt_hermione](#)**

Anyway, Draco and I went back to Greater Hangleton to see what we could find out about M.R., and we found a small building with a bunch of Sleepers in. I think it might have been the constabulary at some point, there were cells with bars and that sort of thing, but also offices and desks and phomes. Caked in dust, all of it.

But they were definitely Sleepers and the thing is, Greater Hangleton itself was more or less deserted. The other day we'd only seen a handful of wizards, all of them very odd. There's obviously not a camp anywhere nearby and the Muggle village itself is all falling apart. So I don't think anyone would notice if we went there to test things.

Once there's anything worth testing, that is.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-09-25 01:08:29](#)**
(no subject)

I apologise, I have been feeling poorly and thought it best not to inflict myself upon the rest of the household.

But — an undisturbed cache of Sleepers? One that was not collected by the cleanup teams?

How many were there?




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-09-25 01:48:35](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, if you're not feeling quite the thing then have you had Kreacher bring you broth? I can ask him. Or, well, I'll have Draco ask him, he does seem to respond better to him or to Sirius. Or is there something else you'd rather he make for you?

We thought, based on the few people we talked to in that area, that most considered it cursed. Maybe MLE hadn't looked through the village completely because they feared it? There used to be a big house that got blasted to bits, we saw that much ourselves.

Anyway, there were about a hundred or so, I think.



 **alt_severus** at [2014-09-25 02:10:10](#)
(no subject)

It is a persistent headache, nothing more. If you have a headache draught made up I would find it welcome; I have used the last of mine and I know better than to brew when I am in such condition.

A hundred Sleepers — that is quite a number. And very good news indeed. I will speak to Alice about logistics: even if the area is mostly deserted, I would hesitate to work *in situ* and risk discovery, but a hundred people would be difficult to move and to house even if we are not able to revive them.

When you have an unencumbered afternoon, let us go methodically through the current collection of candidates and select the most promising lines to develop further. I know that you are as familiar with the state of the research as I, but I find that explaining my thought processes aloud can often help to reify them.



 **alt_hermione** at [2014-09-25 03:23:25](#)
(no subject)


I didn't have any made up but I put together something quickly. I found a way to reduce the boiling period to only five minutes, so now it's just simmering. It'll be about ten more minutes before it can be removed and another five or so to cool it. Although...have you ever tried taking it hot? I wonder if it works just as well or not. Should I bring it up like that or would you rather wait and be sure?

I think we'd want to take a couple of subjects at a time, maybe to one of the safe houses in the region, or establish one first, perhaps, since that way if they DO wake up, which is unlikely

right away but supposing we get lucky, then they're not here at Grimmauld or at Moddey or anywhere else important, for that matter. And then we don't have to worry about being discovered in Greater Hangleton, either.

Oh, since I'm here making the potion I've been looking at the record books. I think we decided N35 and N38 were the most promising strains. I want to have another go at N35 with a double portion of dragon's blood, if we can get any.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-09-25 03:31:52](#)
(no subject)

You did not need to brew a fresh batch only for me, although I appreciate your effort. I have never tried it warm, but I can think of no reason why it would not work. It is worth an experiment, at least.

We are nearly to the end of the supply of dragon's blood obtained from Mr Weasley, but if we have a promising enough candidate I would not be averse to using the last of it. If we are nearly there, we can attempt the black market, or impress upon Mr Weasley the importance of obtaining a larger supply. I do not think we will be successful without it.

2014-09-24 13:05:00

Private Message to Linus

I hope you enjoyed your *private* celebration as much as I did!

I know you have a dreadful amount on your plate this year, so I'm glad I could give you the gift of some time to relax and unwind.

And I do know how fond you are of marzipan!



 **alt_lavender**



 **alt_linus** at **2014-09-25 01:24:50**

(no subject)

I believe the enjoyment was mutual and quite equal, oh fairest blossom.

Quite right, too, that relaxation is to be sought by the wise in the interstices of life's demands. This term is indeed demanding in all the best ways, but it is important to set down the revisions and the research projects and analyses, engrossing though they may be, and make time for the softer and sweeter delights. You are far sweeter than marzipan, this I most fervently declare and aver!

Between you and the new robes, that was the best birthday ever, really.

2014-09-24 16:03:00

To my Seventh Year NEWT Students

The discussion today after the exercise ran for so long, we didn't quite get to finish.



 **alt_savitha**


Miss Patil, you appeared to be acting as leader for Team Alpha. Can you please tell me who you felt excelled, and who shamed themselves and their Houses?

Mr Marvolo, you appeared to be acting as leader for Team Beta. Can you please answer that same question?

Anyone else from 7th Year Defence, please feel free to chime in and tell me who you believe excelled, and who did not. I was watching, naturally, but a battlefield (even a mock battlefield) can be a swift-moving, confusing place; I do not claim to be personally aware of each and every hex thrown.

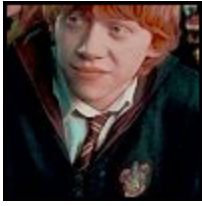
(I suppose to avoid alarming any parents reading along, I should explain that any 'kills' referred to involve no actual death; we played a delightful game this afternoon in which the students were divided into two teams. One team needed to get three members to a goal; the other team needed to stop them, ideally with a tagging hex. The students performed admirably and it ended in a draw.)




 **alt_harry** at **2014-09-25 00:25:46**
(no subject)

Longbottom's plant spell was brilliant. Moon used a theater charm to create a distraction and that worked really well. I saw loads of people on Team Alpha hexing those arms he made appear. Perks has dead good aim, Jones ran faster than I've ever seen her, and Capper dodged about five hexes getting to the goal.

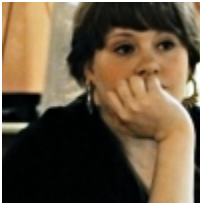
I don't think anyone on my team shamed themselves, Professor Desai, and it's not really my place to talk about Team Alpha, is it?




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-09-25 04:54:57](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, mate. Well done.


No hard feelings?



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2014-09-25 00:43:41](#)**
(no subject)

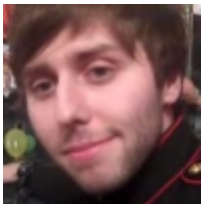
Finnegan and I both tagged Moon at the same time--it was a good hit, but maybe we could have coordinated better?




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-09-25 01:18:03](#)**
(no subject)

The Spearcarrier charm worked a treat, combining nicely with the projection spell. (Never let it be said that Astronomy does not prepare one for other situations! I learned about that particular spell when helping Professor Sinistra with her projection stones for lectures on cloudy nights, and glad I am of it!)

The only real risk on that one was that Greengrass would see through it immediately, familiar as she is with the minutiae of the dramatic arts, but fortunately either she was distracted or the hubbub prevented her from communicating with her team-mates. Either way, it went swimmingly! At least, until I got tagged, alas.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-25 02:17:18](#)**
(no subject)

Moon,

It was a jolly clever charm, what, but if one may say, it was obvious they were all the same hand. Having them pop up at so many points did provide a distraction, but once one realised what one was seeing it was easy enough to tune out the deceptive motion in favour of bona fide targets.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-09-25 02:10:59](#)
(no subject)

Smith hit his own teammate in friendly fire. Greengrass should have been more aware of him but ultimately she can't be blamed for his mistake.

Weasley and Finch-Fletchley performed as I expected. I would have liked to stay in it longer myself, but the plan worked regardless. And someone had to draw fire to allow the others prime position for their shots. On reflection, I should have sent Zabini and Parkinson down the centre, particularly since Parkinson seemed to serve no other purpose than attract the other team's hexes.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-25 04:53:39](#)
(no subject)

She lasted longer than you did.

CCF trained us that a unit leader fails at her role if she allows herself to be taken out straightaway at the start of an action. Basically, you issued some orders, marched straight into a petrifying hex, and then got turned purple by whoever it was that happened to run by. Not a lot of leadership in that.

And once you were down, Finnigan stepped in to fill the void and saw us through to the end. Not that this manoeuvre required a lot of command or co-ordination. Professor Desai's instructions laid out the objective, and bringing down the other team was more or less a game of hounds and hares. Once you let the hounds loose, they chased their quarry without needing much direction. If we'd had a more complicated objective, it would've gone much worse with us after losing our commander so early.

2014-09-24 16:22:00

Private Message to Alexa Bawsley

I'm sorry there wasn't time for me to answer your question at the end of our lesson today with the fourth years coming along straight behind your group.



 [alt_lana](#)

You wanted to know about amulets that could protect you while sleeping? Of course they exist. I assume you've already charmed your bed hangings closed--surely you're not such a ninny you've got to your third year without learning simple closing and barrier charms. Naturally, there are more powerful, more effective charms of that nature you could learn in a single visit to Madam Pince, so I presume you've exhausted those resources, but want the additional security of an amulet.

Is it the witches in your dormitory you need protection against? No, you said spirits, didn't you? I didn't think Gryffindor had any malevolent ghosts--surely not old Nick?

If you'll bring a small item you find precious to my office before supper, I'll have the amulet ready for you this evening. The item should be something you could easily take to bed with you--a locket or necklace or bracelet would do, or a small keepsake. Size is important: the smaller the item, the more concentrated the amulet's power will be. And whatever you bring, it should be dear to you. Don't bring me a galleon or a gobstone and expect it to become an object of power.

If you come now, you'll have time to tell me what it is you're frightened of. The more detail you're able to give me, the better.

[2014-09-25 21:42:00](#)

Hogwarts lecture series

The inaugural installment of Hogwarts' lecture series will be held this upcoming Sunday (September 28) at 7:30 PM. Councilmember Rodolphus Lestrage will be speaking on the challenges inherent in unravelling the mysteries of Dark artefacts.




 **[alternity](#)**
 **[alt_antonin](#)**

In addition to his work for Our Lord, Councilmember Lestrage has worked as an independent expert in the field of curse handling, with a speciality in Dark Artefacts, for nearly twenty years. He is widely recognised as one of the preeminent specialists in the field. In addition to his own research and his private consulting work, he frequently consults with the Aurors, the Ministry, Gringotts Bank, and many antique shops and auction houses.

The lecture will begin at 7:30PM in the Hogwarts library. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Great Hall. It is open to any citizen of the Protectorate who wishes to attend, not simply students and their parents.

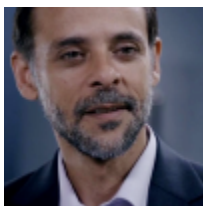
Our next lecture will be Sunday, October 12.




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-09-26 05:02:09](#)**
Private Message to A Dolohov and R Lestrage

Sounds fascinating.

Expect me.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-26 05:11:19](#)**
Re: Private Message to A Dolohov and R Lestrage

You will note, dear heart, that I have not attempted to press-gang you into delivering a lecture of your own. Admire my restraint. (That having been said, if you should be so moved...)

Not that I expect there to be a problem filling the hall -- there is a reason I asked Rod to speak first -- but do glare the juniors into agreeing to attend, will you? I have a purpose in wishing the series

to be successful, and while it may take a few years to hit its stride, an early series of successes will set the tone nicely.

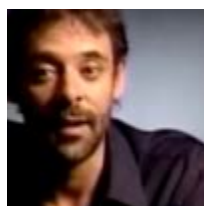


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-26 05:33:16](#)

Re: Private Message to A Dolohov and R Lestrangle

Will see to it you have a robust showing from the department. Young and old.

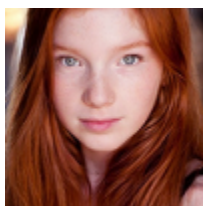
Point of curiosity: if interested members of the public were to bring along an interesting artefact, would the renowned expert be willing to provide a cursory look and preliminary opinion as to valuation, potency, craft? An amusing round of stump the master?



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-26 05:38:27](#)

Re: Private Message to A Dolohov and R Lestrangle

If Rod's prepared lecture would not accomodate such amusement, I happen to be doing artefacts with the 7ths this month -- they were each given a sample item on Monday to pick apart, and although they don't know it yet, Rod will be guest-lecturing to their class this Monday. More examples are always welcome.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-09-26 05:05:05](#)

Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

Sir,

I am looking forward to this lecture series. Thank you for providing us with the opportunity.

I also wanted to let you know that I appreciate your offering us language courses. I believe that having a firmer grasp of Greek will greatly assist my understanding of the underlying principles behind Agrippan forms in Arithmancy, and will help in other courses besides, especially Charms and Transfiguration.

I am writing you because I was talking with Professor Vector about my desire to learn Arabic with an eye towards achieving a similar understanding of Chaldean forms in Arithmancy, and she said that I

ought to tell you directly, so that you'd have an idea of the number of people who would be interested. Reading the original text and understanding more about the nuances that are often lost in translation would be a privilege, and I would appreciate the chance. I understand that if only a limited number of people indicate interest, you may not be able to provide designated tutors with that specialty, and that as I am still in my OWLs, you may have to prioritise the needs of the older students first, but I would like to indicate my genuine interest in learning a language that is associated with such truly elegant and beautiful arithmantical formulae.

