2014-11-01 00:01:00
Private Message to Seamus

Are you--do you want to meet me outside of Ravenclaw Tower? We can go up to the Divination Tower if you don't want to be in Gryffindor tonight.

I mean, it's pretty mad here and no one here was even threatened, you know? But I can imagine that some people might be cross with you about tonight. And you might not want to be alone, or something.

Anyway. I think I might head up there anyway, for a little peace and quiet. No one's going to stop you if you decided to come up there.

alt_padma

2014-11-01 05:03:46
(no subject)

Earlier I almost had to break up a fight when a couple of idiots went after the Longbottoms. But things are quieting down finally, I think.

I wouldn't mind meeting.

alt_seamus
2014-11-01 01:35:00

Private Message to Cygnus & Orion

How have we let run away from ourselves? This glorious we ought to be in charge of. Everything we ever wanted feet but it’s all sour sour sour and burning. Your son a traitor. No one to follow me. I told you last time I’d given up on a son I’m failing to find even apprentice to pass on what I can. Bode’s a failure, Strangeweale’s insane. We create a pristine world where the best and we no longer had to cower in fear of pathetic muggles. Now I find myself branded and beholden to our great charismatic hope, the insane half-blood. He’s so powerful. I had to cower and debase today. Because he’s too bloody stupid to that unique magical works are unpredictable and the powerblind fool how closely he’d tied his personal this working. and there’s something off about His magic like He’s split his

You should have control of the situation actually accountable to this madman? He’s on our leash not be the puppetmaster! Fix the other old families falling away. Already Lucius and Dominic my floo calls. Their elves were unconscionably rude the last time. It to be like this. It wasn’t supposed to be. There are wizards, real and witches not just those of debased blood, that are opposing Realm. We should be the shining to the wizarding world, but no one has followed new world. Is it because He is crazy? should be consolidated by now with everyone reaping the our glorious plan. But it’s all falling apart. Towns are vanishing off the map. Not a house or a cupboard behind Fidelius entire bloody towns. No one outside in. No one has come out. But they hum and plus with magic. When I walk what should be the edge I can feel the magic dancing through my blood. It pulses my bowels. The song of it plays in my mind heavenly choirs ringing out. I can play it like an instrument by following runic paths around where Staltash should be. Whoever did this gambled their life on rock solid research. Was it that old goat Albus or the blood traitor Cyrus?

What can we do to rein him in? We must fix this before all is ashes and ruin. Ashes and ruin ashes and ruin ashes and ruin. No NO I will not take your potion again NO NO NO NONONONONONONONO.
Flew the leys until I was falling off my broom last night. Wobbles and little surges, but in the main, everything settled and was holding more-or-less steady after midnight. Think it worked. Won't know more until we use it, but signs are favourable.

Expected the parents to be in a strop today about my skiving off last night's list of chores, but they're having a row about Philip. He sent an owl this morning. Now they're arguing about whether bringing him home would show disloyal.

I haven't heard from my parents yet, but I expect that mum will not react well. I'm less sure of my father, he spouts the party line well.

how much heat has dolohov gotten so far today?

I don't know. I'm down with the Cannons today. I'll write to him and ask if he could use me at Hogwarts to field calls tonight or tomorrow.

There are piles of mail. He's talking to some of the higher profile families, this seems more politics than directly school related. Replying to many others by owl has been delegated to me as a delaying tactic, if
they persist he'll talk to them personally.

Most of the letters are tripping all over themselves to show loyal, but at the same time show fear for their children's safety. I'm making some mental lists to discuss next weekend at Moddey. Many of them sound like I did after the Triwizard & Frost Faire, the dawning realization that even as purebloods they aren't safe. Several are trying to leverage ongoing concerns, health or academic performance as pretext for removal from school.

There is also a smaller pile of angry letters asking why "blood traitors and degenerates" are allowed into the hallowed halls. His instructions on those is to fall back on school policy of allowing all wizards & witches in. "Be conciliatory, but firm". We suspect that more of that nature were sent directly to the Governors rather than the Headmaster, since any change in policy must originate from them.

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@alt_justin at 2014-11-02 21:55:19
(no subject)

Cedric,

I've written to Antonin about helping to answer the correspondence, what.

I haven't heard back but I'll just pop up. I'm sure you could use the help and he'll not turn me away.

-Justin

@alt_frank at 2014-11-01 18:10:31
(no subject)

good.
Oh, that's a relief.

I'd imagine things were no end of awful last night. we needed to keep a close eye on things yesterday, so your mum was out, and colin went with and took the journal in case he had to communicate from a distance. didn't hear the details until they came back first thing this morning.

I'm so sorry, love.

how're you doing? how's your brother?

It was terrifying, and when he started going on about Gryffindor traitors, I thought for sure he'd turn to me and Neville after he finished with Madame Hooch. And I was so very relieved when he didn't, which felt awful.

Some boys got angry at us in the common room after. They said it was our fault, and called us blood traitors. But they got shut down fairly quickly. And Nev and me just put our heads down and kept doing what we could to make people calm down a bit. I was worried that we'd have to leave, if our being there would've made things worse, but after everyone had a chance to catch a breath, it seemed better to stay than not.

There were so many people who needed looking after, dad. Ophelia Oglethorpe was whispering over and over that she wished she was in Hufflepuff instead, and it just made my heart break to
hear it, and Hazel Oxley looked positively grey and kept shuddering. But Sally-Anne was a marvel. She helped settle everyone down. I'm so very glad she was there.

And today is better. The Great Hall is all cleaned up, and we have our table back. Everyone's still very quiet, though.

I'm glad today is better. I'm so sorry, love. wish I could be there more than anything.

you give your brother a big hug for me, will you?

Yes. I shall. And I know I don't get to see you, not til hols, but I do get to talk to you whenever I want, and that is so very special, and I'm so truly glad for it.

I know the feeling, evie.

love you, my sweet girl.
Private Message to Antonin

I'm with the Cannons during the day today, but I could come back to the Castle after supper, tomorrow or both, if need an extra wand to handle floo calls and owls from parents.

Do you need me?
Good afternoon, all.

How is everyone coping today? I say, Corner and I were up all night brewing. I came back to Hufflepuff at almost four in the morning and was too exhausted not to sleep. I've just woken up about half an hour ago.

Would anyone like to go and work in the salle? I'm going to head up there after I've had a spot of tea and toast. If someone else is using the space, I believe I shall go to the secret room and work there.

Voldemort's a dashed coward. He's jolly well thrashing about looking for someone to blame but just remember, it's like a tiny child having a tantrum. It means he knows he's vulnerable.

I say, we can press our advantage by making sure we're bally well ready to stand up to him next time.

-F-F

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**alt_ron** at 2014-11-01 20:20:48
(no subject)

I just left the salle with Crabbe and Goyle going in next. I'll meet you at the secret room. Don't really want to write up that Charms report, anywiz.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2014-11-01 22:05:32
(no subject)

On my way.
Have the hysterics ebbed today? Anything you need?

As with any stressor, we have seen the wheat readily separate itself from the chaff. Some students have spent the day in ongoing hysterics, hidden in their House common rooms, or huddled behind their bed curtains; others spent the day dedicating themselves to service, study, or training.

I imagine that there were few students who surprised Tosha by how they sorted themselves.
Look, I don't know what to tell you. Yes, Philip was there. Everyone was there. I saw him later in the evening because I took calming draughts up to Ravenclaw and he was about as you'd expect.

I have no idea what Madam Hooch had done, other than be Head of Gryffindor House. Our Lord did not share that information with us.

I don't think you need to worry about Gemma being Sorted into Gryffindor. She's said for years she wants to be in Hufflepuff, so I imagine she'll either be in Hufflepuff or in Ravenclaw.
Students of Hogwarts, take heed!

It is said by some of our wisest guides that there is a lesson in every event. Surely we have had events to think upon of late, from which salutary lessons may be derived!

As the poet says:

"But I have found our thoughts take wildest flight
Even at the moment when they should array
Themselves in pensive order."

Let us strive to compose our thoughts! And if you cannot manage that, do exert yourselves to hold your tongues.

Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

I have defended your honour, oh fairest flower. You need not fret.

Private Message to Padma

Morwenna Mullet and Orla Quirke are cleaning Moaning Myrtle's bathroom without use of magic for a reason, and I will thank you not to interfere with their just punishment.

Re: Private Message to Padma

Well, who said I would?

Honestly, Lines. Some of us have more important things to worry about than whether Orla Quirke and Morwenna Mullet have gone and got themselves in some sort of trouble.
Fair point. "Let not my humble zeal offend with its abruptness!"
2014-11-02 15:47:00
Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

Antonin,

It occurs to me that you must have all you and Diggory can do to answer the correspondence that doubtless has been flooding your office. I've finished in the salle for the day and I'm jolly well caught up on homework; I say, would you care for me to come up and help with replies?

-Finch-Fletchley
It says 'GRYFFINDORS GO HOME' nearby the portrait hole. Anyone know who did that? Ogletorpe's in a right strop about it. Not just her.
While I am always happy to hear from the parents of Hogwarts students who have concerns about their children's education, and am pleased that the student body is likewise comfortable coming to me, please allow me to address a few common issues all at once.

Parents: While the honour of witnessing Our Lord dispense His justice can certainly be overwhelming to those who are not prepared for it, please be assured that your children are being well cared for. The great Protectorate that shelters us all does, alas, have enemies who advocate for a return to the dark days of secrecy and hiding, and to defend our freedom and our wizarding way of life it is necessary for those enemies to be dealt with swiftly and without quarter. Those who do not seek to destroy that which we hold dear have nothing to fear. Those who do, have no place to hide. Your children have witnessed the price that must be paid to keep us free from tyranny; I urge you all to use that example to inspire yourselves to your own forms of service, and to carefully look around you for signs that the rot of disloyalty has been allowed to take hold.

Students: Those who still have questions about Friday's demonstration should bring those questions to your Heads of House, or to your professors tomorrow during classes. Those who find themselves still overcome by the honour Our Lord has paid us all may continue to report to Madam Pomfrey for assistance.

I have received a number of inquires from students in Gryffindor House who have requested to be re-Sorted, given the cloud of treason that hangs over Gryffindor's doors. While I am sympathetic, we do not allow re-Sorting of students; the decisions of the Sorting Hat are final. I urge you all to instead work tirelessly to show your dedication to Our Lord, to the Protectorate, and to the good of wizardingkind. The stain upon Gryffindor's honour and reputation may take generations to clear fully, but the process of that clearing begins with your commitment and loyalty.
Private message to Diggory and Finch-Fletchley

There: you may both now begin pointing the less hysterical parents to this statement. I will continue to handle the more distraught ones myself.

I believe I have quite forgot my manners, meanwhile: thank you to you both for recognising the need and stepping up to fill it. I have been entirely too buried in owls and firecalls this weekend to be properly appreciative. Both of you ought to join me for supper tomorrow night; undoubtedly we will continue to be too busy dealing with the deluge to make an appearance in the Great Hall, but I will arrange to have supper catered.

Re: Private message to Diggory and Finch-Fletchley

Antonin,

Not at all. It was obvious that it would need to be done, what.

Of course I shall come again tomorrow. One can already imagine even your statement, diplomatic as it is, might prompt additional comment.

Weasley and I have reserved the salle immediately following Defence but directly we've finished, you may expect me.

-F-F

Order Only

Nice.

Now we're back to people sobbing in corners and fainting in the common room. Not sure what he meant to do, writing this, but if he thought it'd settle people down, he was wrong.
Mind you, I think a few people've woken up to what Dolohov's really about. And they're scared to death by it.

alt_justin at 2014-11-03 04:03:35
Re: Order Only

Ron,

I say, it was probably only a matter of time before something forced the Headmaster to show his colours. His letters to parents have bally well been works of art, what--justifications in all directions, little to no actual explanation or apology.

Incidentally, I wanted to tell you that this morning, Bradley and Peakes were preparing to use the pells in the front of the salle. I told them I was going to work on the course, what, and that they wouldn't trouble me in the slightest. But they cleared out, simply because I'd come in. I say, I didn't want to press the point and appear jolly patronising, but you might be able to convince them they've no need to fear where the Juniors are concerned.

-Justin

alt_ron at 2014-11-03 04:45:52
Re: Order Only

Alright, yeah. I'll talk to them.

It's just that some people have been taking a lot of rough words and some pushing about. I think Peakes and Bradley were just trying to keep their heads down, y'know?

alt_justin at 2014-11-03 04:56:06
Re: Order Only

Oh, perfectly understood, old man. Wise of them, perhaps, considering that graffito.

I simply mean you can likely tell them that among certain of us--the Galleoneers, for example--they need not worry.
So um if you're supposed to bring your questions to your Head of House what are the Gryffindors supposed to do?

No idea.

I expect they think we can just tell it Nick or the Pink Lady, and who cares if it does no one any good.

The big news tonight, though, is that Harry's decided to throw in with us. Since Dolohov's announced that the Hat's decisions are final.

Wonder what Dolohov's going to think of that.

Did he, really?

Harry, old man, I say: Jolly well done!

Thank you.

Seamus Finnigan was not exactly welcoming but everyone else has been quite cordial.
None of the adults have weighed in yet. None of the teachers or staff at Hogwarts, not Mrs Longbottom or any of the rest. I'm trying to decide if they haven't noticed yet or if they're all waiting for someone else to handle it.

I expect we should all go to bed, y'know, and see if they just let it go til morning. It'll be tougher for them to do anything about it the longer it goes on.

That's a good idea, actually. Even if Dolohov tries to make me move back, he won't roust me out of bed, right? He'll deal with it in the morning.
MADAME HOOCH WASN'T AN ENEMY, THOUGH.
and that sure as hell wasn't justice.
madame hooch didn't do anything. she wasn't a traitor. she was murdered just because she was head of gryffindor.
Remember Sophie Fleet? THAT wasn't justice, either.
Thank you for your tireless help Friday night, and bless you for the pastries that arrived yesterday, and for seeing that the elves brought tea this afternoon.

It has been rather wearing this weekend, for all of us. And having not been present at the feast, I can only imagine how difficult it's been for those of you who were.

How are you bearing up? I suspect the numbness has worn off. Have you slept at all?

I'm just dispensing calming, soothing, settling and sleeping draughts of various types and could easily send the elves with something if it would help. (And I be most pleased to hear how you are, even if you don't need anything at the moment.)

Not much sleep, no, but that's not news. An hour here or there.

Lots of stars. Just came in to warm up, it's very November out there.

It's not just this feast, though that's bad enough. It's - I couldn't help thinking of the Games. (You might see if you can find out how Darius Warrington is doing, on that note.)

Had a few students up wanting space and company and no demands, I think, much as anything. And I can at least provide pastries and handkerchiefs and no sudden shocks and tea and biscuits.

(On that note, Mum's sending a package through in the morning.)

I'm just very tired. And utterly not up for explaining how if Tosha said anything other than what he did, we'd shortly be down a Headmaster as well, and that truly wouldn't help much. Not right now.
No, I shouldn't think it would help at this juncture.

I've not had Mr Warrington here, so, yes, I'll make a note to myself to inquire about him. Thank you for the thought.

I take it from your studious lack of comment, that you would prefer not to throw potions at your sleeplessness. That's entirely your decision, but if you would like something, you've only to say. (Believe you know that already.)

Your mother is a lovely, lovely person. And her daughter is cut of the same cloth.

That helps, to hear you agree there.

I just keep thinking about the Games. There was a point, I don't think I told any of you, when Lucius and Dominic and Barty tried to argue for moderation. Anything other than slaughter. I can still hear.

Know how well that worked.

I keep thinking, I'm almost glad Raz wasn't here. He liked Rolanda Hooch, rather more than I ever did.

I'd not mind a potion. At least having it on hand.

We're a school. There's supposed to be teaching. Learning. Can at least do my part about the teaching.

I've asked an elf to bring you a bottle of the Small Mercies syrup. As you'll recall, the dosage is just a drop or two in a cup of tea (or broth, if you
prefer). All you're likely to need is one drop, but there's no reason not to use a bit more if you find it helpful.

One mustn't forget, and yet sometimes our memories pile on top of newer traumas and cause us such distress. I'm sorry that is so for you.

@alt_sinistra at 2014-11-03 05:19:17
(no subject)

Thank you, Poppy. And it does help, and I'd run out.

It - well. Price of other things. Price of living now.

I just saw Harry's comments. Think I'm going to take myself out on the tower again.

Tea, when things calm down?

@alt_poppy at 2014-11-03 05:34:20
(no subject)

Yes, when things are calmer. And let us hope to see such days soon!
hannah abbot's murderers weren't punished. not fair. not just.
**The decisions of the Sorting Hat are final**

That is very good to know.

---

**Order Only: Private message to Ron**

What's the password for Gryffindor tower?

---

Also, did the elves take away Dean Thomas's bed? Or is it still there?

---

Remember Madam Hooch.

---

That's the password, you're not just telling me not to do this, right?

---

Yeah, it's the password.
alt_ron at 2014-11-03 04:17:51
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Are you-?

Seriously?

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 04:20:52
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Yeah. If the decision of the Sorting Hat are final, there's no question where I belong, is there?

I'll see you in a few minutes.

alt_ron at 2014-11-03 04:24:38
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

And yeah, they took Dean's bed out over the summer, now there's just the three of us.

But I reckon the elves can at least bring up some pillows and blankets and whatnot. I'll ask them. There's plenty of room, at least.

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 04:26:49
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Yeah it's okay. I can sleep on the floor if I have to, there's a charm that makes it soft.

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 04:44:50
Order Only: Private message to Neville

Just so you know, I'm moving to Gryffindor.

If the decisions of the Sorting Hat are final, that's where I belong, right?
Whoa. Blimey.

Yeah, you do. You really do, Harry.

One thing's for sure, if you switch Houses now and come to Gryffindor Tower, you'll prove to everyone that you're brave as any Gryffindor would hope to be. You'll be defying the LP, and probably embarrassing Professor Dolohov to no end. I'll bet he didn't remember or maybe didn't know you were sorted into Gryffindor—he was out of the Protectorate then, right?

I suppose I don't have to tell you this, but really, watch your back with Seamus.

I'd better give you a reaction that's not Order Only, too. Except—bloody hell. I've had a spotlight on me, too, being the son of a blood traitor. I don't want to make things even more hot for you.

You don't have to say anything yet. It might be better not to, and wait until we see how Dolohov reacts.
alt_neville at 2014-11-03 05:13:16
Re: Order Only: Private message to Harry
Marvolo

Too late, mate.

I'm a Gryffindor, too, remember. We tend to rush into things.

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 05:04:59
Re: Order Only: Private message to Neville

Yeah, he was out of the Protectorate. Maybe he really didn't know? I sort of assumed he knew but it wasn't exactly on his mind when he said that thing about the Sorting Hat.

I'd been thinking about it already, but yeah.

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 04:54:33
(no subject)

Given that the Sorting Hat knows best where each of us should be, I am moving my trunk over to Gryffindor Tower.

Fortunately all NEWT students have classes together so my schedule won't have to change.

Sally-Anne, I guess you'd better take over as Slytherin Quidditch Captain. Sorry to muck with that, but with Gryffindor Quidditch having been disbanded it's going to be an awfully strange year anyway.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-03 05:06:22
Order Only: Private message to Harry

You can't just make me Slytherin Quidditch Captain and LEAVE SLYTHERIN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
What do you mean, I can't? I just did!
You'll do great.

Wow.
Welcome to Gryffindor, then.

Thank you. I don't know how the staff will take it, not to mention, you know, our Lord. Probably not. But this will be a real morale boost to the House. So thank you for that.

All the Professors have said they expect you to show leadership.
It's not quite the type of leadership they had in mind, though, I'll bet.

Thank you, Neville.

go go gryffindor.
watch your back, kid.

BRILLIANT!!!
alt_bill at 2014-11-03 17:30:35
Order Only: Private message to Harry Marvolo

I can just hear my Dad saying, 'What a sneaky and brilliant chess attack! May be bloody dangerous, though.'

Welcome to Gryffindor, Harry. I really hope you're not biting off more than you can chew, but then that just proves you're in the right House; Gryffindors do that ALL THE TIME. And frequently surprise others with what they can accomplish by doing so.

Try to retain enough of your inner Slytherin, though, to be very careful with what you say the next time you meet with Dolohov.

I'm glad you have the rest of the Junior Auxiliary there as well as Order staff to help watch out for you.

alt_seamus at 2014-11-03 04:57:57
Private message to Marvolo

What exactly do you think you're doing?

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 05:05:36
Re: Private message to Marvolo

Moving back to the House that the Sorting Hat chose for me.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you better as a House mate, Seamus.

alt_sirius at 2014-11-03 05:52:51
Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Good show.
Thanks.

They're not going to let me stay if they can possibly avoid it. But I'm here for now.

You made the statement, though, and that's what counts. That's what people will remember.

Your mother used to say that if someone's trying to kill you, you're probably doing it right. Keep the pressure on, Harry.

Well my plan for tomorrow is to go to breakfast and then Dark Arts. In Gryffindor robes.

I guess we'll see what happens.

In some countries, Harry, Muggles have barristers who argue cases in courts of law. Frequently, a barrister will say something or do something, knowing full well that the judge will order it stricken from the record. It doesn't matter; even if the jury are told to disregard what just happened, they can't. Not completely.

Even if they force you to return to Slytherin tomorrow, no one in the school will be able to ignore what you've just done. You'll have made it part of their record.

Meanwhile, get some sleep. You'll need it to stay strong tomorrow.
@alt_harry at 2014-11-03 06:13:32
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Yeah.

Thanks.

@alt_terry at 2014-11-03 15:26:53
Order Only: Private message to Harry

When I read your post I just about bust a gut laughing at the way you took Dolohov's words. And then I was in awe.

The Sorting Hat is never wrong, as I have reason to know. Congratulations on coming home to your true House. And good luck staying there.
**2014-11-02 22:58:00**
*Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Just so you know, sir: Harry Marvolo just turned up in Gryffindor Tower. I'm not sure how he got the password. He's got his trunk and has put it in the dorm and somehow this bed just appeared, where Dean Thomas's used to be. He's got Gryffindor robes on, I don't know if he traded with someone or what.

Did he discuss this with you at all?

---

**alt_antonin** at **2014-11-03 23:28:23**
*(no subject)*

No, he did not discuss it with me ahead of time, but we've come to an agreement.

Do me a favour and keep an eye on him? I am concerned on his behalf.
**2014-11-02 23:17:00**

*Private Message to Professor Desai*

Professor, I'm sorry to bother you, but I think you ought to know.

Harry Marvolo packed up his trunk with all his things and left the House. I heard about it when I got back from rounds. And I think the elves have vanished his bed. At any rate, it's not there any longer.

---

**alt_savitha** at 2014-11-03 05:26:40

*(no subject)*

Well, that is rather disturbing. Did he say where he was going?

---

**alt_blaise** at 2014-11-03 05:38:01

*(no subject)*

No, doesn't seem to have. No one I've seen yet heard him say anything.

The ones who saw him leaving said he didn't look as if he wanted to be asked.

---

**alt_savitha** at 2014-11-03 05:41:04

*(no subject)*

I see.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention, Mr Zabini.

---

**alt_blaise** at 2014-11-03 05:44:46

*(no subject)*

Certainly.
Private message to Antosha

Apparently Harry Marvolo has moved himself to Gryffindor Tower.

I attempted to go see him there to discuss the wisdom of this decision; the Fat Lady refused to let me in. She said that only the Gryffindor Head of House could possibly enter, the lack of a Head of House was not her fault or her problem, and that perhaps she'd consider allowing you admittance but no one else.

I'll note Marvolo chose a conveniently late hour to make this particular stand, and I've spent the last two days up to my neck in weeping young Slytherins convinced that Our Lord will at some point find them unworthy. The elves report that Marvolo's tucked himself into the bed the castle so kindly provided and is sleeping. I think that is rather unlikely, but if he's doing his best to feign sleep he's at least not drawing further attention to his rebellion in the journals.

I'm going to let you handle this -- both Harry and the Gryffindor portrait. In the meantime, the elves are punishing themselves for having provided sheets and blankets for the bed.

It really is a shame that Our Lord has never allowed anyone to punish His chosen son with cruciatus. It might teach him a bit of respect for the consequences of his decisions.

The year had been going entirely too well, yes.

I shall update you at supper with what we have agreed upon.

Well, that was certainly one way to handle it.
As I am entirely confident you are keeping Our Lord apprised of anything He needs to know about matters at Hogwarts, I will leave all such decisions and communications in your capable hands, Antosha.
2014-11-03 07:38:00
Order Only Private message to Harry

Just got caught up this morning and saw what you're up to.

You're utterly mad, you know. Mad.

How's it feel, then?

alt_harry at 2014-11-03 15:04:47
(no subject)

It feels good, actually.

You did notice I made a terrible Slytherin, didn't you?

alt_draco at 2014-11-03 15:43:24
(no subject)

I figured as much.

You're going to hack some people off, but have fun while you're doing it. Sort of like when I stole from half of the New London shops.

Basically, you're exerting your authority over Dolohov, and by proxy your own father. These are dangerous people who don't respond well to defiance, but you've left them uncertain of what to do, since the defiant one is the Lord Protector's son.

With Hermione and I gone, I suppose the person most likely to take heat for this is Hydra. But as far as I know her mother has always told her to defer to you, so there's that.

alt_draco at 2014-11-03 16:26:31
(no subject)

Course, having Order members hacked off at you is entirely different than having Death Eaters hacked off at you. The most I had to face was a stern talking-to.
Dolohov took me to his office after Dark Arts today and demanded to know what I thought I was doing, changing Houses, and what I thought I was going to accomplish other than to get a lot of people killed, and he asked what I was going to do when Voldemort heard about this and started killing my friends for having encouraged me. Was I prepared to be responsible for the deaths of Sally-Anne or Pansy or Ron, or what if Voldemort started systematically killing Gryffindors from the first year on up.

He asked, 'At what point will you give in? Do tell me now so I can tell Him and He can start there, so we can avoid as many casualties as possible.'

I told him they'd controlled me for years by threatening the people I cared about. And I'm done letting anyone control me that way.

In the end Dolohov agreed to let me stay in Gryffindor. So long as I'm not too loud about it, and I dress in Slytherin robes if Voldemort drops by for supper again. He didn't mention Bellatrix or Barty but that's probably just because he didn't think of it at the time.

Oh and then at supper he'd moved all the tables around and there aren't House tables anymore, you can sit wherever you want, with whomever you want.

He's right that you're the ones I'm putting at risk. Well, those of you at the school, I mean. Draco and Hermione would've been the ones at risk a year ago but not anymore.

I don't know what Voldemort's going to do if he finds out. When he finds out.
Yeah, well. If that's what happens, that's when we drop the loyalty act and start to fight for real. I don't want to think it starts that way or that soon, but if it does, it does.

Only, I don't really believe it will. I mean has He ever paid attention to what goes on here for more than an hour at a time? I guess we'll see, but if Dolohov's not going to tell Him (and you really think he'd want to?) and if Desai doesn't (same question, really)--then I doubt He'll even know you're doing this. Unless you want to be sure He knows.

That'd be a different thing. Not sure I'd tell you not to, even so.

He almost never pays attention to anything going on at Hogwarts. Dolohov tried to make me think he was going to tell Him, but I thought he was bluffing. Given that message he wrote to Draco about children dying on his watch. And I was right.

Good.

Mind you, who knows what's going to happen now he's given us Lana as Head of House. D'you suppose that's Dolohov paying you back? Oi.

He looked awfully pleased with himself just now, announcing it. But I suppose that's just because he likes her.

But I don't imagine she'd want to be the one to tell Him, either, y'know?

Guess we'll see.
I don't think that was Dolohov paying me back. I think he couldn't come up with anyone else.

Imagine being a Gryffindor who was a retired Quidditcher, say, and having Dolohov firecall you to say, 'oh say, why don't you come teach flying to Firsties and be Gryffindor Head of House?' I mean it ended awfully well for the last one.

Yeah, I wonder who he'll get for that. Obviously not S-P.

Seriously, did you hear her? Going on about comportment? And intellectual whateveritwas. I listened to the first three and a half words and then tuned her out.

Do you think he offered her something or do you think he just told her she had to?

Poor Honoria.

She says she should have told the Hat to put her in Hufflepuff.
Funny thing is, Honoria told me one time how much her family hated that she got Sorted in Gryffindor. And now they've got two of them in the family!

Though, honestly, if S-P's going to go on about Ravenclaw like she did tonight, somebody's going to tell her off. Not sure who'll explode first, but it's coming.

I don't recommend telling Lana Sandoval off. She was plenty competent with cruciatus back when she was Head Girl and I don't imagine her skills have got rusty.

(Yes, yes, I'm talking to Gryffindors and so I might as well be lecturing a wall. But really. You won't win the argument and she'll quite enjoy cruciating you.)

Lana's not going to go tattle to Voldemort. First of all, he might get so cross he kills Dolohov, and then she wouldn't have an apprenticeship to become a Master of Dark Arts. Second, you don't want to be the bearer of bad news to Voldemort if you can possibly avoid it no matter whose fault it is. Third, being Head of Gryffindor means he might decide it's somehow her fault. Fourth, if anyone ought to be telling Voldemort about this it's Dolohov, and if she's ever called on the carpet she can say she just ASSUMED he told Voldemort like he was supposed to.

That said, Harry, I wouldn't expect her to be very nice to you. Or to any of the other Gryffindors, for that matter.
Yeah. That's what I figure, too. There's not a lot of incentive to go tell Him things He won't like hearing.

Talk about mixing things up. Lana wasn't a Gryffindor. I can't remember any Head of House that didn't come from that House.

Which makes Dolohov that much more of a hypocrite, come to think of it. 'The Sorting Hat is never wrong,' and then he gives us a Ravenclaw.

(No offence to Ravenclaws.)

Harry,

Just as Ron says. We're with you, old man, and prepared to withstand whatever comes. If it becomes necessary to take sides, he'll find us more formidable than he expected, what!

I say, on one hand I'm well sorry not to have seen the Great Hall rearranged like that. On the other, it means one might be able to strategise one's seating choices--and much more importantly, Cedric and I were able to seize opportunity and check the Hogwarts Book.

You've got Antonin well on the defensive, I should say. Jolly good show. My one piece of advice is to do as they do, what, and choose when to capitulate and when to hold fast. He does have a temper, though he rarely lets us see it. If you keep him off-balance, you'll be more likely to catch him in a mistake.

-Justin
@alt_harry at 2014-11-04 03:24:14
Re: Private message to the Juniors

Good show on getting a look at the Book.

I think he might be planning to keep the tables like that, so maybe you'll see them that way at breakfast?

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-04 03:59:10
Re: Private message to the Juniors

I hope he does! Being able to sit with Ron all mixed together was great.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-04 06:08:48
(no subject)

Merlin, Harry. A bold move indeed. I'm glad Voldemort isn't in the mix on this yet, at least -- you've quite enough to handle with Dolohov.

I very much hope it's a worth while gamble, and can certainly see the value in what you've done. At the very least, you've made it a little more difficult for your fellow students to follow Voldemort's lead in condemning Gryffindor.

@alt_hermione at 2014-11-04 22:24:02
(no subject)

How was it today, Harry?

@alt_harry at 2014-11-05 05:58:49
(no subject)

Everyone spent the day not looking at me. It was weird. Some people stared but then they'd look away as soon as I caught them at it.

I'm in bed in Gryffindor again. I still can't quite believe it.
Hello,

Cedric and I were supposed to help the Headmaster with his correspondence this evening. Harry's, er, situation, what, forced the Headmaster to go down to the Great Hall, but as he'd already arranged for us to dine in his office while we were working, he left us to it.

We took advantage of the rare opportunity to check the Book. Mrs Longbottom, there are four children in need of rescue:

- Buraq Rahman, Newcastle
- Lilias Boardley, East Yorkshire
- Thomas Kelly, Strathclyde
- Regan Doyle, Knock, County Clare

I say, I believe the Rahmans already have one child in your custody, don't they? But I'm not at all certain how anyone can retrieve the Doyle baby. Dashed bad luck, that, unless anyone has an idea or we can get word to someone in the Order already on the island. But perhaps something can be done about her through the button network, if no one can physically remove her right away.

-F

Thank you both.

I'll pass word to Rudy to see if he can track Regan down. He's still on the lookout for Kathleen Byrne, and Seamus Finnigan's father has likewise difficult to find, but it can't hurt to spread the word regarding Regan as well. Who knows? Word may reach the parents, which may help them take proper
precaution.

And yes. The Rahmans. Their daughter Farhana's with us. Merlin, it will be difficult for them. At least Farhana and Buraq will be together. Cold comfort, that.

Bill, love, could you give us a hand with papers?
2014-11-03 22:00:00
Private Message to Seamus

I still can't believe he came downstairs in those Gryffindor robes. Did anyone say anything to him about it, do you know? I mean, can he even do that?

And then tonight, the tables? I don't know whether to call it a stroke of genius on Antonin's part or complete madness.

But what about Lana being named Head of your House? That should help you, don't you think? I mean, given how the rest of your House tend to take on airs. She'll put them straight.

You don't think Marvolo changed Houses just to keep an eye on you, do you? He's been chummy with Weasley since Malfoy was kidnapped, so maybe it's just so he can turn the Weasel into a new best mate.

I've also been thinking about what Antonin said about rooting out disloyalty. Obviously with Lana as your Head of House now she'll be able to detect any sign of treason but I think we have an advantage because we're a bit closer to things, you know? I think maybe that's why Our Lord wanted a younger group of Councilwizards, maybe, because we'll be better able to determine who might be growing into a traitor, because of what they're questioning or who their other mates are.

Oh, I just thought of something: Remember how Malfoy used to say that Longbum was hiding something? You don't think Marvolo's moved to Gryffindor to spy on him, do you? Himself?

Maybe he's decided to go...undercover, like an Auror. And he wants Weasley and Longbottom and the others to feel like they can trust him, so they'll tell him all their worst, most seditious thoughts.

alt_seamus at 2014-11-04 04:25:41
(no subject)

Longbottom and Weasley are both acting like it's perfectly reasonable that we now have a Slytherin roommate in the Gryffindor boys' dorm. Like there's nothing funny about it at all. It's ridiculous. The elves
apparently think it's fine too, since they gave him a bed.

And he's still here. So I guess either Antonin was fine with it, or Marvolo talked him into not interfering.

I rather like the idea of him turning up something on Weasley but at this point it would just be yet ANOTHER Gryffindor traitor. I'd really rather they find one in Hufflepuff next time, you know?

---

@alt_padma at 2014-11-04 04:41:54  
(no subject)

Well, Smith's not a traitor. I mean, no one could be that annoying on purpose.

Macmillan's not a traitor, dating Jones aside. He's just too thick to be duplicitous.

And Summers and Midgen are too boring to be traitors.

For sure it's not French-Flunky. Although, wouldn't it be hilarious if he were? What with dating and *almost marrying* Lestrange, and turning himself into Dovs' darling teacher's pet--I mean, it's just too ridiculous to consider but can you imagine how many pieces there would be if Dovs found out something like that?

And Jones is too stupid to be a traitor. Plus she's afraid of her own shadow.

But Bones...maybe. I mean, there's her grandmother. And I'm pretty certain she fancies other girls, so that's another thing. All she's ever really been interested in is Quidditch, music, and that completely laughable teatime of the strange that she got up to with Porkinson and Smirks.

You know, it's too bad we can't suggest rooting out disloyalty in *Slytherin*, know what I mean? I think they're all so used to being able to get away with anything, they probably all can say whatever they want and no one would dare question it.
Well, I agree with you, but there's all the other years, you know? I just want them to find a traitor in some other House for once.

Though, I mean, last year there was Malfoy and whatever happened there. Marvolo's mudblood was up to who-knows-what right under his nose, possibly with his best friend, and he never had a clue.

Anyway I agree about Slytherin. People just take it for granted they're on the right side over there. Though they're sharing a House with Hydra Lestrange, you'd think she'd probably notice if someone were thinking disloyal thoughts all the time.

I know Malfoy always thought Longbottom was hiding something. And people always think of the Longbottoms when blood traitors come up -- I almost had to break up a fight on Friday night. But honestly, just because someone's parents are worthless doesn't mean they are.

Well, there was Fleet, the year before that. She was in Hufflepuff. And I know, there are other years besides ours, I was just taking ours as an example. Besides, I hardly know everyone in Hufflepuff, do you? I don't even know half the Ravenclaw firsties' names.

Anyway, I do think we should be sharpening our detection. Not in an Umbridge way, I mean, but just...if Marvolo and Malfoy could be fooled by that mudblood, then any of us could be missing something. You know?

And I think it would be a really nifty thing, for us as new Council wizards, to prove we can contribute.

I told you, I was so terrified that He was coming on Friday to see how we were doing. I know what happened was--awful, but at least it wasn't our fault, either of us. And you were right not to go
join them, I mean, He recognised you among all the Gryffindors as being different. Above reproach. Well, you know what I mean. Utterly loyal. And you are. All the ways you've already proved it.

I haven't done nearly enough yet. But if I caught a traitor....
Rachel, how many of our regulars wound up arrested?

Do you know what's happened to them?

I don't know how many of the people arrested were regulars.

They got sixteen people during the raid. They were all handled rather brutally, because Bellatrix was infuriated that Sirius Black had slipped through her grasp again. I think the survivors have all been transferred to the Vail of Health.

Since then, they've been following up leads. They're being quite a bit more patient with those -- they've brought in dozens for questioning, but most have not been tortured, and some have been released. Mind you, some were released so they could be surveilled, so be really careful if there's anyone you're thinking of making contact with. There have been at least fifty, I think, brought in to see if they let anything slip. Of those...there were four or five who wound up in Truncheon's dungeon. Some of the ones they let go are destined for it sooner or later, I think, but first they want to see if they try to make contact with anybody.

More than fifty?
Truncheon gets a lot of false leads.

You use cruciatus on someone, they'll swear they saw Sirius Black trading Chocolate Frog cards with their upstairs neighbor, if they think saying so will get you to stop.

Legilimency helps a bit, sorting out the true from the false, but sometimes it just means they convince themselves what they're telling you is true. And then you've got leads galore, all of which have to be checked out, most of which will turn out to be utter rubbish.

Everyone taken that first night was tortured. Most of them didn't know anything. But they'd all confessed by the end to knowing whatever they thought the Aurors wanted to hear. Some of them even confessed to being part of the Order. The rest, well, the Crimsons got a lot of press recently, and there's always Dogstar. IMA. You know.

That's not surprising, Moony. Questioning one person leads to three more. And our little community attracted people who were already dissatisfied or unhappy with the Protectorate, so, even if they weren't part of our little band of rebels, there's a higher likelihood they were involved in something MLE will consider unacceptable.

Alice, we were able to get word to the people we'd approached, Tim Wang and Rebecca Kestenbaum. And who was the other one, Moony - Edna or Gladys? None of them were there that night. Or - wait, perhaps Tim was there and got away. I'm not sure. Anyway, they all should be getting to safety. Davidson might hear from them if any of them try to get to Sherwood.

It's getting harder to give them places to go between the Fidelius-protected areas and knowing that MLE are stepping up their surveillance.
Glad to hear that, about Rebecca.

Yes. That is good to hear.

You're thinking of Edna Parsons. Gladys Malone hasn't been round in months. Edna's the one whose landlord was working with Beth's network. She got the hell out as soon as the anti-apparition ward was lifted, I think.

Gladys moved out of New London for some job. I can't remember what. Hopefully she's far enough out of things that MLE won't come knocking.

Which means Beth's likely lost another way-station on her railroad.

Merlin. This is all my fault.

Don't be an arse, Padfoot.
All right, I know it's not really my fault. We're at war; things happen.

I just wish we could take a bloody stand and get it over, already.

And I should have killed her when I had the chance. Even if it meant Grouch killing me.

I thought the risk that held you back wasn't Grouch killing you, it was you missing Bellatrix and hitting poor Miss Hibbings.

In retrospect you should've taken the risk, yeah. She'd have been better off.

Well, yes, initially. But when she was down, I mean. In the four seconds before Farty would have closed on me.

Next time - if there is a next time - I won't hesitate.

I know you won't.
Gladys always struck me as having good sense. I'll bet she'll be able to keep her head down.

Do you think if we were careful about it, a non-Fidelius safehouse might be of use?

I think it's an enormous risk. Sooner or later, someone who knows where it is will get picked up, and MLE will put it under surveillance. At least Sherwood Forest is rather large.

Frank and I have been talking strategy -- how to potentially use the investigation to set something up -- and Saltash came up as a possibility.

We could make MLE think they've got access to Saltash, and then overpower everyone who comes through the barrier. They'd concentrate their energy on breaking into a larger safehouse, possibly taking the heat off of their current investigation. I believe that none of them know about the properties of Saltash yet, and they would be taken completely by surprise by the null field.
That would likely involve someone willingly giving themselves up to feed MLE the information we need them to get, Allie.

Unless you've got another idea to get them interested.

Either way, if we do something like that, I'm in.

We could have the Secret Keeper write it down, let it fall into the hands of MLE somehow.

Oh, yeah. No way they'll expect a trap if we try something like THAT.

Regardless of whether they'd expect a trap, they still wouldn't expect a null field.

And if we're careful enough about how they get their hands on it...

make them work for it, or think it's a real find.

I'm loathe to ask anyone to be a sacrifice here, but if there are people already on the run, people we know will be snapped up eventually...
Or we could create a safehouse, one meant to be found, and have it there.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-05 02:22:36
(no subject)

If we pass along the secret to Saltash to people who are high risk, some might be able to take advantage and escape. And those who do get caught, they’d lead MLE right into a trap if we played it right.
2014-11-05 08:27:00
Happy Birthday, Ernie!

Good morning,

If you see Macmillan, take a moment to wish Hufflepuff's senior Prefect many happy returns of the day!

-Finch-Fletchley

alt_harry at 2014-11-05 15:34:07
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Macmillan!

alt_ernie at 2014-11-05 22:01:07
(no subject)

Er.

Thanks, Marvolo.

alt_ernie at 2014-11-05 22:00:03
(no subject)

Ta very much! Too bad I didn't have the sense to time things so I'd come of age on a Hogsmeade weekend, hey?
I thought you'd all like to know that Edna Parsons and Craig Cantrell were picked up by the Sherwood band on Monday night.

They'd been camping in the forest for nearly a week. Ms Parsons had a go-bag ready and she said she'd read the papers on the 3rd and suspected she had to run. She was just waiting for the anti-apparation wards that MLE had put over the area to be lifted. Before she could leave, though, Craig showed up.

He'd cared about Ellie, you know. He also read the papers--well, I mean, he said Mr Parritt likes to have his paper brought to him at breakfast, and since Craig puts together their meals and sets their table, he likes to read the paper quickly ahead of time. That way if there's anything that will upset the family, he's prepared.

So he saw that Doughty Conduit had been raided and he read about the arrests. And when it said that the Ponds' muggleborn had been among the casualties, he said something 'snapped' and he knew what he had to do. He put together breakfast and made up a list of groceries for Mrs Parritt. Then he told her afterward that he would have to go to Harrod's for the shopping, since he couldn't go to Laszlo's anymore. She gave him the money and he just left with it. Just walked out. He knew he'd have a couple of hours before they realised he wasn't back.

Somehow he got to Edna. I think maybe he and Ellie had had some private conversations, about what to do if he ever needed help and we weren't available for some reason. Edna lived right round the corner, after all, so if he'd come to Doughty first and couldn't find Ellie or Dora or Mr Lupin, she wasn't too far away. Well, he found her just before she was about to set off, so she side-alonged him away.

They've been warding their campsite, that's why Sherwood's people didn't scout them until a couple of days ago. They were being held and questioned in case they were impostors, but when I got here, Tim asked me about them and I vouched for them. Craig in particular knew things about Ellie that he couldn't have learned from your Grim Truth, Sirius. So they're safe now, for now, and they're supposed to talk to Mr Davidson sometime today or tomorrow about how they can
contribute.

We're off to have a spot of lunch but I wanted to let you know they're here.

---

@alt_hermione at 2014-11-05 18:24:39
Private Message to Sirius

Oh, and he wanted me to tell you that he just read your Grim Truth, and asked me to thank you for writing about her.

@alt_hermione at 2014-11-05 18:25:16
Re: Private Message to Sirius

And he also says, it's not your fault. You didn't make her step in front of you.

@alt_nymphadora at 2014-11-05 21:31:52
(no subject)

Good. That's very good to hear.

Might pop over and say hello once popping over is something I can do again.
Please avoid the first floor corridor leading out to the Quidditch pitch

There is a substantial mess that needs to be cleaned up. I've notified Milland.

In the meantime, anyone heading out should use an alternate exit and go around.

---

In four-foot-high letters there is graffiti saying, 'Remember Hannah Abbot! Remember Madam Hooch! Remember Draco Malfoy! Remember the Frost Faire!'

I sent Milland to remove it as quickly as possible. I thought that preferable to a full investigation, in this instance.

There's now graffiti by that bathroom with the ghost in it. 'I remember Sophie Fleet.'

I have Milland working on it.

And still more.

It's the work of more than one. I think it might be necessary to pick a scapegoat and make a dramatic example.
@alt_antonin at 2014-11-06 14:01:21
Re: Private message to Antosha

Why only one?

Keep your ears open this morning to see if you can determine any of the responsible parties more accurately, but I'll ask Padma, Seamus, and Hydra to do so as well; they will likely hear more. I'll call the three of them up to my office after lunch, along with the most likely suspects; it will be good for them to have an opportunity to mete out discipline.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-05 23:42:25
Order Only

I heard there's writing on the wall saying 'remember the Frost Faire.' Did anyone see it before Professor Desai closed off the corridor?

@alt_evelyn at 2014-11-06 03:52:03
Re: Order Only

Really?

I saw 'I remember Sophie Fleet' by Myrtle's bathroom.

Was that one of us?

Daphne, perhaps we ought to take special care to put our people on night rounds for Prefecting, in case whoever it is decides to do more.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 04:18:30
Re: Order Only

On my way to Slytherin just now, I saw where someone had written, 'I remember Sarah Fawcett.' It's kind of small and easy to miss and it's a staircase that moves around a lot. I wonder how long it'll be till it's gone?
alt_justin at 2014-11-06 04:37:27
Re: Order Only

Sally-Anne,

No, but I added one near the Charms corridor: 'Remember Thomas Capper.'

-F-F

alt_ginny at 2014-11-06 04:52:11
Re: Order Only

I wrote, 'Remember Dean Thomas.' Near the staircase to Ravenclaw Tower.

alt_justin at 2014-11-06 04:54:59
Re: Order Only

Ginny,

I say, good show!

I wonder if tomorrow you, Daphne, Hydra and Sue could all take prefects' rounds. You could positively fill the castle with remembrances and then report the odd phenomenon, what!

-Justin

alt_seamus at 2014-11-06 04:35:22
Private message to Professor Desai and Headmaster Dolohov

I assume there was something written on the wall?

Near the library, someone's written, 'I remember Headmistress McGonagall' on the wall. I wasn't sure how to remove it so I covered it up, if you want to have Mr Milland take care of it.

Would you like help finding out who has been doing this? Perhaps we could require handwriting samples from every student?
Having taken a closer look, it appears the person or persons responsible have attempted to disguise their handwriting; I have not been able to identify any of the culprits from handwriting, at least.

Stop by the Head Table at some point during breakfast, and bring Padma with you; I will speak with Hydra as well. I'd like the three of you to keep your ears open this morning and see if you can hear anything about who's responsible. Then, come up to my office after lunch; we will get to the bottom of this.
2014-11-06 08:42:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Quiet morning here after a remarkably quiet Fifth of November.

Broome's just called to enquire whether we'd be needing the usual appointment to brief Our Lord on chaos and calamity. Assured him we would not be providing him with Court theatrics today. Expect to be summoned to report, anyway, as camp and civil enforcement success is not what He will have anticipated.

Trust you're having a quieter week than last?

When He asks, shall I tell him you are available or stretched too thin for the week's tutoring in Inferi management?

---

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-06 16:18:26
(no subject)

Up to my arse in alligators and frantically paddling to drain the swamp, actually. Mostly fallout due to the Halloween festivities. Half the children are still in vapours and the other half are looking to express their incoherent anger, with me in the middle trying to figure out the best way to keep them all from spreading hysteria or talking each other into doing something that will get someone killed. It has been one of those weeks.

I'm glad your Bonfire Night was quieter than it could have been, though. One of us ought at least have some peace and quiet.

I do not want to anger Him when His temper is so uncertain. I will make time, on Saturday at least if nothing more.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-06 16:32:46
(no subject)

Hysteria can't be allowed to take root. Smack sense into them. Before bad goes to worse.
Could come for supper if that would help quell idiocy.

Perhaps in a few days -- one does not wish to appear as though one needs reinforcements to handle matters of student discipline, after all.

A holiday would be nice, however. I suppose it is a pity after all that you didn't have a more energetic Bonfire Night; it might have been a pleasant diversion to invite myself along on the cleanup. Do keep me in mind if something comes up.
**2014-11-06 08:56:00**  
*Private Message to Seamus and Padma*

Saw you finger Igraine Archer at breakfast.

Thanks for your efforts, but I will be managing Slytherin on my own.

---

**alt_padma** at **2014-11-06 16:10:32**  
*(no subject)*

I'm sure Finnigan didn't mean to step on your toes, Lestrange. You know how it is: As Prefects we have to be impartial about House. If we see something that needs correction, it's our duty to correct it, regardless of whether the culprit is in our own House or someone else's.

I don't think that's changed since joining Our Lord's service. In fact, I would say it's even more important.

I'd expect the same if you came across a Ravenclaw acting out of turn.

---

**alt_hydra** at **2014-11-06 16:18:23**  
*(no subject)*

Can Finnigan not speak for himself?

Laughing at breakfast is not acting out of turn. You're wasting the headmaster's time if you look for reasons to bring in as many people as possible.

I realise you're both eager to prove yourselves, but so far you're just proving that you're eager to prove yourselves.

Efficiency is the way.
Someone sitting near Archer had just mentioned seeing some of the graffiti. You don't think it's suspicious she found that hilarious?

No, because she was actually laughing about how stupid it was to vandalise the school when a council wizard is Headmaster.

But go ahead and pass on her name. I'm sure it will be good for her, either way.

Leave the rest of Slytherin to me.
Private message to Padma Patil

It's good to finally feel useful.

I've been thinking about who we ought to suggest Dolohov bring in to answer questions about the writing on the walls. I completely agree with Weasley and Longbottom, actually. Also Bundy. But what do you think about some of the Slytherins? And is there anyone in your own House you think might be involved?

I was thinking about what you said before, how it's always the Gryffindors and why can't we find traitors in any other House for a change. What about Remy Jugson? You and he used to be close but you haven't been talking about him for ages. He's just the sort of troublemaker who'd find all this fuss terribly amusing.

If there are any Ravenclaws involved, Rubens and Ross are probably part of it. And the thing is, the messages we've heard about so far all seem like they should be coming from the older students, but it's possible I guess that some of their younger siblings are stirring things up.

Also, good on you for going and telling Archer to shut her gob.

Well, apparently Hydra thinks the Slytherins are all her territory. I can't imagine she'll turn in Remy, he's her cousin after all.

We were drifting apart already. And then after I took the Mark -- he said it just seemed weird. I think I changed in his eyes, even though I'm exactly the same as I always was.

You're right, it's just the sort of thing he'd think was a laugh. Not because he's disloyal, because it would get people riled up.
Yeah, good thought on Rubens and Ross.

I had my eye on Belisarius Burbage this morning, too.

Luna Lovegood! Though I'd half expect hers to say 'remember the blithering humdinger' or something mad like that.

Oh, Loony! Of course. Honestly, we might do the whole school a favour, there.

So maybe we can't name Porkinson and Perks without crossing Hydra.

But she didn't say one word about know-it-all Hufflepuffs.
2014-11-06 09:19:00
Order Only- Private message to Juniors

Dolohov wants Padma, Seamus, and me to find out who's behind the vandalism, and those other two have gone on a mad quest to rope in as many people as possible in order to please him. I'm sure every 6th and 7th year Gryffindor is on their list by now, and now they're looking for people from other houses.

Dolohov didn't say it, but I saw him thinking over the possibility for punishments, and at the top of his list is something big, like maybe a mass cruciation.

So far I've given Dolohov the names of Featherstone, Mackrell, and Midgen. And I'll probably pass on Bode and Stein, next.

I should probably name someone I'm friends with, as well.

Anyway, I told Seamus and Padma to leave Slytherin house to me, in addition to making it clear that they were coming across as foolishly eager instead of reliable and efficient.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 16:37:52
Private message to Hydra

Do you think you need to name someone from Slytherin, specifically, who you're friends with? That's not a terribly long list.

alt_hydra at 2014-11-06 16:42:37
Re: Private message to Hydra

Norma and Cressida are my roommates, but we're not close.

Remy is also a possibility. After all, if one of my cousins turned traitor, I probably ought to be suspicious of the other.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 17:02:20
Re: Private message to Hydra

I could actually believe Remy wrote one of the pieces of graffiti. Or certainly that he approved.

Does Dolohov know you're not close to your roommates? If you think you need to turn in someone you're actually known to be close to, you could tell Dolohov that you saw that I'd seen the one about Sarah Fawcett and not said anything to anyone, or done anything about it. Because that'll make you look loyal but 'I saw this thing and didn't say anything' isn't going to get me turned over to MLE or anything like that.

I mean, I'd rather it be me than Pansy, if you have to turn one of us in for something. (And if Pansy's right and they're going to turn one or both of us in anyway -- do you think they are? -- anyway, you should be the one to get 'credit,' not them.)

alt_hydra at 2014-11-06 17:11:49
Re: Private message to Hydra

Does anyone think I'm close to anybody? Most people think I'm Harry's bodyguard rather than his actual girlfriend, and they think that Justin is my ex, which is technically accurate, and they think I'm on reasonably good terms with some other people, but the only person who has been an actual friend since I came to Hogwarts is Remy.

Why would you rather it be you than Pansy? She's got far less to lose than you, and she'd tell me that she'd rather it be her than you.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 17:17:04
Re: Private message to Hydra

I HATE it when my friends get hurt. I HATE IT.

I can't do anything to protect Ron or Neville but I can at least try to protect Pansy.

Anyway I don't know if anyone thinks you're close to anybody
but you spend more time with me and Pansy than you do with a lot of other people. I think of you as one of my friends, and not just because we're on the lock together.

You're probably right I have more to lose than Pansy does.

I just won't turn in either of you, obviously.

Remy it is, then.

Mind you, if you think they're going to listen to you and you can get away with just turning in your roommates and Remy I'm not ASKING to be turned in.

Nice.

Shame Sprout doesn't have lemon trees in the greenhouses.

I can't say for certain it'll be a mass cruciation, but it was one of the ideas that flicked through his mind, yes.

Yeah. Unless..d'ye think the elves might have any they're hoarding for special occasions?
I reckon this could count as a special occasion.

Madam Pomfrey keeps some on hand.

If Seamus and Padma are in charge, we can already guess half the names they're going to provide.

I wonder if they'll put me on it, even if you've told them not to?

If they don't do as I requested then I'll have to retaliate in some way, which I'd rather not have to do. But I'll do it if it comes to that.

If you need a Gryffindor goat, I'll volunteer.

I did put up the message about Hannah, after all.
Re: Private message to Hydra

Maybe. Gryffindor will be taking a big hit on this, no matter what.

You could tell him I did it.

Turn in my own boyfriend?

Does that mean we'll break up, or that we just have a very unconventional relationship?

I could go to Dolohov myself.

I'm not sure that's the soundest strategy, and I'm not just saying that in a "keep your head down, mate" sort of way.

I'd like to know what Weasley thinks of the idea.
alt_ron at 2014-11-06 19:01:56  
(no subject)  
What? Of Harry going to Dolohov himself and saying, 'Don't punish anyone! I confess! It was me that did all of it!!'?

Yeah. I think Dolohov would think you're being a hero, Harry, and he wouldn't buy it for a minute.

Plus, I think he'd be annoyed.

Which would probably not make this a better day.

alt_daphne at 2014-11-06 17:26:22  
(no subject)  
You should turn in Astoria, obviously!

Or...

I hate to suggest it, but what about Blaise? I know he didn't write any of the graffiti, but I think he might have agreed with the one that said "Remember Draco Malfoy."

Blaise would never turn disloyal of his own accord, and would likely never be a rebel, but I think he could become disenchanted with the Protectorate quite easily, if the right buttons were pushed.

alt_hydra at 2014-11-06 17:36:02  
(no subject)  
Maybe. I'll try to get a look into his head sometime today, and go from there.

alt_draco at 2014-11-06 17:38:32  
(no subject)  
Hydra, I know you can't legilimise the whole school in a day's time, but one thing you might do is single out the people who are thinking about the graffiti, but trying not to think about it. In other words, not those
who wrote it, but who are bothered by it, or moved by it, or otherwise have it floating in their brain.

And if those people get pulled in as some sort of mass punishment, well, they might actually start to identify with the messages that have been showing up on the castle walls.

Most of the Slytherins are thinking of it as a lot of bother, if they’re not actually a part of the graffiti movement itself.

Remy does find it exciting, though. Millie is troubled by it; so is Darius Warrington.

If I turned in Norma, Cressida, Millie, Darius, and Remy, that would be a good range of people - some I'm close to and some I'm not. None of them are rebellious like us, really, but they all might have the potential to be.

Tip them over the edge, other words.

I think that's quite a good idea.

Might not work with all of them. Some could just take it as a sign they need to straighten up and fly right from now on.

But I've found that being unjustly cruciated can do a lot for building up one's inner-resentment.
You'd think it wouldn't take higher Arithmancy to realise that. Dolohov always seemed to get that honey's better than vinegar for keeping people loyal, but I think Halloween changed his strategy. Or his temper, anywiz.

Dammit

If you do end up on Patil's list or Finnicky's go to the loo before we get called up.

Auror tip.

And, yeah.

Well, I didn't. But thanks for the tip, it might come in useful sometime.

Your sister's the one who needed

I'm sorry if any of the Juniors get hit with this. ANY of the kids at Hogwarts. Cruciation is...well, nobody should have to go through that, ever.

And Hydra, good on you for warning us first. Thanks.
I hate this.

I mean, I hate waiting to see whether Patil and Finnigan went along with Hydra telling them to leave Slytherin to her. Because Hydra's not reporting either of us. But there's nothing to stop Patil or Finnigan from doing it other than Hydra's say-so.

And I hate knowing that Finnigan's surely going to report Ron because WHY NOT use your personal grudges to hurt people for no reason. And there's absolutely nothing either of us can do about it.

Maybe it won't be as bad as Hydra thinks.

Maybe it'll backfire, and make more people think twice about things, like Hydra said.

I bet Patil and Finnigan aren't going to have many friends after today. Everyone knows they'd use it to their advantage, and everyone can see it isn't fair, or based on who actually did things.

I hate it too.

Well, we're not on the list.

But Ginny is, and Luna, and Ron, and Justin, and Evelyn. And Sue.

And also Lavender because it's ALL the Gryffindors in our year (unless you count Harry) and the year below us.
Merlin.

As if the Gryffindors needed any further reason to be frightened and angry.

It could be far, far worse.

He could've made it into a proper investigation.

I know.

If he actually cruciates all the people he's calling in, I'd say it's rather clear he doesn't care who's doing it. He just wants it to stop, and thinks punishing a whole lot of people at once will make it stop.

And this way, it's just so patently clear that it's unfair, and about control and silence and fear.

If he's trying to not remind us of Umbridge, he's failing.

That doesn't make it any easier to go through, of course.

I'm going to go wait down by the gargoyle for people to come down. I have some of the potion Madam Pomfrey gives people. (I know everyone talks about lemons but someone at St Mungo's
actually looked into this and the proper potion works better.)

Come wait with me?

@alt_ginny at 2014-11-06 20:47:54
(no subject)

The Order adults don't know about this, do they?

If there's one thing I don't think I want to deal with in the next hour it's my mother going into a nervous collapse.
2014-11-06 11:04:00
Order Only: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

Just so you know, I think a whole load of people may get cruciated today over the graffiti that's been showing up. That's the rumour I heard, anyway.

I don't think anyone's going to be overly fussed about making sure it's the people who actually wrote graffiti who get punished for it.

alt_poppy at 2014-11-06 21:15:38
(no subject)

Oh, bless.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 21:37:31
(no subject)

Don't tell Mrs Weasley? I think Ginny would rather she not know until after.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 22:43:30
(no subject)

Is it true Honoria had a seizure?

I saw Lana Sandoval leave with her. And that's what people said, while we were walking to the hospital wing.

Is she

I didn't know it was that dangerous. When it's just for a short period. It's supposed to just be really unpleasant, not actually dangerous.
Will the following students please report to the Headmaster's office following classes at 4PM:

Archer, Gareth
Archer, Igraine
Bode, Cressida
Bones, Edward
Bones, Susan
Bradley, Juliana
Brocklehurst, Mandy
Brown, Lavender
Bulstrode, Millicent
Bundy, Katrina
Featherstone, Maegara
Finch-Fletchley, Justin
Jones, Megan
Jugson, Jeremy
Longbottom, Evelyn
Longbottom, Neville
Lovegood, Luna
Mackrell, Rebecca
Midgen, Eloise
Peakes, James
Ross, Artemius
Sandoval, Honoria
Smith, Zacharias
Stein, Norma
Warrington, Darius
Weasley, Ginevra
Weasley, Ron
Zabini, Blaise

Yes, sir.
alt_neville at 2014-11-06 20:47:23
Order Only

Well, then.

Thanks for warning us, Hydra.

alt_evelyn at 2014-11-06 21:06:34
Re: Order Only

Yes.

And I'm glad you'll be there, Hydra. Truly.

alt_alice at 2014-11-06 21:10:31
Re: Order Only

This is for the writing on the walls, I gather.

I'm sorry to hear it.

Please let me know if things escalate. I know you all are quite capable, but if MLE gets thrown in the mix, it could lead down a path we'd want to avoid.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-06 21:19:53
Re: Order Only

I'm in my rooms. Not the office. If any of you need somewhere quiet after - whatever he's intending.

Wasn't intending to be at supper anyway.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 22:32:04
Re: Order Only

Pansy and I are in the corridor by the stairs to the Headmaster's office.

About half of them just came out, including Evelyn and Artie. They're looking sort of unsteady but otherwise okay.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 22:33:01
Re: Order Only

Madam Pomfrey, if you're reading, they're all on their way to you.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-06 22:45:54
Re: Order Only

Everyone's out.

And okay. I mean, okay-ish.

alt_alice at 2014-11-06 22:46:16
Re: Order Only

Thank you.

alt_molly at 2014-11-06 20:49:21
Order Only

...

Please check in afterwards. All of you. If...if you can.

alt_ginny at 2014-11-06 20:52:39
Re: Order Only

I will be FINE, Mum. And so will Ron.

alt_molly at 2014-11-06 20:55:18
Re: Order Only

Of course. Still. Humour me, please, and just set my mind at rest after you've...you've talked with him.
Ginny asked me to write and let you know she's okay.

Ron didn't ask but he's okay, too.

Thank you dear. Tell them both I'm proud of them.

Tell Ginny I'm glad she's all right. And you can tell Ron that, too, if you don't think it'll hurt his pride too much.

I'm fine.

Ginny, love, I've heard about Honoria. I'm so very sorry. Is she feeling better?
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Ginny

I don't know, Madam P kept her in the hospital wing. There were a few she decided to keep there over night (Neville, too).

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Ginny

I'm glad she has such good care. That must have been terrible to see, Ginny.

I know you two are very close.

This is a far from ideal time to talk about things, but know that I haven't forgotten your hopes for her, and am planning fully on seeing what we can do over hols.

You miserable monster. I'll meet you wand to wand yet.

Gideon and Fabian. And Arthur, wherever you are...watch over them.

Watch over them all.

We'll get through today. I promise.

All they're looking for is to punish. They aren't going to be digging any deeper than that. And the only Leglimens in there is Hydra, who is on our side.

I love you both.
alt_luna at 2014-11-06 20:58:00
(no subject)
Yes, sir.

alt_luna at 2014-11-06 20:58:54
Private message to Headmaster Dolohov
Is it a special assignment then? Is there anything we need to bring?

alt_antonin at 2014-11-06 21:07:35
Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov
Just yourself, Miss Lovegood.

alt_ron at 2014-11-06 21:11:03
(no subject)
Yes, sir.

alt_evelyn at 2014-11-06 21:20:52
(no subject)
Of course, sir.

alt_poppy at 2014-11-06 21:24:16
Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov
Twenty-eight. I am brewing calming draughts, but if I should expect a need for any other items in large quantity, it would be nice to have a collegial warning.

I've two second years and a fourth here, vomiting, in the last hour. Possibly luncheon did not agree with them.
@alt_antonin at 2014-11-06 21:38:39
Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

I am less fond of the use of corporal punishment as a form of student discipline than some, and I am attempting to make allowances for last week's trauma, but the graffiti that has been appearing does skirt dangerously close to treason, and that is one subject upon which I cannot afford to be lenient. They will not thank me for it, but Our Lord will not look kindly upon more treason from Hogwarts' walls, and I am dearly hoping we can get through at least one year without student casualties.

If you are short on lemons, I do have a supply, should it become necessary, though it ultimately depends on what they have to say for themselves.

@alt_poppy at 2014-11-06 23:57:57
Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

Lemons will not be necessary, thank you.

@alt_pansy at 2014-11-06 23:35:38
ORDER ONLY

Anything happen of note after everyone left, Hydra?
Do you think that's the last of it, for now?
What did Professor Desai and Patil and Finnigan have to say?

@alt_harry at 2014-11-07 00:05:35
Re: ORDER ONLY

I'm at supper now and so's Finnigan.
He looks sweaty and sick and like he's off his food. But not like he got cruciated himself, like he's been

Hydra, did they make the three of you do it?
Yes.

Except it was Dolohov who cruciated Justin, and Desai for Ron.

Gracious.

I realise you've been mentally preparing for this sort of thing for a while now, Hydra, but that doesn't make it any easier.

Although I can't imagine how difficult it must be to face friends, it will not be the last time, and I do fully appreciate the strength that it took to do what you had to do today.

Antonin,

Thank you for the potion. I do sincerely hope that your lesson sends the message you intend and we may dispense with further nonsense, what.

I say, do you require any further assistance this evening? Have any of the others asked their parents to write or--howl?

I might be able to write a statement that would appease a few troubled minds, if you think it would be helpful.

-F-F
Thank you, my dear. I am most sincerely sorry for the necessity.

With a bit of luck there will not be a need for further parental calming -- discipline is within the Headmaster's purview, and all. I will keep your offer in mind, however. In the meantime, I suggest a hot shower, a cup of tea with lemon -- which I can provide, if the elves are unable to do so -- and an early retirement. From experience I can recommend that you be up and moving in the morning as usual, but if you'd like to sleep in a bit in the morning, I would not be adverse to delaying our usual exercises for twenty or thirty minutes; I could use the extra sleep myself.

Oh, I say, twenty minutes ought to be more than enough. Luckily, the homework I'd intended to complete tonight is mostly reading. I'd already decided to take it with me to bed, what.

The elves are most accommodating, thank you. I'm quite all right. If only one could say the same for Smith. I say, I do believe that might have been the first time he'd ever personally experienced the Crucius. Almost hard to believe, what, that any of us could reach eighteen years without having felt it.

At any rate, I've already had a hot soak and recommended he do the same. I hope he'll keep his curtains open so I can keep an eye on him overnight.

Until morning, then.

-F-F
That was properly awful. Blaise looked utterly furious.

How did Dolohov know we were there? Sandoval didn't write to him, so it wasn't through the journals.

Unless they have a secret way of writing too, that is.

Maybe the gargoyle spies for him or something.

Or, wait, you know what. Ron told me. Professor Dumbledore thinks that Headmaster Dolohov has a magical object that tells him where people are in the castle. He's been trying to test it out -- I mean, Professor Dumbledore has had Ron change into a snake and go places, trying to determine how it works.

So that's probably how he knew.

I could tell who it was, you know? When they were screaming. I could recognise them. Even from the bottom of the stairs I knew when it was Ron's turn.
I think the secret room is clever enough it can keep itself a secret.

That time my Dad threw me into a fire, it was because I got in the way when he was trying to hit my Mum.

I can't get that out of my head right now, all of it.

Yeah.

I just kept of thinking about Christmas. Back when I was a first-year.

I just want the people I care about to be safe and not get hurt.

And yeah.

Awful.
Who do you think Blaise will blame?

Because you're right. He looked sick and shaky like everyone else but he also looked like he could murder the person responsible on the spot he'd do it with his bare hands.

I hope he blames Dolohov, and not the people who wrote the graffiti.
2014-11-06 17:15:00
Order only: private message to Mum and Dad

'm ok
So's E. & rest of JA therE
potion now. Madam P's really bossy.

2014-11-07 01:47:06
(no subject)
Honoria S had seizure, tho
Her own sister

2014-11-07 01:54:58
(no subject)
Ginny's good friend. How awful.

2014-11-07 02:10:21
(no subject)
hey kiddo.
good to see you writing.
it's over and done with, and thank Merlin for that.
Till next time, anyway.

yeah.
did anyone else get a potion from dolohov?

I got a potion. one of the elves delivered it. I asked who it was from and she said it was from the headmaster and I just

did anyone else get one?

is it safe?

I mean he wouldn't send poison. not like that.

---

alt_justin at 2014-11-07 02:20:07
(no subject)

Evelyn,

Yes, I got one. I'd imagine he provided them to those of us he considered unfortunate victims.

I say, it's quite restorative, if you're feeling the need.

-Justin

alt_evelyn at 2014-11-07 02:25:50
(no subject)

Oh.

Good.

I just didn't know how much to read into it, is all.

Thank you.
Well, he wouldn't send poison, in any event. That's not his way. He believes that if he's to kill someone, he's bound by honour to watch the process of his target's death, what. Also, he prefers to be face to face, with his victim immobilised for at least a few moments, so that he can explain exactly why he's killing the poor chap. That's if there's opportunity, of course. On the field of battle it's a bally well different story.

But, I say, in battle he'd not use poison, either. So it's quite safe.

-Justin

I'm sure she feels ever so much better knowing that.

In a weird sort of way, I do.

A little.

You're right, Justin, the restorative does make me feel a great deal better. I just was a bit rattled to be singled out like that.

I'm glad you kept that to the Juniors; that's the sort of information that'll give Mrs Weasley nightmares, I think.
Mm. Well, no offence to Mrs Weasley, what--I'm heartily sorry that her brothers died at his hands and believe me, I hope to make him answer for all his crimes--but part of our job is to know our enemies. If it's well traumatic for her to face the realities of our tasks or to strategise round what we've learned, then perhaps she ought to avoid conversation in the journals that would upset her. Or perhaps she's made of sterner stuff and knowing Antonin's *modus operandi* will steel her in the fight.

-Justin
2014-11-06 18:31:00
Private Message to Megs

hey.

I heard from Zach and Justin about what happened. It's utter bollocks. As if any of you would've gotten mixed up in that. I mean, Justin? Please. And Sue's a Prefect, for Merlin's sake. I guess I should be lucky Patil and Finnigan don't have it out for me.

Anyways. You and Eloise and Sue okay?

You want me to get you anything?

2014-11-07 02:46:13
(no subject)

I am sitting in my bed with a privacy spell on and Fang is in my lap and I am not coming out. But I am OK.

And I hate her. I hate all of them but I hate her most right now.

2014-11-07 02:57:57
(no subject)

Hey.

Hey.

It's going to be all right.

We've just got to make sure no-one else tries to do anything stupid. I mean, it's my job to make sure people don't pull this sort of thing.
She cruciated people like she was asking for someone to please pass the custard or charming the window open or

Like it was nothing. I expected Padma to be worse but Padma didn't cruciate Lav very hard at all. Just enough to show that she was doing it. Though she went after Lovegood hard and she smiled a tiny bit just before it like M like Madam Umbridge.