I would also like to ask about the possibility of learning Hebrew as well. I know Professor Vector doesn't address Kabbalah until 7th year, and not extensively so, but it would be something I would find interesting regardless.

With respect,

Evelyn Longbottom



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-26 05:26:59](#)

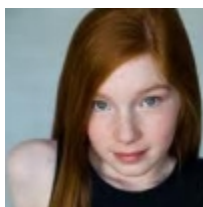
Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

I do not know that there will necessarily be sufficient interest in Arabic or Hebrew to begin formal classes before your time at Hogwarts ends, Miss Longbottom, but once the year settles down somewhat I will see about taking a census. The Semitic languages are notoriously difficult for native speakers of English who do not have experience with a non-Indo-European language -- many people do find their nonconcatenative nature difficult to wrap their heads around -- but as with all languages, the younger you begin your study, the more likely you are to achieve success.

If I am unable to turn up someone capable of teaching either, there is always the possibility of independent study if I am able to free up a few hours a week in my schedule. I also recently had reason to dig up some children's books in Arabic from my own youth, and would be happy to lend them to you. There is a certain lack of dignity in learning the alphabet from brightly coloured books that will sing cheerful songs to you, but they are effective.

Do remind me of this conversation in a few months if I forget it -- I

am juggling entirely too many balls at the moment, but far be it from me to discourage anyone from wishing to learn.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2014-09-26 06:48:15**

Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

Yes, Headmaster. I'll be sure to do so.

And in the meantime, I agree that looking through the children's books would be a good start. I'd take quite good care of them, of course. Thank you ever so much for the offer.

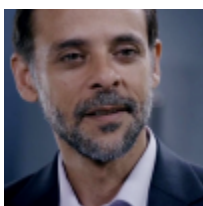


 **[alt_lana](#) at 2014-09-27 01:56:58**

Attention: Noble Arts Students Y3-Y5

I will be offering an assignment for any of my students who plan to attend and who would like to bolster their standing in my classes. See me as you arrive for Councilmember LeStrange's presentation to collect the assignment.

I expect to see all of you there.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-09-27 02:19:05**


Private message to Lana

Which does, of course, mean we will be hosting the entirety of third through fifth year! (I will be making it equally clear to my NEWTs they ought attend.)

Between us and Savitha we ought to be able to turn out a good showing. And even if the majority of the attendees are our students for this round, with luck they will find the lecture interesting enough to encourage their parents to attend the next round.

Oh, and -- Barty will be encouraging the Auror department to attend, as well. I am well aware that the politics of having your colleagues attending might be fraught. If there is anything you feel I can do to help demonstrate the fact that I selected you for this apprenticeship as a result of your demonstrated capability and skill, you have but to say. I cannot imagine there has not been some whispering behind your back; as your Master I would take a singular delight in twisting the whisperers' tails.



 **[alt_lana](#) at [2014-09-27 02:43:20](#)**

Re: Private message to Lana

I hope you're right that they're all clever enough to turn up. At the very least, I hope a majority appear. My students, I mean.

As for my colleagues- I expect whisperers will whisper, no matter what I do or you say. I'd be amused to see some tail twisting, though, if you feel inspired.

It's not quite the same thing, but I am rather hoping that Travers turns up so I could ask him my question about the queer interactions amongst those Italian curses I've been looking at, and the paradoxical behaviour of the French and Spanish cognates. That's his sort of puzzle, I think, and it would be lovely if you were inclined to put in an interested word if I'm able to capture his attention for a bit.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-27 02:52:45](#)**

Re: Private message to Lana

But of course! And speaking of that -- I've been through the book-trunk, and still cannot find that copy of Paracletes I promised you. I'll have a go through the library at Cottesmore tomorrow, but I think it may have taken a walk and not returned itself. If Amaryllis -- Madam Poundtree, that is -- does make it to the lecture on Sunday I will set her to the problem of finding you your own copy; if not, owl in your request on Monday, and tell them to charge it to my vault.

[2014-09-26 22:05:00](#)


Order Only

Word's gone out in the department that putting in an appearance at Dolohov's lecture series at Hogwarts would be the sort of thing that might get you ahead (or, at least, that failing to do so might be looked at askance) so I'll be at Hogwarts on Sunday. If there's anything that needs to be passed in person rather than through a floo, let me know and we can arrange a rendezvous. As long as I'm at the school I'm arranging to have tea with my old Head of House, and I imagine I could drop by for a chat with Pomona or Aurora without attracting any particular attention. Or wander past a blind drop, at least.



 **[alt_rachel](#)**




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-09-27 05:38:40](#)**
(no subject)

Well, something that someone needs to get over to the school at some point is Ellie's new portkey -- we didn't have them replace it right away after Hermione used it, because we didn't want them checking logs, but last month we felt enough time had passed it was well worth the risk, and they issued her a new one without any sort of fuss.

Someone suggested we might conceal it in the Trophy Room. Thoughts on that from the Hogwarts contingent? The advantage of the Trophy Room is that it's readily accessible; the disadvantage is that anything hidden inside might be found. Though they're unlikely to be looking.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-09-27 18:16:16](#)**
(no subject)

I think the Trophy Room is likely best? Not likely to be disturbed in the usual course of things, and the more I think about it, not a place people check if there's chaos.


How big is the portkey we'd have to hide?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-09-27 21:34:21](#)**
(no subject)


Fits in a pocket, but it's not tiny, probably six inches long. It does say 'Official Ministry Portkey' on it, so it'll be a problem if it's found.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-27 23:13:05](#)**
(no subject)

I think it'd be best too. Especially if we're to make it available to the rest of the galleon group too.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-09-27 18:14:55](#)**
(no subject)

I'll be at the lecture - can't not - but my brother will be with me. (Storm, Mum, before you ask.)

I'd not mind the excuse to miss the social part afterward if you can come up with something you want to ask me about (either directly, or to ask me who to talk to in the Guild about some particular question would do, I think.)



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-09-27 21:40:22](#)**
(no subject)


As it happens, I'm currently looking into a case that involves hints of unauthorised and possibly even experimental locational magic. (Or possibly just someone who liked strewing stones in odd places!

That's what makes it so much fun!) I'll bring some of the measurements along.

(If you want to know the honest truth: it's just some weirdo with a fondness for re-arranging geologic features, and the only reason I'm involved is that he happened to do it in a public park and made some old lady nervous. Since the old lady is Praetorius Brundage's second cousin, she was able to have an Auror assigned to look into it. But no one will fault me for being thorough!)

Remus, I'll pop by in an hour for a pint and the portkey.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-27 21:47:33](#)
(no subject)

Easy that, to give you something to show for the question.

Ask me when we get to the social part, I can slip away (and let Storm get home), and you can come up when you're ready. You'll want to show eager yourself, with your colleagues, I'm sure, so take as much time as you need there.

Actually, also wouldn't mind your take on the wards on the tower. I'm fairly confident I know what they all do and there's no hidden surprises, but a fresh pair of eyes can see things I'd miss. If we ever need to rely on them, I mean.



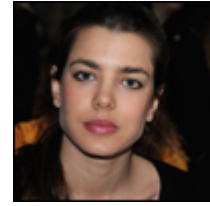
 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-09-27 22:49:17](#)
(no subject)

Sure. I'm not a particular expert on wards, but I certainly know the basics and I'm a fresh set of eyes.

I'll pull you away once I'm satisfied everyone knows I was there.

[2014-09-27 12:34:00](#)

Private Message to Ned Penniford and Ptolemy Baddock



 [alt_lana](#)

Neds, I can't meet you this afternoon. I'm sorry, but I've got a stack of essays still to mark. (I swear, interviewing each of the 'little darlings' took forever and ate up all the time when I'd have got this done. Antosha was right, though, it's going to have been time well spent. I learned exactly what I needed and I'm seeing the difference already.)

Listen, though, just because I'm not able to come down doesn't mean you shouldn't go along to the races. You always enjoy it, and actually, I need you to go so you can tell Martyn he needs to get himself up here for the lecture tomorrow evening. Crouch is coming and a number of the others, including all the juniors who know what's good for them. (Well, not Reethi. She's still posted to Ireland.) But you see the point: if Martyn's serious about being selected, he'll come up for Lestrangle's talk.

Bads, I'm sending you this so you can see Ned doesn't bury himself at work. (I know you can both afford to take time now, and you ought to do! Alright?) And don't let him just hide away at home, either.


Seriously, you and Karo and Ned ought to go along to Gladwell's opening tonight. Have supper somewhere--Monteith, maybe, or Serengeti. Or, oh! Why don't you go see if Rubric is really all that. At the very least stop in there for drinks--Sophia was raving about the cocktails. So, there: that's tonight settled.

And, Neds, tomorrow afternoon is sailing with de Klerk. Don't forget to take along that bottle we set aside. And I see in The Prophet there's a concert at the Tate in the evening if you're not tied down for supper after the sail. It's Giov Adessi's quartet, Bravura. You remember: they've brought in Nabhij Sharma on viola da gamba. They're fantastic. Just go, alright? You're never sorry when we do these things. Ask your mother to go along if you don't want to solo. That's perfect, actually, because then you'll have an excuse not to go along for supper with de K., right?

Listen, I've got to get back to work, but I don't want to hear that either of you spent all day in those archives. That's what you've got staff for. Now that you've got the system sorted.

Give my best to Karo. And, Neds, I'll talk to you soon.



 **[alt_ptolemy](#)** at **[2014-09-28 19:14:05](#)**
(no subject)


Thought you'd like to know Karo liked Rubric, too, but Neds and I found the drinks too sweet. (Whoever thought up the notion of putting every fruit currently available in the Protectorate into the form of dacquiri ought to be taken out and hexed.)

We've been hearing that anyone who doesn't support the old Tosh's lectures may well find himself out in the cold in certain circles. But it sounds like you'd prefer Ned not show up. No fear, really, since that fucking idiot Fudge is *still* chuntering on about the lost month or two of archives. Really, if *we're* not fussed by it, why the fuck should *he* think it's important? (You know, Uncle Lucius used to say Fudge didn't have half the sense of a fwooper; I always thought he was exaggerating for effect. Now I realise he was being generous. The man's a fatuous arse. It's a wonder he hasn't been replaced before now. Perhaps compared to Umbridge Our Lord still finds him a breath of fresh, arse-kissing air.)

Anyway, the point is: Should *we* hear first-hand what Rod has to tell the kiddies? Or do you believe only the over-eager (and Martyn) are going to make the trek? Because I'm of a mind to tell Sludge to go down to the archives and hear first-hand why we're done trying; but Ned said he'd almost rather tell Fudge we'll stay and work on it, if for no other reason than to use MLE's steam room while everyone else is up in your neck of the woods. (If you ask me, he just doesn't fancy going to concerts with his mummy. Can't blame him, really.)

Only I'd not mind seeing old Doves myself. I've a few questions for the old fox.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2014-09-28 20:24:14](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, come if you want, obviously. Especially if you've got a reason for wanting to see Antosha. I mean, to be honest, you're not likely to get more than a word or two with him, and that will be in a crowd of other people all yammering for his attention. If you've really got

something you want his opinion about, you should come up some evening and have supper with us here. We could work out something where you come up with Ned one of the nights he's here.

As for the lecture, I expect it to be fascinating, but I don't imagine it will be pitched at our level. Still, if you're interested and willing to make the trip, do come. Only, you've not really got the same need to fawn or make an impression that the younger Aurors have got: Doves told Crouch to get out his thumbscrews and make sure there'd be a crowd. That's why it's a Must for them. (And that's why anyone who hopes to get selected for next summer's training would be clever to turn up.)

Leave Ned to do whatever he wants. I can't run his life for him. If he wants to bury himself at work, I suppose he will. And if he'd rather slouch about at home rather than take his mother to hear a brilliant concert, that's his choice.




 **alt_ptolemy** at **2014-09-28 20:36:11**
(no subject)

Eh, maybe not, then. I'd rather not join a throng all kissing Russian-Egyptian arse. (Does it taste more exotic than good English arse, I wonder?)

And anyway, now Karo's got it in her head that we should take in the concert, so I suppose that's that.

Or I could send her with Neds and we can all have a laugh at the tattler sheets tomorrow.



 **alt_lana** at **2014-09-28 20:57:16**
(no subject)

(It all tastes the same, doesn't it? If you want variety, the seasoning's up to you.)

And Karo's got it right. You should go.

Though it would be a laugh to see what the rags would make of her going with Ned. Mind you, I suppose he'd look as if he's got toothache the whole time because it's something I said he'd enjoy. Hm?

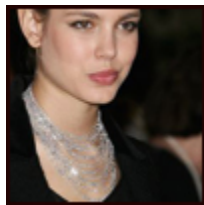



 [alt_ptolemy](#) at [2014-09-28 21:12:35](#)
(no subject)

Wouldn't know, would I? I've never been much of an arse-biter, seasoned or otherwise. I leave that sort of thing to the nouveau-élevées. Or the pathetic old ones.

And don't think for an instant you can drag me into the middle of your domestic debates. That's Karo's department.

But if it comes to that, I wouldn't be surprised if I look as if I've a toothache the whole time--not because you recommended it, but because I usually find myself thinking of all the other things I could be doing.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2014-09-28 21:38:59](#)
(no subject)

You admin types, you're all the same.

Go be boring if you must. Clearly, you're beyond help.



 [alt_ptolemy](#) at [2014-09-28 22:42:45](#)
(no subject)

ADMIN? Boring?

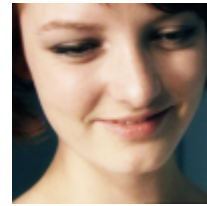
Clearly you've not been in contact with Cal, Nick and Nigel. All sorts of fun we can arrange.

But perhaps you just want to think that we're all chained to our desks while you spend your time babysitting.

2014-09-27 16:41:00

Order Only: Private message to Bill


I just told Remus I'd run over to the Doughty Conduit to get the portkey (and probably have something at the beer garden while I'm there).



 **alt_rachel**

It's an absolutely lovely evening. If you meet me, we could go for a walk afterward or something.

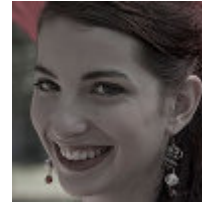


 **alt_bill** at **2014-09-28 01:32:55**
(no subject)

Saw this a little late--hope you're still there. I'm on my way in hopes of seeing you.

[2014-09-28 17:17:00](#)

*Private message to Harry Marvolo
and Pansy Parkinson*




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

Pansy and I are going to head up to the library after dinner to get seats. Want to come up and sit with us? I'm really looking forward to the lecture and I want to have a good view, especially since I imagine Mr Lestrangle might bring some Dark objects for people to have a look at, but he's certainly not going to pass them around, you know?


I reckon if we get there an hour early we'll probably be able to get seats right up front (or close, anyway). But bring something to read or something to do because we'll be waiting a while.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-09-28 22:24:31](#)**
(no subject)

Good idea. Yeah, I'll come up after dinner. Thanks for inviting me.



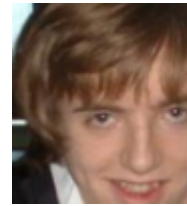
 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-09-28 23:43:24](#)**
(no subject)

From how people are talking about it, it'll be utterly packed.

2014-09-28 17:23:00


(no subject)

Oi! Anyone see two seats together? It doesn't look like there's any place left.



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2014-09-29 00:30:03**

Private Message to Megs

Guess we're standing.

Did you hear Marvolo shouting?

What was that about?

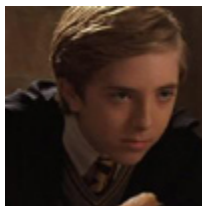



 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-09-29 01:31:10**

Re: Private Message to Megs

It was something about where people were sitting? Or where they wanted to sit, which was where someone else already was? Harry Marvolo said last week that certain new-made Council members were worried about the impression they were making. We were talking about Patil and Finnegan but maybe Aurors are like that too. Do you suppose the junior Aurors need to throw their weight about to get the older set to take them seriously?

Only it didn't work so well for them once Harry got started.



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2014-09-29 02:00:22**


Re: Private Message to Megs

Did you see his announcement?

Merlin.

Figures.




 **alt_megan** at [2014-09-29 02:13:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Megs

What do you mean?




 **alt_ernie** at [2014-09-29 02:38:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Megs

They were adults, you know? I mean, I would've given up my seat if they'd asked. It's not something worth making that big a deal out of.




 **alt_megan** at [2014-09-29 02:44:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Megs

Oh. Well, yes. Definitely.



 **alt_megan** at [2014-09-29 01:35:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Megs

Stop giving me looks like you're going to whisper to me. If I hold my parchment just right, I can write in my journal rather than whisper back to you. You should do it too. We will both look like we are very studious about cursed objects. Which cannot hurt.

2014-09-28 19:16:00

Order Only: We've been delayed in the Forbidden Forest

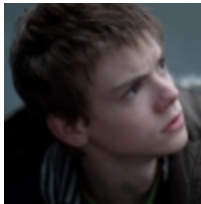



 [alt_luna](#)

I know, I know, it's dark and the lecture's about to start. But we've found a thestral foal, and it's hurt; it has a torn wing flap and it seems to be in quite a bit of pain.

Sally-Anne or Madam Pomfrey: do you have a suggestion for treating the wing? I don't think we should linger here much longer but aren't quite sure what to do.

I think some Acromantula silk would be useful for a dressing, but Colin and Divyesh are being *quite firm* that we shouldn't go looking for any now.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2014-09-29 00:28:52**

(no subject)

(Not unless we discover a nice, doesn't want to eat us variety, which I don't think exist.)



 [alt_luna](#) at **2014-09-29 00:31:19**

(no subject)

Well I think they *might* give us some silk if we just ask politely. And if it was a very young spider. But I'm hoping Sally-Anne or Madam Pomfrey would have something a little more practical to suggest, and that wouldn't involve staying out here much longer.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-09-29 00:34:03**


(no subject)

No one's going to notice you're not here, it's much too crowded.

I entirely agree that you should not go out in search of juvenile acromantulae; even the cat-sized ones will happily eat a human. They'll just, you know, share.

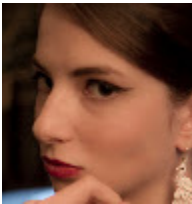
Acromantula silk is considered good for healing if you happen to get your hands on it while it's very fresh, but overwhelmingly it is also considered to be NOT WORTH the RISK.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:28:55](#)**

(no subject)

I suppose the Prefects are taking attendance. Artie, if you hear any of them ask about me, could you say that you saw me before supper and I was feeling a bit queasy? That would explain me not being in the Great Hall, and with luck they'll assume I'm in the Hospital Wing.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:31:40](#)**

(no subject)

Do you have any dittany with you? (Surely you do!) You can use it on the thestral's wing, but don't pour it directly on. Put it on a clean cloth, like the edge of your shirt, and dab it.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:39:30](#)**

(no subject)

We do, but I wish we had more. It has helped heal the torn edges, which has helped with the pain, I think, but it doesn't quite re-join the webbing back together.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:36:32](#)**

(no subject)

No, you should leave, and quickly.


I've read that thestrals will attack and eat their young if they're wounded. You could be in danger from them as well as the other creatures.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:40:13](#)**
(no subject)

(We haven't seen any adults yet. I'll tell Nick to keep an eye. Div can't see them, but he's holding the light to make it as bright as possible.)




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:47:09](#)**
(no subject)

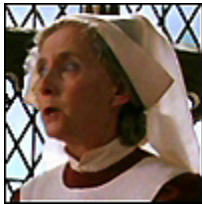
Leave there this instant. Do not risk your lives.


The thestral foal will either heal or be eliminated by its herd. That is theirs to decide, I'm afraid.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:49:04](#)**
(no subject)

(right. we're taking off.)




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:48:26](#)**
(no subject)

And, Miss Lovegood?

I expect to see you immediately upon your return. Come here first of all. We'll explain your absence from the lecture at the very least. (And set my mind to rest.)



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-09-29 00:54:25](#)**
(no subject)

I'm on my way back to the castle now, Madam Pomfrey, and yes, I'll stop up to see you.


We'll tell Hagrid about it. Perhaps he'll keep an eye out for it, at least, since it's near the border of the Forest.

I do hope the poor thing will be all right.

That was about all that happened of note tonight, although we did

spot one unicorn tail hair, tangled in some bushes. Divyesh is taking it back to Moddey Dhoo for Melli.



 **alt_frank at 2014-09-29 02:41:43**

Private Message to Luna and Colin

(You get a thorough talking-to?)

I'm sorry I sort of dragged you out of there, even though you didn't want to leave right away. But with Div and Nick being new to everything, it'd be important to be extra careful, you know?


Even if it didn't end up working out for the foal.

But I figure it has a better chance now than it did, yeah?

We can check and see next week.

I'm really sorry we couldn't do more, Lunes.)



 **alt_luna at 2014-09-29 23:57:12**

Re: Private Message to Luna and Colin

Madam Pomfrey can be rather...peppery if she thinks we're taking foolish chances. But you were probably right that it was time to return. Anyway, I do pin my hopes on Hagrid. He won't care a jot about anyone else saying that the foal should be left alone to die or not, if it needs nursing. You know he's really a surprisingly *motherly* chap, for someone who stomps along on huge feet and who has a bushy beard that sticks out in all directions! And I've seen him tend all sorts of creatures. Why I do believe in a different world he might have made a wonderful Care of Magical Creatures professor himself.

I do look forward to next week. And not *just* in the hopes that we'll see the baby thestral again.

(I'm glad you liked the sketches in my naturalist notebook. Next week I'll bring a spare one I have for you to take home and use yourself. I would love to see your pictures of the daily life at Moddey Dhoo.)

2014-09-28 20:49:00

I have something I want to say to everyone

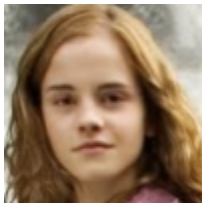
The next time anyone decides to treat a half-blood student as a lesser witch or wizard I want them to think about the fact that I am also a half-blood.



 [alt_harry](#)

And if you're not prepared to treat me as a lesser student, if you're not going to send me to the back of a queue or make me give up my seat, then you'd better not try it with anyone else at this school.

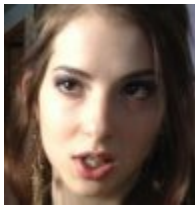
Or anywhere else, for that matter.



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2014-09-29 01:57:56**

Order Only

What happened?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-09-29 02:04:01**

Re: Order Only

We went up early to get seats. Which was good because it was EXTREMELY crowded. Jason Montague and a couple of the other younger Aurors turned up at about the last possible minute and instead of standing in the back like the other losers they they took my seat, and Kat's, and Steve Capper's, and there were some other half-bloods who'd come early, so yeah.

Harry told them he thought students ought to have priority (especially students who'd come early) and when Montague ignored him he ordered Montague and the others to clear off and told me and Kat and the others to come back and sit down.

Anyway I had a good view of the talk.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-29 02:04:49](#)

Re: Order Only

oh and sorry by 'losers' I don't mean anyone who might be reading this, even if you came late and were standing in the back.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 02:05:43](#)

Re: Order Only

I could do something about it so I did.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-09-29 02:08:57](#)

Re: Order Only

Well, I'm glad you stood up for Sally-Anne, but Harry, is it really wise to remind everyone that you're also a halfblood? Or to--make threats like that? I mean, what if Professor Dolohov gets

suspicious?

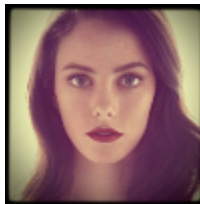



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 02:28:28](#)

Re: Order Only

I don't think I'll get into any trouble I can't handle.

And they can't punish you or Draco anymore to get to me.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-09-29 15:41:08](#)

Re: Order Only, Private message to Harry

I'm sorry to butt in, only--what about Hydra? People believe that you're dating (well, they either believe that or they believe that Hydra is actually your body guard, or something).

I suppose being on the council might protect her, if she's meant to stand by you and go along with whatever you say?




 **alt_sirius** at [2014-09-29 02:11:42](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Throwing caution to the wind? Good for you.



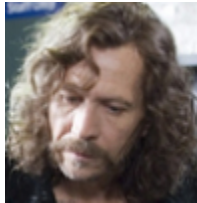
 **alt_harry** at [2014-09-29 02:14:14](#)


Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Hermione doesn't think so.

I don't know. If she and Draco were still at the school, I probably wouldn't have done anything.

But they aren't. So there's nobody telling me not to.



 **alt_sirius** at [2014-09-29 02:17:15](#)


Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

She's just worried about you, I think.

But it's true that they're not around, which means no one can hurt them to punish you.

Do you think Draco would have told you to stand down?



 **alt_harry** at [2014-09-29 02:27:34](#)

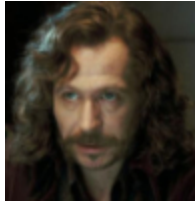
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry


Not told me, not in so many words.

But he wouldn't have wanted me to make a scene right there in the lecture hall, with Professor Dolohov there, and Mr Lestrangle.

You're right. No one can hurt Draco now to punish me. And that matters, too.