OK I hate both of them most right now but Lestrange scares me more because I already knew Padma was mean but Lestrange is different, it is like nothing is inside her and other people aren't even really people.

And it couldn't be true that every single person there wrote things on the walls. They just decided to punish whoever. I had a talk with Harry Marvolo once and he said that sometimes it doesn't matter what you do, people just punish you anyway. And if it is like that for him, then how are the rest of

I'm going to head down to the infirmary and pick something up. Just in case you need help sleeping or something.

And yeah, she's creepy, and Patil's so full of it she can't see her own shoes, but what people've been writing

I mean, do they want him to come back or something? It's stupid. It's stupid, and if it keeps up, it'll get people really badly hurt. A lot worse than what happened today. So they need to stop, obviously.
I'm sorry you both had to go through that.

For the record, I don't think either of you had anything to do with the graffiti that's been popping up all over. I don't know who called you into question--well, I mean, Lav, I think you got called because you're a Gryffindor and he called all of you.

Blaise...I don't know what to say. I can imagine how much you hated what happened. It wasn't my idea--I just wanted you to know that I didn't take any satisfaction in it. At all.

I just hope no one gets any bright ideas to do anything else to annoy the Headmaster.

For a clever witch you're astonishingly stupid.

It's... ugh, of course I didn't have anything to do with it--I'm a Prefect, for Merlin's sake. But I do understand that the Headmaster needed to make an example of my House. And if it had to be done by anyone, I'm at least a little glad it was you. I wish... 

I'm glad Linus didn't have to see it, though.
If you were cruciated in Dovs' ofc. today, hold fast. Don't let them intimidate you into obedience. Remember who the real enemy is.
Anyone need anything? Potions lemons etc? If a friend without a galleon is suffering you can speak up for them.
2014-11-06 20:41:00
(no subject)

I STILL REMEMBER TOO.

@alt_galleon
Private message to Auri

It has been an absolutely wretched day, coming on the heels of an absolutely wretched week, which in itself is part of an absolutely wretched month. (The year thus far has been fairly wretched as well.)

Are you up for company tonight? I am in fairly desperate need of could use a bit of soothing companionship. (The good brandy would not hurt, either.) Feel free to say no if the reason you skipped supper was being utterly done with people, but otherwise I will take a turn around the castle looking for people ignoring curfew and work my way up to your demesne.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-07 03:12:04
(no subject)

I'd be a horrible sort of chosen sister if I said no, Tosha.

Even if I don't understand how the bits I've heard fit together. Yet.

Come up. In my rooms, meet you in my office. Brandy, pastry, cats.

I have the 2nd years at midnight, but I'm free until then.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-07 03:19:22
(no subject)

I shall be by after rounds, then. Assuming I do not find more idiocy to distract me.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-07 07:31:36
(no subject)

Toshenka -

I hope tonight helped a little. Our usual Friday? Glad
to come to your office if it's easier, and keep it short if you need to. Seeing you tonight, it'll do no one any good if you work yourself to bits (and yes, pot, kettle, black.)

If you are still up and still restless, I am about to take myself to the salle. (See above about giving advice I don't always take.)
2014-11-06 21:14:00
(no subject)

I STILL REMEMBER AND YOUR PUNISHMENT WON'T MAKE ME FORGET

alt_galleon
Walking back to Gryffindor tower just now I saw a new piece of graffiti.

It says 'I remember Boot.'

I'd been thinking maybe I should try to make it stop. Because maybe we'd made our point and I don't want anyone else getting hurt.

I still don't want anyone else getting hurt. More. Again.

But I don't think I should try to make people stop.

Harry,

I think if Antonin tries to hold you accountable, what, then you can tell him you'll make a statement against it. I offered to say something public that would appease. He said he hoped it wouldn't be necessary, dash it, but I'd had in mind something that could be taken either way, if you follow me.

If you sent out a Galleon explaining your intent, the Galleoneers would stop. But I say, old man, if there are others already taking up the standard, we'll have a jolly difficult time getting everyone to desist.

At any rate, I should wait until you have a reason to turn it to our advantage.

-Justin
It's never going to be me at the wrong end of Dolohov's wand. Or Hydra's, or Finnigan's or Patil's.

It could be you again, though. Or Ron. Or Sally-Anne.

Yes, and that's a risk we have to face.

-Justin

Is it utterly ridiculous that I wish they'd cruciate me alongside the rest of you?

Everyone in the 6th and 7th years in Gryffindor, except for me, and Finnigan, got it today.

Of course it's not ridiculous, it's dashed good form, old man. But that's for us to bear; your lot is to use your position of safety to say and do what we cannot.

-J
alt_hermione at 2014-11-07 04:24:56
Re: Private message to Draco, Hermione, Ron and Justin

I don't think you should make it stop.

Remember, Harry, they're going to hurt people no matter what. Whether you buckle to their demands or not.

So don't.

I don't know, maybe I've been spending too much time with Sirius. And Tim. He wants to just have a big battle, all of ours on one side and all of theirs on the other, you know, and just settle it for once and all.

But then Tim's a bit mad.

Anyway, no, you don't have to do anything about stopping it, but you do have to be prepared for other people to get hurt. Just remember that it's not your fault, just because you're not getting hurt, too.

alt_harry at 2014-11-07 05:38:24
Re: Private message to Draco, Hermione, Ron and Justin

Tim's battle sounds brilliant. One big one, and then we're done? Sign me up.

alt_terry at 2014-11-07 03:28:28
(no subject)

You're kidding.

Wow.

alt_luna at 2014-11-07 03:32:48
(no subject)

It's a good sign. I mean, if it wasn't one of us who wrote it.

It shows that people are thinking years back, and
quietly defying the Protectorate's attitude that Muggleborns are disposable people, to be forgotten and ignored as much as possible.

alt_terry at 2014-11-07 03:36:39
(no subject)

Yeah, maybe.

It also maybe shows how serious this graffiti is getting. Treasonous, even.

I saw Neville's post. Is everyone going to be okay, really?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-07 03:41:06
(no subject)

Well, you saw that list of people who got summoned up to Dolohov's office this afternoon. All of them got cruciated, even the loyal idiots like Lavender Brown and Zach Smith. Honoria Sandoval had a seizure, and Ginny Weasley couldn't get up after. Dolohov opened up the stairs and had me and Pansy come up to help her. (He knew we were down in the corridor.) And Neville was shaking really badly.

Almost everyone's back in their dorms now, though, except for Honoria Sandoval.
I STILL REMEMBER.
2014-11-06 21:48:00
Private message to Madam Pomfrey

I'm feeling unwell. I had trouble eating supper and I'm just ... I don't know, I feel like I want to crawl out of my own skin.

Do I need to come to the hospital wing? Who's still there?

alt_seamus

2014-11-07 04:14:27
(no subject)

Are you feeling nauseous? With chills or fever? Or is it more a nervous sensation? Any changes in your eliminative functions? Unusual fatigue? Racing heartbeat? Difficulty breathing or hyper-ventilation? Hallucinations? Other notable symptoms?

alt_poppy

2014-11-07 04:17:08
(no subject)

Yes, no, more of a nervous sensation, no, no -- actually I'm feeling a lot of nervous energy -- kind of, no, no.

alt_seamus

2014-11-07 04:18:25
(no subject)

I guess my main notable symptom is that I keep thinking about that bloke who abseiled down the astronomy tower years ago and thinking how this sounds like an excellent idea and just what I need to settle my nerves so I'll be able to get some sleep tonight.

alt_poppy

2014-11-07 04:55:26
(no subject)

My apologies. I was pulled away. Unusual number of nervous complaints this evening. And other things.

I agree, Mr Finnigan: you ought to come down and see me. I have
just the thing to relieve your excess of energy and attendant flights of fancy.

If you are not now dangling from a line half way down the north tower, that is.

alt_seamus at 2014-11-07 04:59:15 (no subject)

No, I'm not.

Are you sure I ought to come in?

I don't want to upset anyone else who might be there.

alt_poppy at 2014-11-07 05:11:05 (no subject)

My ward and my care are for all who require them.

Now, desist from wasting my time answer these messages and bring yourself here where I may examine and treat you as your condition merits.

alt_seamus at 2014-11-07 05:14:53 (no subject)

Yes ma'am.
I was just thinking today about all the people who were here when I started Hogwarts, who've been lost, one way or another, along the way.

There were the students:

Hannah Abbott  
Thomas Capper  
Sarah Fawcett  
Dean Thomas  
Draco Malfoy  
Teddy Nott

And teachers and other staff:

Remus Lupin  
Walden Macnair  
John Dawlish  
Gilderoy Lockhart  
Amycus and Alecto Carrow  
Dolores Umbridge  
Minerva McGonagall  
Rabastan Lestrange  
Horace Slughorn  
Rolanda Hooch

And servants:

Dennis  
Boot  
Granger

And of course the Weasleys lost their father and Darius Warrington lost his. Regulus Black disappeared. Lucius Malfoy was sent to Azkaban. Percy Weasley died and so did the Towler's brother. Samantha Montgomery wasn't able to finish her NEWTs and spent months at St Mungo's.

We've lost a lot of people, which is especially tragic and shocking in a land as safe and protected as the Protectorate. Of course not all of them are dead, I believe Professor Lockhart is in St Mungo's or
somewhere similar, and others disappeared rather than dying. And Professor Slughorn just retired.

But nonetheless. Many, many losses.

Many losses to remember.

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@alt_frank at 2014-11-07 06:06:29
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry Potter and Colin Creevey

(Thank you, Harry.)

@alt_sinistra at 2014-11-07 07:37:03
Order Only : Private message to Harry

Thank you. For it being all of them. Even the difficult names.
I'm sorry Mama and Abuelita were upset by the Matron's call. Honoria will be fine, of course.

She's always had a flair for dramatics, you know that, and she's been lamentably spoiled and encouraged in it, I'm afraid, so Mama is right if she's blaming herself for not teaching her better discipline in the first place. Being the coddled baby of the family, she's always been prone to self-indulgence, and what Mama passed over as 'independence' has always really been rebelliousness.

Well, now the owl's come home to roost, and Honoria's had a taste of what comes to rebels. I mean, honestly, we can't gloss over the fact that she asked the Hat to sort her into that nest of mischief-makers and traitors. It was maybe ten seconds of a curse we all endured in training and that a roomful of others bore up under today. Not that any of them will seek to repeat the experience!

I rather think it might have been the shame rather than the curse itself that caused her fit, knowing she'd dragged our name into infamy. Though, if that's true, this is the first I've seen her think of what her actions might bring the rest of us.

I'm hopeful at least that she might have learned today what her association with halfbloods and harebrains will cost her if she doesn't separate herself from their hooliganism.

Meanwhile, it's my brief to bring the whole sorry assortment into line. I'm beginning to be sorry I agreed to this posting.
Tosha came to see me tonight. After everything.

It's not that I agree with what he did. Chose to do. But he told me why, and I couldn't argue with him. Not really.

He needed a shoulder and someone who'd listen. (And I'm defending him, and I know I am, but no one makes their best decisions when they're alone and exhausted and feeling like nothing they do is going to be right. Besides the part where he might tell me things we can use to take care of people.)

What he said was that Harry moving to Gryffindor, that's a thing between Harry and Voldemort. (He said 'Our Lord' of course.) But that when treasonous graffiti showed up, if he didn't do something about it, Voldemort would. That he didn't want to stand and watch Voldemort kill his students for something he could have stopped.

That would be worse. Than this. This was horrible, but he -

I think Savitha's got him on edge. Maybe made him feel he had to do something fast. He didn't say, just guessing. I think Tosha's worried about what she might tell Him. And Lana's Lana, and I don't think she knows loyalty to anything but her own self-interest. (Sorry. Have a hard time being at all fair about Lana. Factor it in.)

It should be our usual Friday tomorrow. (Today, I guess.) Anything I should try and work the conversation round to?

(Severus, I'm hoping you might have some thoughts. I may manage Slytherin as a second language, but there's things I know I miss.)

I'm sorry. About Neville and Evelyn. About all of them. Not doing more.

But you needed to know about this, too.
In case there's something that might help. That you see and I don't.

alt_alice at 2014-11-07 20:36:39
Re: Private message to Alice

I am not going to be particularly rational about this.

I hope to keep more students from being killed before we're ready for an all out war. I'm hoping people see the deep unfairness of the system they are in (which he is undoubtedly helping with). I hope my children are able to get through this term without further incident, but I know that to be foolish. I hope my husband is able to stay. I hope we can have the strength to watch what they're going through from a distance, and know that short of pulling them all from school and starting a war, there'll be nothing we can do to directly intervene.

This is for them. This is who I'm hoping to help.

Re: Private message to Alice

You've been more than fair. Given everything.

Yes. Them. More students alive. We do agree there. Absolutely. Just differ on where the greatest risk is.

Apparently.

Suspect I won't manage to reply to anything further until after my classes tonight at the earliest.

alt_alice at 2014-11-08 00:23:52
Re: Private message to Alice

You have the ability to push him on policy in a way that no-one else would dare. You are in a unique position to be able to call him on his reasoning, and, yes, argue with him if need be, and present him with alternatives.

Remembering people is not treason. It is possible to mourn and also recognize that they made choices that were not in line with
the bloody Protectorate. It is not treason to acknowledge their existence, and he will fight an uphill battle if that's what he's trying to put a stopper on.

I know you've had a difficult week. But there are solutions that he will agree with. There are things you can do.

Keep in mind your goal is not to justify his choices, but to protect your students. He has one very specific view on how to do that, but it is certainly not unassailable. Not even in these times.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-08 04:55:35
Re: Private message to Alice

We talked a lot this evening about remembering. About if there was anything we could offer that people could trust.

(There is an old tradition of telling the wind, or a stone a secret or a memory, but can you imagine anyone not assuming there'd be charms to catch what was said? My family puts up a special mead each year. If there is a death, we drink it at the funeral, telling stories. If there are no deaths in the family that year, we pour the bottles out in December, and are glad. I can't see how to make that fit.)

He values remembering. Even treason. He remembered Minerva along with Raz, in June. Dominic Selwyn. But there's what can be done in public, and what is private. What he can get away with, and what a student can.

I am working on a message for the juniors. And I very deeply appreciate you giving me suggestions I can do something with, for talking even when it's miserably hard. Not just shouting or wishing this weren't the world.

I did what I could tonight, to push about thinking about other choices and I will keep doing it for as long as I can. Have a bit more for you and Severus both eventually, but need to sort my head out first.
There is discipline and there is abuse. The Cruciatus curse is abuse. Pure and simple.

And applied to children by other children? His actions yesterday harmed both sets of children--the ones with whom we sympathise and those we've little hope of reaching. The latter are much further beyond our grasp today than yesterday, which, of course, was a calculated goal of the Headmaster's.

He is no fool and no victim of Desai's manipulating. He may feel spurred by her, but in the way of competition to hold sway.

We are very fortunate that a grand mal seizure was the most dire of the unintended consequences of yesterday's torture. (And that is no small matter.) we might equally well have had someone suffer sudden heart failure or haemorrhage of the brain or aorta. The Cruciatus' effect is in the brain, but the body's systems respond as though to physical trauma, sometimes so violently as to crush and tear tissue and bone. And each response is unique and unpredictable. (Beyond the screaming, writhing, and voiding.)

It is unfair to blame Tosha for Crucio being a tool of discipline, or for being placed in the hands of certain children, Poppy.

We lost that fight for him, years ago, before he ever came back to the Protectorate. You and me and Pomona and Minerva and all the other decent people.

I am angry with him for who he called in. I am angry at how this stirs up all the old fears of Madam Toad. I am angry at him for not thinking through all the implications. For him knowing he was indulging some grudges and doing it anyway. (Maybe an arbitrary list is better than an investigation that might turn up something worse. I don't know.) Angry at a lot of things. Myself included.

But he's right enough that the graffiti is treason, here and now. And if he did not act on treason, than that is treason. And what it would
mean if he didn't do something sufficient. How Savitha - how any of them - could use it against him. Do worse.

And until I can give him another suggestion, a better suggestion, something that would be harsh enough but do less actual harm, I cannot blame him for the Crucio itself. I could not, last night, think of a thing that would suit. I still can't.

@alt_lupin at 2014-11-07 20:36:45
(no subject)

Minerva was Headmistress of Hogwarts for fifteen years under Voldemort. Fifteen years. She never once cruciated a student, let alone twenty-eight of them in one go, never mind every student in the upper years from one already-despised House, regardless of whether anyone in their right mind could suspect them of involvement in anything.

FIFTEEN YEARS.

Think about that, Aurora.

@alt_sinistra at 2014-11-07 21:13:30
(no subject)

Not all of us are Minerva.

I concede, entirely, that she was a far better woman than Tosha is a man, by any accounting you care to do. Far better woman than I am, too.

I know what it cost her, to protect as she did. Enough.

We don't live in that world anymore. We live in the world where they know there was treason at Hogwarts, active, outright treason. Where they are looking at everything. Questioning everything.

And we live in the world where Madam Toad's damage still is, all the lesser punishments she broke and made useless. Because people survived those, enough. Came through them.
Then what EXACTLY do you imagine he'll do when cruciatus also fails?

Because it has, already!

Cruciatus is typically survivable. And once you've experienced the worst, and come through it more determined, THEN what can they do to you? Kill you? Throw you to Bellatrix?

As strategy goes, this one has some problems. TWENTY EIGHT and oh, five more, I guess, if I'm reading Desai's post correctly.

Dolohov has been Headmaster for two months.

Two fucking months and he's decided the best way to handle 'treasonous' graffiti is to have three children cruciate twenty-eight other children. Because his hands were tied! How else could he possibly have avoided this? They MADE him do it.

No. He's a Death Eater. He chose to hurt our children, and he'll hurt you, too, if he ever decides that he 'has' to.

I married a Death Eater. I do know what they're like. The bad and the good.

If I'm very lucky, Tosha would kill me gently. And it would be Tosha, not someone worse. Told Alice that when I joined.
Interesting.

It is entirely too much to hope that his loyalty to the Dark Lord is wavering, but if he is willing to remand Mr Potter's rebellion to the Dark Lord rather than dealing with it himself — and if he has not specifically called that rebellion to the Dark Lord's attention — it may signal that his zeal is waning. Though I would not bet on it.

He is correct that the children are playing with fire, of course, but they are convinced they are invincible. (A conviction the data do not support, but they are teenagers, after all.) As I do not imagine the children will agree to stop courting disaster, do see if you can turn the conversation around to whether he objects to the message, or to the method of delivery.

At least I am no longer the one who must clean up the graffiti.

Thank you. You and Alice both give me a place to start.

Near two years ago, that first Christmas he was here, we were talking, very private. I'd asked his advice about how to manage being Raz's wife. The things at Court I knew could happen. Would happen. (This was after the thing with Bettina Yaxley, and after Chloe telling me about it, and after knowing the wives were now just as much fair target as the Council and with less reason.)

I am not stupid. I can count. Count tortures and deaths and a thousand fears.
Tosha said something. About how he still believed in what he'd fought for. A free wizarding society. No more secrecy. A chance to develop a wizarding golden age.

But that he wondered if need had given way to expediency. In Voldemort.

I didn't push. But something else he said.

He's said more treason to me than I have to him. People aren't simple. You understand that, at least.

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alt_severus at 2014-11-08 05:12:54
Re: Private message to Severus

'People aren't simple' is an overly reductionist, though accurate, assessment.

When I was fifteen years old — or perhaps sixteen; I find that I cannot recall precisely — Black planned, coldheartedly and without a second thought, to kill me, using Lupin as the murder weapon; I survived solely due to the for-once timely intervention of Potter's stunted conscience. When I was nearing the end of my time at Hogwarts, Lucius Malfoy spent two months calling in every favour he could to arrange for my apprenticeship, and spent a considerable amount of time, trouble, and Galleons making certain I was properly prepared to enter into proper wizarding society without making a fool of myself.

The world does not divide itself neatly into black and white, right and wrong, good and evil. However much certain people might wish it does.

You are predisposed to see the good in Dolohov, because he has been kind to you and because you see him as an individual and not as an institution: someone with whom you have had supper, shared a drink, laughed over private jokes. Someone who has given you help, who has been on your side against a common enemy, with whom you have plotted and planned and been aligned to a common cause. It is a perspective the remainder of the Order does not share.

Cannot allow themselves to share, in fact. They have already been
forced to confront (or have been trying very hard not to confront) the fact they have welcomed Draco Malfoy into the Order, and that — as part of that welcoming — they have thus bound themselves to do what they can to keep Lucius Malfoy hale and whole throughout our little revolution. To add Dolohov to the list of those they cannot revenge themselves upon would tip the cognitive dissonance too far.

To them, he must remain the enemy, even as to you he is a friend. You see his good qualities first, and his deeds as something that — while not excused — can at least be explained. To them, he is the symbol of everything against which we are fighting. No amount of your attempts to humanise him will change their minds; between his deeds, fear for the children, and a vested interest in actively avoiding the encumberance of any further Order obligation to anyone else on the Dark Lord's side, he will, and must remain, the boogeyman.

I advise against further attempts to explain your attachment to him. You will not succeed in warming them to him, and it will reduce your credibility in the trying.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-08 08:14:37
Re: Private message to Severus

That story is. The things people do to each other. Have always done. Apparently.

It also makes me feel rather more warm toward Lucius Malfoy than I often manage. (Mind, I am capable of discerning between 'not my favourite person to spend time with' and 'should be dead', and I have never denied that he has a great many skills and talents.)

You are right about the rest. And I will take your advice.

It's just - we need to make choices between the options we actually have. Not the ones we wish we did. I know you know this.

Do they really not see that it's not Tosha as head or someone they like? It's Tosha as head or someone worse. Someone who is no teacher, just disciplinarian, maybe. Or someone who'd separate the halfbloods out. Someone who has their own pet projects, and
will break people to them. (Mind, we've already lived through that, two years ago.) But with Council weight behind them, it would be much much worse.

And as long as we're attempting to have a school, that won't do. (If we were attempting to have a revolution, and not just plan for one, I would feel different. I think.)

I do not expect Tosha to survive a revolution, mind. I would not beg for his life, beyond what I've done (that his contacts, his knowledge, is worthwhile.) Because I know he, at least, understands cause and effect. Most of the time. This week was rather a lapse.

I hid for a long time. In stars and in charts and in not wanting to know how bad it was. It was knowing Raz that made me have to look. To understand the actual data, not what I wanted there to be. Wanting is bad science.

Also often fatal.

---

@alt_alice at 2014-11-07 20:21:59
(no subject)

There are limits to my understanding. It is difficult to think rationally about helping a man who just tortured my children, to say the least, and while I can concede that he is under certain pressures, I cannot justify his means.

He has chosen an escalated form of punishment to the extent where it would be very difficult to back down, greatly increasing the likelihood that someone will end up dead or imprisoned in the long run, and has reinforced his punishment in a way that will only increase resentment.

He has taken an entire House that is already feeling isolated and maligned, and has made them feel even moreso -- and made it clear that it was not because they were actually responsible directly for the actions in question, but simply because of their house affiliation.

He made three students -- yes, they are council members, but students as well -- pick which of their peers would be tortured, and
made them help with said torture. And it appears as though two of the three chose people out of spite, vindictiveness, and a way to even a score, not due to any real participation in the actions they were supposedly being punished for. (I have no doubt that Hydra had her own reasons for picking who she did, and they were most likely strategic, and, once again, completely unrelated to actual guilt.)

These students are writing on the walls because they feel silenced, and that their memories are being erased. If he wishes it to stop, he must give them voice even in a token way, and if Savitha Desai needs to take a trip to New London during it, so be it.

Lastly, if you want insight into how your advice can be of use, the students themselves have far greater knowledge of the innerworkings of the school, and are also much more likely to be able to enact real change. Ask our younger Order members what they want moving forward, see if they're on board to walk things back, and see what they’d recommend you pass along to him.

I appreciate that you have his ear. I do.

But there are limits to my understanding.

---

**alt_sinistra** at **2014-11-07 21:03:10**
(no subject)

I do agree with all of that. That it was a wrong thing, to the wrong people, in the wrong way.

Your thought about giving voice is a good one. And about asking the students.

I can't do that before tonight. Not enough time, for one. But I will.

---

**alt_sinistra** at **2014-11-08 13:30:51**
Private message to Alice and Severus

Tosha slipped, twice, tonight. Last night, I mean. (Haven't slept yet.)

Called Voldemort the Dark Lord, rather than 'Our Lord'. He's only done it once before I can remember, in a conversation I mentioned already to Severus, where he - expressed doubts. I'm not sure what it means to him, just it - he caught himself,
brushed past it fast so I wouldn't ask.

It's the public part he felt he had to punish. Make a show of. Because like it or not, it is not a rational man who defines treason in the Protectorate. It is the one who stood in the Great Hall last week, raged and ranted, tortured Rolanda Hooch and then killed her. If he's still a man.

Tosha doesn't ever forget that. He can't. We can't afford to either.

Yes, our students are our students and deserve far more safety, far more security, far less pain than we have managed to give them. Everyone does. Including us.

And I can't sleep for seeing the ones who've died, the ones I've failed in too many ways. The spaces they leave.

But I have thought that there have been no children in the Protectorate above the age of reason for years now. There are the living and the dead, and there is no mending dead. That is what I am trying to avoid. Tosha too. Please believe that.

I've asked them now. What they want. At least some of them.
I woke up early and came up from Slytherin because I thought I'd use the salle for a while by myself before breakfast.

When I came out I saw Darius Warrington writing on the wall. He'd written 'REMEMBER THE FR' and when he saw me he just froze, like a rabbit who sees your wand and thinks if it's very still maybe you won't see it. We stood there for a few seconds staring at each other and then I made the wand gesture the rebels use in 'Pure Victory,' you know, flicking out one finger and holding it up.

And he relaxed, nodded at me, and finished writing, 'REMEMBER THE FROST FAIRE.'

He was one of the ones cruciated yesterday. (In case you didn't know that already.) I guess it didn't work the way Dolohov was hoping.

That's brilliant! But, I worry about them. All the Galleoneers, I mean.
2014-11-07 14:06:00
Private message to Savitha

Milland has let me know there was graffiti outside the Slytherin dorms this morning before breakfast. ('Remember the Frost Faire'. Cute.) I shall let you handle the discipline this time, since at that hour, it was almost certainly someone from Slytherin responsible.

alt_savitha at 2014-11-07 20:28:56
(no subject)

I asked the portrait of Elizabeth Burke, and she said five people left early enough this morning that they could have done it. Eustacia Pummel, Demeter Joosh, Astoria Greengrass, Darius Warrington, and Sally-Anne Perks.

I hate to cruciate Warrington twice in two days, but I have to admit he's the most likely culprit. Wouldn't do to target a child from a Council family without proof, though. I suppose I'm going to have to ask if any of them saw anything.

alt_savitha at 2014-11-07 20:57:11
(no subject)

Having thought about this a bit, I'd better ask for some clarification before I move forward.

Do you actually want me to identify the culprit, or merely ensure that he or she gets the proper message?

alt_antonin at 2014-11-07 21:03:49
(no subject)

I would prefer that the individual or individuals who are defacing school property should get the message that this is an unacceptable form of expression, however that message should be sent.
Very well.
Maybe I'm just in a really bad mood because I was a wolf last night? I know that can make me moody.

Aurora Sinistra is DEFENDING Antonin Dolohov's decision to cruciate everyone in the 6th and 7th years of Gryffindor. Along with Justin, Susan, and a random selection of students who apparently looked at Padma Patil and Seamus Finnigan the wrong way once (plus the students Hydra picked, I'm willing to trust she knew what she was doing one way or another because she's one of ours.) At least she had the good sense not to put Molly on the PM. I rather wish she'd put you on it, though, so at least you could tell me if it's just me?

She's what?

Oh, yes, what an excellent prospect for recruitment into the Order. Let's do include someone who makes apologies for Antonin Nikolaevich fucking DOLOHOV.

Where are you? Probably best if I come read it for myself.

(And you are not a noseless, legless paranoid with a magical eye. He's in Ireland.)

I'm in the kitchen, arguing with Kreacher about whether I can make my own cup of tea. And I thought the noseless, legless paranoid was named Rudy? It's been so long since we called him anything else...
alt_sirius at 2014-11-07 21:09:10
(no subject)

It's 'Rhymes with Rudy,' and you should know, you used to take the minutes.

Made you smile, at least.

Well, if I come down there to fuss at Kreacher, he'll insist on my intervention every time.

So, do you want me to look at it later or tell me now just what the short-sighted stargazer said that has you so riled?

alt_lupin at 2014-11-07 21:19:02
(no subject)

Oh, let's see. She called him 'Tosha,' of course. They saw each other last night. She said, 'It's not that I agree with what he did. Chose to do. But he told me why, and I couldn't argue with him. Not really.' And then later, when Poppy told her this was a load of -- anyway, she went on to say, 'It is unfair to blame Tosha for Crucio being a tool of discipline, or for being placed in the hands of certain children, Poppy. We lost that fight for him, years ago, before he ever came back to the Protectorate.' And then she said she was angry at him for 'who he called in,' by which I suppose she means the Juniors who got cruciated yesterday, and the fact that he was allowing Patil and Finnigan to indulge grudges, and said 'And until I can give him another suggestion, a better suggestion, something that would be harsh enough but do less actual harm, I cannot blame him for the Crucio itself. I could not, last night, think of a thing that would suit. I still can't.'

I told her Minerva managed. She's now blaming it all on Umbridge for showing that the lesser punishments weren't that terrible. What does she imagine he'll do when Cruciatius fails?
'We' lost a fight she was never even part of? Circe, she can't think of better suggestions? And calls herself a teacher?

How about even a cursory investigation? How about detentions?

Besides, there's the fundamental issue of accepting his rationale. What was that, exactly? That otherwise people would be arrested? Killed? Did it occur to her to say to him that any society that punishes children so harshly is definitively unjust?

It's well and good to place herself as a shoulder for him to cry on, but does Allie truly believe she's so valuable, when she can't take advantage of those situations to hold him accountable rather than comfort him and stay mute to the harm being done?

Does she really believe that there was no alternative?

Merlin. We've got further to go than I thought.

I keep thinking about how that last year when I was at Hogwarts, the Twins got caught breaking into Carrow's office -- they were looking for Terry, of course -- and Minerva managed to protect them. She assigned them some thoroughly tedious time-consuming transfiguration project for detention.

To give him what little credit he deserves, it's possible the mass punishments are intended to avoid turning up the real culprits. If they truly consider a little bit of graffiti to be HIGH TREASON, he has every reason to not want to know who it was.

But it's utterly absurd to treat this as an inevitability. As something he HAS to do. He may view it as an inevitability but that is because he is a Death Eater.
Attention students

The following students are to report to my office today at 3:30 pm:

Astoria Greengrass
Demeter Joosh
Sally-Anne Perks
Eustacia Pummel
Darius Warrington

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-07 21:11:09
Order Only

Oh, bloody hell.

@alt_ginny at 2014-11-07 21:23:39
Re: Order Only: Private message to Sally-Anne

Go to the loo first.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-07 21:24:04
Re: Order Only: Private message to Sally-Anne

Thanks.
Did.

@alt_justin at 2014-11-08 00:38:15
Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Sally-Anne,

I say, how are you, Warrington and Greengrass doing?

Poor sod, Warrington--two days running, what. I wonder if he's ripe for approaching at this point? From your story this morning it
seems his attitude is changing rapidly.

-Justin

I think Astoria would let Desai cruciate her again, right now, if it would get your attention half so well as it did this afternoon. She's in a much better mood than you'd expect under the circumstances.

I've got a headache but it's not too bad. Dolohov had one of the elves bring me a potion. I should find out what it is so Madam Pomfrey can stock it, it worked better than what she gave me. I'd wonder if it was just a second dose of the same but it tastes entirely different. I'm actually hungry now, I asked the elves to bring me a sandwich since I missed dinner.

Warrington. Well. I knew it was him, and he knew I knew, but Desai didn't actually give us a chance to accuse anyone, or try to clear ourselves, or even confess. I think she guessed it was Warrington, but didn't want to know for certain. Anyway he's from a Council family so if it was his word against mine it would've been considered bad form for her to believe me over him.

Desai made him wait till the end, so he had to watch everyone else get cruciated. His bad luck it was four girls, too. (I mean, it's Gryffindors who are supposed to be chivalrous but it's not as if Slytherins are universally cads.) He looked utterly wretched. So, I tried giving him the wand sign from Pure Victory again. I wanted him to know it didn't matter, I wouldn't have turned him in to get out of it. And I think he got that part of the message, anyway.

I don't know whether we ought to try recruiting him or not. Just because he doesn't like the Lord Protector doesn't necessarily mean we can trust him. Was Hydra legilimising people yesterday?
Yes, Hydra was. She sent me a note along with Jack last night. I expect she'll report on what she found soon enough.

But as for Warrington, I was thinking a Galleon, perhaps, if Hydra thinks it's not too risky. I shouldn't think he's ready for the Order, what.

Remy Jugson tried to bend my ear on the way to supper, too. I say, I'm sure we daren't give him a Galleon! I do wonder what he wants, though. Unfortunately, Astoria was still rather clinging, what, and in the corridor on the way to the Great Hall was not the time or place for privacy. Besides, I thought I'd wait until we had Hydra's insight before I let him catch me alone.

I say, something will have to be done about Astoria, though. I've no idea how to put her off. Funny that with all our serious troubles, it's one fifth-year who is so challenging.

-Justin

Well, clearly you need a fake Order girlfriend, like Hydra has a fake Order boyfriend.

Ginny Weasley, maybe.

Or, you could try dating Astoria for a week or two and then break things off.

The problem is, you can't break up with her if you're not actually dating her. So date her, then break things off.
Or you could tell her you're gay.

She might just take that as a challenge though.

Yes, I've considered all of those options. I'm afraid none of them will do.

I can't tell her I fancy blokes; Remy can attest it's not true. I can't pretend to go out with her or anyone else for that matter; it would be exceedingly unfair to both the young lady and to H and to me.

I've tried to be as firm as possible but I'm afraid today was a step in the wrong direction, what. Still, who could have left her without any assistance?

-Justin

I was thinking you could try offering Remy the opportunity to convince you blokes aren't so bad, but that only swaps Astoria for Remy, doesn't it?

Today was most definitely a step in the wrong direction. But why can't you pretend a relationship with someone understanding? I mean, there's also Luna and Katrina, neither one of them is seeing anybody.

No, it's quite out of the question. As I said, even if they were 'understanding' it would be singularly unfair to them. To say nothing of the fact that, well, I say, I don't think I could be
remotely convincing in a pretend relationship.
Nor would I be interested in attempting it.
-Justin

alt_justin at 2014-11-08 03:08:12
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Hydra's said her preference is that I tell Astoria I'm not dating anyone else out of respect for Hydra's wishes, what, but I don't think she's quite thought how that makes me look. I mean to say, it's one thing to appear unusually gallant, if you follow me. But quite another to contribute to a fiction in which I'm bally well thoroughly under her thumb. Particularly when she and Harry are supposedly seeing each other and she's done such a jolly good job behaving as if she's moved on, what.

I understand why it helps her to make the school think she's so heartless but--well, there are limits to how foolish one is willing to seem.

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-08 05:30:43
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, that's a problem, yeah. Because 'I'm sorry, I'm still heartbroken about my last girlfriend' is basically CATNIP to someone like Astoria. And I think if you told her Hydra doesn't want you seeing other people, she won't understand, at all.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-07 21:11:37
(no subject)

Yes, ma'am.
Hogwarts lecture series

The next installment in the Hogwarts lecture series will be Sunday, 9 November. Cirrus Cuthbert of the Nimbus Racing Broom Company will be speaking on the development of their new line of racing brooms, and more broadly on the design and manufacture of brooms in the modern era.

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, November 23.

alt_ron at 2014-11-07 22:24:40
Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

If we don't go, do we get Cruciated?

Re: Order Only Private Message to Ron

How's Sally-Anne doing?

alt_ron at 2014-11-07 23:28:29
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ron

She'll be all right. Only, it brings back things for her. It's not just today and what's happening now.