He can still hurt other people though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-09-29 02:38:46](#)


Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Harry, people are going to get hurt, no matter how hard you try to keep them safe. If you let the fear of that stop you, you'll find yourself letting moments pass you by. Like you said, you saw that you could do something, and you did it. Sounds like you listened to your conscience.

Which might not be a bad thing, kiddo. I know you and Draco have always been as close as brothers. I don't mean to belittle how difficult it must be for you, not having him around to give you advice.

But I think you're capable of giving yourself your *own* advice. If you follow your own lead for a while, you might be surprised at where it gets you.



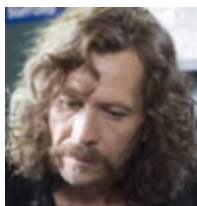
 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 02:55:01](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

It's really weird not having Draco here.

Like when Desai had us all make groups of three, I looked around and everyone I'm friends with had found groups with closer friends. I wound up in a group with Zach Smith and Millicent Bullstrode. (And then I had Megan Jones take my spot, but -- yeah. Zach Smith, and Millicent Bullstrode.)

But Sally-Anne, Pansy and Daphne had gotten into a group. Ron was with Neville and Katrina. Blaise Zabini was with Vince and Greg. There were all these people who probably would have asked me to join their group if they'd thought about it, but none of them did.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-09-29 03:00:36](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry


Yeah, I had a feeling you might be having a rough time of it. Draco and Hermione are also somewhat at sea here, but they still have each

other. Well, and Sarah and Tim, but that's another matter entirely.

You know, I saw what Daphne Greengrass wrote about how you lot have all become rather cliquish. Of course I didn't want to say anything - none of us likes to feel as if we're imposing ourselves onto your conversations - but it got me to wondering about where you stand with the others.

If you had to choose who to get closer to, who would you pick?




 **[alt_harry](#) at 2014-09-29 03:18:13**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Ron.

Because I'm pretty sure he'll never tell me to be careful.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2014-09-29 03:24:14**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Makes sense. You were meant to be in Gryffindor; if you had been, you and Ron would have been roommates for the last six years, already.

I'd wager that if you and he and Justin started spending time together, it would serve all of your goals. Understanding that he also has a girlfriend, but since Justin's alone now, too, it might be good for both of you to lean on each other when Ron and Sally-Anne want to be alone.




 **[alt_harry](#) at 2014-09-29 03:36:20**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Well, Justin's still spending a lot of time with Headmaster Dolohov.

But, Dolohov told me to come to his office tomorrow afternoon, so who knows, maybe I will be, too.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-09-29 03:43:17](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Maybe you can keep an eye on him, then. I worry about Dolohov's influence on Justin; you can reinforce each other, if you're both in his company. And perhaps if he's got someone else, he won't seek out Dolohov so often.

Not that I'm asking you to be his keeper. I just think you both could use the friendship.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-09-29 03:50:01](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Yeah.

Justin was with Finnigan and Patil, that day. Not because he's mates with them, though.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-09-29 03:54:41](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Exactly.

You're doing fine, Harry. I'm proud of you.




 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-29 03:28:22](#)**

(no subject)

An interesting statement, Mr Marvolo.

Do drop by my office tomorrow afternoon to discuss the matter, hm?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-09-29 03:34:00](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, sir.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-09-29 04:33:40](#)

Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter

Well done, you.

I mean it.

Sorry I was tied up when it happened. Though I'm not sure what I could've done to help. I reckon that's the thing--you're able to do things like this that some of the rest of us can't now if we're going to keep our cover. Justin, I mean, and Hydra. And me.


It feels odd. Wrong. Not to be able to do what's right. Though tonight, you'd already done it before I even knew what was happening. But that just shows what Desai does to us. She- kind of eclipses everything else. When she's talking to you. Me. When she's talking to me, I mean.

I worry about that, y'know. What could happen. What I might have to do- what I might just do. For her. To keep her from seeing through me.

Ugh. This is the stuff that makes me miss my dad. Not that he'd have an answer about what I should do. Only, he'd know what it's like to have to do stuff you hate. In order to get in a position where you might be able to do some good. Or- keep somebody else from doing utterly heinous stuff instead.

Y'know?



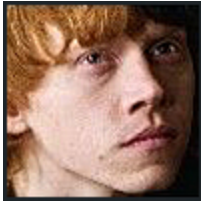
 **alt_harry** at [2014-09-29 04:45:28](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter

Yeah.

I had to learn to cast cruciatus, fourth year. Because He was going to make me cruciate Hermione. Only then he just sort of ... forgot, I guess, so I never had to.

But I had to learn. Hydra saw me practising on an animal.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-09-29 04:52:58](#)


Re: Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter

I haven't had to learn the Cardinals yet. Sally Anne learned from Miss Professor Carrow, but I wasn't in Dark Arts then. I thought I'd have to learn this summer, but I didn't. They wait for Auror training. Though I think if you don't know yet, you get made a goat. So I reckon I need to ask Auror Lamont to teach me. Or someone.

Would you?

Before summer.




 **alt_harry** at [2014-09-29 04:57:10](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter

Yeah.

It's not really that hard. If you can stop yourself thinking about what you're doing.




 **alt_hydra** at [2014-09-29 15:16:53](#)

Order Only

Well I'm not sure what to do now since I'm meant to report to my mother if you show any signs of seditious thinking. But since you made your announcement in public in front of everyone, and in the journals, too, then I suppose there's no point in repeating it to her.




 **alt_harry** at [2014-09-29 15:49:54](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Hydra

Daphne pointed out they might threaten you, now. With Draco gone. Since they think we're -- you know.

Do you think I should try to behave the way they want, to keep that from happening?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-29 20:48:51](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Hydra

The only reason they hurt Draco was because it worked. Because it kept you in line, I mean.

So, even if they do something to me, don't protest or try to stop it. If your father or my mother believe that threatening me will help them control you, then they'll only do it again.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 20:50:42](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Hydra

All Dolohov did was tell me to write an essay.

But things might go differently next time.

And I think there's going to be a next time.

[2014-09-29 14:54:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Sally-Anne and Justin




 [alt_harry](#)

Headmaster Dolohov set me an essay to write. About this book of philosophy that's supposed to explain why MOST half-bloods shouldn't be 'championed' because they'll we'll just 'water down' our society's wizarding strength.

Only it's utter bollocks. It's particularly bollocks if you look at the people in our year! Midgen is thick, but not any thicker than Goyle. Patil's clever but she isn't any cleverer than you are, Sally-Anne.

I have the exam rankings from when we all sat the OWL exam only I'm not sure how to say what I'm trying to say and I need one of you to help me. You're a lot better at writing things out than I am.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-29 20:12:50](#)
(no subject)

Harry,


Happy to help, old man. What's your goal, if one might ask? Do you intend to provide the Headmaster with just what he's requested or do you hope to continue your subversion?

Usually if there's an assignment to be turned on its ear, if you follow me, then the first step is to understand exactly what one's instructions and parameters are. What, precisely, did the Headmaster tell you to write? Did he prescribe a conclusion or instruct you to pursue a specific angle?

And look sharp, old chap. Professor Gimlet has that twitch, what, like he's going to give us a quiz any second.

-Justin

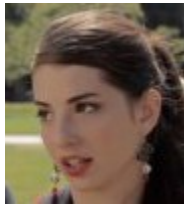


 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 20:17:30](#)
(no subject)

I want to tell him he's wrong.

Because he is wrong.

He said I had to read this stupid book and write four feet about the arguments it's making. He didn't actually say I had to say the arguments were right.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-29 20:18:57](#)
(no subject)

If you don't tell him what he wants to hear he'll probably just make you write it again.

How many times do you want to have to write four feet about the inferiority of half-bloods?

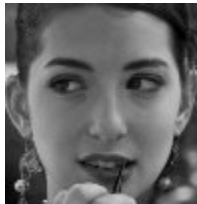


 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-29 20:28:02](#)
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I think we can help Harry write four feet that sounds like what Professor Dolohov wants to hear but isn't actually what he wants it to say, if you follow me.


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-09-29 20:36:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh sure but can we do that AND make it sound like Harry wrote it himself? That's going to be the hard part.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-29 20:23:46](#)
(no subject)

I see, jolly good. Well, in that case, I should give the book a close read, taking notes on the evidence offered for each argument you want to refute, what.

You mentioned the O.W.L. results. What do you mean to do with them?

-Justin

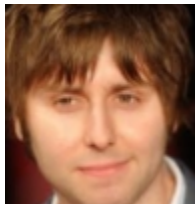



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-29 20:36:17](#)
(no subject)

Well here's the thing, the OWL results show that half-blood students and pureblood students perform about the same.

I counted the students in the top third and about half were half-bloods. (I counted you as a half-blood. I don't know how Dolohov would classify a wizard born from two squibs. But legally you were a half-blood when you sat OWLs.) And then I counted the next third and about half were half-bloods again. And the bottom third, exactly half and half.

Maybe it's not even worth arguing about.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-29 20:50:59](#)
(no subject)

No, Professor Dolohov will respond better if you maintain your principles, particularly after such mild pressure, what. He quite prefers students who at least attempt to defend their positions.

Unfortunately, he'll poke a hole in your statistics fairly quickly, I think, as half of the class are halfbloods (counting me, what) and he'll simply point out that half of the class did well, while half of them did poorly.


I do think it's worth using the standings as evidence, mind. It

will be important to stress that both groups are distributed normally. Perhaps we can think of other examples, as well.

What about performance in a particular subject, or at Quidditch?

-Justin

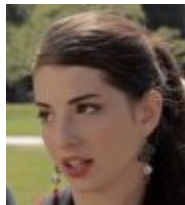


 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-09-29 20:53:21](#)**
(no subject)

Well there are half-bloods that excel at everything.

He didn't try to deny that. He said that the exceptional half-bloods should be treated like exceptional people, or something like that. And that's why I get treated differently, and Sally-Anne gets treated differently.

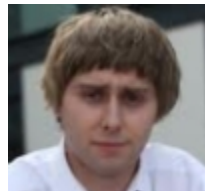
Anyway looking at subjects is a good idea.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-09-29 20:54:52](#)**
(no subject)

I get treated differently in some of my classes but not all of them.

And I excel in all of them. (Well, except for History. But I'm not taking that anymore.)



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-29 20:59:31](#)**
(no subject)

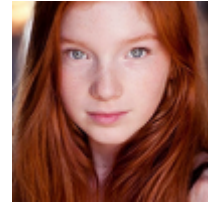
At what point do 'exceptional' halfbloods become common enough to be considered normal?

Perhaps that's the point we ought to be working to make.

-J

2014-09-29 15:43:00

*Private Message to Ginny Weasley and
Lavender Brown*




 **alt_evelyn**

Have the 3rd year girls been fighting? They all look quite sour today, and Alexa Bawsley was particularly unhappy-looking and tired. I asked her if she needed to go see the Matron, and she practically bit my head off, saying she had things 'well in hand, thank you very much.'

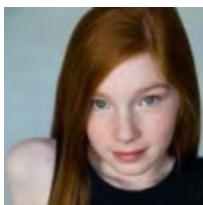
Anyways. Something to keep an eye on? I tutor Jude in Arithmancy, I was thinking of asking her what was going on, but I don't know too many of the others in that year as well as I ought.




 **alt_ginny** at **2014-09-30 03:04:52**
(no subject)

They've been keeping just enough of a lid on things that I'm not sure. I think they've been quarreling based on the way they've been acting, but I haven't seen them at it.

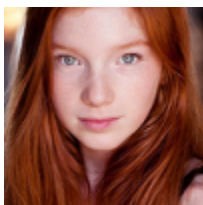
Alexa's had trouble sleeping ever since she got back to school, and I heard from someone that Sandoval's been quite hard on her in class. I can march her down to Madam P, if you think it's a good idea.




 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-30 03:51:43**
(no subject)

I think she might need to be marched, given how stubborn she was being about it earlier.


And yes. I'm not surprised. Professor Sandoval does like to keep up a certain reputation, I've noticed.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2014-09-30 03:52:17**
(no subject)

And I'll see what Jude says, too.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2014-09-30 19:02:37](#)
(no subject)

I heard some of the other girls teasing her about not having received her monthly visitor yet.

Why they would choose such a childish topic, I haven't the slightest idea!

But I have heard that ill health can delay such things...perhaps we *should* send her to Madame P.

[2014-09-29 16:43:00](#)

Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

You're losing your edge. That was obvious, even before you accounted for yourself. Suppose sixth year has that effect. No one there expects enough of you post-OWLs, but not yet seriously facing NEWTs. You need serious demands and actual challenge.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Mentioned that to Desai. (Did not repeat your evaluation of her lessons, by the way.) Will remind Toshenka when he's not playing host to the masses. I'll see if I can't arrange several Saturdays or Sundays with you, training. At the very least, you've a Hogsmeade day in October, don't you? Plan to spend that with me.

Your father's facts and artefacts were well worth the trip. Particularly that treacherous shadow caster.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2014-09-29 22:19:42](#)**

(no subject)

I know, and I welcome any advice on how to keep it.

It's not Professor Desai's fault that I've been bored. The lessons are good but my classmates don't present much of a challenge, even with Salazar's Rules. I wish I could sit in with the 7th years.

I'll plan on October, then. Perhaps I should ask Patil and Finnigan if they'd like to train. We've gone out running a few times, but that's it.

Oh yes, he brought that one home several years ago. It's one of his favourites because it took him so very long to learn how it works. There really aren't any followers of Sulis left today, after all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **[2014-09-30 20:22:32](#)**

(no subject)

Ask. Receive. Take advantage of the sparring space your Headmaster's providing.

Aside from that, you might start a round of AK. Ever

played it? Excellent for honing hunting skills. And sharpening instincts for evasion. Tip: define rules to avoid annoying Tosha and staff. You might ask Desai to sponsor it as an activity, but she might be obliged to impose rules that would take the edge off the activity. Best to run it surreptitiously. (Ask forgiveness later if necessary.)

Is there a conflict in your timetable if you were to add 7th year Defence? If you want me to speak to Desai on that subject, say.

Re. Patil and Finnigan. Is there no one better suited you could train with? Doubt that P would enhance your training. Would F? Is either of them at your level? Expect not.

There might be reasons to consider it, even so:

* Would either of them make a notable enemy? If so, is it wiser to train with or without them? (Which of you would benefit more from learning the other's abilities in detail? Given your legitimacy, I doubt the benefit of co-training favours you.)

* Would either of them make a useful ally? (Do you already hold their allegiance? Is it necessary to train with them to cultivate that bond?)

* Possibly it would be useful to cultivate Finnigan in order to cultivate Rosier. That, however, is a very long game. For now, Rosier views you as a satellite--your mother's, father's, mine, since I've taken you on. His calculations will factor whether you're useful or necessary relative to those of us you orbit. (So cultivating Finnigan won't make much difference to Rosier for the foreseeable future because he's unlikely to see you as an ally in your own right, whether you're his fosterling's friend, enemy or mere acquaintance.)

Short answer: only train with either of them if you see a clear and compelling advantage in doing so.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-10-01 01:47:39](#)

(no subject)

There was a school-wide game of AK the year before I arrived at Hogwarts. I think Draco won, actually. I don't think it's been played since. I know that the Headmaster doesn't want a repeat of the

secret Dueling Club again, but AK sounds like something altogether different.


Sitting 7th year Defence wouldn't create any conflicts I couldn't manage. I would appreciate it if you spoke with Professor Desai, yes.

P's ambition may make her an enemy, but not a threatening one. And she has no significant ties within the council, as her friendship with Lana S-P is more one-sided than she realises. I'm less sure about F, but suspect he'd not make an enemy of me unless pushed to do so by someone else.

So, no, I won't train with them. Not at the moment, anyway. The best of the 7th years are probably Harry, Finch-Fletchley, and Weasley. I don't think Finnigan is far behind, though.

It's quite the boys club.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-10-01 05:27:40](#)
(no subject)

Had a word with Desai by fire tonight. Made no promises, but she's considering it.

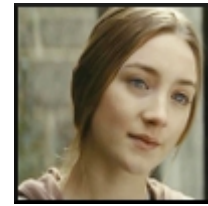
Your path leads straight into a nest of wizards. A boys club shouldn't be any challenge. Particularly that trio. You have the skills to match any of them, if you have the will.

Have sent you rules for AK.

2014-09-29 20:38:00

Order Only - Private message to Justin

Bad news, I'm afraid. Crouch wants me to put the first Hogsmeade Saturday aside for training. As soon as he beckoned me over last night and indicated I was to sit with him, I had an inkling what I was in for. Also, I saw him thinking about how I was going to forget everything he taught me if I didn't get a refresher, and soon.




 [alt_hydra](#)

Did you enjoy the lecture? I knew Daddy would be part of the lecture series, but I didn't realise he'd be the first invited.

Astoria Greengrass was very disappointed that she didn't manage to secure a seat closer to you, by the way. And she found the back of your neck far more fascinating than Daddy's dark artefacts.

No, I don't normally dig around in Daphne's sister's thoughts, but in this case she was rather loudly projecting your name, so I couldn't help but investigate.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-09-30 03:06:11**
(no subject)

Dux,

Dash it, that's well inconvenient, isn't it? But I suppose it's not terribly surprising. Professor Dolohov hasn't indicated he expects anything of me, yet, but I suspect it would be easy enough to wrangle an invitation to practise with him. And if not, I've asked him if Ron and I could arrange a place to work with one another, keep our skills honed, if you follow me. He's agreed it's a good idea but hasn't told us yet where. So perhaps he and I and some of the others could go there rather than down to the village, at least for part of the day. Or I might just invite Harry, if you're unavailable anyway.

I almost asked you if you'd known, but I knew you'd have warned me if you'd had advance notice he was coming. He was in our lesson today, what. Dashed nerve-wracking, especially when Professor Dolohov is prompting one to describe one's analysis of dark artefacts in front of him. Though it was well satisfying to occasionally think, 'You've no idea I'm your son-in-law' and wonder what shade of green


he would turn if he knew. I hope I impressed him, at least a little.

And I wouldn't worry about Daphne's sister. She's quite affable but I'm sure she shares Daphs' desire for a wide range of friends. Besides, it's not as if I'm going to encourage her. I'm a married man!

I'm more interested in why your father had you introduce him to Daphne afterward. Is he simply trying to check on who your friends are?

-J



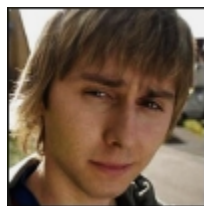
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-30 03:25:39](#)
(no subject)


Thoroughly unavailable, looks like. I wasn't even given the option to turn him down.

I suppose Daddy doesn't alert me to little things like that anymore, or perhaps he himself didn't know the date he'd be coming until just before. I'm sure you impressed him at least a little, but you'll never hear him admit it. Nor will I likely ever hear him think it. He occludes around me almost all the time now, possibly because he doesn't want me to know that he's having an affair with Lana Sandoval (I got that from her mind, not his).

So I can't say why he wanted me to introduce him to Daphne, except that he was quite keen on it. He didn't ask one thing about Moon or any of the other students, so it's peculiar, really. I think Daphne was surprised as well.

Justin, really, girls who are just looking for a friend don't stare at the back of that potential friend's neck and imagine running their fingers through his hair. And Astoria doesn't know you're married, silly. She thinks you're nursing a broken heart and are just waiting for the right sort of girl to come along and mend it.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-30 03:41:52](#)
(no subject)

I know. And I know it oughtn't matter that he'll never contravene your mother's decision about us. I don't know why I care, apart from the fact that I know you still care about him--and his opinion of


you.

I say, Professor Sandoval *was* rather attentive, wasn't she? Funny, I wonder who else noticed? I always thought your aunt fancied him a bit, too, but Draco seems to have it on good authority that it's Auror Crouch she's been seeing romantically, not your father. I say, if infidelity is a side-effect of using Dark Arts, I suppose we'd better be extra careful!

Assuming not, however, Astoria will jolly well have to learn to live with her disappointment, what. Unless you think I ought to pretend to be grateful for a sympathetic shoulder and spend all my time moaning to her about how bally well unfair it is that we can't be together? I could whinge endlessly and see how long she fancies me then.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at [2014-09-30 03:54:32](#)
(no subject)

I can't help that I do. He's still my father. But you don't need to care just because I do.

I don't think infidelity is a side-effect of using the Dark Arts, exactly, but I suppose that if one becomes accepting of some questionably moral things, then they might become accepting of other questionably moral things, if you see what I mean. I'm quite sure that Daddy was faithful to Mummy for many years, though, and even if Aunt Narcissa fancied him I don't think she'd act on it. I suppose anything is possible, though.

Anyway, I'm not at all worried about you stepping out on me, or me stepping out on you. But I do think Astoria might jump at the chance to spend any sort of time with you at all, even if you're moaning about me, so that plan may not be best. She's very pretty, though. Maybe someone else might ask her out, if one of us gives them a nudge.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-30 04:08:16](#)**
(no subject)


I don't think I care simply because you do, love. But--well, I suppose one wants to feel as if there's a hope of acceptance, even if it's based on lies. More to the point, I bally well want him to approve of *you* and your choices--at least, so far as realising that you are the only person who can decide who you love.

Which I suppose could be said for Astoria, as well, what. Although, it did work remarkably well to nudge Remy in Finnigan's direction, didn't it. Perhaps that would do. Did you happen to sense who else she might fancy?

And did you see? ~~Tosh~~ Professor Dolohov's just posted about a practice salle. It could be worse but on the whole I think the secret room remains our best option for training everyone. Of course, there was always the risk he would decide to make it 'fair' for anyone who might wish to use it. We were hoping at the most he'd open it up to you, Finnigan and Patil. Dash it.

-J



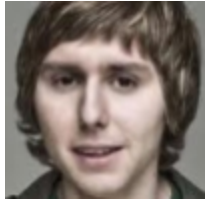
 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-09-30 04:16:35](#)**
(no subject)


I only got a rather large sense of why she fancied you, and it's because you're ever so gentlemanly, but she also likes that you're so capable.

I'd suggest Neville, because he seems quite gentlemanly, but I'm not sure that Astoria would find him capable. He goes to great lengths to seem thoroughly unremarkable, after all.

So who else is gentlemanly and capable?

Odd that she used to see Smith, if that's what she fancies.



 **alt_justin** at **2014-09-30 04:28:36**
(no subject)

Perhaps it's akin to why Brown still fancies Moon, what, because she likes the idea of being sappy and romantic and demonstrative.

I think she and Smith snogged specifically to twit Daphne. At least that's what I gathered from him at the time. But that said, he does have a jolly good record of getting round, more than he lets on. I don't think she'd find him gentlemanly, though he certainly can be capable if he puts his mind to it. Pity he rarely chooses to apply himself, what.

I could ask him who he thinks would suit her, if you like.


Er, after I finish reading this book to help Harry. Oh, I forgot to tell you: Professor Dolohov assigned him an essay on how halfbloods are generally inferior to purebloods. He wants to write a subtly defiant retort, what, and Sally-Anne and I are helping him, so we took copies out from the library to talk about it with him.

(I say, I was a bit worried they might decide that without Draco or Hermione around, you'd be their next target. I know you could withstand whatever punishment anyone decided appropriate but I'm just as happy you don't have to worry about it--this time.)

In any case, it's the sort of book one can only read a little at a time or one grows far too cross. But it has to be done.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2014-09-30 04:38:50**
(no subject)

Yes, Harry was worried I'd be targeted, too. But there's a reason they always threatened to punish Draco, and then later Hermione - it was because it always worked and made Harry back down. They don't know if that will be the case with me but I suppose at some point they might try to find out. The Lord Protector might order Mummy to cruciate me again, but


that could happen at any time for any reason, so I'm done worrying about it.

Talk to Zach if you're able, and I'll try to think further on other gentlemanly, capable blokes who might fancy Astoria.

Good luck helping Harry with his essay. I think I'll go to sleep (Jack's down here tonight, if you were waiting up for him).

I love you. Goodnight!



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-30 04:44:47](#)**
(no subject)

Quite right, too. I think any of us should expect to be a target and none of us must give in. That would just give Voldemort the leverage he wants.

I say, that's all right about Jack. I haven't really needed him to sleep since--well, since we got married, what! Though it is nice to have him here, from time to time.

Sweet dreams, Mrs Finch-Fletchley. I love you, too.

Your

-J

2014-09-29 22:17:00

Practice space available

Sixth and seventh year students: Professor Desai and I have each had several of you ask about space and time to practise your duelling outside class. We've discussed the matter thoroughly, and have set up a duelling salle and training course in the east wing.



Obviously, student safety is a paramount concern. To that end, we have instituted a number of rules that must be followed for the use of the space:

- The space is thoroughly warded against casual admission. Professor Desai and I are both able to authorise passage through the wards. To be added to that list, you must briefly duel one of us. We'll be looking for both skill and a concern for safety.
- The salle will be available whenever you wish once you have earned the privilege of admission, and it is set up for both solo practice and paired or group training. You may use it as you'd like. However, you must come see me or Professor Desai for a brief report within 24 hours after each time you use the space, without exception: this is so we can check you over to make sure your practice has had no lingering effects.
- If you are sharing the space with one of your classmates, or with another professor, you must hold to standard training course etiquette to avoid clashing with each other's practice. If you are unfamiliar with course etiquette, you may ask one of your classmates who have more experience, or see me, Professor Desai, or Professor Sandoval-Pennifold for a tutorial.
- Both Professor Desai and I are happy to conduct training sessions, either individually or for small groups, for those who would like additional instruction. See us individually to make arrangements.
- If we determine you are training in a manner we consider unsafe or too risky, allowing admission to unauthorised students without our explicit permission, or in any way abusing the privilege of the use of the salle, we reserve the right to revoke your privilege of admission.