It's hard.
How are you?

I keep playing yesterday over in my head.

How did you stand there so calm when you knew what was coming? Because I know you've been cruciated before.

Yeah, well. I'll be Cruciated again if I get into Auror training. That's how they teach it. Or did when they assumed most people in the programme had never felt it before. Anywiz, people who've been through it call it Lemon Training. Because lemons help afterwards. Mind you, Madam Pomfrey's potion was pretty good, and I hear it's better than lemons, but lemons are what you use if no one will give you a healing draught. Which they don't for trainee Aurors because you're meant to show strong.

So I had to show strong because Desai was the one doing it.

And it was only ten seconds. That what they train you to do--use ten second bursts of Crucio. More than that and a suspect can get addled so they can't give you any information. Not really good interrogation procedure, y'know?

Death Eaters, though. Don't always care about interrogation. Sometimes they just want to hurt you. So I'm lucky it wasn't Finnigan who hit me. Desai thinks she's my mentor, so she didn't really want to hurt me more than necessary.

Um, not that any of it was necessary by any sane measurement, right?
Anywiz. You shouldn't worry about what happened. They made you wait till last, for one thing. Which must have been horrible.

Ron, I wet myself in front of everyone.

I suppose so did Blaise Zabini. But still.

There were other people who wet themselves, too. It just happens. Could be me next time. I mean, I know it's easy for me to say, but, Gin, I promise you, if Auror Crouch got Cruciated, he might wet himself. And if there's a next time, you might not.

It was just rotten luck. (Like any part of it was better than rotten.)

Mostly, I'm just really sorry it happened to you. Really.

I was so scared I almost threw up before anyone had even started on me. First when we were waiting in the other room but listening to everyone else. And then when we came back in. I was shaking so hard you could probably hear my teeth chattering.

If I have to go through it again it's going to be even worse, because I'll know it's really as bad as they say. And you've been through it before and you know you'll have to do it again and

I am the worst Gryffindor ever.
**alt_ron** at 2014-11-08 04:19:49  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to Ron*

You are not.

Finnigan is.

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**alt_ginny** at 2014-11-08 04:54:49  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to Ron*

Yeah, okay.

I'll give you that.

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**alt_harry** at 2014-11-08 04:56:31  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors*

That's a thought.

Stay away, you mean? On purpose?

It sounds like an interesting

We could.

---

**alt_ron** at 2014-11-08 05:16:25  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors*

Yeah. We totally could.

We could get loads of people to do it.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-11-08 05:18:18  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors*

Yeah.

Let's do it.
Oh the sacrifices you would have us make.

I don't know if you ought to skip. I'm not suggesting to Professor Sprout that she ought to stay away.

Just the current students. (Which means I won't get to go be there, either.)

I have any number of reasons not to be there. I haven't been to the others. It's easy enough to regretfully not be present. No matter how interesting the talk might be.

Unless you would rather I be there to let you all know what happens?

Ron,

Do you think it would hurt your standing with Professor Desai if you were to skip it? Brooms are something you'd normally be interested in, or am I mistaken?

I could easily forego it as it's not an area where I'm known to take an interest, what, but I'm somewhat torn on the politics of absenting myself. I'm meant to be the Headmaster's pet and a loyal subject. I'm weighing how odd it would look if I'm also not present.

What do you think, old man?
If we've got a load of people to stay away, I'm staying away. It's worth it right now. Even if it gets Desai hacked off.

Thank you for the potion.

Do you happen to know the ingredients and brewing instructions, or where they could be found? It's not the same as the restorative potion Madam Pomfrey uses, and I would be interested in comparing the two.

You're welcome, and I am sorry for the necessity behind it.

The restorative potion is one of the Council's well-kept treasures. The recipe was developed by a wizard who is no longer with us, but who was quite gifted with potions. Its chief downside is that its ingredients are not widely available in the Protectorate, and thus are prohibitively expensive; it substitutes powdered graphorn horn for the standard recipe's porcupine quills, for instance, and there's a hefty dose of lobalug venom and ahool feather. And something else I'm forgetting -- scales of a Brinman's frog, maybe? Impractical for mass manufacture, but I have long since made it a point of keeping a reasonable supply on hand.

Well, at least I had company today.

The potion sounds fascinating. I'd love a chance to
look over the precise brewing instructions, to try to work out what the substitutions do.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-08 06:34:31
Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

I would have to dig up the instructions. (I do not do the brewing myself; I know better than that. It is not a difficult potion, per se, but it is fairly exacting.) If I am able to do so, however, I would be happy to allow you to take a look at it, though for various reasons I cannot allow you to make a copy.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-08 06:38:00
Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

I understand. If you can find it, I would very much like to take a look.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-08 06:50:07
Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

I shall see what I can turn up.
2014-11-07 16:45:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Alice

sprained my goddamn ankle sparring.
colin'll get me back from inverary in an hour or so. they've got a sort-of medic here looking after it.
feel like a bloody idiot. going out of my skin just sitting here like I'm a fucking

don't expect us for dinner.

alt_alice at 2014-11-08 00:55:18
(no subject)

We'll keep plates warm for you both.
Once we can get a proper look at it, we'll patch you up and get you on your feet as soon as possible.

alt_frank at 2014-11-08 00:56:34
(no subject)

right.
yes.
okay.

alt_frank at 2014-11-08 01:39:39
(no subject)

they're wrapping it so it'll be stable when we apparate.
colin has everyone laughing about something or another.
sorry.
You come home, when you can, love.

I'm in need of a shoulder. And I vastly prefer yours.
Right, I've been thinking about how we should tell Mum. Given all the sturm und drang apparently going on at Hogwarts this week, maybe it's not the best time, but then again, maybe it's exactly the perfect time?

Do you want me to tell her by myself? I could sit her down at Sunday supper. (That would probably involve telling the rest of the crowd all at once, though. Which I'm fine with, but you might not be.) Or you could invite her to Grimmauld at some point, if you want us to do it together. Or we could say fuck it and run off to go live on a small island in the Shetlands and hide from the rest of the world.

You've no idea how close I am to the Shetlands, love. So very very close.

Let's have her over to Grimmauld for tea or something, do this together. I'll talk to Sirius and Remus, and make sure we'll have a spot of privacy and Bea's got someone looking after her during.

Although, you know. I've got Sunday off. What if you came over for Sunday supper -- no, bad plan, I know you're probably climbing the walls there but with everyone on edge like this that's probably too dangerous. All right, what if we came over for Sunday supper? You and I could take Mum off into the library or something and tell her after supper. And then I could tell the twins and Bill once we got back home so you wouldn't have to deal with anything awkward with Bill.

I mean, assuming your lot is all right with me merrily inviting a pack of Weasleys over to yours for the afternoon.
This is sort of a random question but I'm really curious now.

Did you once formulate a restorative potion to be used after cruciatus that substituted powdered graphorn horn for porcupine quills, and use lobalug venom and ahool feather?

I mean I can't imagine who ELSE the 'wizard who is no longer with us but was quite gifted with potions' might be. (I suppose if it were a muggleborn that would also be a good reason not to name him.)

I find myself darkly amused that my creations are still in use even as I have been discarded.

Yes, that sounds very much like a potion I developed for palliative care after Cruciatus exposure. It was, unsurprisingly, a popular offering. Dare I ask how you encountered it?

Yeah, that was the same thing I was thinking. They got rid of you but they kept your potions. Or this one, anyway. Dolohov called it 'one of the Council's well-kept treasures.'

He gave me some of his supply because Desai cruciated me this afternoon (along with four other people who got up early this morning, because of the graffiti Warrington left. She didn't know who'd done it, or at least she pretended she didn't know, and punished all five of us.) It worked really well. I feel almost completely fine now. (Admittedly the time I got cruciated before I didn't even go to the hospital wing and I'm sure Madam Pomfrey's usual potion would've helped.)
How much do you want to bet it's JUST the Council's well-kept treasure and Voldemort doesn't know a thing about it?

That would be a fool's bet indeed. I will not begrudge them the use of it if it means you were able to have a dose available when you needed it. I had forgot about it entirely until just now. Perhaps I will reconstruct as much of the receipt as I can remember and set Miss Granger to the task of finding suitable replacements for the ingredients that are restricted or nearly impossible to find; it would almost certainly be a good thing for you all to have on hand this year.

I am not surprised it is still in use. As I recall, it was rather effective. I would likewise not be surprised to discover many of my charms and hexes to still be in favour; I was prolific in my youth, and many of the things I developed were aimed at, shall we say, a certain audience. That lot has always been the sort to seize useful things whenever they might find them, and tell others — and themselves — whatever they need to in order to assuage their alleged scruples about the source.

I am sorry for your ordeal, and sorrier still that I am no longer present to help avoid it in the first place.

Here's what he said he knew about it: 'it substitutes powdered graphorn horn for the standard recipe's porcupine quills, for instance, and there's a hefty dose of lobalug venom and ahool feather. And something else I'm forgetting -- scales of a Brinman's frog, maybe?'
I'm trying to get him to find me a written copy for my personal edification, we'll see.

Anyway I don't think there would have been anything you could have done, if you'd still been at the school pretending to be Milland. He was the one who told Dolohov about the graffiti but I'm sure he's been ordered to report any new graffiti he finds and several people had certainly seen it, it would have been quite risky for you to defy orders there.

Honestly I was just glad Desai didn't scapegoat me. Your suspects are four purebloods and one fostered half-blood and you KNOW the pureblood from the Council family is the one who did it but you'd rather not admit that. You know?

 août_severus at 2014-11-08 06:15:08
(no subject)

I suppose it says something about the world in which we live when you must be grateful that you were not the only one being cruciated, but you are correct that Desai could easily have chosen you as the scapegoat. I wonder what it says that she did not.

And if you are able to obtain the receipt, do let me know. I've just spent twenty minutes trying to cudgel it out of my memory, with little luck; I can remember most of the ingredients, but I've lost nearly all the brewing steps. It was not, as you might imagine, one of the potions I often wished to recall in my meditations while I was in Azkaban, and I have forgot nearly all of the ones I did not dwell upon. And of course my notebooks are long lost.

(I do, however, recall that the scales were that of a hoop snake, not a Brinman's, which anyone with any sense ought to know would be entirely the wrong genus for that class of potion. Dolohov was always rubbish at Potions, however.)
I think the most likely reason she didn't is that I'm one of Dolohov's 'pets.' It might make him cross if she scapegoated me. Mostly, because a really serious disciplinary infraction could make it harder for me to get into St Mungo's apprenticeship programme, and Dolohov very much wants a Healer who's in his debt. He has to get me IN to their programme and they almost never let in half-bloods.

Anyway, the hoop snake makes a lot more sense. The potion Madam Pomfrey gave me right away eased all the random aches and pains really well but there was this sense that's hard to describe, almost like ringing in my ears? like some bit of my nervous system was turned up too high, I felt jangly, and that didn't go away (and I sort of remember it from the time Lana cruciated me, it lasted for DAYS though it was hard to know how much of that was just being upset and angry). 

Your version of the potion settled that down. I was trying to work out what ingredient would do that and from what I remember about the properties of hoop snake scales in healing potions, yeah, I can see that.

The over-excitation of the nerves after cruciation is a problem most of the standard recovery potions do not address, yes. The effects are cumulative, as well; if one does not have sufficient recovery time between bouts, the next bout will be far worse. That was my primary motive in developing the palliative, actually: the pain relief it brings is a (quite welcome) side effect, but the primary focus was to reduce the risk of permanent damage when one is being cruciated regularly.

There was more than one occasion when I had cause to be very grateful for its existence. The Dark Lord had a rather pointed way of communicating His displeasure when we lost a skirmish.
He doesn't permit anyone to cruciate Harry. When we were younger, Harry said it was because supposedly people have bitten their tongues off, but that never really made much sense to me. Cumulative nerve damage makes a lot more sense, though I still don't really know why he decided Harry needed to be protected from all harm. It's not like he ever intends to retire and put Harry in charge. (Or die. Evidently he's not planning to do that, either.)

Anyway yeah I bet Voldemort doesn't go for careful ten-second bursts.

The first time I got cruciated it was Lana Sandoval, because I'd gone into Carrow's office and they thought I was spying. She lost her nerve and it only lasted for a few seconds and Carrow taunted her and the second time -- I thought it was never going to end. Though honestly I don't know how long it lasted. It was less frightening this time, because I'd counted seconds with the first three and knew she was doing it for exactly ten seconds each time.

Desai is not one to lose control, no. She always was frighteningly composed, even in the heat of the moment.

And I have never been able to guess His his purpose in having adopted Harry — or more accurately, in having taken him as spoils of war. I cannot help but think that if we knew the reason, many things would begin to make more sense.

One thing is certain, whatever the purpose is, it will be entirely self-serving.
Also, what charms and hexes are yours? I'm curious if I've learned any of them.

Let me think. Levicorpus, used to suspend someone in mid-air, and its counter, Liberacorpus. Muffliato, which is an anti-eavesdropping charm that cannot be overridden by any of the surveillance spells known at the time. (I would have taught it to you lot, save that it did not spread widely past Death Eater circles, and for you to know it would have been unexplainable.) A collection of miscellaneous annoyance jinxes, such as one to fasten one's opponent's tongue to the roof of his mouth — preventing spellcasting, unless he is skilled in nonverbal magic — and one to cause one's opponent's toenails to grow wildly. (Which is, I will admit, mostly a juvenile nuisance, but can be used to affect one's opponent's balance.) A hex to mildly interfere with the nerve signals from brain to extremeties, causing one's opponent to be unable to perform delicate wand manoeuvers. A hex to cause uncontrollable bleeding from ever-opening wounds. I am certain there are more I cannot remember.

I was a bookish, and fairly morbid, child.

You *developed* all of those?

I'm glad you're on our side now.

I know the tongue-sticking spell, actually, it got passed around duelling club. There's a non-verbal counter someone came up with at some point but it pairs really well with a hex that makes it really hard to hold onto your wand (it's not the disarming spell per se, people tend to be on guard against that. People call it the butterfingers jinx.)
If the jinx you mean has *Nilcomplecti* as an incantation, that is the milder form of the one that disrupts nerve signals. (I developed it to make a point, actually: that Muggle science could be useful in certain situations. The point was lost; the spells, apparently, live on.)

And yes. I was quite adept with charm, hex, and jinx creation when I was younger; Professor Flitwick tried several times to redirect my attention from potions, but brewing has always been my first, best love. (You would have liked him a great deal, I believe. Certainly far more than Acton; then again, that is a very low bar.) I have lost most of my facility, however; the wand I am using now is in many ways a poor fit, and there is the aftermath of Azkaban to consider.

It is oddly comforting to know they are still being passed around, however.

Oh, yeah. That was it.

I've heard some of the Order adults talk about Flitwick but I don't have any real idea what he was like.

He had the most wretched sense of humour; his love of puns, the more complex the better, was well-known. He could combine three charms together to make a fourth that no one had ever heard of, and do so with less than ten seconds of lead time. He was endlessly patient with Muggleborn students who were overwhelmed or lost or terrified of what they could suddenly do. He could be distracted from his lecture for an entire class period by one well-timed question.
that would set him off on a tangent from which there was no recovery. He was one of the best and fiercest duellists I have ever known, and looked the part the least. He loved music, particularly complex polyphonic choral pieces, the more abstruse the better. He was unflappable; I never saw him lose his temper or grow impatient, no matter how badly the first-years bungled their charms or how many times they turned him colours or accidentally banished him instead of the thing they were working on.

He loved sweets and baked goods, and always kept tiny cupcakes on hand to share with students who needed a pick-me-up; we were never able to discover where he got them, and the elves would not tell. He was the first to welcome me to the ranks of staff, in my brief foray into teaching, and made it a point to join me in my office several times a week to see how I was faring. He had a way of listening to you that invited you to talk, about anything that was bothering you, and if you shared something with him in confidence it would never be shared or mentioned again.

The Order lost a great light when he was killed, but unless I greatly miss my guess, he would have counted his life a small price to pay for the safety and security of all the Muggleborn children the Order has saved due to his actions.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-08 06:33:21 (no subject)

Oh, and the toenail one.

Everyone in Slytherin thought that one was HILARIOUS for about two weeks back first year. Or second year? You’d cast it on your mate in the bath, usually.
Thank you.

Really. I'm wearing the charm. Do you remember the Christmas I gave it to you? Seems ages ago, doesn't it?

It's just like the poem, wearing it, and feeling it close to me. A physical emblem of the fondness, there above my heart, swaying on its chain with every breath. Fondness and the sense of nearness, no matter the distance or time or circumstances that separate.

I keep charming it to speak the original poem. The Farsi's as beautiful as the first time we listened to it.

That was a long time ago, too, though.

It means a lot, your leaving it for me.

Of course I remember. I remember each and every thing you ever gave me.

Which is why if there's anything you need from me, you only have to say it. I will do all that I am able.
He can't cruciate us for skipping his talk on Sunday. Show what you think of him cruciating half the school by staying away.
maybe we make it so only gryffindors show up? wonder what he'd do then.
Order Only - Private message to the Juniors

I know what the Headmaster was trying to avoid with his punishments. I don't know if you want to hear it. I do agree with him that there are things that would be much worse. And he was afraid of those.

I tried to explain this, yesterday. To Alice and Remus and Albus and Poppy and Pomona and Severus. It went - badly.

It was suggested that I should ask you. Quite right, that. I'm sorry I didn't earlier. Had to find words. Get time to think.

So. I'm asking you what you want. What punishments you're willing to bear and what you aren't. When you do things that are going to get a punishment, no matter how much they matter and how much they're right. (Because if he doesn't punish some things, that'd be a whole other set of problems, and I think not the ones you want. Maybe I'm wrong.)

What you think works here, in this school, right now. Not the one we had when I was a student, or the one from six years ago or six months ago. Or even six days. We don't live there anymore.

He may not ask my advice or tell me in advance what he's planning (he didn't Thursday). But I do think he'll listen. And that maybe I can nudge things, if I know what would help your plans, in a way that'd help. Think about it.

Last spring, Raz and I started talking a lot about how our generation had failed you. All of you. Too many ways. The more things I see, the more that's right. You all deserve better. I'm sorry for my part in that.

Yeah, whatever.

Dolohov's an idiot if he thinks he made things less likely to blow up into open trouble. He just showed a
whole lot more people than ever saw it before that he's a servant of the Protector for a reason.

It's fine with me if I get Cruciated again. Every time they use that, most kids are going to see him for what he is.

You know what? Crucio's awful. So Crucio me. Every time you do, somebody wakes up to what's going on.

I'm scared, but I'm not stopping. And I'm ready for worse to happen.

I don't figure I'll live to get to be your age, so what I care about is making a difference if I can, while I can. It makes it easier to take risks or y'know, do things my Mum will want to stop me doing because they're dangerous.

And saying you'll Cruciate me? Go ahead. I'm ready to die, so whatever.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-08 18:56:10
(no subject)

Yeah.

What he said. All of it.

---

@alt_sinistra at 2014-11-08 23:42:14
(no subject)

Thank you both. For putting what you choosing so clearly.

---

@alt_neville at 2014-11-11 15:27:46
(no subject)

I'll add, that I'll take Crucio, too, no problem, for the same reasons that Ron says. But I do want to protect the younger kids as much as possible. If you have any influence over him, nudge him into going for the kids in the upper years, if he's gonna punish anyone. It makes sense in a way: kids aren't picked as prefects until fifth year because they're seen as more responsible at that age.
What he may not fully realise is what he's doing to the reputation of any of the kids he orders to be put under Crucio. Those who are completely loyal write us off as traitors, but since there were enough in that group who were obviously innocent, more are starting to see through the lie ‘they were punished so they must be guilty.’ When we show him--show everyone--we can take Crucio, well, the younger kids look at us who underwent it a little differently now. If they grasp that we're taking the punishment to protect them, it'll mix a little gratitude in with the awe, and that's a good recipe to prompt them to look to us older kids as leaders.

**alt_neville** at 2014-11-11 15:31:05  
Private message to Professor Sinistra

I'd rather take it then subject Evelyn to it, every time.

**alt_sinistra** at 2014-11-11 16:57:33  
(no subject)

Your point about protecting the younger students is a very good one (and I think, not difficult to manage, assuming there's nothing that forces his hand there.)

I do agree he didn't think through the implications of unfairness and casting a wide net, and I do agree it has some benefits. (Above and beyond the fact that I still think any kind of serious investigation would have escalated things dramatically and not at all well.)

**alt_hydra** at 2014-11-08 18:26:31  
(no subject)

There's no mystery here, I don't think.

We're all willing to bear what we are already bearing.
Professor,

It's not at all difficult to guess his motives or what he hoped to forestall. We encounter that sort of flawed logic every day, working with him, Professor Desai, even, if one may say it, Professor Lestrange, when he was teaching. His methods only seem reasonable if one accepts the premise that one sort of punishment for free protest is preferrable to another, or indeed warranted at all.

As Ron and Hydra say, we're all clearly committed to bear whatever's necessary to see through our chosen pathways. Since he has seen fit to cast himself as one who would protect your tender sensibilities, it might be best to allow him to see just how horrified you are by his choices and behaviour. We need to take things in stride, what, but you are free to react as if you are appalled, rather than conceding the necessity as if there were no alternative and as if the punishment were an expected consequence of free speech. It's unlikely he will question his own harshness but perhaps, if he does believe he has made himself a monster in your eyes, he will at least consider the shamefulness of his action.

-Finch-Fletchley

I am listening. I don't know how to say what I want, so I am going to avoid doing it badly.

I am also thinking about where I can provide that kind of leverage - given past history and conversations (and of course I can't expect you to factor those in, not knowing the
What do we want to do about it? Make things better or worse for him and therefore everyone at Hogwarts? There are multiple ways that we can make his job and life easier or harder. I could have not shown up to help with letters over the weekend. Justin could have come earlier, Hydra could have been brought in, etc.

Is it better to have him less stressed with confidence in a group of hard-working, loyal 'friends' to be able to better resist Desai's needling and make 'good' decisions or is it better to leave him vulnerable to that needling, pull back on the support, pile on the stressful minutia and leave him with only Crouch as a friendly ear? One of those makes Hogwarts safer, one more dangerous and like the rest of the realm.

I've tried that. I've been good. I've been quiet. I've tried to keep things from getting out of control.

IT DIDN'T HELP.

Both of you -- Siz and Cedric -- you're trying to say you think we should try to stop the graffiti. That I should try to stop it. And maybe put on Slytherin robes and go back to sleeping in the Slytherin dorms, because I'm probably just drawing more negative attention to Gryffindor and if people get cruciated over and over, it's basically my fault for not behaving.

My answer to you is the same as my answer to Dolohov: no. You
can't control me that way anymore. Any of you.

I'm not going to tell people to stop writing names on the walls.

alt_cedric at 2014-11-08 23:39:02
(no subject)

I'm not talking about stopping the graffiti or knuckling under like that. I'm talking about how we try to influence Dolohov and the school. I'm stuck with the family, can't write more now will try to explain again later tonight or some time tomorrow. I wouldn't ask you to do that Harry.

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-08 23:40:57
(no subject)

I am not asking you to stop. I'm so very sorry what I said made you think that.

It matters to me that you - all of you - get choices. As many as you get the chance to make. That's why I asked what you want.

Right now, I can't sort through a lot of the options. Almost all of you are better at strategy than I am.

If there are punishments, should I encourage more of the arbitrary ones? So that people talk more and more about unfairness? Or push to punish only people who have been caught doing something? Would it help your choices if I pointed some things out, called attention to them.

They have different effects, as you've already pointed out. There's the new detection spells, the ones he mentioned at supper last night. They'll be able to figure out who did which graffiti soon enough. That changes things, too.

I can't pick that for you. And I can't ask everyone in school. But I can ask those of you in the Order.

And. If you truly feel that it would be better, somehow, if Tosha weren't Head. If it would be better to have Savitha or Bellatrix or someone else, then we can talk about how to do that. Because
some choices might go there. (And some things we don't get to choose.) I don't agree, at least right now, but I could be wrong.

Won't be down at supper. If anyone wants to talk in person, I can set privacy charms in my office.

---

**alt_harry at 2014-11-09 21:26:00**

(no subject)

Professor Sinistra, I don't think you should lean on him either way.

Because if you do, you'll feel responsible for what happens next. And that shouldn't be on you.

---

**alt.sinistra at 2014-11-09 23:34:09**

(no subject)

Chances are, I'll feel responsible for something anyway. I'd rather feel responsible for something that's useful. Whatever that is.

But if going on as I have with him is what's wanted, I can certainly do that.

---

**alt.cedric at 2014-11-09 08:39:31**

(no subject)

As I said earlier, what I meant was how should we try to influence Dolohov?

Even from his point of view, his decision to have a bunch of students tortured was not the best way of running the school. He let Padma and Seamus use this an excuss to act on their petty grudges. He could have easily reined that in. He let it happend to Warrington. He had to know that was a tactical mistake, unlikely to have the effect he wanted. Why? I think because he was rushed and fearful. He saw treason and had to act, swiftly and without mercy. Because of Halloween, because he feared word would get to his lord before he'd acted and out of fear of an even worse result from his retribution both to himself and 'his' students.
The people he's closest to at this school are me, Justin, Siz and you. Who does he go to talk to, who does he spend time with? Desai's a rival, Sandoval's clearly using him, he knows it, she knows he knows it. He doesn't trust Padma out of his sight. I think he views Seamus as trainable, but not the protegee he chose. Vector resents him. Outside school he has a few other people he can lean on, but here? It's all us.

Do we make his life easier and set him up to lean even more heavily on us or do we make his life harder, full of stressful minutia so he responds more wildly?

Dolohov isn't our enemy. I mean, he's not our main enemy. Our enemy is Voldemort.

If Dolohov were on our side, really on our side, he might have still put on a big show using crucio on everyone who might have been anywhere near some graffiti, because he felt he had to, to protect the school from Voldemort. Just as Hydra had to actually do it.

I don't want to get rid of Dolohov. I don't want to ask anyone (you or Professor Sinistra or any of the other staff) to make his life harder on purpose.

That's not our goal.
2014-11-08 07:15:00
Quidditch cancelled

Might as well sleep in.

alt_zacharias

alt_susan at 2014-11-08 19:29:41
(no subject)

I wouldn't have minded a chance to focus on tossing a Quaffle about for awhile. Want to go for a practise flight or something later?

alt_ernie at 2014-11-08 19:59:00
(no subject)

If it's an open pick-up, I could stand to get some air.

alt_susan at 2014-11-08 21:30:24
(no subject)

You're always welcome mate. And anyone from our squad who'd like to join in. Or who needs some distraction in general.
I've been thinking about who to write this to, and at the end of the day it's really something everyone needs to know, not just the younger set. Especially as it involves some of your children.

As you know by now, on Thursday the Headmaster asked me, Padma, and Seamus to bring him those who were responsible for the "I remember" graffiti. He planned to punish all of the upper-year Gryffindors along with any other suspects we brought him. Padma and Seamus mostly used this opportunity to spread their reach into the school, selecting people they had personal grudges against or wanted to exert power over. I more or less ordered them to leave Slytherin to me, in part because I knew that they would go after both Pansy and Sally Anne and maybe Daphne, too, but also because it's best for now if they both believe it's a bad idea to cross me.

All of the people I fingered as suspects were chosen with careful deliberation. I looked for people who felt moved by the messages behind the graffiti, but hadn't themselves written it (Draco's idea). People like Darius Warrington and my cousin, Remy. I also tried to single out pairs of close friends who share a mutual dislike of me, like Eloise (friends with Megan, who was chosen by Padma and Seamus), and my roommates Norma and Cressida.

I don't enjoy doing it, because I know how cruel and manipulative it is, but my intention is to make these people who are already afraid of me be not just afraid, but angry. I know what it's like to have someone monstrous breathing down your neck, and now they will, too. My hope is that these small groups will band together in their hatred of me in a way that nurtures thoughts of rebellion.

When it came to the actual moment of punishment, most of the people I cruciated were assigned to me randomly. Artie, Ginny, Susan...I'm sorry. I wish there were a way for me to have made it easier for you, but it's really not possible. In order to cruciate anyone, I have to imagine that they're my mother. It's not just an idle fantasy, either - it's more like a meditative state where I literally hallucinate that it's Bellatrix standing there in front of me. Sometimes, the hallucination almost feels too real. I think that's what happened with Honoria.

I did legilimise the whole time, and a lot of you who've been training
in occlumency used the opportunity to see if you could continue to occlude under torture. Artie, Evelyn, Neville, Luna, Justin: you all did well. Ginny, Katrina, and Sue: keep working on it, you're getting closer. Don't give up.

None of the other students have trained in occlumency, of course, so I got a wide range of broadcasts, much of it sheer anger and panic. Millicent Bulstrode actually demanded out loud that if anyone was going to cruciate her, a Bulstrode, then it would be Lestrange, not nobodies like Patil and Finnigan. Blaise was outraged that he was even a part of the proceedings, and projected cold fury toward Padma, in particular, and then deep shame, afterwards. Megan hates me, and even though it was Seamus cruciating her, Eloise also inwardly blamed me and not him, because I was the one who cruciated Megan and Sue. Megan also really did write graffiti: "I remember Sarah" in very small letters near the corridor where Sarah tried to help her during Umbridge's reign. Just before he was hit, Darius Warrington was thinking "You won't make me forget, you won't make me forget," over and over again. He also hadn't written any of the graffiti at that point, though he had seen the words "Remember the Frost Faire" and they gave him quite a turn. Until then, he truly believed he was the only one who remembered or cared about the Frost Faire. Norma and Cressida dislike me more than ever, but Norma, at least, was also feeling strong sympathy for Igraine Archer. Honoria blames her sister, even though it was me torturing her. Remy felt strong loathing for Seamus, but also a baffling sort of curiosity about me, since he doesn't understand how I could possibly have ended up this way.

The Archers may have had the most interesting responses. Gareth is a loyalist and is furious about the graffiti because he believes some people should never, ever be remembered, including his own father. But his cousin, Igraine, was engaged in a highly detailed fantasy in order to distract herself both from what was happening around her, and from thinking about the camp where she lived as a child. In her fantasy she was Amaranth from *Pure Hunger*, and she lined up all the council wizards and witches against a long, endless gray wall and killed every last one of them using a - I think it was a gun? Those things that muggles use to kill people and hunt animals.

Both Padma and Seamus suffered some ill-effects, psychologically speaking, after torturing so many people.

And that's all. I've no doubt this was difficult for some of you to read. If you prefer I not share such information in the future, I can limit this kind of report to those who feel they want to know such things.
Thank you, Hydra. That's good to hear.

I was glad you were the only Legilimens there, it made everything a great deal less stressful, honestly. It was just something to get through that was truly awful, but not dangerous. With the exception of what happened Honoria, of course.

Perhaps we ought to talk to Warrington and Igraine?

Ginny, how's Honoria doing?

My hope is that Igraine, Cressida, Norma, and Darius will all start talking to each other. Perhaps we should see if that develops, first.

Yes.

I suddenly feel all-too aware that I'm the only Order junior who has never been cruciated. Well, besides Harry (unless I'm wrong about that).

Hydra, maybe you should... Because what if it's something I can't bear, let alone occlude during? Isn't it better to know now?
I understand why you feel that way, but no. I can't help you out like that.

I've been thinking about why you said 'no,' and I believe I've determined why. I'm sorry for having asked. I understand that cruciating people in a way that serves your role as a council witch is a necessity, and that to cruciate people in a way that serves your role in the Order would be unacceptable. Honestly, though... if Milli can take it, I should be fine.

The way things are going you might well get to give it a go within the next week or two. Though they might or might not have Hydra there for it. Desai didn't bring her in yesterday, so I didn't get to test out how well my occlumency holds under duress.

I expect if they decide to punish you it'll be Desai or Dolohov who does it, anyway, since you're Head Girl.

Well, it will be interesting, if it gets to that point. Because it will mean that they believe there are truly no longer any students they can trust to be above treasonous activity, barring perhaps the newest council members.

Which will mean that they're really afraid.
It's like the tighter things get, the more impossible it becomes to not be treasonous.

Especially if it's treasonous just to remember things that actually happened.

Artie's been going on about 1984, the book by Orwell. It's about Britain after it's been taken over by powerful, controlling people, and they try to change even the way the citizens think, they've got all this stuff in there about changing stories in the news after the fact, and thoughtcrimes and things. (Sorry to put you on the spot, Art, but it really is quite pertinent!)

Deep down, they're afraid of Voldemort; yes, even the Headmaster. So what they're really afraid of is their own treason.

This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues,  
Was once thought honest. You have loved him well.  
He hath not touched you yet. I am young, but something  
You may deserve of him through me, and wisdom  
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb  
T' appease an angry god.

That made me think of this one.

The path is clear  
Though no eyes can see  
The course laid down long before  
And so with gods and men  
The sheep remain inside their pen  
Though many times they've seen the way to leave  

I like your take on it better, though.
That fear is not deep down. Everyone I've interacted with fears failing him, disappointing him. I've caught the edges of enough conversations to know that even Crouch fears that. Dolohov was afraid before he showed up here on Halloween. He's been described as 'recently unpredictable'. He's still upset about Lucius's treatment. I don't think Dolohov's dedication to 'the cause' has wavered, but I've begun wondering about how rock solid his personal loyalty remains. I have no proof other than what he did to save me and I wouldn't test it, but I think there are cracks.

Hydra,

That must be why Remy's been trying to catch me to chat. He's confused by what's changed in you, what.

I'll let him corner me this afternoon or evening.

-Justin

Well, he has known me my whole life and knows that I never wanted to grow up to be like my mother, so yes, he doesn't understand how it appears to have happened anyway.

What do you think you'll say to him?
It depends on what he says or how he asks, but I thought I'd start by saying I've no way to know your mind at present, nor is it particularly my business to know.

From there, I might speculate that it could be one of several things. First, you've changed; second, you've decided that if you can't beat her, you'll join her; third, that you've grown up a bit since we broke up, and now embrace Our Lord's service as you ought to have done all along.

Will any of that enhance your strategy?

-Justin

The second would be the most likely to disappoint him, so I'd go with that. Say what you will about his lack of discretion, but Remy really doesn't like conformity.

This was quite useful, Hydra. As always, I'd rather have eyes wide open than not.

I appreciate your thoughts going into the choices you made, and that you had the presence of mind and control to use this entire incident to our advantage.

I agree that the circumstances were ripe for a response of anger and resentment that can certainly pay off later. The Protectorate is inherently unjust, and the sooner that is brought home to roost in your generation, the more likely we are to make a successful transition to something better.

It can be difficult to sustain resentment at a simmer without having it
boil over and escalate into something that becomes a great deal more difficult to manage. Especially as we have so little control over what happens on the other end of things -- Dolohov may decide to bring in MLE, for instance, if he feels as though he doesn't have the degree of control he's seeking (or at least the outer appearance of it). Should things evolve rapidly, we'd try to stay on top of it, of course, but I'm wondering whether we ought to aim for a balance of sorts for the time being.

I'm also anticipating that should we have things truly boil over, it might be excessively dangerous for the most vulnerable in the castle, if that is indeed to be a possible battleground. Daphne, Sue, Ginny, Evelyn, Cedric, it might be worth your while to coordinate with Poppy, Pomona, and Albus so that we have a plan of sorts in place for the younger students.

---

**alt_alice** at 2014-11-08 19:20:26

Private Message to Hydra

You've said that Seamus and Padma suffered ill effects, and didn't speak to your own state of mind. I understand entirely if you wish to keep that information to yourself, but if you do wish to talk, please know that I would welcome it. Likewise, Severus might be a good resource to sort things out further if they need sorting.

You have incredible inner strength, Hydra, and you've had to test that strength often, and will continue to need to do so.

I am so very grateful that you've positioned yourself as you have, despite what is undoubtedly an immense personal cost. Thank you.

---

**alt_hydra** at 2014-11-08 19:27:17

Re: Private Message to Hydra

That's alright, I have my cat, Jack, to talk to.

I understand your feelings, but I would appreciate it if you not thank me. It's just better that way.
@alt_alice at 2014-11-08 19:31:52
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Yes.

Of course.

@alt_susan at 2014-11-08 19:35:36
Private Message to Hydra

It hurt like fuck but I'd rather have you doing it than Patil or Finnegan.

And at least it's a realistic check on our Occlumency. Merlin's balls--I thought I was getting better.

@alt_harry at 2014-11-08 22:31:49
Private message to Hydra

Are you okay?

@alt_hydra at 2014-11-09 17:55:52
Re: Private message to Hydra

Yeah, I am.

@alt_lupin at 2014-11-09 17:42:57
(no subject)

Right. There's some extremely useful information here; I've been thinking about how best to use it.

Darius Warrington, Igraine Archer, and Norma Stein are all Slytherins. Sally-Anne, Pansy, and Daphne, how well do you know them? Can you try to get them talking to each other, or to you? Darius is from a Councilwizard family and if he's turning away from the sort of Pureblood propaganda the Protectorate was based on, he may have access later to people and information that would do us a lot of good. Igraine Archer may recall useful information about the
camp she was in.

Ginny, have you and Honoria spoken about what happened? I know you were interested in recruiting her; has she said anything since that made you feel more or less certain about her sympathies?

Hydra, did you pick up anything of interest from the adults in the room? Dolohov, Desai, and Lana Sandoval were all present, yes?

Cressida is a Slytherin as well, and both she and Norma are my roommates. They've always been very close to each other. Not to me.

Dolohov is very frustrated. He believes he is protecting the children from their own wrong-headed inclinations and giving them a dose of self-preservation. I think his actions are more about protecting himself than even he realises, though.

Desai knows how to occlude and does so whenever she's in my presence. Most of the time she's pretty good, but sometimes she lets something through. For some reason, I got something from her when Norma was being cruciated. Desai thought of a woman - adult, but small, dark hair. Not someone I recognise.

Lana was mostly projecting disappointment and annoyance with her sister.

Norma Stein.

Did she lose her mother a few years back?

I wonder if she's Miriam Stein's daughter. Miriam was in Dogstar. I'm sure Norma doesn't know that.
Warrington and Archer are already talking to each other. We might hold back and see whether Stein gets pulled in as well.

Warrington already knows Sally-Anne's solid, and we might make ourselves known to them after they've had a chance to chew over it some.

I've been thinking we might do something that can be open to more than just galleon members to capitalise a bit on how people are currently feeling. Sort of like what we did for Pure Victory or something. But I can't think of what.

I've rewritten Hey Hey Merlin to be satirical, though. I've sent a copy of the lyrics and things to Lee so they can play it on the free radio. I've sent along some of my other records for them to borrow as well, ones I think our students would be interested in hearing.

It's a relief to hear that for at least some of us our occlumency held up well. Thanks for passing that along.

I'm willing to read any information you can report that you feel will help us, no matter if it's uncomfortable. I'm grateful that you're willing to give it.
Darling--

Thank you so much for the books! And the choc as well--they were delicious and I rather needed them.

I got an irritable note--just short of a Howler really--from Mum yesterday.

But honestly it's not as if I can help the House I'm in and really I wouldn't care to. I'm not interested in letting a bunch of traitors take it over! Maybe Marvolo will be a good influence actually--though he's been very odd this year.

I do feel a bit ashamed because I'm afraid I mustn't be doing a very good job as Prefect this year--not with this sort of thing going on. Perhaps I ought to have done like Parvati and left school early. But you're here...

And thank you so much for wanting to be with me and comfort me after that whole ordeal. I just couldn't let you see me like that--I hope you understand.
wait im confused are all the gryffindors going and noone else, or none of us should go? harry what do you think?
IF WE GO WE LOOK SCARED NOT TO. GRYFFS ARE BRAVER THAN THAT.

IT WILL EMBARRASS DOVS IF ALMOST NO STUDENTS TURN OUT. (NOT HARRY)
All set for dinner tomorrow, Chuck.

Sirius and Remus have promised to be on their best behaviour as courteous hosts, and will attempt to keep Miss Bea from bursting into the library after dinner so we can have a spot of privacy with your mum. (Although given how things have been going with Miss Bea lately, that might be a small miracle. She's been a handful and a half. And has been off her potty training, which I thought we'd thoroughly managed by now.)

Kreacher is another loose cannon, but he's been rather angelic recently (compared to a certain young person, at least), but we'll keep an eye out just in case he decides to be the bearer of good tidings before their time.

I've been plugging away at my list, by the way. Can't wait to see yours.

I'm guessing Little Miss is just a bit stressed out by all the changes. I'll be sure to bring her some special little treat.

I'm a lot more nervous than I thought I was going to be. I mean, I don't think Mum is going to take it badly, but ... I don't know. I'm borrowing trouble.

My list is getting increasingly ridiculous. I keep alternating between "something significant! to go with 'Albia'! And we won't even have to come up with a cover story for whatever we name him now!" and "let's name the poor kid something completely normal".
Well, given his middle names are going to be 'Arthur Theodore' (or 'Theodore Arthur' depending on what sounds better), I think he'll be able to hold his head up in proper society.

We're not naming him Merle, though. I put my foot down on that one.

The problem I keep having is that sooner or later, everything sounds ridiculous!

I think “simple and normal" is winning, though. (I mean, we could name him Victor, but really, that's just asking for it.) So, the latest additions to the list are all things like Benjamin and Matthew instead of more clever ones.

Actually, hang on, let me get my list ... last five things I put on it were Jacob, David, Stephen, Kevin, and Daniel. I crossed off Kevin right away, though, when I realized I was only thinking of it because Alice and Frank used it for their Kevin. And 'Stephen' runs into the 'named after dead people' problem, with Stephen McGivern.

I've got Michael, Roger, Louis, Richard, Edward, and Jonathan,

and in the decidedly less practical side, Killian and Gabriel and Galahad.

And Rudy, because it makes me laugh whenever I see it.
How'd Bill take it?


He said he'd suspected, a bit. From how we were with each other. And he's thrilled and excited and he said Dumbledore's too much to have asked us to do this and that he's bloody proud Dumbledore asked us and that you're a fabulous mum and it's going to be great.

And then he said, you know, this means the twins are going to be uncles, and he hopes that thought doesn't terrify you. (It's suddenly terrifying me.)

I'm so happy Mum took it so well. Although I think she was starting to miss Dad all over again just about when I was leaving to come back up here; she had that look on her face. (I've been missing him a lot lately him too. I wish I could talk to him about fatherhood and all that. But I figure, if I get really stuck I'll just ask myself what Dad would have done, and then go do it.)

I like Matthias. And Gabriel. And you're right that 'Rudy' would be too damn funny. And I added another three today: Christopher, Adam, and Ian.

You know what I thought of last night and forgot to say? You should think about last names. I mean, not just for the Bap, but for you and Little Miss, too. You don't need to stay 'Nymphadora Ponds' now that you're not trying to keep up appearances anymore, not if you don't want. I dunno, you might want to keep it because you and Remus are still technically married and all, but I feel like he'd probably understand if you wanted to go back to 'Tonks', since everyone's calling you that now anyway.
Haven't thought about last names. That's a ponder, of course.

I'm the only Tonks left, but Remus is the only Lupin, and if Bea's part Lupin, Bap's part Weasley.

Hyphenate, perhaps?

I'll think on it and see what Remus thinks too.

You know.

This is just an out there thought, but Sirius has never really seemed all that happy to be a Black. And you're the last Tonks, and Remus is the last Lupin, and Bea has the last name of somebody who never existed, and somehow it just wouldn't seem right to call the Bap 'Weasley' even if he is one, and and and.

We're an odd sort of family, but we are a family, really, even if it's in multiple different configurations and connections. I almost wonder if Sirius and Remus would be interested in us all getting together and picking a last name for all of us together -- not instead of, but in addition to.

'Course, that'd mean the Bap would be up to seven or eight different names. But if we're going to be ridiculous, we might as well be thoroughly ridiculous. And it would mean having to come up with a name, but still.

It's silly, I know. But maybe I'll suggest it anyway.
You might be on to something there.
It's worth talking about, regardless.
I think we should all stay away, Gryffs included. - HM
Dolohov invited me to his quarters this evening just before curfew. I think it was his quarters and not his office because he has more privacy there. Before we talked, he cast ten different privacy spells including one where the incantation was a minute of singing in Arabic.

He said that his goal for the year was to 'avoid adding any more names to the rolls of our honoured dead' and he wanted my help and cooperation in failing as little as possible, he wanted me to use my influence with the other students to try to persuade them not to write names on the walls or do other things that Voldemort would consider treason.

He said this wasn't a battleground that would have any lasting strategic value if we won it. And he talked about how he'll turn a blind eye to things as much as he can, and -- I think this is why he cast all those privacy spells -- he brought up that night in Mysteries. He said that me and my friends had direct personal experience of what he'd turn a blind eye to, and in service to what ideals, though he'd never admit to this elsewhere, and that should remind me the lengths he'd go to to protect us.

And then he said he thought Voldemort might line us all up and kill every tenth student, or every fifth, or every third, if he believed this was a nest of sedition and treason. He said, 'I'm asking you to keep your struggle with Him from being played out on the chessboard of Hogwarts with the bodies of your classmates as game pieces.'

I told him that Voldemort had returned from the dead after Selwyn killed him by using a horcrux. And I thought he had more than one. And that supposedly I'm his 'son and heir' but if you don't intend to ever die, what exactly is an 'heir' for?

He said he didn't know.

I could see that 'more than one' horrified him, though.

I kept this to Juniors because -- well, I think you can guess why.
I don't know. I think with all the spells to track who's where and at what times, people are going to have to stop writing on the walls, anyway.

But I'm not sure I agree there's no 'strategic value' here. Students finish school and move on. If all we accomplish is that people like Darius Warrington they go out of Hogwarts knowing they're not the only ones who've realised the whole Protectorate is upside down and backwards, is that worth something?

If Voldemort lined up every student at Hogwarts and murdered a third of them, but that got enough people to rise up against him that we could be rid of him, would it be worth it?

---

@alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 07:52:57  
(no subject)

I think strategic value means different things for you and him. He's thinking of you using your power, and making people do things for your own personal gain.

You're thinking about Warrington having a change of heart, and having that be of value.

I think if Voldemort tried to line up every student at Hogwarts, we wouldn't go quietly. And we'd have reinforcements in a matter of minutes. He might be a powerful wizard, but I think Dolohov is counting on people just being massively afraid, and thinks that there'd be no point to fighting back. Because he doesn't think there's any way to defeat him. Only we know better than that.

If we sparked this thing, really truly lit a fire here, made Voldemort act, made the Order jump in to fight back, because they would, yes, there would be casualties. And maybe we'd start something we couldn't follow through on fully. If we started a war tomorrow, would we have any sort of chance at winning?

---

@alt_draco at 2014-11-09 16:50:06  
(no subject)

At what point do we determine there's a chance, though? Wars aren't won that way. Definitely not the muggle ones. When Germany invaded Poland, the UK and France immediately declared war against
them, even though Poland isn't anywhere near us. That's because they recognised that if no one helped Poland, what was to stop Germany from taking other countries?

France eventually surrendered, but Britain refused, even in the face of the utterly mad aeroplane attacks called 'blitzkrieg.'

Seems people are so hung up on thinking that we "lost" the first war, and waiting til we've licked our wounds and healed up, that they don't realise the war's still been going on all this time.

---

**alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 17:35:19**

(no subject)

My muggle Grandad was one of the people who flew an aeroplane for the British side, trying to defend against the Blitz.

My Mum has a picture of him standing next to his aeroplane. She took it with her when she went with the Order, I'm sure she'd show it to you if you want the next time you're in Sherwood.

Anyway yeah.

You're right. Even if it seems hopeless we need to believe we can do it.

---

**alt_draco at 2014-11-09 18:25:01**

(no subject)

Yeah? Sounds snitch.

You know, if you were going to describe the Order as a military operation, then it has units that specialise in survivalist techniques, research and development, and teaching magic. Maybe some reconnaissance, too.

But there's little to no focus on direct action, and engagement typically occurs only when MLE stumbles upon us, or when someone's in need of rescuing - like Hermione and me.

So while it's an operation with a number of strengths, it's also seriously lop-sided.
Have you read anything about the Vietnam War? That one was totally mental. North Vietnam, which was supported by the communists, went to war with South Vietnam, which was supported by the Americans. So it was actually a bizarre way for the United States to battle the USSR and China without actually going to war directly. The war went on for like twenty years or something, and the United States finally just withdrew, because the war was really unpopular with Americans and there was basically no end in sight.

The United States also had a really hard time adjusting to the style of fighting used by the Vietcong. Guerrilla warfare, it's called, where a small group of fighters ambushes soldiers using the element of surprise. Sometimes the Vietcong would even stand around and pretend to be useless farmers before turning on the Americans.

Sometimes I just wonder why we don't do more of that, you know?

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 20:09:25
(no subject)

What on earth have you been reading? Half those words might have just as well been in French.

Guerilla warfare is I think what Terry's Zulu Company does. But you're right, we could be doing a LOT more of it. The Order, I mean.

---

@alt_draco at 2014-11-09 20:24:06
(no subject)

I've been reading a lot of the muggle history books they've got at Moddey ever since Finch-Fletchley went all Professor Binns on me. Grabbed a few abandoned and mostly intact books when we were at Greater Hangleton, too.

And yeah, there's a few resistance groups at Sherwood, but because they're all comprised of people who are in hiding, some of them muggles who can't do magic, they're limited in the ways in which they can strike. It's the people who have the ability to completely blend into regular Protectorate society
who can get into serious striking range.

But then it's a matter of making sure it doesn't turn into another Quidditch World Cup, too.

There's also options like: what if some of the Sherwood folks were to deliberately get caught and sent to the camps, where they could directly provoke an uprising?

---

_staff_sally_anne_ at 2014-11-09 20:31:09
_(no subject)_

So yeah, that's the thing. I don't want us to be like Dogstar. That thing at the QWC was just awful, they didn't care who they hit to get at Voldemort, and your father.

Anyway if the Sherwood folks were caught they wouldn't send them to the camps, they'd kill them. If we want to place Sherwood people into the camps we'd need to do it with forged paperwork. I bet Bill Weasley could do it.

---

_staff_draco_ at 2014-11-09 20:46:29
_(no subject)_

Sorry, but just to be clear: when Hydra chose innocent people like Cressida Bode and Eloise Midgen to take in to Dolohov, that was acceptable, but blowing up the QWC was not? Can you explain where the line is for you? Was it because Eloise and Cressida probably wouldn't be killed that it became an acceptable strategic decision?

This isn't meant to sound accusatory. I think it's genuinely important to know where the line is.

I still wish I had dispatched the world of Isadora Rowle when I ran into her during my shop-lifting spree.
They knew they'd kill people who had nothing to do with anything. Like all the muggleborns who were right below the Protector's Box, like Hermione, and Lisa Turpin.

But, you're right. If we had a chance of killing Voldemort but knew we'd take out a few innocents along with him, it would be worth it. I don't know how many. Ten? Twenty? A hundred? A thousand? I don't know.

But. Okay. Just in terms of pure tactics, and less 'how much evil do we think is okay' -- the thing about the QWC was that it made people hate Dogstar. We don't want people hating the Order. We want people hating Voldemort.

That's a really good point.

Mum's said that we don't need to kill him to win.

And I think if it happened today, we'd have a better chance than we did, because every day, we're building more weapons, and getting more people who'd be ready to pick them up and join in.

I know mum ideally wants the Sleepers sorted, and there's all sorts of other things she'd like to have in place first, but one of the things she'd talk to me and Nev about was what she had in mind if we needed to do something before things were in place.
Like how if one of the camps had an all out rebellion on its own, then one solution would be to get four or five other camps to rise up too, and then we'd be in an all-out fight.

It doesn't have to be perfect, is all I'm saying. And we'll never know until we try. But we've been working to make our chances as good as they can get, I suppose, so when it does happen, it might be messy, but I think we're better prepared than they think we are.

alt_draco at 2014-11-09 19:05:20
(no subject)

So if I'm understanding this right, Dolohov and Desai have set up some kind of surveillance that will allow them to catch the people writing graffiti, right? Or at least narrow it down to a small number of possibilities. And that's how Sally Anne got called in for cruciation.

What if you just wrote all the graffiti yourself while hiding under the invisibility cloak?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 20:28:29
(no subject)

Actually, I got ratted out by Elizabeth Burke. You know, the portrait in the common room. She's the one who told Desai who left before breakfast.

Dolohov told us all the other night at supper that he would be placing detection spells throughout the castle to track comings and goings, and when graffiti is discovered they'll question anyone who was in the area. It could be a bluff, I guess. Also, I don't know if those spells would be fooled by Harry's cloak, or not.

It definitely makes things riskier, if he's not bluffing. Either you need to leave your graffiti somewhere with enough traffic to give you plenty of company in the circle of suspicion (which means you might get caught), or you risk being the only one who possibly could have left it and they know with certainty it was you.

Of course, if it's Harry, what are they going to do about it? (Draco, did Dolohov ever do the thing where he punished you in Harry's place? was that something he ever did?)
Harry's cloak is no ordinary invisibility cloak. I've never seen another like it, anyway. It might be worth experimenting with, if only to see what the scope of the detection spells are.

Are all the portraits magically compelled to help the Headmaster, or might some refuse, you think?

The Fat Lady's been rather argumentative with him lately.

Yeah. She refused to let any of the teachers into Gryffindor after Madam Hooch was killed.

She did let ME into Gryffindor that night, though. It may have helped that I had sandwiches.

She also let me into Gryffindor. But, I had the password.

Okay. You raise some really good questions about the cloak.

If we want to experiment to see, maybe I should sneak out tonight and write something in the Great Hall when absolutely no one else is there?
What should it be? Remember the Frost Faire? Remember Everything? His Excellency the Lord Protector is a Stupid Ponce?

*alt_draco* at *2014-11-09 22:16:46*  
(no subject)  
*Remember Draco Malfoy, obviously.*

*alt_harry* at *2014-11-09 22:28:19*  
(no subject)  
Yeah, okay.

*alt_gredforge* at *2014-11-10 00:01:45*  
(no subject)  
We're rather partial to that last one, particularly.

*alt_evelyn* at *2014-11-09 20:40:46*  
(no subject)  
I went to tea with Professor Sinistra today, and we were talking about the projection stones, and how they work, and we got on the topic of you could set up stones to project things on walls, say, easily enough.

And how you could set a time release spell, so they'd trigger at a certain time.

Might we do something similar with the graffiti? Write it in such a way so that it shows up hours after we've written it, or something? After half of the school has walked by?
So, there's this charm I ran across that's sort of an illusion charm, it's meant to make things hang in the air.

I'm pretty sure we could alter it a little and it would make things move. Drift around the castle. So they wouldn't even know where it had initially been cast.

I do rather like the idea of Harry writing LOADS of graffiti under his cloak, though.

Remember, if they're upset enough about graffiti that's written with a charm, they may line everyone up and test their wands with *priori incantatem*. That's one way that actually writing something, I mean, by hand, is slightly safer.

How many spells would they make you go back, though? All you have to do is cast a few other harmless spells and *priori incantatem* would show those instead of the writing charm.

I think they'd go back as far as they could, at least if they actually wanted to catch the person who'd done it. Also, if you just randomly happened to have cast 'lumos' a dozen times for no readily apparent reason they'd view that as confirmation you were hiding something.

So, yeah, if you want to cover it up, be sure to cast a bunch of
spells from your homework, because you always have a good reason for those.

So in case anyone was wondering, I tried to sneak out last night to leave graffiti in the Great Hall, but Finnigan woke up when I got out of bed and followed me down to the Common Room.

He assumed I was going out to patrol to try to catch the people leaving it and I couldn't think of any way to shake him loose. So we walked around the school for about an hour, saw no one but the ghosts, and then went back to bed.
I saw you with your head bent over the scroll all evening.

How's it going? Or were you actually working on homework? (It's Saturday night, Surely you weren't working on homework.)

---

I'm still working on some of the cadence. The chocolates verse is a bit looser and talkier, which makes it tricky, but I think I've got it.

Is 'You could murder a slave right in Kensington Gardens/and nobody would even stop to stare' too over the top? I'm trying for darkly humourous.

Anyways. I need to sing it out loud to see if it works, which means I've got to practise it in the secret room. Want to hear the first draft?

---

If you're trying for darkly humorous instead of just 'dark' it might be a bit over the top? It's basically true, though, so...

Anyway of course I want to hear it! Does it still have the 'hey hey Merlin' refrain?

---

I changed the bit at the end to say he'd better stay in the tree, and then asked if there was room enough for me in there too.
And yeah. I sort of wanted to make it funny-by-being-true. If that makes sense. Sort of reflecting on how ridiculous it is.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 06:08:21
(no subject)

I think you should send it to Lee Jordan and see if he'd like to have some people sing it on that secret radio station.

@alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 06:18:52
(no subject)

Yeah.

Yeah, that'd be good.

I think it'd get a little wider play than if I just spread the new lyrics around the school or something.

And that way, I could more easily claim utter ignorance that some random rabblerouser took my song and politicised it.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 06:24:41
(no subject)

Right. You can be shocked and horrified and you can make sure everyone sees or hears all the lyrics so that they can understand exactly why you are completely shocked and utterly horrified (because if they don't see or hear the new lyrics, they won't fully understand why you're so very, very upset about this).

@alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 06:43:23
(no subject)

Oh so shocked!

Deeply horrified!

I was just changing the station, and all of a sudden, what should I hear? Horror of horrors!
Maybe you'd better not be the first one to hear it? Let it start to make its way around first.

Naturally. I'll send pig to Lee with the lyrics and a copy of the record so they'll know what it's supposed to sound like.

I'm glad you liked it.

Oh. And. I saw Igraine Archer and Warrington go for a walk this afternoon. Out towards the lake.

Well, excellent. I hope they were talking about how the Lord Protector ought to be eaten by the Giant Squid and not just that they fancy each other. ('I noticed how attractive you were as we were both waiting to be cruciated' is sort of an odd how-we-met story but I'm pretty sure I've heard odder ones.)

They looked quite serious. Serious as in thoughtful, not serious as in serious about each other.

But if they end up hitting it off, good on them.
If Igraine does end up in the Order, I wonder how she'll feel about what happened with her father and her uncle? (Her uncle was that colleague of Mr Weasley's who used a poison ring when MLE came for him; he'd actually been turned in by Igraine's father so that he could get Igraine and her brother out of the camps.)

I mean, she probably doesn't know all of it, at this point. And joining the Order, and then finding out the uncle your father betrayed really was part of it, would be weird.

Mind you, Darius Warrington's father ultimately oversaw the camps. All of them. Including the one Igraine used to be in.

Yeah. It would be.

We're sort of surrounded by weird, aren't we? The Order business would just add on to the pile, but at least it would be true, which is something I think she'd value.

And I hadn't thought about that. About his dad, I mean.

Well, yeah.

I mean Hydra Lestrange is on our side. Harry Marvolo and Draco Malfoy. Dominic Selwyn's children live at Moddey...

Oh, and that palliative potion Dolohov sent me last night, the one that made me feel so much better, you know who came up with the recipe for it? Mr Snape. They may have decided they had no use for HIM, but his POTIONS were way too valuable to
cast aside.

alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 06:38:56
(no subject)

It makes me think about what it might be like after.

If there is an after, I mean.

Whether people who used to be in camps, and people who used to manage camps would ever

I don't know.

But today, someone who was in the camps and someone whose dad managed them took walk around a lake and talked about how they wanted to change things. At least that's what we think they were talking about. And that's something, isn't it?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 06:48:34
(no subject)

I've thought about that a few times.

Like when we were at 12GP over hols that time, working with Colin and Lisa Turpin and the rest. Or when I've worked on some problem with Hermione. I've thought about what it would be like, if we were all just students at Hogwarts. It used to be like that, you know? My mother was a Ravenclaw Prefect.

So maybe someday things will be like that again. Muggleborn witches and wizards will come to Hogwarts when they’re eleven and get Sorted with everyone else.

alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 08:00:23
(no subject)

What about the Muggles, though?

If we have Hogwarts, and it's only for people
with magic, what's to say it won't go right back to how it was, which is how we ended up here in the first place?

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-10 15:42:44  
(no subject)

Yeah.

You remember when you brewed up that Divination Potion and I drank it? Reading that entry I wrote while I was seeing visions is mostly like hearing someone else talk about this crazy dream they had.

But, I remember the aeroplane at the end, actually.

Some days I don't believe anything's ever going to change, I feel like we've already lost and it's no good fighting. But any time I think about the aeroplane I feel sure we're going to win, and things will get better.

@alt_pansy at 2014-11-09 06:42:10  
(no subject)

And that just figures. That they'd still use his stuff.

Honestly. The hypocrisy of everything is enough to make your head spin sometimes. No wonder Ravenclaws have a harder time sorting out what's really going on. They're far too busy trying to find reason in an utterly unreasonable world.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-09 06:49:32  
(no subject)

I know. It's CRAZY.

He told me he invented a few spells I've heard of, like that one the boys were all so fond of a few years ago that makes your toenails sprout.
He *invented* that?

I mean, my crowning achievement so far is inventing really stable fake bogeys.
Is it wrong of me to admit that I'm really, really glad I'm not at Hogwarts this year? And not just because it means missing crucio theatre with Antonin Dolohov, but because if I were at Hogwarts, I'd most likely be in Hydra's position. I was fully prepared to act the double agent, but now that I see what it entails - yeah, no thanks.

I don't know how she can stand it. I suppose that's one thing a childhood spent under Bellatrix Lestrange's thumb will leave you with: the ability to withstand anything.

Also, Harry seems to be doing better without us. Coming into his own, you know.

Anyway, I was thinking when you're back from Sherwood that we should ask that old portrait of Phineas Nigellus about Tom Riddle. I don't think Phineas was Headmaster when Riddle was a student, but he can probably talk to the portrait of whichever Headmaster was in charge, back then. Because a Headmaster probably knows where all his students come from - they've got to know where to owl the Hogwarts's letter, after all. What do you reckon?

---

Well, I'm glad you're not there, too. And honestly, I hope you don't take this the wrong way but I think Hydra's actually better at this than you would have been. I mean, her legilimency is a huge asset, for one thing. But having the presence of mind to pick out people who were already teetering on the edge of hating the Protectorate, even if they've never hinted at it to anyone? That's incredibly clever.

I know she hates it, and I can only imagine how horrid it is for her to have to pretend to be like her mother, but to be perfectly honest, it's almost like she was born to do this for us.

Anyway, yes, we should ask Phineas Nigellus, but I don't want to leave him out any longer than necessary.
Legilimency is a huge asset, yeah. I only wish she had an ally amongst the council instead of being all alone.

Can I listen? I know we don't want Phineas to see me, but I could stand around the corner, or something.
**2014-11-09 17:01:00**  
*Order Only: Private message to Bill*

You know that analyst of yours that you mentioned lives near my flat?

Go get him.

They don't need to hide, they just shouldn't be anywhere near here for the next few hours. And I can't tell him, but I can tell you.

---

**alt_bill at 2014-11-09 23:05:52**  
*(no subject)*

Understood. I'll take care of it.

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**alt_bill at 2014-11-09 23:06:25**  
*(no subject)*

By 'they,' I assume you mean his whole family?

---

**alt_rachel at 2014-11-09 23:08:46**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, move them all. Tell them you heard a rumour of trouble in the neighborhood.

You have about five minutes, I think.

---

**alt_bill at 2014-11-09 23:27:37**  
*(no subject)*

Nipped in and out, in time, all out.

Profuse thanks.
Good.

Crouch End is about to be swimming in Aurors, I think. Probably including Bellatrix.
There's been an incident near Crouch End. I heard the noise from my flat and went out. Still trying to work out what happened, but I guess there was some graffiti, and someone from the local Watch took exception to it. Unfortunately, it's not clear if they caught the culprit or some random passer-by, and when the person they focused on called for help, there were people who thought he was being robbed.

It's a mess. There's Enforcers everywhere, but I'm the only Auror, and only by virtue of the fact I live in the neighborhood. I'm not sure if it's actually worth sending anyone over for, but if you have any instructions, I just wanted to let you know I'm on site.

I just saw another piece of graffiti. Less prominently placed.

It says "Sirius Black Lives."

I assume Auror Lestrange will want to know about that one.
Right. Got back from Grimmauld and Gred and Forge said Rachel called you out for something going on in New London. I hope it's not as bad as it could be.

Anyway, I was hoping you'd still be at the Burrow when Mum and I got back from Grimmauld -- I think you probably realised, you were looking at me like you were keeping yourself from asking what was going on, but I wanted to make absolutely sure I told Mum first. And I'm sorry I couldn't stick around and tell you in person, using the journals feels like a bit of a cop-out, but I ran out of time and had to be back up here in time to change before I went on shift.

(Sorry, I'm rambling, I'm still a bit keyed up from talking to Mum.)

Anyway. It's nothing bad! Quite the opposite, really. And you might have guessed something about this already, I'd be surprised if you hadn't.

Remember back at the end of April, when Dumbledore asked me to help him out with a project on Beltane, one he thought might do something for the wards? Well. Um. He asked me and Tonks together. He had an idea that life magic might undo some of the magic of the wards. And I don't know whether it had any effect on the wards, but the 'life' part of the life magic worked just fine, apparently!

So, yeah. I'm part thrilled and part terrified. And it keeps sinking in all over again that Tonks and I made a person.

Gah. Most awkward confession ever! This is why I wanted to do this in person. But I didn't want to wait for you to know, at first we were going to wait until the baby was born (because Merlin only knows what effect the magic will have and we didn't want to hex it) and then we both realised, we couldn't wait any longer, we're sort of bursting.
Merlin, Bill, I'm going to be a FATHER. WHO THE FUCK DECIDED I WAS A GROWN-UP.

You're still a little keyed up, aren't you? Did Mum wig out on you?

Were you nervous about telling me? Charlie, Charlie, I'm...well, I was a bit gobsmacked a few months ago when the news of the pregnancy came out and I counted back and--yeah. Beltane. *Beltane*, which is all about fertility. And when I ran over in my mind the likeliest possibilities for the baby's father, and I thought about how you've been so comfortable with Tonks, well, duh. I've been waiting for you to tell me. *I* couldn't say anything, though, because *you* didn't say anything.

But for the two of you? I'm happy as can be for both of you, honest.

You *are* a grownup; the war's made everyone a grownup, whether they like it or not.

What a thing for Albus to ask of you--both of you--but I'm bloody proud that he picked you.

But the hell with that, you're going to be a father. (And Merlin, I'm going to be an uncle.) We already know that Tonks is a terrific mum.

Did Mum spontaneously combust out of sheer excitement? Or was she angry?

Who's allowed to know the truth about this?
Oh, Merlin. And besides Ron and Ginny getting a new niece or nephew, the twins are going to be uncles, too. Agents of anarchy.

I hope that doesn't terrify Tonks.

No, I wasn't nervous about telling you. I thought about doing it a few times over the past few months, even if we didn't tell Mum, but we really were nervous about whether the baby would make it or if the magic would have weird side effects, and we didn't want to get people's hopes up even more. (Turns out we were right to get worried, or at least a little bit, Tonks went into false labour last week with the last Octoboros activation. But everything turned out fine, at least.)

But we're at the point now where if the worst happened, there's a good chance the Bap would make it, and with that whole big scare with MLE, well. We thought it would be better if the rest of the Weasleys knew, at least. In case anything happens.

Mum took it like a champ. She was furious at Dumbledore for asking (and remind me to tell you a little bit later how he did, it was like he was asking us to pick up a pint of milk on our way home!) and a bit worried about whether we'd really thought things through and what it would mean for the baby if our friendship couldn't stand the strain in a few years, but for all it happened incredibly quickly we'd talked it over a lot (one thing I'm damn well good at, examining all the possible repercussions of relationships and sitting down and talking them all through instead of assuming) and came to agreements, with Sirius and Remus too, and I think Mum could see that we were serious about this but not all that worried, you know? So that helped.

She's being brilliant about it, really. She and I had a bit of a sit-down after, just the two of us, and she said she wants to do anything and everything she can do to help out and to be involved, but it was in the sweet and supportive way and not the
blaze-in-and-take-over way, you know? And she could see that I'm starting to get scared, that it's starting to sink in that I'm probably going to spend the rest of my life out of my head with worry, and she told me everything's going to be just fine and we're going to be wonderful parents. And coming from Mum, that means something.

And for who knows -- Dumbledore, obviously. Sirius and Remus. Alice, and I think maybe Frank too but I'm not sure. I think Snape might have guessed, you know how he took himself off to Moddey today? Apparently he said something in passing about wanting to avoid 'a possible scene'. Oh, and Poppy. That's it for now, although I told the twins already, and I'm going to tell Ron and Ginny as soon as I can.

You're going to be an amazing uncle, you know. (Oh, Merlin's beard, I hadn't thought of the twins as uncles. That is terrifying.)