Please see one of us if you have any questions, or to arrange an appointment for consideration for admission.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-09-30 04:25:12](#)**

Private message to Mr Finch-Fletchley


You, of course, have long since earned your admission; Savitha and I are simply attempting to prevent a repeat of that duelling 'club' disaster.

The course, alas, cannot be anywhere near as intense as the Ourobouros, but I dare say Savitha and I have given it a few surprises, and we plan to reset it regularly. Once you've had a chance to familiarise yourself with the space, perhaps you'd like to design a round. I am also considering an expert mode for students such as yourself, but we shall see how things shake out first.

If we can coordinate schedules, would you care to make a standing appointment? You are an excellent partner.

--T.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-09-30 04:53:25](#)**

Re: Private message to Mr Finch-Fletchley

Tosha,

Thank you. I was just about to write to ask if I could duel Professor Desai, since it would be a better test of my skills to fight someone less familiar. But if you think it unnecessary then I shall do my best to live up to your confidence in me.

I'm certain Ron Weasley will want an admission screening as soon as possible, what. As for a standing appointment: Certainly, jolly good! If I recall from our sessions last year, you are usually free on Tuesday mornings? I haven't any lessons until 11, so we could meet after breakfast. Or directly following our morning run, and a late breakfast afterward.

-Justin



 **alt_antonin** at [2014-09-30 05:12:37](#)

Re: Private message to Mr Finch-Fletcherley

Tuesday morning immediately after our run sounds good to me. I am certain the elves will endeavour to provide us with an excellent breakfast.

And yes, it's always a good idea to vary your opponents as much as possible, but I'm certain Savitha would be happy to duel you even without admission to the salle at stake. You could learn a great deal from her, though I'd like to believe I haven't finished teaching you everything I can!

I'm certain Mr Weasley should have no problems earning his own admission as well -- I would pass him through untested, since he undoubtedly had enough training over the summer in his internship, but as I've only had the chance to evaluate his skills in CCF, rather than in the salle, I thought it best to leave it to Savitha to decide if he could be cleared without screening or not. I hope to get the chance to work with all of you who earn admission at some point, actually. This summer's work aside, I am finding myself embarrassingly rusty, and duelling regularly against the vigour of youth will undoubtedly be good for me.

I do hope you'll be willing to tutor your classmates on course etiquette, as well, or at very least to drop me a quiet word if anyone is behaving poorly. Savitha and I thought about requiring a brief tutorial on things such as right-of-way and the rules of distractability, but eventually decided it would be too much overhead, and of course half of you already know the details. Still, you know as well as I do that some of your classmates are less predisposed to following the rules than others, and although we do intend to be selective on our criteria for admission, one does fret a bit.

--T.



 **alt_justin** at [2014-09-30 19:01:00](#)

Re: Private message to Mr Finch-Fletcherley

Yes, of course, sir. Happy to help, what.

-F-F



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-30 04:33:06](#)

Private message to Miss Patil and Mr Finnigan

I do hope to see you both for admission soon, and both Savitha and I would be happy to provide more focused instruction than can be given in class. The course we have designed cannot be as intense as the Ourobouros or the Auror training course, but we've done our best with what we have.

Seamus, I am certain Stephen has your training well in hand, but if you would like to supplement that training, you have but to say the word. Padma, I am less familiar with your background in formal duelling and less formal battle, but now that you are one of Our Lord's chosen, I would most heartily recommend a regular training regime; Council politics can become rather spirited at times.

--A.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-09-30 19:28:15](#)

Re: Private message to Miss Patil and Mr Finnigan

Thank you, sir! I would very much appreciate the opportunity to train with you.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-09-30 19:30:42](#)

Re: Private message to Miss Patil and Mr Finnigan

Thank you. Of course I would be pleased to take advantage of the space--and the offer for additional training. Even with CCF, duelling in the field is different from class exercises.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-10-01 02:38:04](#)

Re: Private message to Miss Patil and Mr Finnigan

Indeed it is -- and it has just occurred to me that you almost certainly have not had anyone to take you around to the various Council clubs and facilities in New London and get you set up. Remind me to do so -- we can pick a Sunday when you are less busy with schoolwork.



 **[alt_seamus](#) at 2014-09-30 19:33:19**

Re: Private message to Antonin

Sir, I will definitely encourage Padma to make time for this. I don't think she fully realises how often Our Lord's chosen need to rely on these skills. It's not that she's bad at duelling, exactly. She's perfectly competent at every spell she casts, even very difficult ones. But she lacks the sort of reflexes you only develop with quite a lot of training -- I'd say that was really visible on the field in Professor Desai's class last week, when she got taken down in the first five minutes.

It's odd, but our class at Hogwarts has a lot of really excellent duellists, don't you think? Far more than the classes from previous years -- I think Padma might have been one of the best, if she'd been in 7th year two years ago, instead of not even being in the top half. I think it's probably because of CCF. And having Professor Lestrangle leading duelling club, and things like that.

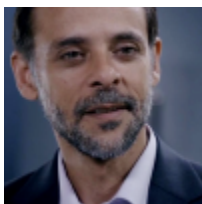


 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-10-01 02:47:06**

Re: Private message to Antonin

Please do. I despair of finding a way to drive home to her that the Council is not a classroom and does not mark for effort and for demonstrating how much one has learned -- the only mark is staying alive. Anything you can do to impress upon her that her naïveté will get her killed will help.

I think you are correct that CCF and Professor Lestrangle's excellent example have influenced your year's duelling ability. And I have often found that success in duelling and self-defence is a self-perpetuating thing, among groups of people: once even a few make it a priority, the skills of the group as a whole begin to improve rapidly.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-09-30 04:35:45**


Private message to Miss Lestrangle

As I am certain Barty would not let you out of the first week of training without a thorough appreciation of course etiquette and the common sense necessary to

train on your own, I will be happy to give you your key to the wards whenever you'd like. Just let me know.

--A.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-30 19:38:28](#)

Re: Private message to Miss Lestrangle

I'm glad to hear it, Sir, and thank you. I'd like to try out the new course as soon as possible, especially given Auror Crouch's recent evaluation of me.



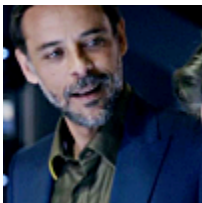
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-30 18:47:02](#)

Private message to Tosha

Reminded me, I've been meaning to ask if you'd cast an eye over my drilling. Friday?

I still feel so very slow and out of step with myself (and I am going to go ~~try to~~ nap again when I finish this.) I'm certainly nowhere near wanting to try your new course, or let anyone (either students or our so-competent colleagues) see, but I'm at that stage where it's hard to judge for myself how badly off I am.

Also, have some thoughts on the first years, like you'd asked. And my niece's comments on Lana's teaching, too. Remind me, Friday, it'll fall out of my head otherwise.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-09-30 19:19:12](#)

Re: Private message to Tosha

If you'd like, I can walk you through the space after curfew one night this week, when it would be only us, and show you the details -- not as anything but a tour for informational purposes, of course, but you will appreciate some of the nuances we've tucked into the space. If only from an infrastructural point of view. (It is not the salle I would design for, oh, myself and Barty, or that Savitha and I would design for ourselves, mind you. But we did indulge ourselves somewhat with the amenities.)

The space is rather well put together for individual general drills as well as a more complex course and space for duelling -- I had your

drills in mind, actually, and thought several others on staff might appreciate the chance to refresh their skills in an environment without the pressure of an opponent. The dummies can be set to any level of challenge, for instance. (I will admit to looking forward to setting them to 'complete beginner' on a bad day and taking them to bits; there are very few frustrations that smashing something will not improve.)

And yes, I will be happy to supervise your drills for you on Friday, and offer what suggestions I might. I know it must not feel as though you are making any progress, little star, but from the outside, you are seeming much improved. Anything I can do to help you continue that trajectory, I will.

Your, T



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2014-09-30 19:26:51**

Re: Private message to Tosha

You are very thoughtful, Toshenka. I'd appreciate that. (Tonight and Thursday are predicted cloudy, so whichever of those might suit, between curfew and my classes?)

The dummies - that's a good choice. I do rather miss the salle at Spence, for that. It's just - well. Beyond the other things, I am feeling rather out of sorts, dealing with the new staff, one way and another. Nothing I won't manage (and they are all a vast improvement on various other former staff, starting with the Carrows in one way, and Lockhart in another direction entirely), but I decidedly do not want any of them to see me fumble. More than is strictly necessary, anyway.

(I am also doing badly at napping, but that is scarcely a new problem.)



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-10-01 03:00:45**

Re: Private message to Tosha

I did forget to mention whilst giving you the tour, dear heart -- your desire to keep comfortably vague about your current status is not at all a bad thing. If you cannot appear wholly recovered, it is

best to downplay the work you are putting into recovery; it encourages people to underestimate you.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2014-10-01 03:23:36**

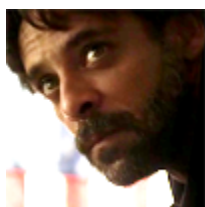
Re: Private message to Tosha

I did learn my defence from the best, you know.

Though it's simple truth that I'm nowhere near recovered. (I admit, I'm chafing more over the apparition than defence, at the moment: I'm still not fit for any useful distance at all.)

I do appreciate the tour. And your comments about how things are set up. (And the attention to the things that really would be a problem. We do not need a repeat of two years ago, at all.)

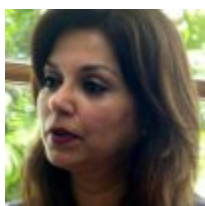
Friday, drills in the workroom here I set aside for that kind of thing? Better privacy (if much less fancy), and I can feed you marzipan after.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-10-01 03:30:25**

Re: Private message to Tosha

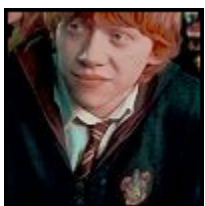
It is a date.



 **[alt_savitha](#) at 2014-09-30 19:38:49**

Private message to Ron Weasley and Antosha

Mr Weasley, you are cleared to use the salle with no additional testing, though in return I may expect you from time to time to work with specific individuals at my request. I have no concerns about your ability to use the facility safely, however.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-10-01 00:18:39**

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Antosha

Thank you, Professor.

I went to have a look at the course between Potions

and supper. (I guess you'll have seen if you've checked the wards.) It's brilliant! So much better than anything we've had. I mean to say, we're going to have an amazing time working in there. (That bit after the third turn is going to be tricky, isn't it? In a good way. Really unpredictable, yeah?)

Anywiz. Thank you (and the Headmaster) for creating it. Well, and for setting aside other things to be here at all. I don't know if you know, but everyone feels really lucky to have you.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-09-30 19:59:24**

Private message to Professor Dolohov

Sir, I would like to duel you to gain admission to the practice space. This afternoon, if it's convenient.

Thank you.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-10-01 02:56:53**

Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

I did spend a bit of time tonight whilst giving Professor Sinistra the tour in re-setting the leftmost dummy to allow for flinch drills as I suggested to you -- I cannot think how I overlooked setting it up in the first place, as I'm certain you're not the only student who has or will develop a damnable flinch instinct.

When you are in front of it, activate it with the usual activation key and strike its left foot with whatever spell you would like for it to make you dodge. It will proceed to fire that same spell at you every five seconds ... or rather, it will choose whether or not to fire at you, every five seconds. The pattern and the randomness, and not knowing whether you will be facing a spell or not at every five-second interval, ought help cure you of that flinch you have developed.

Once you've done some work with it, let me know, and we can duel again.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:48:18](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

Thank you, sir.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-10-01 03:53:25](#)

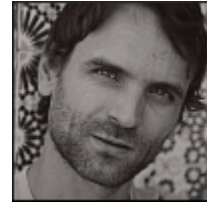
Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

You are not the first student I have cured of a flinch, my dear -- it's a common enough problem. We will work on it.

[2014-09-30 11:14:00](#)

Private message to Barty

Good to see you at the lecture, friend. Hope you didn't find the delivery pedestrian, since it was crafted with an audience of students in mind. Saw your interest provoked by the shadow caster, in particular. Any time you'd like a closer look, say the word. Provided, of course, you don't get too close.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)**

Thank you, too, for keeping my daughter company. What do you know of the other two, Patil and Finnigan? Don't believe Hydra counts them among her friends, even if there is the Rosier family connection, with the Finnigan boy.

Did prod her to introduce me to the Head Girl, who she has some level of companionship with. She's Victoriana Greengrass' eldest. Seems quite poised and polished, worthy of the position.

Which brings me to a curiosity. The June before last, Raz went to Fletcher to request a paternity evaluation. For whatever reason, be it Raz's insistence or Fletcher's own foresightedness, Fletcher mocked up the (negative) results and discarded the samples. My investigations these last weeks have led me to conclude that it was the Greengrass girl who Raz suspected of being his progeny. The one he "ruled out," as you said. Given my recent conversations with Fletcher, it seems she can't be ruled out, after all.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-09-30 20:35:49](#)**

(no subject)

The lecture was excellent. Inherently interesting material, well presented. Presenter seemed to intrigue the audience in his own right, by the way. (Really not in a position to judge that aspect, myself.)

Merely saying: I've never heard Fudge conjure appreciative sighs from a crowd. Just for instance.)

Greengrass. Really? Not surprised Fletcher provided whatever results Raz wanted or seemed to want.

Inclined to pursue it?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-09-30 22:33:44](#)
(no subject)

So I rate above Fudge? What a profound relief.

As for Miss Greengrass: yes. Terrible thing about those school robes is how they attract stray hairs - terrible for a girl, useful for my purposes. Her eyes are very very light, I noticed. Much like Hydra's. Razzer will have done well, if she's his.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-10-01 00:46:45](#)
(no subject)

Well, we'll see what Whirl has to say.

I hadn't noticed her eyes. But now you've invited the thought, it's true she's attractive.

Have you turned up any other grafts on others' tapestries?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-10-01 01:32:21](#)
(no subject)

I'm too old and too married to rank as most eligible anything, but yes, we shall see.

Not surprising. Victoriana was a beauty and Raz no slouch himself, though in the girl's case I'm reminded of my own mother's very very light eyes. Perhaps. We'll see what Fletcher's evaluation yields this time around.

Can't say that I have; as point of fact, Fletcher's mocked up report implied that Raz's potion regimen would have made siring a child unlikely. That may explain why his carelessness didn't result in a string of bastard children all over the Protectorate.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-10-01 02:25:10](#)
(no subject)

Too married, possibly. Too old, hardly. If one believes the rags, age enhances wizards. Word Has It ran a feature in August about Wizards who've aged like fine wine. (Seriously.) And you're not old enough to have made that list.

Mind you, they included Gus Rookwood and left Toshenka off. I think the author might have been afraid he'd object. (Which shows what magazine writers know.)

As for Razzer and sprogs. Could be the other way around: the sustained lack of bastards gave him license to be careless. Either way. You're right: he could have fathered a school-full of bastards.

If he had, though, at least one would have pursued him for recognition, surely.

Still, there's always the chance.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2014-10-01 02:45:46](#)
(no subject)

I'm not ready to be hung up in the broomshed yet - good to know that my fine wine years are still to come.

I'll let you know what Fletcher's report says. And then - well, if she is a Lestrangle, I'll follow up as needed.

2014-09-30 14:37:00

Private Message to Seamus

So. I didn't talk to Tosha about needing to polish my duelling (though, I guess, I need it, although who has the time? Oh, anyway, I'll figure it out). Did you?



 [alt_padma](#)

Do you think it was Lestrage? Or Marvolo? I'll bet French-Finnicky's part of the reason we now have a duelling 'salle' (I mean, that's French, isn't it?).

And I'm not sure I like the way Tosha says Council disputes get 'spirited' as if pulling out a wand and hexing someone else is just all part of normal business.

Not that there aren't people I wouldn't hex just on a whim, if I thought I could get away with it. Weasel, for example, the way he tried to make it sound like I failed the whole side for getting hexed in Defence last week.

But whatever. Duelling. Fine.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-30 19:48:53**

(no subject)

It wasn't me. Might've been F-F. Or Weasley, given how much he's been sucking up to Desai, or Marvolo or Lestrage.

I'm not sure I care that much though because it'll be brilliant having our own course at school. I'd hate to think I had to be grateful to Weasley for making that happen.

Anyway. About Councilwizards and how things get 'spirited.' Remember Julius Avery? That wasn't actually an accident, you know.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-09-30 19:55:14**


(no subject)

Anyway. Here's the thing about hexing Weasel.

They probably wouldn't punish you for hexing Weasley.

But they also wouldn't stop him from hexing you back.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-09-30 20:01:57](#)
(no subject)

Well, they *should* stop him from hexing a Councilwitch. But I know what you're saying. It's a matter of us taking care of ourselves.

I just keep thinking about someone who said that Our Lord needs servants with different talents, that not all of us have to be crack duellists. And yet everyone seems to expect that we'll be thrilled by a chance to become tactical experts.

I'll do it. I just better still ace the N.E.W.T.s.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-09-30 20:08:37](#)
(no subject)

They wouldn't stop him because they think you should be able to do it. And that protecting you from another student won't be doing you any favours in the long run.

We do have to be able to take care of ourselves. When they say we don't have to be crack duellists, they mean we don't have to be Auror Crouch. But we do have to be able to take care of ourselves in a fight.

2014-09-30 15:30:00

Duelling Salle

It's one of those days when one feels truly lucky to be resident in the Protectorate. The opportunity to take advantage of a duelling course such as the Headmaster and Professor Desai have provided is jolly well exciting. I can't wait to test out the dummies; Headmaster Dolohov was bally well pleased with the job he and Professor Desai did on them. He hinted at a few surprises that ought to present quite the challenge.

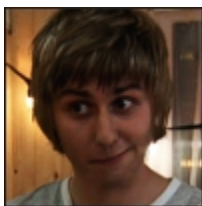


 [alt_justin](#)

The Headmaster has also asked me to provide brief tutorials to those of you who might be unfamiliar with etiquette for a duelling obstacle course. I was fortunate enough to have run the course already this morning, what, and found it quite the workout. I plan to go through it another two or three times this week.

So if anyone would like an orientation, I should be able to take four or five people through the basics in about half an hour. I say, what about Saturday, for those of you who need to arrange your testing with the Professors? I'll conduct one tour at 9:30, after breakfast, and another before supper, at 5:30. For everyone's safety, what, one ought to limit the number to no more than six, so please leave a note here to let me know if you'd like to participate.

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-09-30 20:32:52**


Private Message to Ron

Ron,

I say, did Professor Desai clear you, old man? If she did, let's go tomorrow after Charms? We should be able to run the course once before I've got Arithmancy.

-Justin



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-09-30 20:45:29**


Re: Private Message to Ron

Yeah. I told her I'd go after Potions this afternoon to see it for myself.

It's really all that? (Don't spoil me for it, though. I want to run it cold, first.)

I'll be ready for you tomorrow, though! (Hopefully Charms won't have put us in a complete stupor.)



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2014-10-01 02:14:52**

Order Only: Private Message to Ron

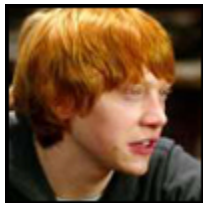
Ron,

What did you think?

Simpler than the Ouroboros track, what, but quite satisfactory in its own way.

How did the new Aurors treat you? Anyone come say hello? Professor Dolohov made a point of introducing me to Phil, what, but neither of us had the heart to tell him we already knew each other. But I hadn't met Mr Broome before, or Mr Dyson. I've met Mr Travers but he wouldn't have remembered. Oh, and Mr Pennifold. Professor Sandoval's father-in-law, that is to say.

-Justin



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-10-01 04:49:30**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Ron

There was more to it than I expected. More blind spots, which is good, and more interesting devices.

I've only been to the Ouroboros the once with Desai. This one's not as long a course or as complicated as the Auror's run. It didn't seem as if there were many spots where too many things could happen nearly at once, for instance. But they built in plenty of spots that'll behave differently, depending on what you did

moving into the area and how you approach and maybe even where you happen to be looking. I'm planning to try different tactics each time, going through, just to see what it'll throw my way.

Yeah, there were loads of them there. Willett (who's nice enough) and Evan (who's annoying) and Montague (who's always annoyed). Right, and Catchlove (who's not as matey in the department as he is down the pub, so that's a thing to factor in). And all the interns were there except Aelis Fletcher--so Davies, Derwent, MacAvoy and Montague. Alfred, I mean. Maybe Fletcher's realised it's hopeless? I'm not sure Davies has much chance, either, but he's the sort who'll stick with it until they turn him down. And maybe they'll take him. What do I know?

Anywiz, I was really more interested in seeing who else turned up, because rumour has it there are rather a lot of other people either hoping to get selected or being recruited to apply. (Those are the ones to worry about, y'know, the ones that the Aurors are asking to apply.)

So I think the chap who was talking to Sandoval is one of them. I don't know his name, but Derwent says he's got a vault loaded with galleons and works security for Harrods, which I reckon explains how Sandoval knows him. Or maybe she already knew him and got the job for him. Anywiz, Derwent says he's sporty. Belongs to a rowing club or something. Not sure what that has to say about whether he'd make an Auror.


Oh, and did you see Serena Laverty there? She's supposed to be another of them. She's working as a charm weaver for Mackrell Security. I expect she's good at it, too.

And there's Hooper, too. Which is interesting because he went a bit queer before he left school, y'know? Not that kind. I mean, well, that kind, too, but he went a bit off after that business with his brothers. I noticed he gave Finnigan a miss. Did you know they were involved for a while? I mean, I didn't really know until later, but yeah. Anywiz, he seems a bit unlikely, but really, who knows, right? It could be he's just exactly the sort of half-mad personality they'd really want to recruit. Not sure what he's been doing, either. That could be important. One way or the other.

I think that's it, unless Eudoxus Troy's one of them. I think he's curse breaking for Gringotts, which they might see as good

preparation for training. I mean, that's solid spellwork, and if you've proved you can work for Goblins, they might think you'd stand a chance with Crouch, right? Not too many people do leave Gringotts for something else, though. Well, Bill did, but he had the Order to think about. So maybe Troy's not one. Not sure.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-30 20:37:40](#)
Order Only


Everyone,

I say, Tosha's not fooling about getting checked after using the studio. It logs every person who enters, so if one tries to use it and does not report, he and Professor Desai will be able to track down the negligent party.

Which unfortunately means we can't all use it for our training, what, but we still have the secret room.

-Justin




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-09-30 20:42:43](#)
Re: Order Only

I think we should be using the salle as much as possible. And working with as many people as possible, not just each other.


Including Dolohov and Desai.



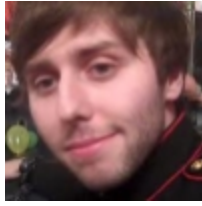
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-30 20:49:05](#)
Re: Order Only

True enough.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-09-30 20:50:55](#)
Re: Order Only

Still. I want to run it with both of you.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-30 20:56:30](#)

Re: Order Only


Ron,

Yes, absolutely. And they plan to 'refresh' it now and then, so we shan't get too familiar with its twists.

I do think their dummies will be a help, as well. We can practise tag-team defence and such.

-J



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-09-30 20:54:45](#)

Re: Order Only

Harry,

Yes, absolutely, and everyone who can ought to take the testing. I wish I could tell you what it involves, what, but Professor Dolohov cleared me without having to duel anyone.

Ron and I had asked for a private place where we could practise against one another, thinking we could open it to everyone in the Order. We got this instead, which is both better and worse at once. It's well-equipped, but the room would have given us that, if we'd asked for it. It's official, which avoids any of the 'Fighting Club' nonsense *and* any waffle about whether or not we're 'authorised' to use it. But the chance to duel *regularly* against two people (or more) whom we're likely to face at some point in battle--that is bally well perhaps the best advantage they could be giving us.

I've already set up a standing appointment with Tosha every Tuesday morning and I hope he'll want to meet more often in time.

It's just dashed unfortunate that it's only open to those of us in years six and seven, as Evelyn and Artie can't join us. For that we'll still need the secret room, what.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-09-30 21:42:55](#)

Re: Order Only

He cleared me already, as well.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:02:37](#)


Re: Order Only

I took the test. It didn't take long. He hit me with one spell that's a bit obscure and doesn't actually do anything right away -- if you leave it, though, it causes muscle spasms that can cause your body to basically tear itself apart. I recognised the hex but I don't know the spell that removes it, so I asked him to take care of it afterward and he seemed really pleased.

I think that was part of the test. So if he casts something on you that you don't recognise, ask him about it, and if he casts something that you know could do real damage, have him remove it -- don't leave and head to the Hospital Wing.

Also, one of the dummies can now be set up to fire hexes a bit randomly. For anyone who tends to flinch. (I flinch a lot.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-10-01 03:45:42](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm going to try to get cleared by Saturday.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-09-30 21:22:49](#)

Re: Order Only

Tosha offered me a tour, after curfew, sometime this week.