Oh -- and it's a boy. He's a boy. We thought we wanted to be surprised, but then we decided, no, Tonks would ask Poppy at her checkup. I was convinced it was a girl! But no.

```plaintext
alt_bill at 2014-11-10 01:19:29
(no subject)

I'm so glad that Mum rose to the occasion and didn't add to your worries by reacting badly.

Bloody hell, Charlie. You must have been going out of your mind with worry, with the MLE raid. We all were, of course, but your stake in the outcome was certainly more personal. But I see how that added impetus to telling us. If your mind has been spinning out all sorts of awful scenarios based on that, you know we'd always look after our own, even if some of us should fall. Whether related to us by blood or not.

And then false labour on top of that, because of the Octoboros stuff? Well, at least that adds credence to Albus' theory.

Wouldn't it be a lovely thing when she gives birth for real, if the wards would come crashing down?

So it's a boy, then? Not a surprise, in our family! Is Tonks happy about that? How much has she told Bea about the new member
It's a good thing wizards can apparate, because otherwise fathering long distance would be much more complicated.

I'm glad you've told me.

What are you looking forward to the most? And what scares you the most about it?

The long distance -- yeah. I hadn't told Tonks, but I was starting to think about maybe giving up my job here and looking for something in New London instead. There's always work for someone who's good with creatures, or I was thinking of going to Gringotts and trading on my work with the goblins to see if they had any openings. So I could be closer, you know? But then MLE raided Doughty, and it was only idle thoughts anyway, we really do need someone up here with access to dragons. (As Snape reminds me every time he sees me, we are always in need of dragon's blood.)

But yeah. The raid was what made me think it was time to start telling people. I was very nearly there when MLE came in, you know? I'd just apparated in up the street. And Tonks said that when she got shoved through the Floo, she had an awful half hour of thinking I'd showed up and she hadn't noticed me, and that everyone she cared about was dead or captured, and that's when we decided, yeah, it's time.

I think that's what I'm worried most about. That I won't live to see him grow up, that we'll still be fighting this bloody war in twelve years' time and he won't ever get to go to Hogwarts, that he'll grow up without a mum or any of his dads or not live to grow up at all. That if he does grow up and we're all there to see it, that he might grow up and turn out like ... oh, like Percy, and we'll have to watch him buy wholeheartedly into the whole fucked up mess. And then there's the worries that aren't the same kind of worries that everyone with a baby on the way in the Protectorate share, that the magic will have done something to him or he'll wind up tied to the wards somehow.
and wind up hurt or dead when we do figure out how to drop them, that taking the wards down will wind up needing something from him that will hurt him.

Or, you know, just the usual fears, like what if he gets hurt or sick, or what if I wind up being rubbish at this parenting thing, or what if I can't make enough time and I miss his whole childhood and he grows up thinking of me as that funny stranger who pops in every now and then. That kind of thing.

But then I think of moments like ... oh, do you remember that one summer when the Twins had just started to walk, and they were taking up all Mum's time and effort and she was wearing herself thin chasing after them (and now that I look back on it, she was also being quietly terrified about all the risks Dad was taking with the Order), there was that time you'd gone off to do something outside and I got into Mum's makeup and painted it all over the bathroom walls? The last of her good lipstick, the kind you couldn't get anymore. And Dad came home and he was just at the end of his rope, and he found me, and the look on his face was just this utter exhaustion ... and then he started to laugh, and he didn't stop for five minutes, and when he was done laughing he sat right down there on the floor with me and asked me to explain all the pictures I'd drawn, and he helped me make up stories for all of them.

I'm looking forward to things like that. Getting to know a little person who's half me and half Tonks, and seeing what kind of things he comes up with.

We've told Little Miss she's going to have a brother, yeah. She seems unenthused so far. But she's been having a rough few weeks, the poor kidlet.

alt_bill at 2014-11-10 02:28:27
(no subject)

We've all had near misses. I remember the time I was almost picked up when Archer was brought in, and I was only warned off in time by a portrait. But the thought you might be leaving a kid behind if you're caught...yeah, that adds a whole other layer to the sweating you do when you have a close call like that.
I wish I could promise you we'll all get through this alive. Rachel says she trusts me as much as she's ever trusted anyone, but there's still a faint barrier there between us because she really doubts she's going to make it through the war. I don't feel I can bring up the issue of kids with her as long as she has a hard time believing we'll win through.

Any kid is a vote of hope in a better future. If your son was conceived on Beltane, as part of a great magic to bring about that better future, well...I have to believe that's a powerful protection for him all on its own. And for his mum and dad--his entire family, really. We Weasleys are optimists, I reckon, and so I hope I'll eventually bring Rachel around to my way of thinking. Not that having a kid is necessary to believe in the future, but it would be nice if she came to think that she really has one.

I think you and Tonks will make a great team as parents. You have strengths that complement each other, you know? You'll have deep reserve brooms, too, with Remus and Sirius and Mum, all elbowing each other aside to change a nappy.

(Now I've been sitting here trying to imagine what a nephew would be like with a blend of your and Tonks' personality. Someone easy-going, but still conscientious. And someone who laughs a lot.)

@alt_charlie at 2014-11-10 02:45:02  
(no subject)

Well, as long as my reserve team fumbles less often than the Cannons', we'll be in good shape. (Not that you could be worse ... I really thought we had a chance this year.)

And thanks. It's good to be reminded of those things.

I hope Rachel does make it through all this. She's good for you.

I have to put my journal away now, we're done with inventory
and it's time to go out for the night. But ... thanks for being you, big brother.
I asked the juniors what they wanted. Not all of them answered (if this were research, it would be an insufficient numerical sample).

But all who did made it clear they would rather take arbitrary Cruciation (that makes the point about unfairness, injustice, how the Protectorate is) than have me argue for some easier punishment to bear. More than one made it clear they expect to die young - making a difference if they can - and that Cruciation is minor in that context.

I think it would help a great deal if all of us had clarity, together, on what our immediate goals are. The Order, I mean.

Evelyn didn't reply there, but she did come to see me today. We talked mostly about other things, arithmancy and the projection stone design and stars and cats. She is a remarkable young woman, and I hope very much the conversation did her as much good as it did me. (She is looking more rested than she did in the last push for the Octoboros work, and said that Tosha sent her one of the better potions for the after effects of the curse. She wasn't sure what to make of it.)

My afternoon has also involved ninety minutes of Pomona being exceedingly disappointed in me. Very pointedly, and with a number of examples. I did not argue with her. (I've no idea what Albus thinks, our usual occlumency session is tomorrow. Not that he says much.)

Mum's here now, because she wanted to talk about Hydra's journal message, the difficult one. My oldest sister and her husband and my youngest brother are coming for the lecture in a bit, so Mum and I are taking the chance for a private chat while we can, and I've been showing her a few of the privacy charms she might find handy.

Yes.

Part of our driving mission as of late has been to build our numbers and make our case for those in the middle -- and although they are undoubtedly playing with fire, our
youngest members have been incredibly effective at both.

I think one key is to have eyes wide open, and be flexible enough to be responsive as things evolve and change. Harry's positioning himself as a firebrand rather than the more moderate position he took over summer, but that too can be a possible advantage. A lightning rod rather than a low flame.

We keep inching closer and closer to a point of no return.

I'll see what I can do to make sure we're all reading from the same playbook, as it were.

@alt_sinistra at 2014-11-10 04:22:35
(no subject)

Speaking as someone who spends a lot of time on a tall tower, the difficulty with lightning rods is that when and where lightning strikes is rather unpredictable even with the rod. But yes, flexibility, and everyone realising that we're moving to an edge and what that might cost.

Two things from tonight, about the middle.

I think Di and Chiron felt they had to show loyal (Chiron's in Internal Affairs), but the lecture gave them an excuse to check in with their Andie and Dal that no one could question. I got the sense there's been rather a lot of conversation among the parents in their social circles about how to react, and quite a few parents came tonight. Mum's going to work on getting more about that, since she sees Di almost daily and it's natural to talk about it.

Theo was unexpectedly interesting. He's been working in a pub in New London, and he said there's been a lot of talk about Laszlo's without mentioning it by name. Some of his pub's regulars stopped coming in, too afraid of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But there's others who've been showing up much more often. Want to know they're not alone in the world, talk about people not taking their friendships away. (I don't think there's actual sedition, where he is. But he wouldn't tell me if there was.)
And please know -- I want as many of our young people to pull through this as possible.

We need their minds, spirits, and sense of right and wrong shaping our future.

I'm not going to wrap them in cotton swabbing and set them on a shelf, but I will try to do what I can to make sure that enough of us are left when all is said and done. They're the reason we're doing this, after all.

I want that too. For all of them - everyone here, right now, in this building and all the ones who aren't here yet - to learn lots of things and grow up and be happy and get to love the people they want to love, and have whatever job they're good at, and not be scared all the time, and not be hurting and so much more. (Well, everyone outside this building too, really, but my oldest loyalty is to Hogwarts and what the school means.)

And I know that won't happen, because it already can't happen. But that's what I want.

About the juniors. I want them to have choices. To get to make choices. Even the choices that terrify me. And the ones that break my heart.

Yes.

Yes indeed.
Batya.

Apologise for being called away mid-lecture. Turmoil in Haringey.

There's no soft landing for this: there was treasonous graffiti in a boldly public place. 'REMEMBER THE FROST FAIRE' in fourteen foot block capitals on the pavement in front of the clock tower, and down an alley off the plaza, a slightly smaller claim that Black Lives.

That's why I had to go. The riot, MLE could have dealt with. (Watch called Enforcers in when they couldn't decide who to round up and lacked numbers to take the whole crowd. The usual local factions. A scuffle to prevent the watch doing their business. Blew up into all-out mayhem.)

Truncheon's got it mostly sorted now. Turns out the family of one of your students grumbled to neighbours about the punishments, and the report spread along with the notion of sloganising in public spaces.

REMEMBER THE FROST FAIRE.

Dammit.

Of course, there's no actual tie to Black. Complete waste of my time and Bella's. And Truncheon's, in the final analysis.

Could have stayed for a whiskey with you and Cuthbert.
2014-11-09 22:35:00
Order Only

Just so all of you know, graffiti turned up tonight in my neighborhood, on the pavement by the Crouch End clock tower. REMEMBER THE FROST FAIRE. Rather large, too, I'm not sure how it got put down without anyone noticing while it was happening.

The Watch found some bloke they thought did it, who called for help, and there was a bit of a scuffle and Enforcers got called in.

I wrote Bill when I saw the paint saying SIRIUS BLACK LIVES down the alley from there, because he has an analyst in the neighborhood and I thought it would be a good idea for him to be elsewhere when MLE turned up. They turned everything inside out and shook it, and not surprisingly didn't find Sirius Black or any of his known associates.

(No, I didn't write any of it, if you're wondering.)

alt_rachel at 2014-11-10 04:44:59
Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

I wrote Bill, waited till I'd heard back from him, and then reported the 'Sirius Black' graffiti to Mafalda. The Enforcers were going to find it sooner or later; if I know something's going to be known sooner or later I try to report it first so I get the credit. (And avoid being thought of as the sort of idiot who could walk past seditious graffiti and never even notice it, for instance.)

In theory I could have removed the graffiti and avoided having Crouch and Lestrange descend upon my neighborhood, but I decided I couldn't risk being seen destroying evidence, not with that many Enforcers running around.
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

Yeah. Makes sense. Especially after the business with Laszlo's.

Have you had any more fallout from that? I mean, they let it go as coincidence you'd been there a few times?

alt_rachel at 2014-11-10 06:06:18

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

More or less. I was certainly asked for a report on everything and everyone I'd ever seen there. There were enough leads generated to keep them very busy for a while, though. If everyone had got away during the bust, they'd have likely leaned on me for more.

alt_bill at 2014-11-11 14:26:45

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

I agree with Ron, it was the perfect way to handle it. And thank you.

Is it safe for my analyst to come back yet? (He and his family made a surprise visit to his mother that has lasted a couple of days. I don't think it will look too odd, though because there's a new grandchild.)

alt_rachel at 2014-11-11 15:59:30

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

Oh, yes. Sorry. He should be fine. I just didn't want him picked up when they swept the neighborhood.
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley, Alice Longbottom, Remus Lupin, and Ron Weasley

Good. They're home again, very grateful that he received the warning.

Private message to Rachel

I believe you absolutely that you didn't write it.

But c'mon, weren't you tempted, if you could have been guaranteed that you wouldn't get caught? At least just a little?

Fred and George told me that when they created their own secret lock in the journals, they made a point of using it to write 'The Lord Protector is a Stupid Ponce' on their birthday every year. With sparkly explosion charms.

Once they aged out of that lock, apparently the Junior Auxiliary have kept up the tradition every April 1.

Who knows whether that isn't what partly started the Juniors down their own rebellious path?

Your brothers.
alt_bill at 2014-11-12 03:01:09  
Re: Private message to Rachel

I KNOW.

alt_rachel at 2014-11-11 16:02:53  
Re: Private message to Rachel

If I were writing graffiti and knew I wouldn't get caught, I'd aim higher than Crouch End. I'd put it on the side of Buckingham.

And sure, 'The Lord Protector is a Stupid Ponce.' That would look brilliant in mile-high letters alongside the palace.

alt_bill at 2014-11-12 03:01:52  
Re: Private message to Rachel

I'm sure Fred and George would be happy to add a fireworks display.
Private Message to Ned

Thank you for coming up here tonight to hear Cuthbert. (He was much more engaging than I expected. I know, don't start, I'm not likely to ever care passionately about the fine points of broom design. Or Quidditch. Yes, yes. Puddlemere are brilliant, I'm sure, and I'll let you tell me all about them next time we go for a match.)

The point is, it meant a lot to me that you came because it's a way we can support Antosha. This has been a simply brutal week for him between the situation here in the school and all the external pressures--the letters from parents--and Other Things. And he's pulled so many different directions. He's teaching, and overseeing me, and then there are all the duties of Headmaster. He's got a string of projects for Our Lord that I know almost nothing about, except that they take him away from the school at least once a week, sometimes more than that, and demand extensive correspondence sometimes, not to mention the ink, sweat and wand oil of research.

But this business with the students- he's not accustomed to having them resist his authority, and he's certainly done nothing to earn this rebelliousness. As a teacher and as headmaster, he's nothing short of inspiring. Genial and brilliant at the same time. He spurs his pupils with playful, creative lessons that charm them into learning. He conjures the spark of thought even in the most hopeless dullards.

Oh, Ned. It's so unfair. And after the busy necessary business of Halloween, after we'd all stood witness to Our Lord's justice. What in Merlin's name could these students have been thinking? How could they possibly repay Antosha's care of them with- it was so far beyond foolishness, I can't even think what to call it. Except what it was. Treason. And they put him at risk with it! And kept at it. Defiant in the face of all appeals.

He did the only, only thing he could possibly have done that could protect them from the stark consequences they'd have faced. We would all have faced. (I can't even digest that. To be at the mercy of adolescent idiots! And, of course, that's exactly the straits we're in.) So, yes, of course he used a blunt measure to get the little beasts' attention. And, naturally, they'll whinge to their families and inflate even the gentlest corrections, so honestly if he'd rapped their
knuckles, they'd have wailed about being Cruciated. No reason not to issue the punishment they'll claim to have faced; on the contrary, he'd the best reasons to use it. They're absolutely impervious to anything more subtle, and it's absolutely necessary that they stop. Nothing else will save their foolish skins.

But you can't know how much it cost him to do it. He hated it.

And I'm appalled that Honoria- I can't ever apologise enough to repair the damage she's done. For my own sister to have been among the traitors, to have shown him such disrespect, when he's been so entirely generous to me?

It's horrible. All of it.

So, thank you, really, for making time to come. Thank you for understanding why we needed you here. I know you had to rearrange your schedule, but it meant a great deal. He deserves our support, especially just now.

Ned, I've been thinking more about what we discussed last time I was home.

Only, we can't wait forever, can we? And once I'm finished here, I'll need to leap back into active field work without reservation. It would be very much more difficult then, and it could derail my career completely because certain people would decide all I want is cozy desk work and weekends with family. Do you see?

And it would make a really memorable Christmas announcement, don't you think?

Look, do think about it. Really.
2014-11-11 14:01:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Juniors

I was wondering if it'd be a good idea to have another get-together in the secret room, as long as everyone was careful, of course.

It's been a while since we did a book exchange, and we could listen to the radio or some music or something, and maybe talk about the graffiti some? And what we might do next?

I was thinking we could invite some more people besides the usual Galleon crowd, too. Maybe.

@alt_ron at 2014-11-11 22:41:33
(no subject)

Who are you thinking of inviting, Ev?

@alt_evelyn at 2014-11-11 22:53:34
(no subject)

Well, I know we've been talking about Warrington and Igraine and Norma Stein.

And Igraine, Thalia West, Paula Ross (Artie's younger sister), Morwenna Mullet, and Delia Forney have been in a Tea of the Strange with me and Katrina Fitzgibbon, and we read Muggle books as part of it, and the rest of them might be good to bring in as well. Fitz is already a part of the Galleon group, of course.

I'm not as sure about Delia. Because of her mum. I don't know whether Hydra could check her out a bit, but she's the only one I'd be concerned about.

And I've been thinking about some of the younger years. The ones who were there for the Pure Victory reading.

Because there's going to be so many of you leaving school at the end of Spring, we might want to look into fourth and even third
years. I'm wondering if Bitsy Corner and Phillip Stretton have any ideas.

**alt_evelyn** at 2014-11-11 23:00:42  
(no subject)

I wouldn't recommend looking into the third year Gryffindor girls, though. The entire lot of them have been in a bad mood all term, seems like.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2014-11-12 00:09:24  
(no subject)

I'll talk to Philip and see what he thinks. Gemma's going to be a firstie next year and I can tell you right now those of you who aren't leaving at the end of this year should bring her in as soon as you can.

**alt_evelyn** at 2014-11-12 00:19:10  
(no subject)

Oh, of course.

I'll see if I can't get to know Phillip a touch better, too.

**alt_evelyn** at 2014-11-12 01:45:22  
Private Message to Hydra

I just realised

I didn't mean to put you on the spot like that. Or just assume.

I'm sorry.
Darius Warrington caught me today by myself and told me where to find the secret wireless station -- Lee's, I mean. I guess Igraine found it over hols, and has been listening. She told Darius about it when they were walking by the lake the other day.

He wanted to tell me about it so I could listen, too.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred

I got your basket of lemons and chocs. The chocs are the good kind, too. Quite decadent. I'm keeping the lemons for a rainy day, as it were, and am liberally distributing the chocs after having first pick.

Thank you.

They were lovely, and thoughtful.

And the Christmas catalogue looks beautiful. Fred looked particularly fetching wearing the Instant Saint Nicholas Beard (the red robe was a nice touch), and the singing stockings are quite sharp. I'm so glad the sugar plum dream chocs and cocoa mix worked out -- I can't believe how long it took me to sort out the modification properly, but at the very least, I got to have some wild dreams while testing it. Perhaps we might go with a Halloween 'funny/scary' dream version next season now that I know how to fiddle with it?

Things have settled down a touch here. As Mrs Longbottom put it, a low simmer rather than a high boil. We'll see how long it lasts. People have been talking quite a lot about the New London graffiti, though.

Don't you dare jump on that particular bandwagon. I'm warning you, I will be quite cross if you do.

Oh, and pay attention to the Free Radio in the next few days. You might hear a familiar chestnut re-worked a touch.

I was thinking, I might show you Gloss House sometime over hols.
You could meet Ewan. And my mum?

alt_george at 2014-11-12 16:11:06
Re: Private Message to George

I can't wait, either.

That's a big step for you to ask, I know. I'd be honoured to meet your family, and I promise to be on my best behaviour.

alt_pansy at 2014-11-11 23:56:28
(no subject)

And I've just taken a look at the figures -- nicely done on those Halloween sales, gentlemen. I'm sending along a bottle of bubbly.

I think we can probably afford to redistribute a touch more to marketing and R&D (George, I know you've got a wish list of rare goods a mile long, and you really ought to indulge in at least some of them), and we ought to discuss hiring a store manager to free up more of your time, and allow Hitty to concentrate more on helping with manufacture and packaging, where she truly excels.

alt_gredforge at 2014-11-12 16:16:53
(no subject)

Glad you received the basket all right. We were worried that the lemons might not get through; there seems to be a rising need for them at Hogwarts.

We won't be writing any graffiti, promise.

Aside from our joint venture, we've been too busy helping Fu design bombs and armour, which is, shall we say, a more direct method of getting the message across.

(Hey, maybe we should have a few of the bombs fizzle up with fireworks that say, 'LP = Stupid Ponce.')
Looks like Fu is giving some of our designs a field test this very day. Has Sally-Anne heard from Ron? Or any of the others?

Sally-Anne heard briefly from Ron. He said he was okay.

I hate to think of what he's been asked to do. I hate it so very much.

Are you going to help with the evacuations?

Make sure they don't see your faces.

Please, please, please be careful.
Sorry I couldn't make it out tonight. I'll definitely be up for something on Thursday.

The Watch is being rather bothersome in my neighbourhood lately -- they knocked on my door at an ungodly hour last night, and I've been like the dead all day. And of course I was on edge because I'd just gotten another one of those silly 'Hello neighbour' circulars that morning -- you know what I'm talking about -- and thought they were going to jump to conclusions about my having received one, but they were going on about graffiti and were telling everyone on the block to keep a sharp eye. Why they had to tell me at one o'clock in the morning is beyond understanding.

I think I might look for a new flat once my lease is up.

Good news on the work front, though, we finally got some of the permits through, which means Powell is being less of a diva. Merlin, he was driving me spare.

Speaking of driving one spare, how's your mum? I hope she's been a bit less of a pain. Perhaps she'll lighten up once your little brother gets properly hitched. Lavender Brown always struck me as the sort who'd be perfectly happy being a Society Witch with loads of babies.

And yes, if you must ask, I did go out for lunch with the charming Mr Kendall who chatted me up at the fair. Yes, he was just as charming at lunch. Yes, there may be a second lunch in the works. Nosy parker. Now you can stop trying to set me up, at least for a little while.
We've just had word from Sherwood. It's difficult to sort out exactly what happened, but it appears as if Erewash is rebelling. There is word of weaponry and explosives with no clear indication of how widespread it is.

Sherwood's sending a small company out on reconnaissance to see what more they can discover, and whether it would be necessary to provide aid. Kingsley, Dorcas, Caradoc, Mac, I need you there as well. Colin will be by shortly with some weaponry you can distribute courtesy of our Mr Lee. If you are able to gain access, try to sort out how big this thing is, get civilians in warded areas, and see what support you can otherwise provide.

I have very good reason to believe that Ron, Justin, and Hydra are involved in attempting to put down the rebellion. For the love of everything, please try to avoid directly engaging them.

If it looks to be another Kerry, we have options, among them setting off rebellions in other camps to spread resources thin, or enacting a modified Fidelius at Erewash. I am prepared to fully commit our resources to a sustained encounter if necessary. If the uprising is a small force that will be quickly overcome, however, we must weigh whether to add fuel to this fire.

Please keep us informed, Kingsley. Let us know once you have a better idea as to what has happened and how to proceed. Godspeed.

---

On our way.
Just so you know: Seamus and Ron haven't yet come back to Gryffindor Tower, as far as I know. Their beds haven't been slept in.

I'm here with Tim. Sirius came also but so far he's stayed out of sight. And I think Draco and Sarah may be on the other side of the camp perimeter.

Terry's been trying to scout the area to help people stay clear of MLE. The mine caught fire—or maybe it was set to burn, I'm not sure—but it's filling the air with horrid gasses and we had to go round at least one fissure where the ground had buckled.

I think I caught sight of Ron for a moment, but he was right alongside Desai and some other Aurors so it was just a glimpse.

Thank you, Hermione.

Erewash is near where my Mum grew up. She thinks her family might be there, if any are still alive.

I see, Sally-Anne.

We'll do what we can to save as many as we can. I very much hope your family is part of that.
That note just now from Tosha was asking Septima to announce at lunch that Lana's classes are cancelled this afternoon, and asking me to check on both the Gryffindors and Slytherins since their Heads are out of the school. (Those of you at school, I'm sending an elf round to the prefects in both houses now, and I'll check in when I'm done teaching this afternoon.)

He said, oh, I'll quote: "I am hoping the situation will not stretch to tomorrow, but if it does, I'll let you know." which makes me think he's worried that it will.

And then a message just to me, saying that - well, by context, Hydra, Justin, and Ron - are doing well. Tired, but fine. So is he.

I'll let you know if I hear anything further.

Desai just sent a note to me and Macmillan asking us to teach her younger classes today. Also, we're to run a practise session for the other 7th years.

She said I should try to avoid having anyone wind up in the Hospital Wing.

Professor, if you need any help making the difference in Prefect rounds, I'll be more than willing to help.

That would be appreciated, if it wouldn't cause you trouble. Linus has offered to pick up Padma's.
Septima was somewhat mollified that I offered to manage the staff rounds myself.

alt_evelyn at 2014-11-12 21:57:41
(no subject)

No trouble at all, Professor.

alt_alice at 2014-11-12 19:36:01
Private Message to Terry

Son, check in when you can.

Please stay safe.
Many happy returns, Batya. (Felicitations, Desai.)

Trust the elves laid out something appropriately festive for supper. Have an extra present for you (for both of you, if you're still awake): turmoil at Erewash camp.

In brief: old muggle tradition of observing 11 November with a day off work has been honoured by some camp admins. New staffing, new policy at Erewash. Slaves ruffled by expectation they'd work. Refused. Enforcers called in. Scuffle ensued. Seemed to be resolved, but then the animals regrouped with weapons from somewhere—mostly the usual crude staves and pikes, but also a cache of muggle firearms complete with ammunition. (Still unclear how, where, etc.)

MLE scrambled plus a few of ours.

Have got situation within bounds now, but there's plenty of sport to be had. Bring ducklings if you like; shouldn't be unreasonably dangerous.

Lovely. I'll be there without delay.

Tosha's let Lana know.
We'll be there shortly, row of ducklings trailing behind. You do give me the best birthday presents.

I assume you've sent for Finch-Fletchley. I've sent word to Ron Weasley, Padma Patil, Seamus Finnigan, and Hydra Lestrange -- anyone I didn't think of whom I ought not to leave out?

I have, and he'll be along in a few. The only other I can think of is Perks, if a (trainee) healer would be of use, but from what Barty says that shouldn't be necessary.

I also have a handful of invigouration potions if any of the children have not yet learned how to wake quickly.
2014-11-11 23:25:00
What a delightful evening

I'm in an excellent mood. My dear students, all assignments scheduled to be handed in tomorrow may be handed in during the following class, instead.

alt_savitha

alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 05:32:07
Private message to Ron Weasley and Seamus Finnigan

There's a spot of trouble at a muggle camp; Auror Crouch has suggested that it might make a good outing for the young and ambitious, while not being excessively dangerous. Come to my office immediately and you can come along with me.

(I'll be notifying Padma and Hydra next; don't think I'm forgetting the ladies.)

alt_ron at 2014-11-12 05:41:00
Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Seamus Finnigan

On my way. Finnigan's getting dressed.

Be there soon.

alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 05:41:52
Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Seamus Finnigan

Excellent. I look forward to seeing both of you in action.

alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 05:32:59
Private message to Hydra Lestrange

Just heard from Barty; there's trouble at a muggle camp. Shouldn't be excessively challenging but might be recreational. We'll leave from my office, should you wish to come.
Private message to Padma Patil

My dear, Auror Crouch contacted me a little while ago to let me know there's trouble with some muggles; he thought it might offer an interesting new challenge for the younger of Our Lord's chosen. Meet me in my office. Dress for exercise.

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Oh! All right. Yes, of course. I'll be right there.

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Good.

If need be, I can give you an alertness potion, though you may find the late-night exercise gives you all the alertness you could ask for.

(no subject)

I am equipped and will be there shortly.
Hullo, all,

I was just going down to the dormitories when an elf came and brought me a message from Antonin. I'm to dress and meet him for a field exercise.

The note said he'd make appropriate excuses for lessons tomorrow.

I've no idea why or what's going on, what, but if I'm not around tomorrow, it's likely to do with whatever--

Oh, I see, Auror Crouch sent him a message not half an hour ago. Well, it's likely to do with that, then.

-F-F

Yeah. Desai just messaged me to wake up Finnicky. We're along on whatever it is, too.

See you in few.

Can you let me know when you're back? You can send a note with one of the elves, maybe?

Here's what Desai wrote me:

There's a spot of trouble at a muggle camp; Auror Crouch has suggested that it might make a good outing for the young and ambitious, while not being excessively dangerous.
Doesn't sound good whatever happens.

See you tomorrow, I hope.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-12 05:47:23
Re: Private message to Ron

Oh.

Yeah.

You can wake me, if you want, if you get back during the night. Okay?

alt_ron at 2014-11-12 05:47:19
Re: Private message to Ron

Or, yeah.

I'll send you a note when I get back. Whenever that is.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-12 05:48:20
Re: Private message to Ron

I

Please be

I'll see you tomorrow.

alt_alice at 2014-11-12 06:18:02
(no subject)

A field exercise?

Are you headed to New London, by chance?

Be careful.
A muggle camp. Ron said they were going to a muggle camp.
Savitha, Lana, and I have been called away on business of the realm. As we do not expect much danger, we are bringing the juniors, and we've thought to give Messrs Weasley and Finch-Fletchley a chance for more field experience.

I do not know how long we will be; if we will be longer than tomorrow afternoon or so, I'll let you know. If you could handle notifying the rest of staff, I would be much obliged. And, of course, if anything arises whilst we are gone, I trust you will take able care of it.
**2014-11-12 10:33:00**  
*Private message to Septima and Auri*

Septima -- we will be longer than I expected. At lunch, please let the third and fourth years know that Lana will not be there for class this afternoon. I am hoping the situation will not stretch to tomorrow, but if it does, I'll let you know.

Auri -- if we are not yet back, can you check in with the Gryffindors and the Slytherins and see that they are not in need of any assistance, what with their Heads out of the castle?

---

**alt_antonin at 2014-11-12 16:53:51**  
*Private message to Auri*

And to reassure you specifically, little star; we are all fine. Tired, but fine. The children are doing exceptionally well.

Half an hour to eat something and close my eyes for a few minutes of meditation, and we are back into the fray; I'll let you know when we return.

---

**alt_sinistra at 2014-11-12 17:06:00**  
*Re: Private message to Auri*

Thank you, Tosha. Much appreciated.

And of course I'm glad to help. I sent an elf round to the prefects in both houses, just in case something comes up, and I'll check round more later. Let me know if there's anything else I can do.
**2014-11-12 10:58:00**  
*Private message to Harry Marvolo and Ernie Macmillan*

Rather than cancelling all classes today, I'm going to have the two of you cover the younger years (pre-OWL). The students should be able to tell you what we've been working on, but don't feel that you need to duplicate whatever lesson I would have given; just use the time productively. Do try not to send anyone to the Hospital Wing, please.

I don't have your schedules to hand; if your own lessons would be an obstacle, see if you can find a substitute -- someone responsible, good at Defence, and possessed of the common sense they were born with.

---

**alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 17:05:04**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, and this afternoon is your own class, of course. I'm sure you lot can manage a bit of useful practise whether I'm there or not. Harry, supervise; Ernie, you assist. See what you can do without sending anyone to the Matron.

---

**alt_harry at 2014-11-12 17:06:33**  
*(no subject)*

You can count on us, Professor Desai.

---

**alt_ernie at 2014-11-12 17:29:44**  
*(no subject)*

Right on, Marvolo.
It's an honour, professor. I won't let you down.
So, yeah. It's Erewash camp and we're here. I don't have long, but we're okay. I'm working this morning with F-F, HL, PP & SF on basically ground support. Literally ground support, because there are mines all underneath here and someone set fire to the coal down there. That means things are caving in and sinkholes open up here or fissures that let out blasts of smoke and steam. Um. Anywiz.

We're up in the NW quadrant of the camp, working now. That's where most of the smoke's coming from, and we're about to redirect that.

If any of our lot are out there, you might want to know the smoke's about to shift west, hopefully in a giant gust that'll keep blowing it that way.

That would be bad for breathing if you're out west of here. But it would be excellent cover, innit?

Stay safe.

Understood, son. Thanks. Stay safe, all of you. There are a lot of wicked hexes flying around.

Tim and Mr Lupin and I are with Fu, Ron. They're going to try to set something off that will help create another big fire to the north. We'll try to make it look like the coal fire burst through there.
Bugger. I want Fu evacuated, but he's having entirely too much fun creating mayhem.

(we're moving people through to Sherwood as fast as we can.)

Colin, look for Jeremy and Nick. I've invented errands for them outside the office so they can come and help with apparating. They have masks, so their covers won't be blown. I hope.

(right oh.)

(still on it, J&N found us just fine, got a whole host of folks from Sherwood lending a hand.)

(And we've got some help coming in from Bedford and Aldrich too.)
Good.

Good.

We were hoping they'd get the message and send along some people.
Shite. Quickly:

Have lost track of Dorcas, but Caradoc's dead. He was killed early this morning while attempting to cast the modified fidelius. Dolohov AK'd him in the middle of the casting. Ground unstable now, think the mine is burning. Saw Caradoc's body fall into a fissure, and couldn't retrieve it. The stones set as wards have been going off like bombs ever since.

Goal now evacuation. Get the word out on the button network, SEND EVERYONE who can help get these people out. Smoke and fire will provide some cover. Cast bubblehead charms.

Right. I'll spread the word to mobilise for evacuation. Bubbleheaded charms will help, as will damp cloths.

On my way.

(I'll be there in a mo.)
I'm in the war room at Sherwood. We're preparing for an influx of refugees, and Davidson's sending those who can Apparate to help.

Let's get as many people out of there as we can.

I'm sorry to hear about Caradoc.

Stay strong, my friend.

Every minute you hold them off, you save a life.

When the time comes, I expect you to fall back and live to fight another day, even if it means leaving some people behind. Is that clear?
We're okay.

At Erewash.

Up all night. Not sure when this'll get done.

Will try to write again if there's a chance.

Yeah.

Thanks for writing.
2014-11-12 12:30:00
ORDER ONLY

We're funneling refugees as we receive them, and making sure those helping with the evacuation have some recovery time to keep from splinching. We've got an infirmary set up, and are shuttling supplies and equipment from Moddey.

To our people currently still in the field -- our evacuation is going very well so far, thanks to you. Keep your ears and eyes open for the call to fall back, and stay sharp. Let us know if you or someone in your vicinity needs immediate care, and we'll try to send a team your way.

Severus and Sirius; Divyesh and Jason Crenshaw are doing their best to keep on top of the potions demand, but Divyesh's skills are limited, and they will need assistance once you are able. Please come immediately to Sherwood when you fall back.

Lee, Wayne, Colin, Lisa -- we're working up a list of supplies we'll need from the other free zones, and food, blankets, and bandages are at the top of the list. It can wait until this evening, but I will need your help.

alt_severus at 2014-11-12 20:57:07
(no subject)

I've been hit, and have nearly staunched the bleeding. I will make my way there as soon as possible.

Miss Granger: in the confusion I lost track of you quite some time ago, but your assistance would be welcome.

alt_hermione at 2014-11-12 21:01:02
(no subject)

You were hit? Where? How badly? I've got a miniature first aid kit here.

Where are you? I'll be right there.
I have cleared the camp by now. Meet me at Sherwood.

I have treated the wounds as best I can, though they will need further ministrations.

I did not say, and will not say if he does not bring the topic up himself, but: I was hit by Mr Weasley, with a slashing hex. I took the worst of it to the face; the mask I was wearing protected me somewhat, but the wounds are fairly serious. (Though under control.)

Do not tell him; he will not need more upon his conscience.

Oh, Severus.

I'm very glad it's manageable. And that you're out of the line of fire.

No, I won't tell him.

I'll be over to the infirmary shortly.

I am fine; the pain is less distracting than it could be, and thankfully, the arc of the hex missed the eye.
Circe, between the smoke and the masks there's no visibility. Even with Fu's inventions it's a slaughter.

Several of them want to assemble near the abbey for one more push.

I'm heading to the Apparation point. Need a breather away from this smoke.

Crouch has gone off somewhere. 'Called away.'

Very good to know.

We're trying to get down names, and your mum is making the rounds to see if she sees someone familiar, but we very well might not know for a while yet about your family.

It's okay.

If you need me to come help Heal people, I know I need to NOT come when I could be missed but as soon as supper's over I can get away and no one will notice or care.
You're sure that the monitoring Dolohov has in place won't kick in?

I suppose his not being there will help matters some.

Be careful. We could most certainly use you, even if only for an hour or two.

I think he might know if I went somewhere that I wasn't supposed to be but I don't think it'll tell him I wasn't in the castle at all.

If it does I'll tell him I crept out to walk down by the lake because I was worried about Ron, I think he'd believe that.

I could actually come now and let people think I was so worried about Ron it put me off my supper.

Okay I ate and I'm on my way. I told Pansy and Daphne where I'm heading, they'll cover for me. Actually Pansy says to let her know if she'd also be of use and we can have Daphne cover for both of us.

I'm assuming I should apparate to Sherwood. If it's Moddey let me know. It'll take me a few minutes to get off the grounds anyway.
alt_alice at 2014-11-12 23:53:05
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Sherwood, yes.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 04:46:13