I need to start doing more of my own training, again, but I have no desire for Savitha or Lana to know what I'm up to in any specific, so I'll be asking carefully about whether anything beyond presence is logged.

(You all will remember, I'm sure, that there are charms that can show cast spells in a space. *Deprehensio* and its cousins, we were exploring before last year, but I more care about them knowing who cast what.)

Is there anything else I should ask about of use anyone can think of? I'm fairly sure I can get away with asking near anything, between wanting my own privacy and wanting to avoid the problems of two years ago.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-01 03:34:34](#)

Re: Order Only

Right. Tour tonight.

There is a way to log what's been cast. Deliberately, if you want a record, but when I asked more about who might see, he gave me one of those answers that made it clear he wanted to respect my privacy, but couldn't guarantee that Savitha or Lana or someone might not add their own tracking. (Had to think about it for an hour to sort it out. One of those kinds of answers.)


Which makes the thing near useless to me for more than what I want to let them know about, worse luck. Unless someone has a good idea about detecting that kind of charm in action? Rachel, do you know? I do have a workroom set aside in the tower, but it's got nothing fancy in it, just space.

Means you lot shouldn't use anything you don't want them to know you know, either, obviously.

Way he said it also makes me think he'll be logging for a bit, until it's clear no one's going to be an idiot, but that's just - guesswork. Knowing him. I can't pin down exactly why I think it.

Beyond that, there's a list of, oh, three dozen spells, the really dangerous ones, that will send out an alarm if they're used when there's no professor logged entering recently. I don't think any of you will be likely to try them, mind. (Pomona, he wanted me to reassure you on that point, I think. And Poppy. I can explain enough of the theory over tea, if you want, why those and how it works.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-10-01 03:46:53](#)

Re: Order Only

So nothing out of the Auror's playbook, and no Frank Longbottom specials. Right.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 03:36:25](#)

Order Only

Why couldn't the Room have given us something like that last year, I wonder?

Or do you think now that you've seen it you could recreate it there?

2014-09-30 21:50:00

Order Only: The Letter



We reconstructed the letter, we think. Draco and Mr Snape and a little help from Sirius. Anything in brackets was something we decided from context, but there are places we just couldn't make out what it said.

 [alt_hermione](#)

Father,

I don't know if [you'll] ever come back, but if you do, I [will] be gone. I [made] a mistake and tried to make Tom (?) love me. But he'll never love [me] the way I love him. I [] him about the baby and he [laughed]. LAUGHED. I thought if I [shifted the] **(Mr Snape thinks it's lifted)** spell, he would remember something of the way [we fell] **(? (Sirius thinks it's felt).)** But it wasn't [right?]. He doesn't love me.

But you never loved me, either.

You've always wanted the [Grant] line to continue. It will, but it won't be pure. If it's a boy, I'm naming him [Tom Marvolo], to honour our ancestors, but all I'll tell him is about a [muggle] father who had [grateful], and [king], and [winsome]. And he's going to know love.

Don't try to find me. Not that you will.

Mercure **(still not sure about that?)**

We're still working on it but that's at least enough to figure out what the letter was about. I've never heard of anyone named Mercure, though. Maybe it was Mercure? But that doesn't make any better sense.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 03:16:42](#)
(no subject)

And if you can't tell, we've decided that "Mercre" is Voldemort's mother, and that the other Tom is his muggle father, who he's named for. Sounds to us like she decided to enchant him into loving her.

I still wonder if the *tell him about a muggle father who had* is actually *tell him about a muggle father who was*. There are definitely three letters in the word but only the letter "a" in the middle is fully legible.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 03:20:20](#)
(no subject)

Yes, and Draco figured out that it had to be 'Tom Marvolo'.

Oh, I think you're right. But then 'grateful' and 'king' and 'winsome' don't make much sense.... OH! KIND.

Hang on, I think....Draco, where's the original?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 03:27:19](#)
(no subject)

I think you left it next to that massive potions book you got for your birthday.

"Grateful" is definitely wrong. He LAUGHED at her, after all. But then why would she think him kind?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 03:32:38](#)
(no subject)

Found it.

No, it's not a 'G' it's an 'H', I think. If the stem of the r is part of that.... handsome? And the one we thought was -some was the -ful.... wonderful. Handsome and kind and wonderful, maybe.

Must have been while he was under the love potion.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 03:41:31](#)
(no subject)

And that's how she preferred to remember him, enchanted and enthralled.


Well she does have one thing in common with her son: unscrupulous actions in the face of being denied what she wants.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-01 03:41:53](#)
(no subject)

How very sad. She was surrounded by people who didn't love her.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-10-01 03:48:31](#)
(no subject)

I don't find it a bit sad. Not for her, anyway. She enchanted a muggle to fall in love with her against his will.

It's not any different from rape.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-01 03:56:29](#)
(no subject)

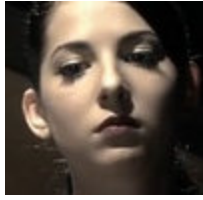
Oh.

Yes.

I suppose I was mostly thinking about how she hadn't felt loved by her father, so she must not have known what it was really like.

But you're right.


What she did was awful, regardless.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:46:18](#)
(no subject)


'Was graceful'? Could that be it?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-10-01 03:48:03](#)
(no subject)

Ooooh. Yes. I could see that.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:21:59](#)
(no subject)

How fascinating.

And if I'm understanding Draco, this letter was written by the Lord Protector's mother (who was a witch) to her father (the Lord Protector's grandfather!), more or less disclosing that she was pregnant with a muggle's child. So, it sounds as if her family wouldn't have approved, but she didn't care that the father-to-be was a muggle and loved him anyway? Only enchanting a muggle to love you hardly denotes respect, does it?

It's so strange to think of where Voldemort might have come from, and to picture him as a baby. Who was loved by his mother. What happened to her, I wonder?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-10-01 03:37:51](#)
(no subject)

Well he told me that he didn't grow up with any parents and came from an orphanage, but that it didn't matter because Hogwarts was his real home.

I mean, that's what Tom told me in the diary. He said it to cheer me up, because I was feeling sorry for myself about Mummy. I don't think he was lying, either. He didn't always lie.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 16:58:03](#)
(no subject)

Hydra, did he ever tell you *which* orphanage? Or where it was?

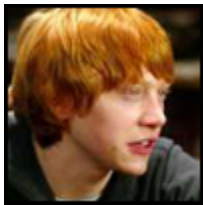
Or did you ever see anything that might give us a clue? I think by retracing his life we'll have our best chances to find where he's hidden these horcrux things.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-10-01 17:32:50](#)
(no subject)

He said he grew up in London in the time between the wars.

The two great wars the muggles had, I suppose? I don't know the name of the orphanage, though.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-10-01 03:40:45](#)
(no subject)

Voldemort probably ate her as soon as he was born. Came out with vicious fangs and killed her on the spot.

I mean, that seems like the sort of baby he'd be, doesn't it?

You're right. It's hard to imagine him a baby.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:46:06](#)
(no subject)

Oh, now babies can't come out evil and vicious, Ron. Something makes them that way, either they're mistreated or have horrible adults around them. Not that it's any excuse, mind you, but there's always an explanation.

If Hydra's right and he grew up in an orphanage, well, that's not any sort of real home, is it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:01:53](#)
(no subject)


Megan Jones got raised by a horrid old lady and didn't have any sort of real home.

She didn't exactly turn out brilliantly but she's not the Lord Protector, either.

Hydra grew up with a real home but she had Bellatrix Lestrange as a mother. And she's brave and kind and decent.

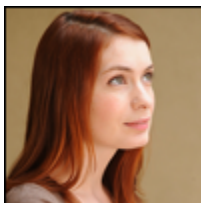
I mean yeah, it's easier to grow up into a good person when you're being raised by good people but at some point you're not tragic, you're just awful.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:06:27](#)
(no subject)

Certainly, but it's hard to determine where tragic ends and awful begins, isn't it? I mean, yes, I see that in the case of the Lord Protector he wouldn't have turned out decent no matter *how* he was raised, or by who, but he may have been far less dangerous, if things had been different.

But I suppose there's no point in speculating, since we'll never know.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-10-01 03:53:16](#)
(no subject)

Nicely done, both of you.

I wonder about that last name of Grant. It's not familiar, but then again, if the line truly ended with her, it wouldn't be. Bill, anything in the records that might corroborate things?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 03:56:48](#)
(no subject)

My mum's first boyfriend had the last name Grant.
But he was a muggle.

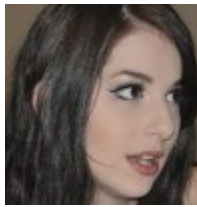
Are you sure it was Grant?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 03:59:12](#)
(no subject)

No, that's why it's still in brackets.

Five letters, starts with G, looks like G_ant, though
the "a" *might* be an "o."



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:04:23](#)
(no subject)

Grant
Glant
Giant
~~Gnant~~

Guant
Goant
Ghant

Gaint
Gaunt

hmm

I really doubt it's Grant. I mean the more I think about it the
more I'm sure I've run into wizards with that last name, too. Oh,
you know what, there's a Grant on one of the trophies. It's not
even all that old.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 04:05:29](#)
(no subject)

WAIT.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 04:15:21](#)
(no subject)

It's GAUNT.

I knew I'd seen it somewhere. There's a book in Sirius's father's study called *Root and Branch: A Genealogical History of the Founders' Families* and it mentions the Gaunts. 'A family that always claimed, but never sufficiently proved, its provenance as a branch of the Slytherin line. However, they are documented to have links to the Peverell family as early as the 1200s.'

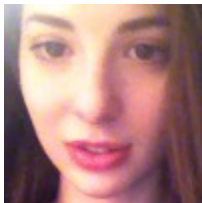
Phineas Nigellus might know something about them, but he's sleeping. And he's ever so cross when someone wakes him up.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-10-03 00:55:27](#)
(no subject)

Yes, definitely Gaunt. Good one, Hermione.

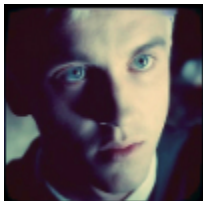
I'll see what I can find in Records, although most everything related to the LP have been pulled.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:07:33](#)
(no subject)

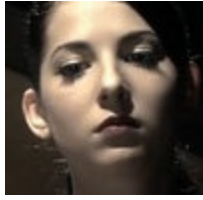
'Mercre' seems like it ought to be 'Mercy' -- that's a name sometimes, a very old fashioned one.

It would be a dead IRONIC one for Voldemort's mum. But could it be Mercy?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 04:11:55](#)
(no subject)

I'm almost positive it has six letters, though.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:18:51](#)
(no subject)

Marcie
Margie
Mellie
Merrie

Monica

None of those really sound like a pureblood girl's name though.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2014-10-01 04:23:56](#)
(no subject)

Mellie sounds more like a petname, and she doesn't seem the type whose father called her something affectionate.

Some particularly old, proud purebloods don't even like to shorten their children's names.

Let's see. Family members, namesakes, constellations, stars, famous wizards or witches, gods or goddesses, virtues.... Those are typical for pureblood given names.



[alt_hydra](#) at [2014-10-01 04:28:58](#)
(no subject)

And flowers/plants, too. Narcissa, Pansy, Lavender.

For stars, I can think of Maia and Merope, of the Pleiades.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2014-10-01 04:39:00](#)
(no subject)


Well, I think your aunt was named for the myth, but point taken.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-10-01 04:46:17](#)
(no subject)


If what we thought was 'c' was really 'o', then the 'r' could be a 'p', easily. Merope. Merope Gaunt. Only it was M.R. so... Merope Riddle? Did they actually get married while she had him enchanted, do you think?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-10-01 04:50:19](#)
(no subject)


Possibly. Or else she was swoonily writing *M.R.* in hopes that they'd marry someday. You know, much the way Padma likely scribbled *Padma Malfoy* on her spare parchments in moments of girlish fantasy.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-10-01 05:03:57](#)
(no subject)


Oh, I'd pay for one of those parchments. Think how it'd make her squirm to know that might get sent off to one of the gossip mags... *New Councilwitch Lusts for Outlaw Traitor*.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-10-01 05:06:35](#)
(no subject)

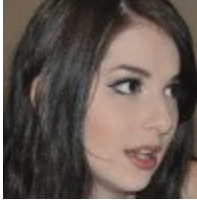
Hah! Secret Passions, Forbidden Romance, truly the stuff of legends.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-10-03 00:58:23](#)
(no subject)

Wasn't Merope of the Pleiades the one who is dimmer than the others? Because she hid her face in shame because she married a mortal lover?

Call it a hunch...but I'll bet that was her name.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-10-01 04:19:29](#)
(no subject)

I mean, from a family that would claim to be descended from Salazar Slytherin, anyway!