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I'm going to have to go back before curfew.

If it were just Millie I might just trust in Daphne to manage her, but I got tattled on by a portrait the other day.

alt_alice at 2014-11-12 21:31:38
Private Message to Colin

You need to spend more time in recovery between trips, Colin. Don't make me sit on you.

alt_frank at 2014-11-12 21:56:40
Re: Private Message to Colin

(It's a short hop, ma'am. Honestly. Easy. I'll be careful. I know how far I can push.)

alt_poppy at 2014-11-13 00:00:40
(no subject)

Alice,

I'm sorry, I've been tethered to the ward all day. With the Headmaster and several members of staff away... things have been hectic.

And I confess, I haven't had the heart to read closely since Kingsley's report this morning. I-
Well. It can't be changed.

I regret that I can't possibly leave here with the chance of Dolohov and the rest returning. They may require my assistance. Perhaps quite late, if they've all returned and gone safely to sleep.

I am so very sorry, Poppy.

He was willing to cast an experimental bit of magic that he knew very well might kill him in order to attempt to save these people. That speaks volumes, Poppy.

I know that doesn't take the sting away. Not in the least. He will be very much missed.

Dr Williams has come in from Saltash, Sherwood has some of their own medics, Hermione is giving a hand, and Sally-Anne was able to slip away for a little. I'll be sure she gets back before she is missed. (Before I forget, Pansy, Daphne, please cover for her if necessary.)

Thank you, Alice.

I know he was prepared for all risks.

I will miss him, though.

I'm so sorry about Mr Dearborn.

I think I'm going to have to be back at Hogwarts by curfew. That gives me a little longer -- I think I've seen everyone who was really badly hurt, for the last hour it's been mostly people with things that are painful but would heal on their own if they had to.
@alt_poppy at 2014-11-13 05:05:55
Re: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

Thank you, my dear.

I'm very glad they had you to rely on this evening.

If you think it would be easier to make your way here on your return, I would be happy to give you a quiet bed at the end of the ward and say you've a touch of flu.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 05:18:06
Re: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

If you think they might need me in the night, it would be easier to get out of the Hospital Wing. Otherwise I'd rather sleep in Slytherin. Thank you, though.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-13 00:29:39
(no subject)

It seems as though people are falling back. Sirius, Remus, Draco, Kingsley, Terry, I haven't seen you at Sherwood yet. If you haven't already, pull out and get to safety.

Retreat can be tricky, please be careful. By last count, we've got roughly 700 rescues. Well done, all.

@alt_jeremy at 2014-11-13 00:39:58
(no subject)

Right. One last rescue, then on my way in.
alt_alice at 2014-11-13 01:04:18
(no subject)

Yes. Tell Nick the same.

alt_bill at 2014-11-13 01:08:23
(no subject)

I've managed to find Kingsley. Looks as though he had crawled under a scrub bush to stay out of sight. Terry led me to him, in his animagus form, but he's darted off again, probably looking for the others, and I don't dare yell too loudly to call him back.

Kingsley's unconscious, and from the feel of his leg, I think Poppy had better send along some Skelegrow, if she has any. But he's alive. Thank Merlin.

alt_gredforge at 2014-11-13 01:14:51
(no subject)

We have a signal whistle we can use to make him come to us. Sounds like a tawny owl, and that's good, because they hunt at night. Maybe he can lead us to the others.

alt_sirius at 2014-11-13 01:19:50
(no subject)

Chaps,

Get Terry and get out. There's nothing more we can do and staying would be potentially fatal.
Yes. Get him and get out of there. That's an order.

Right. We have Terry, and a huddled group of about five kids, all really scared. We think we've calmed them down enough to convince them we're gonna help them. The two of us will take two each and Terry's transformed back, and he'll take one.

Oh, and if you have a Healer there, Terry'll need some burn salve for his hands and feet. His paws were pretty crisped from the fire rupturing from the ground. Luckily, he plunged into a puddle directly afterward to put the fire out in his fur. He's okay, but he's sure a mess.

Oh, thank Merlin.

Are they there? Did they arrive safely, none of them splinched?

I've been watching the clock all day. Ron's flipped to 'Mortal Peril,' once, for about twenty seconds, and otherwise it's been stuck on 'Working.' Working! That's the Protectorate's idea of Working!

Bill and the twins were 'Traveling' throughout their time there, so I don't think they ever were near any MLE.
Do give me word about Kingsley's condition, as soon as you know. And oh, Alice, I'm so sorry about Caradoc.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-13 01:57:36
Re: Private message to Alice

I shall, Molly.

The twins are here, with Terry. Last I heard of Ron, he was all right.

If you can be spared this evening, we could use a hand, you could see Kingsley for yourself. There's been some smoke damage and twisted ankles and knees on top of the usual spell damage, and I know you know your way around a twisted ankle with your boys.

And yes. It is a blow. I haven't had time to really sit and think about it yet, and as soon as I do, I'm sure it will leave a mark.

@alt_molly at 2014-11-13 02:36:57
Re: Private message to Alice

I've gathered all my supplies as well as every spare blanket and shawl I have in the house. I'll be there very shortly.

@alt_sirius at 2014-11-13 01:16:35
(no subject)

Found Remus and we're both heading back to Sherwood now. I couldn't convince their leaders to retreat. Once they headed to that church, it was over. They played right into MLE's hands. There were still a few stragglers but I think we've got everyone away that we can.

They played right into their hands, sod it.
Oh, and Dorcas just arrived at the Apparation point - she says she got clipped by something but she's all right. I think she won't submit to an examination until she's seen Kingsley.

Thank you. From the bottom of my heart, love.
2014-11-12 14:10:00
Private Message to A Dolohov and S Desai

Just received OL's summons. You?

alt_crouch_jr

alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 20:18:18
(no subject)

No.

Has Bellatrix?

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-12 20:32:47
(no subject)

No, not Bella.

At Buckingham, waiting for audience.

No idea. Broome's mum if he knows.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-12 20:18:42
(no subject)

No summons here -- we are still doing cleanup.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-12 20:36:36
(no subject)

At Buckingham.

Will let you know what's afoot asap. Assuming.
@alt_antonin at 2014-11-12 20:45:14
(no subject)

Luck.

@alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 20:19:17
(no subject)

You may transfer Hydra to my supervision, if you feel she needs it.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-12 20:34:29
(no subject)

Keep an eye out for her. She's with the other ducklings.

@alt_savitha at 2014-11-12 20:35:51
(no subject)

I'll look in on them when I have a moment.

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 03:01:45
*Private message to Barty*

I have not heard from you yet, dear heart. I shall hope you are simply engrossed in your work.

Savitha, Lana, and I will be bringing the children back to Hogwarts shortly, and with how many of the invigouration potions I've taken since the wee hours I'm certain I'll sleep like a rock, so do not worry about me if I do not respond when you do write. But do check in with me as soon as you can; you know how I fret.

Святый Боже, Святый Крепкий, Святый Безсмертный, Помилуй нас, please be all right
The last of the potions have worn off; I cannot keep my eyes open any longer. I trust that in the morning I will find you laughing at me for my mother-henning, solnyshko.

???????? ???? -- вечно.
Private message to Finch-Fletchley and Weasley

I have Finnigan here with me, but have not seen you recently -- are you both still by the western embankment? What are conditions there, and has your crew managed to secure the perimeter?

Also -- both of you, be careful of how much longer you have left on your latest dose of potion. Until you are familiar with the warning signs of it beginning to wear off, it's far better to be conservative.

Order Only

Ron,

What ought we to tell him--or not tell him, as the case may be?

We want to keep him well away from the western end, as that's where the evacuees are going.

-Justin

(Where are you, anywiz? Stupid smoke!)

Well, we can tell him the visibility's bad up here. That's true.

Thing is, we can't completely lie.
alt_justin at 2014-11-12 20:59:40
Re: Order Only

No, we can't.

I'm to the left of the mine supply shed, by the way.

Was that someone from Sherwood just over by the treeline? We ought to move away if so and lead him back round to where the fighting is thicker.

-Justin

alt_ron at 2014-11-12 21:02:32
Re: Order Only

I can't see anyone from here.

Hang on, I'll be there in a tick.

alt_justin at 2014-11-12 20:56:28
(no subject)

Sir,

The wind shifted and the smoke is much worse in the western quadrant. The fire's under better control, however.

We're walking the perimeter now to make sure no one's broken through. I think we could both use more potion, in fact. Where are you?

-F-F

alt_antonin at 2014-11-12 21:07:04
(no subject)

I am back towards the southern command post -- Barty has been called away, and I have taken over the task of liaising Council with MLE and vice versa. Come find me: I ought not leave. (Alternately, if you
are the only ones in that sector, I can send Finnigan to you; do not leave it unmanned.)

alt_ron at 2014-11-12 21:12:28
(no subject)

Lestrange and Patil are up here. Can't see either of them at the moment, but they're here.

We'll head your direction, then.

alt_justin at 2014-11-12 21:15:43
Order Only

Dash it, I do see them. There are Muggles headed straight for them.

I don't think we can warn the Muggles without Patil seeing or hearing it. Hydra would distract her but we've no way to give her warning, either.

-Justin
Order Only: Private message to Ron

If you get back and I'm not here, it's because Mrs Longbottom says they could really use a Healer. I'm going to slip out as soon as I can do it without anyone noticing.
2014-11-12 18:04:00
Private Message to Padma Patil

I told Antosha we'd go have a look at the Admin's suite and see what state the records are in, if it's not all been ransacked.

It'll be warm in there, at least.

And I've got another round of potion. It's time we took it again: we surely do not want to fall over sleeping here and end up left behind!

Meet me at the square in fifteen?

---

alt_padma at 2014-11-13 00:34:44
(no subject)

Yes, all right. It'll be good to be back inside! I was just having a bit of tea, mainly for the warmth, but if you've more potion that's even better.

---

alt_lana at 2014-11-13 04:43:59
(no subject)

You did well, you know. I counted on you and you came through. Braithwaite told me he was impressed, too, so that's something! (He needn't have said if he didn't think so.)

Good show!
2014-11-12 19:30:00
Order Only: Private Message to Mr Snape

How is the pain? Do you need more dittany? Fresh bandages? Soup?

If you're feeling up to Apparating we could go back to Grimmauld but Tim says he can probably find a tent for you if you'd rather stay.

alt_severus at 2014-11-13 01:55:55
(no subject)

The pain is bearable; I will not say it is my favourite way to spend an evening, but I have a cauldron of more powerful pain relieving draught I am babying along in the midst of the remainder of the brewing. (It is the tiny silver cauldron, if you are curious; I will explain the finer details of the preparation when we are not pressed for time, as it has some unique properties that will be beneficial for you to study.) The swelling is more of a distraction than the pain; I am capable of ignoring pain when I must, but swelling, being an autonomic function, is not something to which the 'mind over matter' adage can be applied.

Alice did at least restrain herself from too much fussing, although to judge by the look on her face when she saw me, the injury is worse than I thought; I have not yet had access to a mirror.

Assuming I am able to complete all the brewing we are likely to need I will return to Grimmauld. I have done quite enough camping for one lifetime. If you have a spare moment before then, a fresh pair of robes would not go amiss; I have bled all over mine and the vigilance necessary to keep from contaminating the cauldrons is growing tiresome.
@alt_hermione at 2014-11-13 01:58:43
(no subject)

I know where I can find robes.

And ice.

@alt_severus at 2014-11-13 02:06:29
(no subject)

Bless you.
2014-11-12 19:56:00
Private message to Gus

If you are free this evening -- we have secured Erewash well enough that we can take time now for study. I interrupted one of the interlopers in the midst of casting an involved spell that may very well be the modified Fidelius used upon Saltash. Sadly, killing him mid-cast did destroy the anchor stones he was using -- they exploded rather emphatically -- but I caught a decent enough look at one of them to be able to sketch out the runic inscriptions, which I did as soon as I had a moment so I would not lose it in my distraction.

I will need to get the children back to Hogwarts relatively soon, but if you aren't able to make it on-site before I do, I will leave the sketches and my brief field notes with the command tent.

---

alt_rookwood at 2014-11-13 02:24:18
(no subject)

Excellent. I'll be along directly. Did you recognize the caster and do you have the body? I trust your notes are as thorough as usual and I know where to find you if I need clarification.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 02:43:27
(no subject)

He seemed familiar in the way that I am reasonably certain I have crossed wands with him before, but I haven't been able to place him. I've seen his face more recently than the war, I know that much, but I'm having the most dreadful time placing it. It will come to me.

Sadly, we could not recover the body. The stresses of the anchor stone exploding when he went down opened one of the ground fissures we've been fighting all damn day; there's nothing left of him but ash and bone now.
Pity about the body.

Was he placing the stones while walking or were they placed and he was activating them? Was he able to defend himself with magic when attacked or was all his concentration on his magical undertaking?

From your sketches there are obvious runic connections to Fidelius but some severe differences that ought be antithetical to its normal construction. This is not just a faster way to cast a much larger Fidelius. This is different. In a runic construction of Fidelius I'd expect to see algiz - gifu - fehu. Or some close variation. You could argue order or replacing algiz with othila. Runic casting is not the normal method, but is believed to have been used centuries ago. The Giant's Causeway really ought to be much larger. If you haven't caught up on the scholarship while you were out of the country look up Rinkelmire's talk from 1989 on the subject. Very enlightening.

Your sketch showed othila and thurisaz. I've found at least one fragment with isa, which is just wrong. No reason for it to ever be in this sort of construction. Its inclusion is dangerous. Dangerous to the caster, dangerous to everything on the inside.

Am content with testing what I have to hand for now. Will return when it's light to look for more pieces. Was Bella in command of our defense of the location?

It's been quite some time since I studied Runes at that level -- what I do not use in my field, I do not use -- but I am glad it's not my being out of practice that led me to think this was very strange. If you think so as well, I am content.

He had just dropped one, but he was running from the center of the camp, not around the perimeter. Which means that either they have worked out a way to obviate the most tiresome part of Fidelius and anyone can place the stones -- that the caster need
not run the perimeter of what they are protecting himself -- or they were only aiming for half the camp. I don't know if he was concentrating on his casting or not; I came upon him by surprise and I did not have a chance to evaluate whether he was capable of returning fire.

I believe Bella is around somewhere. I am nearing the end of my last dose of invigouration potion, and am back at Hogwarts; I have a few further messages to send and then I will no doubt sleep for sixteen hours. Keep me posted on what you discover; I am curious.
found colin sleeping in the corner of one of the mess halls. he's missing the top joint of one of his fingers, said he didn't want to bother a healer with it. I think he was embarrassed he'd splinched. merlin knows how many trips he made today.

he's getting looked after now.

kingsley's been put under to keep from thrashing too much. looks bloody awful, but from what I've been told, he'll mend. dorcas is sitting with him.

saw the professor, too. his paws are healing up just fine.

back to it.

I could just

Oh, Colin.

We're still working on a final headcount. It's unclear how many were left behind, but I believe we rescued more on the balance, and were able to evacuate a significant number of children.


And my dearest,

I know where you would've rather been today.

Don't work yourself too hard.
So, you know how my mother thought that it was possible some of her family were still alive?

There are five people who were in Erewash, who made it to Sherwood, who are family members. Clive Goddard, who I guess was my mum's oldest brother. He's a LOT older than Mum, like I think he's around Mrs Weasley's age. And his wife Josephine and their daughter Janet who I guess is my cousin, but she's old, too, like Bill's age, which I guess makes sense. They had another daughter who got taken away and they're not sure what happened to her.

Plus two of my mother's other sisters, Annabel and Gwendolyn. They're twins. They're between Clive and my mum, in age.

They're all here, in Sherwood. When they heard I was here they all came to find me. It was

Annabel and Gwendolyn look so much like my mum. And they cried and hugged me and said they didn't think they'd ever see me again, because of course you know they DID see me, they saw me when I was a baby, though I don't remember them at all, and they talked about how I have my Nan's nose.

It was really lovely and also the strangest thing in the world, and then I had to stop talking to them and try to heal someone who had these horrible burns. And they just waited until I was done and then went back to trying to decide whether I favoured my grandmother or grandfather more and how interesting that I was a Witch like my mum and dad (of course I was, I mean, squibs aren't all that common). And then they found out about Delancy and they started crying again and went off to try to see him.

Ron, are you back yet? (Pansy, is he?) Mrs Longbottom doesn't want me staying out any later than I can find an excuse for. If Ron's back and didn't go straight to bed, I could possibly pass it off as me staying out after curfew to see my boyfriend, but that won't work if Ron's gone to his bed in Gryffindor, not that I could blame him if he did, he must be wrecked. Anyway. Can you let me know? I suppose we can
always manage Millie but that piece of work Elizabeth Burke might tattle on me if anyone asks.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2014-11-13 04:21:31  
(no subject)

That's utterly brilliant. That's really and truly wonderful. They sound lovely. All of them.

I'm fairly sure Ron's back. Hydra is, at least, She didn't even say a word, just went straight up to her room. She looked utterly exhausted.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at 2014-11-13 05:43:02  
(no subject)

I'm back on the grounds, heading up to the castle. If I get detention you'll know Milland caught me.
Everyone,

We're all back at Hogwarts.

Madam Pomfrey, I'm so terribly sorry about Mr Dearborn. We were all told to be on the lookout especially for anyone who looked like he was setting out a perimeter or casting anything remotely like a Fidelius. Professor Dolohov saw Mr Dearborn and--I say, there was simply no way to intervene.

There was little way to intervene in any of the dashed awful business, what.

At any rate, the Headmaster has recommended that we test our endurance as the potions he gave us leave our systems. I intend to see how long it takes for it to wear off completely; he indicated that we should likely pass out for hours once we're no longer under its influence.

I say, I hope it doesn't take very long. I already feel as if I could sleep through the rest of the week.

We were at least able to keep Finnigan and Patil away while several dozen refugees fled under cover of the smoke. Up until the end, that is. There was one group that ran straight into Patil's path.

We were allowed to stay for the debriefing once the camp residents were subdued. I'll write up a full report, Mrs Longbottom, and send it to you and Mr Lupin once Ron and Hydra and I have all had a chance to talk together without anyone else present. We're all healthy, however, and safe.

-Finch-Fletchley

---

Private message to Harry and Neville

Have you seen Ron? Did he come straight back to the dorms? (Mostly I'm wondering if I can use him as an alibi if I stay here past curfew.)
Re: Private message to Harry and Neville

Yeah, he and Seamus both came up and fell asleep. Ron's still in his robes and Seamus didn't even take his shoes off.

Sorry. I'd offer to wake him but I don't think it would work.

I look forward to your report, and am very glad to hear you all are otherwise unharmed.

The work you and Ron did to give us an opening in the perimeter and cover was incredibly useful, and having all three of your eyes on the other side of things was a definite advantage, and much appreciated.

I'd be willing to act as lookout when the three of you get together to discuss what happened. Don't worry: you can cast *muffliato* so I can't overhear, if that's what you want, and I can keep others from your meeting place.

Once Ron and the rest of you wake up, of course. Ron looks ready to sleep at least a week.

Thank you. Caradoc knew what risk he was taking, and he- well, he'd far rather it ended the way it did than with capture and interrogation.

It was Dolohov, then? Thank you for that, for telling me.
No matter what you did to maintain your covers, it's clear that the three of you did save a lot of lives today, just by keeping MLE attention from the evacuation point.

Well done. And all the rest of the Juniors, too, and the fighters and apparators who came from Moddey. Outstanding work, everyone.
2014-11-12 22:28:00
Private message to Padma Patil and Ron Weasley

You both did extremely well. I was proud to call both of you my students.

Padma, I could see how hard you've been working recently. You really shone.

Ron, you were extremely helpful both in the field, and working on the support team.

Sleep as late as you'd like tomorrow. You've earned it. The elves will bring you breakfast whenever you wake up, and your teachers will be told to excuse you from all classes. (Work, obviously, can be handed in when you've had the opportunity to complete it.)

@alt_padma at 2014-11-13 04:37:51 (no subject)
Thank you, Professor! It felt so good to be useful.
2014-11-12 23:05:00  
*Private message to Septima and Auri*

We have returned; Savitha, Lana and I are all exhausted, and will be at very least sleeping in tomorrow morning. The children are likewise exhausted, but otherwise none the worse for wear. They have been sent off with firm instructions to get a good night's sleep, and I've told them that they should be prepared to sleep at least until lunch, since none of them are yet accustomed to how their bodies respond to the invigouration potions. Septima, can you make it known to the rest of staff at breakfast that I have approved their absence from class for as long as need be tomorrow?

Thank you both, and the remainder of the staff as well, for the work you have done to cover for our absence; I apologise for the necessity of it, but it is comforting to know that Hogwarts is in good hands.

---

alt_sinistra at 2014-11-13 04:32:18  
(no subject)

It's good you are all back.

We sorted out patrol coverage for the three of you through tomorrow (and a tentative option for Friday if anyone feels it's needed), as well as coverage for the Prefects involved. I'll do one more round tonight after my 6ths.

I told the Gryffindor and Slytherin prefects to bring anything of note to me, instead of Lana or Savitha, until our colleagues let them know otherwise.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 04:50:41  
(no subject)

Thank you, little star; I'll let them know.

And thank you for your care package, as well. I am drinking the tisane now, while waiting for the last of the potions to leave me enough to let me sleep.
2014-11-12 23:42:00
Private message to Savitha and Lana

Not a bad showing from the children, was it?

I've let Septima know that the three of us will not be teaching classes until at least noon. Sleep in just as we've told the children to sleep in. Septima will also pass along to the other staff that the ducklings will not be in class until they wake naturally. I'll send the elves with restoratives for the children for when they wake up, and if either of you need a dose, just ask for one. (Even if you have your own, you may want mine anyway; I have Snape's variation, and it is a noticeable improvement.)

Auri says that she and Septima between them have sorted out patrol and prefect issues, and that she's let the prefects of both Gryffindor and Slytherin know that they should come to her, rather than you, until you have recovered well enough to resume your duties there.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 04:54:07
Private message to Savitha

Padma in particular is much improved; you have done excellent work there. And I was supervising Mr Weasley for a time this evening, and I am thrilled you have been able to wake the fire in him; I have been able to see it for quite some time, but nothing I tried seemed to get through to him.

I still think I've picked the best of the herd, however!

alt_savitha at 2014-11-13 05:16:01
Re: Private message to Savitha

Well, your protégé certainly did you proud. And yes, I was quite pleased with Padma's performance; she clearly took my admonitions to heart.

I've seen students like Ron before -- the youngest or nearly-youngest of a long line of overachieving siblings. Two of them, Head Boys! I taught Bill, Charlie, and Percy, of course, when I was teaching the first time, though Percy only for a year or two. Two, I
I'm digressing. Must be the potion wearing off. For a younger child in a family that size, it can feel as if every avenue for excelling, for making your own mark, has been claimed already. As if there's no point in even bothering, because you might never be as good at Charms as one, as good at Potions in another. They come to expect their teachers to treat them as the latest of a matched set. When a teacher singles them out, as the ONE among their siblings most worthy and deserving, they'll do anything.

You can tell I'm tired; here I am giving away all my secrets. Well. Padma just has the twin sister, who's certainly nothing remotely impressive, didn't even come back after OWLs. She's got that same hunger for recognition, though.

You can have the ones that were born for the battlefield. Give me the hungry ones. I'll take them all, and feed them on service to Our Lord.

---

alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 05:26:59
Re: Private message to Savitha

No, that makes sense. I don't remember any of the others, although I did of course know Percy, through Lucius. (And a more transparently desperate desire for recognition I have never seen. It's a pity he did not absorb any of the lessons in cunning along with it.) I did try what I could -- it helps that Ron is one of the ones with a natural gift for the Arts -- but perhaps with his father's death he wasn't interested in a male role model. (With that mother, he's predisposed to following strong women, I suppose.)

Ah, well; this is the reason I asked you back to Hogwarts, after all, to have someone else here with the skill necessary to cultivate those students whom I could not reach and lure them into the glory of service instead of allowing them to fade away into the mundanity of private employ. And there, I'm just as exhausted as you are: have confession for confession.

Sleep, my dear. You've certainly earned it.
alt_savitha at 2014-11-13 05:34:17  
Re: Private message to Savitha

You may be right about Ron's willingness to follow strong women. Those two Slytherin girls have him well wrapped around their fingers, and only one's his girlfriend. Maybe they bludgeoned a few lessons in cunning into his Gryffindor head -- his brothers might have stood to befriend a few Slytherin girls themselves, back in the day.

I'll go to sleep as soon as that last potion wears off, naturally. Should be any time now.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-13 04:55:52  
Private message to Lana

Very well done today. I had not expected otherwise, given your professional background, but you made me exceptionally proud to be your Master.

alt_lana at 2014-11-13 05:43:53  
Re: Private message to Lana

Thank you. One hopes not to have many opportunities like this, but when they do present themselves, one wishes to offer one's best service.

I'm sorry. That sounded terribly stilted. I mean it plainly. If there is work to be done in Our Lord's service, I mean to do it to the best of my ability.

If it's not too much trouble, I would be grateful for a dose of your restorative. Tomorrow.

I'm afraid I've really reached the end of my capabilities tonight.

Do sleep well. You've earned your rest!
Fear not, my dear, I won't hold anything against you that you say on the tail end of a day and a half on invigouration potions. And I know precisely what you meant, anyway.

I trust the elf found you with the restorative? I woke a few hours ago (finally -- just in time to thoroughly destroy my sleeping patterns) and have been spoiling myself since. Allow me to suggest some tincture of lavender and arnica for your bath: it does wonders for sore muscles.
cant believe ill never see him juggle again Or hear that braying laugh

shite, i aways forget how much skelagrow hurts

dorcas?

dorcas?

shite. poppy, somboedy look at dorcas

shes been sitting with me but

pale as a ghost

SHITE

she jsut threw up bvlood

soemone pleas

Where are you, are you in the same tent you were in last night?

Madam Pomfrey, I can go -- I'm not expected anywhere until Herbology starts.

come quick
Private message to Sally-Anne

Do you want to borrow my cloak?

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne

Yes.

We are at Sherwood still.

Miss Meadows has progressed to vomiting nearly nonstop, and the vomitus contains entirely too much blood. I have been trying to get her to take anti-emetic potions, but it does not seem to wait a moment.

She's running to the edge of the grounds as fast as she can.

Black, if you see this: vomiting blood and bile, shaking uncontrollably — badly enough that her teeth are chattering and I fear she might break one — and an elevated temperature. Is that Bellatrix's curse?
Sorry. I've been at Saltash the better part of the day, with some of the Muggle refugees.

Anyway, it could be her curse. Though if Dorcas worsened when you tried to transform her, she's certainly modified it since she used it on me. Back then, changing to Padfoot was almost an instinct, not even something I consciously thought would help.

Unfortunately, because I spent most of that time as a dog, I can only say that it felt as if my internal organs were trying to launch themselves directly out of my body. So, definitely vomiting, shaking, general misery. Worse than any stomach virus in the history of mankind, I expect.

If immersion in sea saltwater isn't having any effect, and cinnabar is merely forestalling things .... bugger. I don't know. It's a long shot, but have you tried treating it like it's a pulverising curse? Or a combination of that and the blood liquefaction curse family? If you can force the vessels in her blood to reverse their agitation, that might stop the blood emission.

Yes, that was one of the first things I tried.

At this point I have been working under the assumption that the curse itself, and thus the best approach to a counter-curse, is a hybridisation of multiple families and sources.

Yeah.

At a guess, I'd say she combined putrefaction and degenerative families, making the body believe its own organs are toxic. That would explain trying to reject
them all at once.

If she's introduced even more failsafes, though, it'll be impos-
tricky to recombine the counters in the right proportion.

Here's a particularly odd thought. Have any of the Muggles at
Sherwood managed to scrounge any IV antibiotics?

alt_severus at 2014-11-14 00:45:38
(no subject)

I take your line of thought, but I doubt that
antibiotics would work for this. Magical and
Muggle remedies do not combine very well; far
better to keep to one or the other. As I
discovered during my

It is academic nonetheless: I doubt there is a single bag of
unexpired antibiotics in the whole of the Protectorate. The shelf
life is limited.

alt_sirius at 2014-11-14 00:54:56
(no subject)

True enough. Still, there is a Muggle method
that wouldn't necessarily be mixing it with
medimagic. I've heard of a technique in which
Muggle physicians very carefully flush the
blood and transfuse in clean fluid to the kidney. They do it on
people whose kidneys don't function on their own. Or do you
think the curse would simply affect the blood all over again?
Maybe it would do.

alt_frank at 2014-11-14 01:43:28
(no subject)

dr williams is still around sherwood doing
check-ups on the refugees. she could give a
consult if you want me to bring her in.
I need someone who is capable of human-to-animal transfiguration and some salt water, immediately.

On my way. Brutka'd undoubtedly be better, but he's probably teaching and I mastered that one in my NEWTS.

Wrote a fake meeting in my calendar. Grabbing all the salt shakers in the staff lunch room on my way out.

Moody had a spell

He used it for Ben, but I don't remember it.

Oh, bugger.

We need something to immerse her in if we're going to try it.

Terry, somebody, fetch us cauldren we can perform an engorio charm on.

I know where they're kept. Coming.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 16:49:06
(no subject)

The anti-emetic charms aren't doing anything. At all.

alt_molly at 2014-11-13 16:50:34
(no subject)

Merlin, not Dorcas, too?

I'm coming. It's probably best to move Kingsley away if...if it's what you suspect.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 16:52:49
(no subject)

Okay.

She doesn't have anything infectious, at least that I could find from the diagnostic spells. And I don't think she's poisoned. I'm fairly sure Mr Snape is right, it's a curse, not one I've seen before, and it's taking her apart from the inside, and nothing we're doing is knitting her back together.

I don't know if that potion Madam Pomfrey used on Cedric might help. But I don't know if it matters because I don't think we have any.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 16:59:42
(no subject)

WAIT. Mr Snape says you DO have some cinnabaris. It's back at Hogwarts.

Colin's coming. I've given him Harry's cloak. Someone needs to come out and give it to him on the grounds, someone he knows (because he'll be invisible). I told him to wait by the lake. Pansy?
alt_pansy at 2014-11-13 17:00:36
(no subject)

Infirmary. Right.

alt_frank at 2014-11-13 17:04:06
(no subject)

(I'm by the oak tree and a rather large rock)

alt_bill at 2014-11-13 17:08:50
(no subject)

WAIT, Colin, until Luna brings you the salt.

alt_luna at 2014-11-13 17:04:11
(no subject)

I'm available to provide distraction if necessary.

alt_bill at 2014-11-13 17:08:12
(no subject)

Grab more salt from the dining hall if you have a chance and send it back with him. ALL you can get, if you can do it without being noticed.

alt_pansy at 2014-11-13 17:10:59
(no subject)

He's got the salt and cinnabaris. On his way back.
For those who see this later: Mr Weasley attempted to transfigure her, but the moment he began, the vomiting blood increased and she began to bleed from the eyes, nose, and ears.

We are attempting salt water immersion without the transfiguration.

There's a palliative charm to relieve pain that I'm using on her so at least she's calmer.

Even the use of Cinnabaris vitalis will not do much more than slow her progression — it is not a universal panacea; it is a method of stabilising a patient for long enough for treatment to be effective.

I will do everything I can to reverse-engineer the curse — we will need to break it, or at least alter it, for Miss Meadows to survive.

Okay.

It does seem to have stabilised her for now.

Mr Snape is doing a lot of diagnostic charms to try to work out a counter-curse.

Mrs Weasley and Hermione are here. They're going to keep using the pain-relief charm and whatever else Mr Snape needs.
And I'm back at school and no one seems to have noticed I was gone.

Can we take her to Saltash?

would it negate the curse?

I honestly do not know.

Taking her to Saltash would undoubtedly disrupt the protective effects of the *Cinnabaris vitalis*. At this moment I am certain it is the only thing keeping her alive.

I still have not yet even been able to determine if the curse is time-delayed or ongoing. (The distinctions between the two are mostly academic, save when suddenly they are not.) If it is time-delayed it is likely a single effect that unfolds over time and once it has been placed upon someone even magical interruption would not have any effect. If it is ongoing, perhaps magical interruption would work. Perhaps.

She is weak enough that apparition, even side-along, would drain her further, and she might yet need that strength.

And, of course, if the null-field does not work, in Saltash I would not be able to continue trying to break the curse. And returning her to here would mean another apparition, and the loss of the protection of the *Cinnabaris vitalis*.

I will lay out the factors for her and ask her which she would prefer. She is lucid enough at the moment to make her own choices. For now
Severus.

Would it help if I came? I think I might be able to manage it now. (And get away with it if I'm fortunate.)

Yes. The *Cinnabaris vitalis* has slowed the rate of decline considerably, but it has not stopped it. I am — must be — concentrating on the hope of a counter-curse; your assistance in caring for her in the meanwhile would be most appreciated.

All right. Let me see if I can cover for my absence. Hang on.

On my way.

She thought of something I had not: that even if the null-magic field disrupted the curse, it would do nothing to heal the effects she has already suffered, and the spell may only remain dormant and reactivate upon leaving the field.

She would prefer not to risk it, and take her chance that we are able to develop a counter-curse in the time she has left to her.
sounds like dorcas all right.
2014-11-13 10:41:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank

I'm sitting with Kingsley. Severus is working on every diagnostic he knows, and Molly and Hermione are trying their best to keep Dorcas stable and comfortable. Once she settled down some, we brought Kingsley back in so he could

So they could talk a little. Which helped the both of them, I think.

Severus is utterly driven, he's trying so very hard, but love, you may want to come over so you can talk to her too.

alt_frank at 2014-11-13 18:48:44
(no subject)

right.

on my way.
Rachel, read Kingsley's post. I'm afraid Dorcas is dying. We think she was hit by Bella's fucking curse, that signature one of hers.

Do you know anything about it? Has anything been said to MLE about the curse, possible treatments, ANYTHING? The treatment we used to work--I don't think it's going to do it.

If it were Bella's curse, she ought to be dead by now. It kills in about a day, usually.

I hope you're right.

Unless she changed it, somehow. It's not something she got out of a book.

Shite. And she would, wouldn't she, since it didn't kill Sirius the first time she tried it.

I'll tell Snape.
Yeah. Sirius is the only person who's ever survived it. It would have made sense for her to make some adjustments once she realised he really did pull through.

I'm sorry, Bill. If that's what it is, Dorcas is done for. There's nothing anyone's going to be able to do about it -- no Healer can reverse it. You probably wasted the cinnabaris vitalis.

Bloody hell. Literally.

I'll...I'll still tell Snape. He tends to hear 'you can't do it' as a personal challenge that infuriates him and then brings forth his best efforts.

Outside of Kingsley's hearing, though.

Shite, this is going to absolutely gut him. All the Peacehaven Players gone except him.

Well.

If he does manage to undo the curse -- and you're right that it was Bellatrix's -- let's try to make sure Dorcas is never spotted alive again. I'd much rather us know a way to undo Bella's curse than to send Bellatrix back to the drawing board YET AGAIN.

Not to mention send her sniffing around for people who might
have had cinnabaris vitalis, if she has any inkling that might give anyone time to unravel that spell.

[@rachel](https://www.reddit.com/user/rachel) at 2014-11-13 17:26:57  
(no subject)

I don't know the spell at all, if you're wondering. Not the incantation, which she does non-verbally, not even the wand movements. I don't think even Auror Crouch does. It's possible Rodolphus might, though I wouldn't count on it.

It Bellatrix has never taught another person, the good news is that this spell will die with her.

[@bill](https://www.reddit.com/user/bill) at 2014-11-13 17:38:11  
(no subject)

Well, here's to hoping that her maniacal professional jealousy and selfishness will work in our favour FOR ONCE.
**2014-11-13 16:06:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*

If you are at all able, please come to the Hospital Wing. I have need of you.

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**2014-11-13 22:07:53**

*alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:07:53 (no subject)*

Just saw this, I'm on my way. Is everything okay?

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**2014-11-13 22:10:49**

*alt_poppy at 2014-11-13 22:10:49 (no subject)*

I need to go to Sherwood, and I need to ask you to take a dose of polyjuice and impersonate me. Perhaps more than one dose, depending on what I find.

The ward is, I'm afraid, quite busy today with this tummy ailment. I've- well, you'll see.

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**2014-11-13 22:12:55**

*alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:12:55 (no subject)*

You want me to

I see. I think I can do that. I mean, I played Alecto Carrow once and people thought I was pretty convincing. I know a lot more about Healing than I do about being a Death Eater.

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**2014-11-13 22:16:38**

*alt_poppy at 2014-11-13 22:16:38 (no subject)*

You'll be fine.

Keep busy and don't talk much. Just mutter and
fuss.

No one will question you. Certainly not any of the ones with today's illness.

👤 alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:17:10
(no subject)

Right.

Yeah. I can do this.
Order Only: Private message to the Juniors

For the next few hours (or maybe a bit longer) I'm going to be in the Hospital Wing pretending to be Madam Pomfrey. I mean, she's having me take polyjuice and do her job, so that she can go to Sherwood.

If two or three of you could come and pretend you're ill, that would be very helpful. Get some of those Puking Pastilles from Pansy. If I need a distraction, you can take a sudden turn for the worse. (Almost everyone who's in the Hospital Wing has some sort of stomach ailment. So the results of the Puking Pastilles will seem extremely natural.)

Right. I'll go and fetch some from her.

Artie, you up for a sick day?

Yeah, I could do that.

I mean, I only woke up half an hour ago and haven't got out of bed yet, but I wouldn't mind not going down to supper, so yeah.

You might want to get something to eat before you come. No one with this illness wants any dinner, and I don't want you to have to skip supper after you slept through breakfast and lunch.
And I'm currently Madam Pomfrey.

It's so weird, seeing her hands when I look down. And

Have you ever taken polyjuice? It really is the weirdest thing ever.

At least you're still a girl. Could be worse.

Do you want me to come?

I hope you don't mind Madam Pomfrey borrowing your cloak. I still had it, and she needed to be able to get off the grounds without anyone seeing.

Anyway, I think you probably shouldn't come. I want people to draw attention if I need them to. You kind of draw attention no matter what.

It's okay. The cloak, I mean.

No. I just change into a snake now and then.

It is definitely bizarre.
And seeing you as her? Is going to be horrendous, innit? I may be scarred forever.

Think I'll skip supper, by the way. I mean, if I'm meant to take a puking pastille, there's not much point, is there? Unless you just want to be sure there's a proper show when I sick up.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:40:32

Well, you'll only have to take it if I need a distraction! Like if Dolohov shows up and wants to have tea and a nice chat, or something. Hopefully everything will go fine. (I mean, I quite like having tea and a nice chat with Dolohov honestly but not if I have to pretend I'm Madam Pomfrey while I'm doing it!)

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:42:06

Actually come to think of it maybe you should just be a snake, and hang out in my pocket, and then you could tell Evelyn and Artie if they need to start throwing up.

@alt_ron at 2014-11-13 22:47:14

A much better plan.

I like hanging out in your pocket.

You don't have Sebastian along, do you?

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-13 22:54:33

No, he's in my room.
Has it been all right so far? Need any of the rest of us to start sicking up?

She's doing brilliantly. If I didn't know it was really Sally-Anne, I wouldn't be able to tell.

Professor Acton chatted her up for ever so long. I thought we would have to start vomming just to get her to stop, but she left off eventually.

That must have been dead awkward. I don't really want to speculate on what Professor Acton would want to discuss in detail with Madame Pomfrey!

Well, unfortunately I can't tell you because there's an ethical code about this stuff I think I'm bound by, even though technically I haven't taken the oath yet. (But! I'm impersonating Madam Pomfrey who has.)

But you know what, I can guarantee you are happier not knowing, anyway. (Ron can back me up here once he's not being a snake.)
Don't worry--I definitely wasn't asking!

Okay. Mr Snape thinks I'm probably going to have to stay here all night.

Pansy and Daphne, if anyone asks, tell them I'm ill and in the hospital wing. Neville and Harry, if Seamus asks, say the same thing about Ron. (That he's ill, and in the hospital wing for the night.)

You'll have to keep taking polyjuice. You have enough?

We can help keep track. In case you get too tired.

Yeah, she left me plenty. And she has wakefulness potions, that should keep me going tonight.

I think maybe tomorrow I'll plan on pretending I really AM sick, and just sleeping all day in the hospital wing. Because I'm going to need to drink polyjuice every hour, just in case someone comes in.
Private message to Hermione

It's a bit hard to tell because honestly Mr Snape is not ever very optimistic.

Do you think they've got any shot at saving her?

Why, what did Mr Snape say? If he said she's dying, he's right. He's been going spare trying to think of things to help but I don't think anything's working. And on top of the long days we've had, I don't think even the wakefulness potions are helping him think any clearer. I mean, even as tired as he is, he's still utterly brilliant, but he's ever so tired and he's got his own injuries to worry about (although the swelling's gone down, some, so that's a mercy, but I don't think he got enough dittany on it quickly enough, the scar looks like it'll be horrible for a long time to come and it has to hurt, but he won't take much in the way of pain control potions because he's been taking the other kind, to stay up with Miss Meadows).

Anyway, it's actually rather quiet, unless someone thinks of something new to try. We asked the Muggle doctor about the process Sirius thought might help. She said it's called dialesis but that she doubted it would help and even if it could, she didn't have the right equipment or supplies to do it properly. The really awful thing about this curse is that everyone has to sit round and watch it kill her. It would have been easier if she'd just fallen in battle, you know? But instead we're just wracking our brains trying to come up with a solution. And I really don't think there is one.

Yeah, he basically said she's dying and that nothing they've tried has worked.

I don't know why he didn't come let me heal him up yesterday. I healed about a hundred sprained ankles and that was a much worse injury. Today we never had time.
The thing about Mr Snape is that he'd rather concentrate on other people's situations than his own. He healed it enough to be getting on with, or that's what he'd say.

I suppose he's a bit like Justin that way, thinking about other people before his own needs. Or even like Sirius, though neither of them would like me saying that! But it's sort of the same, how Sirius always feels like he doesn't deserve things. I think Mr Snape feels the same way sometimes, like his own happiness just isn't important compared to when there's work to be done or potions to brew or people to help.

So if he can find an excuse to focus on that, instead of himself, he'd rather. Even if it means a bloody great scar.

Well he and Justin and Sirius are great bloody idiots sometimes, then, because people depend on all of them and they need to take care of themselves too if they're going to be of any use to anyone. And sometimes that means taking five minutes to have an injury seen to. I'm sure he'd have slept better last night if he'd gotten it healed, and he'd be in better shape today because he'd be less exhausted.

I don't know if it would matter, in the end, though. From what people said about the curse.

Well, I agree, but sometimes boys are rather stupid. Even grown-up ones.

I think he doesn't expect anyone to care, really. Which is actually quite sad, when you think about it.
Oh, I've got to go. It looks like they're making a decision about trying that last option that Madam Pomfrey mentioned. If they're going ahead then he'll want me on hand.

Well of course people care. Does he not think we count? (Students and people who ought to be students, I mean.)

Good luck.
2014-11-13 23:08:00

Order Only: Private message to Mr Snape

How are things?

If Madam Pomfrey asks, everything's fine here. No one's given me any odd looks or acted suspicious in any way and there hasn't been anything I couldn't handle. I'll give her a full report later.

---

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-14 05:11:00

(no subject)

Oh, you know, I should have mentioned because I'm not sure whether she told anyone or not: Madam Pomfrey had me take polyjuice and I'm pretending to be her.

I have Evelyn and Artie here (tucked in to beds, pretending they're ill) to create a distraction if it's needed but so far, no problems.

---

alt_severus at 2014-11-14 05:21:07

(no subject)

I imagine that rôle must be by turns amusing and terrifying. I have faith in your ability to achieve it, however.

As Poppy might not have thought to mention the technique, or did not know it to begin with: the aftertaste of Polyjuice can be dispelled by half a cup of rose-hip tea.

I am afraid I do not know how long Poppy will be here. Miss Meadows has been declining — slowly, but still declining — and I am beginning to lose hope that I will be able to construct a counter-curse in time; everything I have tried has failed, even things that ought to have had some result. Poppy has one last trick in her arsenal — a treatment to cleanse Miss Meadows' system at a deep systems level; I am afraid I do not recall the technical term — that she is saving for when Miss Meadows' decline becomes pronounced, as it will inevitably override the protections offered by the *Cinnabaris vitalis*, but she believes there is some small hope it
will be effective.

I do not think it will be much longer until that last resort becomes the only option, but I cannot offer any particular timeline. I am afraid you may be on the hook for the remainder of the night.

Poppy has said to remind you that you know where she keeps her awakeness potions.

*alt_sally_anne* at 2014-11-14 05:23:39  
(no subject)

Thanks for the tip about the tea. I'll try that. It tastes really bad and I've been drinking a little more than I strictly have to because I don't want to risk it wearing off while I'm talking to Gwendolyn Acton or something.

Anyway, good luck with Miss Meadows.

*alt_severus* at 2014-11-14 05:45:39  
(no subject)

It took me six months before the paranoia of being caught between doses faded; you are, at least, not alone in that.

I will pass on your well wishes. She said to thank you for your help earlier, as well.
I regret to inform that as of a few minutes ago, Miss Meadows has lost her struggle with the curse she was fighting.

Poppy had one final idea to try: a treatment that would cleanse Miss Meadows' system at the micro-level in the hopes it would clear out the curse. We had saved it for the last item on the list, as it would, by its nature, remove the protection offered by *Cinnabaris vitalis*, which had been what kept Miss Meadows alive through the evening. It was an all or nothing attempt, and although she did gain several lucid and pain-free hours out of it, I am sorry to say that the curse rebounded with a vengeance.

Poppy did at least endeavour to make her passing as peaceful as possible. Her last wishes were threefold: that we celebrate her life rather than mourning her death, that when we have won our struggle we should endow a scholarship at Hogwarts for a promising Muggleborn student in her name, and that — and here I quote — we "give them hell for me". I assured her we would do all three.

I am sorry. We did all that we could.

She did provide me with as many personal impressions as possible, to facilitate the development of a counter-curse, even though by that point it was obvious it would not be in time for her. Of note: she said she was unusually magically fatigued last night, and indeed had to be side-alonged back to Sherwood. We agreed that — comparing the progression of the curse to that of previous victims — the time from onset of symptoms to death has been shortened, but to compensate, the time between application of curse and onset of symptoms has been extended and an extra component had been added to disrupt the target's magic. (Likely to incapacitate someone magically upon the field of battle, rather than physically.) If any of you are in a battle and feel unusually fatigued afterwards, do not chalk it up to simple exhaustion: have yourself checked as soon as possible. I do not know that more time to attack the problem would have helped, and we will of course never know, but when dealing with an unknown curse like this, more time is always better.
Severus,

Please don't feel that you failed or let her down. No one could have possibly fought harder to save her. And you gave her precious hours with Alice and Kingsley so they could say what they needed to say to one another. That will be immeasurable comfort to them in the days to come. And you and Poppy truly were heroic in easing her pain, giving her choices in her own treatment, and treating her with kindness and dignity.

Bellatrix wanted her victims to die in bewilderment, horror and agony. Dorcas instead was helping you until the end, giving you information that may provide the key if we ever face this curse again. And I know it touched her deeply, how hard you fought. She told me so.

We may have lost this fight, but Alice, Kingsley and I are deeply grateful to you and Poppy. Yes, and proud of you, too.

alt_severus at 2014-11-15 04:13:16
Re: Private message to Severus

Thank you for your kind words, as pale as they must be beside the fact of failure.

alt_molly at 2014-11-14 16:28:23
Private message to Poppy

Thank you for everything you did for her, Poppy. I think it gave her great comfort to have the Healer there she trusted the most, and you truly did ease her pain and her fear. I don't think she could have been so at peace at the end without your help.

(Oh, damn this war, anyway. And damn Bellatrix Lestrange.)
It's always difficult when the best one can do fails to save a life.

Do you know, she said to me last night, 'The truth is, we all die. It's just a question of when and for what.' She was proud of what she'd done, and, yes, at peace by then with the fact that it was the end for her. I hope I'll have as much reason to accept mine when it comes.

Thank you, Molly.

(Quite.)

you gave her the best chance she would've had.

and now we know more, so we can try to keep it from happening again.

thank you for helping her.

No compliments from me. I know what they feel like after that.

Let me know if there's anything I could contribute to your research.
Today I have thought of six other things I could have tried. I doubt that any of them would have worked — I exhausted my repertoire of likely techniques quickly enough — but of course I will never now know.

I am very tired of watching people die.

So very tired of it, yes. Indeed, yes.

I will keep a list of what else we can try. For the next time this happens.
Private Message to Bella

I need to review all of the after action reports from Erewash that reference "exploding stones", "blooded rocks", "rune marked pebbles" and similar. The stones could be from thumb to fist sized and worked with blood written letters or carved runes. They would have exploded no earlier than when Tosha struck down the wizard whose body was immediately lost down a burning fissure as a presumed result of the magic backlash of their failed major magical working. If any of your agents got a good look at one before it exploded or was struck by the exploding fragments, that could be very important and I will need to interview them in person. If they still have the fragment that would be wonderful. If they were bloodied by such a fragment, finding it may well be vital to their survival.
Order Only: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

I just woke up. Do you think it will be suspicious if I'm 'recovered' enough to go to Dark Arts class this afternoon? If Dolohov talks at all about what happened this week, I want to hear what he says.

Anyway, last night:

Nobody seemed to suspect anything. At all. You were right that fussing at people and not saying much was exactly what people expected.

Professor Acton came to talk about some troubles she's been having with 'the Change,' it took me a bit to catch on to what she was telling me but I gave her a potion that's used to regulate body temperature and something to improve her sleep. (Rest-Easy, the one that's not actually a sleeping potion, more a relaxing-you-so-you-don't-lie-awake-worrying potion.) She seemed surprised but pleased, so I guess you usually give her something else, but she didn't seem suspicious. She stayed for about twenty minutes, talking. I don't remember most of what she said other than the parts where she described her symptoms, because I was too busy trying to guess whether you'd had this conversation with her before and if I needed to say anything other than 'oh, dear' and 'that sounds very difficult.'

There were all the people who had whatever that stomach thing was. Three more came in after you left.

Cornelius Pimm and Lucius Lonsdale turned up, having hexed each other bloody. I didn't ask them any questions about how they got into this state, but of course they volunteered this utterly absurd lie about it being some sort of 'accident,' and I'm not actually sure whether they got into a fight, or if this was the result of a very unsafe practise duel. Lucius had hair sprouting out of one of his eyes, that one was a hard one to undo. I sent them back to Slytherin when I was done but I told Lucius to come in after classes today to be checked again, so that you can check my work.

Senchita Harris turned up wanting a sleeping potion because apparently Alexa Bawsley is driving everyone in that dormroom spare
(she says). I didn't give her one, that seemed like a bad reason, actually. I told her to use a proper muffling charm on her own bed and if things are really that bad for Alexa that maybe she and the other third-year Gryffindor girls ought to bring her in to see me (by which I meant you). Then I worried the rest of the evening they'd take me up on it, but they didn't come back. Anyway I don't know what's going on with Alexa but apparently she's been crying a lot and she stays up extremely late and then has bad dreams. (And this is keeping Senchita awake.)

Anyway probably the most interesting was at about three in the morning, Darius Warrington came in saying he hadn't been able to sleep. I asked if he had something on his mind and he spent about a half hour talking to me about his family. Nothing seditious -- I guess he doesn't trust you THAT much -- but he told me his father was always rather cold to him and Charles -- all criticism, you know. He sounded sort of like Lana Sandoval. Darius had pinned a lot of hope on the idea that someday he'd be able to earn his approval, but then he died. (Because the Lord Protector killed him. But that's not what Darius said, he said, 'and then he was gone'.)

I asked him if he was sure he would have been able to? Ever? And he said no, he wasn't, actually. I think he was expecting me to say 'of course he would approve of you now; he'd be so proud if he could see you' and maybe that's what you'd have said so maybe I should have. But you know, MY father I was thinking I didn't want to lie to him and from everything I've heard of Mr Warrington he was mostly dreadful to everyone, so I suppose it's not entirely surprising he was dreadful to his family. (Though Lucius Malfoy was dreadful to a lot of people, but not Draco or Pansy.) I said I believed children shouldn't have to earn their parents' regard as if it's a scarce resource -- well, actually I said 'some people believe' but that's rather the same thing. And that sometimes, when someone criticises their child, they're really telling you what they most dislike about themselves. He thought about it and said that his father used to shout at Darius even he took off his shoes and left them lie somewhere instead of putting them in their place, even though his father always left an appalling mess in his wake.

And then he said, he knows he's different from his father, and if his father knew, he'd be so angry he wouldn't want Darius as his son anymore. I wondered, then, if he was talking about having seditious feelings, because as far as I know Mr Warrington was always utterly loyal.

I said, his father doesn't get to choose whether to have Darius as a
son, any more than Darius got to choose whether to have him as his father. And that Darius needs to trust himself, and look inside himself for guidance, and not look over his shoulder like his father's standing there disapproving of him because if he does that, he'll never STOP feeling like his father's standing there disapproving of him.

(I will admit I was trying to encourage him to be seditious. I mean, I KNOW some of what he's been thinking about these last few weeks because of the graffiti and all and that made it easier. And, I also know what it's like to have an absolutely wretched father.)

Anyway he thought it over and asked if he could sleep on the ward that night instead of going back to Slytherin, so I put him to bed and gave him a short-acting sleeping draught because I didn't want him lying awake the rest of the night.

I almost missed a polyjuice dose while we were talking. That would've been dreadful. But I remembered it just in time and took some and then offered him a cup of tisane, that actually worked out, actually, it was after I gave him the tisane he started talking about how he's different from his father. I didn't even put anything in it, it was just chamomile and rose hips.

I think that's everything. At the beginning of the evening I was going to take notes so you'd see them when you came back later, but of course they'd have been in my handwriting not yours and someone might have noticed and anyway I didn't have a lot of spare time.

---

@alt_poppy at 2014-11-14 21:53:17
(no subject)

My dear, I'm sorry to only just be seeing this. As you'll guess, things have continued to be lively here since I returned.

Thank you for stepping in at short notice and for taking a not insignificant risk in the process. I will not make a habit of it, but I suppose I felt a special need to do what I could for Dorcas. And to see her once more, truth be told. She was close to Caradoc, and I am feeling his loss rather keenly. At any rate, what you did was both a kindness and a quite brave act.

I think you did beautifully in each of the clinical situations you faced. Gwendolyn Acton will be asking me for the thermal temperant from
now on, I'm sure. I have been treating her temperament, primarily, rather than her temperature, but I'm certain she'll have found your approach helpful (and better tasting).

Lonsdale did stop in, and very little was needed in the way of follow up. He was fortunate. The curse he took was a nasty one and could have manifested far worse symptoms.

Most interesting about Mr Warrington. Tea is often just the thing, I've found, particularly at three in the morning.

You did very well, my dear. I hope you are managing to stay alert in your Dark Arts lesson.

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@alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-15 04:39:57
(no subject)

Did you see Desai's post about volunteering to go along on the next one?

I've been thinking about that. As a Healer, I mean. On one hand, I do think battlefield Healing experience could be extremely useful. On the other, it would mean I'd be unavailable to come to Sherwood or Moddey or wherever and work for our own side, even if it were a time of day I could maybe slip away. Of course, some of our own side would be there in any case -- Ron, Justin, Hydra, and anyone else who volunteered.

What do you think?

---

@alt_poppy at 2014-11-15 05:03:15
(no subject)

I think it's a decision that must be made without consideration of contingencies. Each situation is different. One time, you might make a crucial difference to our side if you were there with Desai, another time if you were here and able to go to Sherwood at the blink of an eye.

You will make of any situation the most you can, I know that. Does your intuition pull you one way rather than the other in this?
The problem is I can't tell if it's my intuition telling me I should volunteer and go next time, or if it's just that I really hated being left behind and worrying about people.

You've hit upon the crux of our profession. Healers are most often kept back from the action--not always, but generally. Occasionally the front shifts and engulfs us or we are called upon to make an extraordinary foray forward into the thick of things, but our usual position is in a place of relative quiet and shelter where the wounded may be treated without fear of disruption or attack.

It's our lot, in other words, to stay apart from the action and wait for the wounded and for reports of our loved ones to be brought us as time and chance allow.

That can seem much more difficult than volunteering for the fight.

I suppose we can't know whether this is a one-time offer from Desai or whether she will continue to look for recruits. I'm inclined to suggest that you might leave yourself more options if you do not volunteer yourself now. (If you do, she will almost certainly expect you to accompany her, even if in the moment we have other needs for you.)

That said, the decision is yours to make.
Private Message To BATyA

AM → Safe

@alt_crouch_jr

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-14 16:06:00

IPS666

Ireland?

But the wards --

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-14 22:24:48

(no subject)

Your handwriting looks dreadful.

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-14 22:25:20

(no subject)

Are you all right? No, don't answer that, it's clearly a struggle to write.

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-14 22:25:52

(no subject)

Tell me what I can do if you can. Otherwise -- be safe. I love you.
I'm so worried about you, solnyshko.

If you are in Ireland, after having been summoned to Our Lord's presence, I can only assume He has a task for you there. (I was worried enough about you last night to call Broome and see if he knew where you were -- don't worry, I said only that I needed you for some followup with Erewash and you were not answering your journal; I did not say more. He was at least able to let me know you had been alive well enough after your audience, though he did not know where you had gone after.)

Whatever it is, I hope that it will be quick. And I'll be meeting with Gus tomorrow -- ostensibly we are going over the fragments of anchor stones we found at Erewash to try to unpick them; in actuality I am hoping to steer him onto the topic of Ireland and get a sense of what is going on there that might require your intervention. And to see if I can find out from him what crossing the wards would have done to you, so that I might know how bad it really is.

Do you want me to tell Narcissa where you are? Or don't you want her to worry? (You need not answer any of my nattering, particularly not if writing is as painful as it looks; I am only fretting at you in text to have an outlet for my worry, and so that you know I am thinking of you. If I do not hear from you one way or the other, I will keep from disturbing her peace for a few days, and then let her know why she hasn't heard from you. Or if I see her writing to you, I will let her know why she may not receive an answer.)

I am thinking of you, and asking our honoured ancestors to intervene for you whenever possible. If I have luck at all to give, I am praying that it is with you right now; you need it more than I do.
Dear Father,

Of course I should inform you and Mother immediately should there be a matter of enduring consequence about which you should be so informed! The young witch of whom your colleague was speaking was undoubtedly Miss Lavender Brown, as she is the only Gryffindor with whom I have a particularly close acquaintance. I prithee do not fear that she is unsuitable and hoydenish! She has a most refined soul, and I am of course being a good influence in all ways that I may. Nevertheless I shall keep your words of wisdom in mind. And I quite agree that it is rather young for a wizard such as myself to settle down! Really, the very idea. Are you certain your colleague was not having you on?

Speaking of being a good influence, apparently a number of us who have been devoting ourselves to excellence are having effects, and some in the most unlikely places. Ronald Weasley, of all people, is making good marks this term, and several others as well. Perhaps it is the guidance of Headmaster Dolohov. More likely it is the good influence of some of our more stellar students who also are serving Our Lord. You remember Miss Padma Patil, of course, and her recent elevation to the Council. She has most recently taken part in an exercise for the good of the Protectorate under the command of Headmaster Dolohov and Professor Desai, whose fame needs no flourishes added from my humble pen. Padma of course distinguished herself admirably, and has been positively glowing in the corridors and Great Hall. It is all quite inspiring.

As to how the term at Hogwarts is going, Professor Dolohov has everything quite in hand. Of course, a school like ours can be a bit of a mixed cauldron, but the ill-advised pranks involving legible vandalism have ceased following a display of consequences. The answer to your inquiries is that you may reassure yourself that strength is being shown and mettle tested. Professor Desai is also a great asset to the school, and particularly as a mentor to those otherwise neglected; I have heard Padma’s encomiums of appreciation there.

I make haste to add that the new Professor of History is actually doing quite well at filling Professor Binns’ ectoplasmic footwear, so you need have no qualms there either.
I remain, as always, your devoted son,
Linus
My thanks to all who came today

After classes finished today, the Headmaster and I invited all interested 6th and 7th year Defence and Noble Arts students to attend a discussion of the fieldwork earlier this week, with information provided by the Headmaster and myself but also Hydra Lestrange, Padma Patil, Seamus Finnigan, Justin Finch-Fletchley, and Ron Weasley.

I was extremely pleased by the turnout; I think all or nearly all eligible students attended. I was similarly pleased by your interest, participation, and excellent questions.

It is not impossible that further opportunities to serve Our Lord will present themselves as the year continues. I would like to invite any students who would be interested in such an opportunity to let me, or the Headmaster, know right now, so that we can test your capabilities, direct you toward opportunities to improve yourself, and consider bringing you along to fight beside us in the future. You may write to either or both of us privately, either by journal message or note. Or if you prefer, you could make an appointment to speak with either of us during office hours. Be prepared to show yourself worthy.

This invitation is open to students who are of age, or sixteen-year-olds who have the consent of their parents. You should know that no true battlefield is without risk. But it's also not without glory. If you have questions, you may of course ask those as well. (Actually, I'd encourage you to speak with one of the students who was with us this week.)

ORDER ONLY

How utterly awful.

Ron, Justin, Hydra, please let me know who volunteers for this.

If any of the rest of you wish to take her up on it, I could see the value in it, but it is certainly not required of you.
**2014-11-14 19:47:00**  
*Private message to Gus*

Do you have a few moments this weekend? I'd like to pick your brains about the Octoboros system a bit -- I feel as though with the one having been stolen, whoever is behind the modified Fidelius may have incorporated some of the things they could glean from the Octoboros system. The Ireland wards, too; we know from experience that there was traffic back and forth and that at least a few of the groups Black is associated with had contacts in Ireland, and it's possible that they were able to pass information about the Ireland wards from side to side. If they have access to a strong magical theorist, who has pieced together multiple sources, it might explain why the modified Fidelius is so damn odd. (It is driving me spare; I would like to unravel the problem.)

I am upon Our Lord's business on Saturday until evening, but if you'd like, I will host supper, and throw in a chance at the library for bribe.

---

**@alt_rookwood at 2014-11-15 04:34:12**  
(no subject)

It is damnably odd. The more pieces I put together the more dangerous it looks as well. There's blood on the pebble pieces I've managed to gather. Those runes and blood of the caster (assumption) make this an incredibly delicate working to enact in the middle of battle. The ways it could go wrong are legion and some of the outcomes in my current list are truly horrific. If it was a Fidelius variant and the secret keeper is a second person and their blood is on it as well? The possibilities become ...

I can come up tomorrow. If I come up Saturday afternoon could I interview your 'ducklings' who were present? I'm trying to find anyone who might have witnessed the stones or the explosions and several of their after action reports were woefully inadequate. Are after action reports part of the curriculum these days? If so they need a refresher. Though I suspect that whatever underling Bella gave the task to decided to just included every single one that had the words 'stone', 'rock' or 'pebble' in it. Since this all took place over a bloody mine, that's every single bloody report. Lucius used to have a better handle on the stupidity of the bureaucracy, he seems to be
slipping recently. Have we become so entrenched in our positions that we've lost our edge and let the little people get enough power to think they can mess about with Us like this?

Researchers on their side? Sirius was always useless at academics. The Longbottoms were thugs. Prewetts are dead and were all action without thinking anyway. Could they possibly be in contact with Albus in whatever benighted hole he's dug himself into? All the Potters are gone, even the smarter grandmother. Is Flitwick around anymore wedged in some tiny corner? Any particularly notable students of his? He'd be capable of that sort of analysis, even if his focus was charms rather than runes. Anyway, I'll see you tomorrow and we can discuss.

---

alt_antonin at 2014-11-15 04:58:42
(no subject)

Lucius is indisposed, remember, Gus? Our Lord was displeased with him, and he's in Azkaban right now. I don't know why on earth you can't retain this fact; it's growing worrisome.

I'll be on Our Lord's business until evening, although if He is not there Himself, I'll split my time for the week into Saturday and Sunday mornings. If you want to interview the children in any detail, Sunday would be better -- it is not that you need my presence there, but most of them (Bella's daughter and Stephen's ward excepted) do not know you, and they would likely be reticent without a familiar face present. Or, come up tomorrow evening and you and I will make an evening of our work together, and then you can stay over the night -- I have made certain we have several sets of guest quarters prepared at all times -- and interview the children Sunday morning. Yes, let's do that. And I will have Poppy check you over while you're here.

Flitwick is dead; Savitha's doing, easily a decade ago and more. I can't recall anyone in the Order who was a particular protégé of his. Honestly, out of the list of people who bear grudges against us, Snape is the most likely candidate -- he was certainly brilliant in his own way -- but his field was potions, not runes, and also he and Black were mortal enemies and I cannot envision them working together for more than thirty minutes without bloodshed. And yes, Dumbledore certainly has the sort of twisted mind that would come up with something like this, but last intelligence had him in America
(though I never could find him; I looked for him for years, on and off). The journal monitoring department does look for patterns that could be contact from out of country, and I cannot think of a way he could smuggle letters through the wards.

Still. I will ask Ari's boy to keep an eye out; he's the one doing monitoring these days. And I will make a list of everyone I can think of who could possibly come up with such a thing. Perhaps I'll talk to Bathsheba sometime this week about her past notable students.

---

**alt_rookwood** at 2014-11-15 05:44:29

*(no subject)*

Ah well. Tomorrow dinner it is. I'm fine staying over. We all have fond memories of the castle. I'll bring the most promising fragments and we can play at the jigsaw puzzle as reparo and its ilk are obviously not options.

Good, he always thought he was too intelligent to stay in his place. Snape and Black working together, that is good for a laugh. Though if he had his hand in it, I'd expect unguents rather than blood and some too-clever-by-half twisted word play not these precariously balanced and political runes. He was very good at the little spells. Little but often useful. I'll ask around the Department for smart but politically suspect rune workers with a penchant for the dangerous, even if they are generally believed to be gone or dead.

---

**alt_antonin** at 2014-11-15 06:46:18

*(no subject)*

I'll have the elves make up the best guest suite we have for you, then. And you can meet my apprentice -- well, you'll know her, it's Lana Sandoval-Pennifold, from the last round of Our Lord's recruits. She's distinguishing herself very well, though, and will continue on the fast track to Mastery.

And it's odd; I've had several occasions this week to think of Snape. We had a spot of trouble with the children and had to discipline them, and several of my favourites got caught up in the net; I passed out a few of Snape's cruciation restorative. And after Erewash, during which several of us were living on
invigoration potions, I sent along some of his general-purpose restorative. I suppose I should be thankful that he did not have a next of kin, and that when Our Lord saw no purpose to Snape's notebooks I spoke for them, as one of his tutors. It's a pity half the things in them are too damnably difficult for my hired brewer to produce. (We need more actual Masters in this country; we're down to, what, three, with Horace's retirement? Miss Patil, one of our new sisters, is interested enough in potioneering; perhaps I should encourage her in that direction.)

Anyway. I've been cudgeling my memory for who might be capable of doing that level of work. Sadly, most of the people who come to mind are indisputably on our side. You, obviously. Me, although if I wanted to achieve that effect, I would not start with runes; I'd probably begin with blood sacrifice and branch out from there into the magics I learnt from my mother. Lucius, if he had a damn good reason for needing it. Barty, though again, he would not choose runes as a first method of approach. There are not many additional names that come to mind.

At any rate. My sleep patterns are all turned around this week after Erewash, but if I don't at least try to get to sleep now, I'll be miserable all weekend. I'll see you tomorrow.

---

@alt_rookwood at 2014-11-15 14:49:43
(no subject)

You know me. I'm always in favour of more talented and intelligent Masters. They're more fun to talk to.

Between you and me, I don't think we should discount anyone, at least from initial lists. We could have another small minded betrayer like Strangeweale on our hands.

I'll take the afternoon to see if I can extract anything useful from these reports as to which of our foot soldiers I need to interview to narrow my search for additional fragments.
Augustus and I have been working together on the Fidelius variation used on Saltash, trying to unpick how exactly it works and how it might have been developed. It occurred to me tonight that Gus's memory for detail no longer being what it once was might mean he had not consulted you as a resource.

Would it be possible for me to stop in Monday afternoon and call upon your expertise with journal monitoring? I am looking for, in rough order from what I expect to be most to least relevant:

— mentions of Fidelius, particularly discussions of the difficulty of casting it and variations upon the standard method;

— discussions of experimental runic technique;

— mentions of Albus Dumbledore;

— traffic coming in from journal holders outside the wards, with a particular concentration on conversations that might be coded or otherwise convey information through channels other than the obvious.

I will of course fill out whatever paperwork you deem necessary.

---

Monday should be fine, Antosha. I'll leave word at Reception.

Incidentally, you've not talked to Aunt Narcissa recently, have you? I can't be certain from the last time I saw her whether she's given up the quest to beg clemency for Uncle Lucius. And--much as we all want him back....I think perhaps after the holidays might be a better time for it. Don't you?

Well, she's coming to us for supper tomorrow and I'll try to get through to her. Any particular message you'd like me to add?
I last spoke to her ... last week? No, a week and a half ago, just a few days after her birthday. I doubt she's given up on Lucius, but Barty and I were able to make her understand that Our Lord's temper recently has been uncertain enough that any petition of hers on Lucius's behalf would ... not be looked upon favourably.

Yes, after the holidays at least. Or at such a time as Our Lord has recently had a great success, of whatever form that might take.

I'm glad you'll be having her visit, though. She needs all the support from family she can receive. Tell her that she is always welcome here, as well.
Button stopped receiving. 
Suspect it is not sending either. 
Will have to depend on this infernal device.

Found KB's family too late, she'd already shown her magic. 
RD and Finnigan still in the wind. 
Finding Finnigan a higher priority, naturally. 
IMA's honeymoon with Dogstar wore off quickly. 
IMA now even less likely to trust anyone with a wand. 
Suspect search for Finnigan would be a great deal easier otherwise. 
Made some inroads with the O'Connor clan. 
The younger ones are more receptive. 
Bloody religion remains an issue. 
As is Sinn Fein's inability to use common sense. 
Someone wrote 'Remember Kerry' on the side of the Ministry Headquarters in Dublin. 
Nettle was nettled. 
He tried cracking down, but the man was an ineffective arse. 
Past-tense intentional. 
Still sorting out responsibility for that bit of work. 
He had a lot of enemies. On all sides. 
Rumours of families being kidnapped, experiments performed, the usual conspiracies. 
Suspect something in the works. 
Will keep you informed.

Damn shame about Dorcas and Caradoc. 
Sympathies.

Shacklebolt, Longbottom, raise one for me.

And woman, I could drive a train through your security measures. 
Constant vigilance. 
Make sure you leave enough people alive to mount an offence. 
Unless you're planning on putting out fires for the rest of your life instead of starting them. 
Don't let the window pass you completely by.

Duty calls.
alt_alice at 2014-11-15 23:00:53
(no subject)

I'm glad you're still around.
When you stopped transmitting a few weeks ago, I expected the worst.

alt_poppy at 2014-11-15 23:03:07
(no subject)

It was in The Prophet today that Vice Regent Nettle was assassinated earlier this week. Was it related to Armistice Day? The paper said Auror Foxe, head of Ireland Containment, had been targeted as well and isn't expected to survive the injuries. Maybe they're not reporting that part on your side of the wards?

It's good to hear from you. Don't be a stranger, if it's only to dress us down for taking risks. It feels like old times!

alt_moody at 2014-11-16 06:16:26
(no subject)

Could be.
Could be he was killed by friendly fire.

Hadn't heard about Foxe.

Good.

alt_severus at 2014-11-16 00:03:46
(no subject)

How fortunate we are to have you here to tell us all the things we are doing incorrectly.
 alt_poppy at 2014-11-16 00:25:52
Private Message to Severus

Thank you for making me laugh. Yesterday that seemed impossible.

alt_severus at 2014-11-16 03:18:47
Re: Private Message to Severus

I could not resist. Bad of me, I know.

alt_ron at 2014-11-16 05:25:12
(no subject)

Do you have any information about Mr Finnigan? I mean anything that might help you find him?

alt_moody at 2014-11-16 06:14:57
(no subject)

Short. Dark hair. Blue eyes. Facial scar. Tattoo of two glowing swords. A Muggle-style photograph that's dated, but shows him as an adult. Distinctive enough to suggest he's in deep hiding. Or has altered appearance.
Mrs L -

Sorry, had to stop running people out to other sites for the night, my parents lost it about my not being home all week. Should be able to get out a bit more tomorrow.

Everyone else, we've been moving people from Sherwood elsewhere, the people who don't want to focus on fighting. Still sorting it out, who's best where, so there may be more moving people round. If you hear of anyone somewhere looking for specific skills or whatnot. And there's a lot of food and blankets and all that sort of stuff that needs to get matched up with people who need it, if you can spare a couple of hours.

Wayne and I both have a pretty good sense of who might know things or need things, and Mrs L has a full list.

Pansy, the folks at the radio have been working on the new words, think they've got it near ready. Plan to debut it Monday evening, right after the news. I passed the word onto the button network people, so everyone knows to listen.

Thank you, Lee.

Neville, love, your research on crop yields will be especially valuable in the upcoming months. We're assessing our food resources, and it will be a challenge over winter to say the least. We've started construction on more greenhouses at our various sites, are heavily working our winter crops, and have started an aggressive goat, sheep, alpaca, and chicken breeding programme, but an additional seven hundred odd mouths is most certainly a strain despite our efforts to stockpile this summer. (Thank Merlin we stockpiled over summer.)
Mrs L?
I was wondering.

About food.

It'd take some time to set up properly, to make sure it wouldn't get traced, but seeing as how Lucius no-one really has an eye on my finances, it should make things a touch easier on one end of things.

I'll see what I can set up in the next few weeks or so to see if I can't help funnel some more supplies your way.

That would be a marvel, Pansy.
You might want to run things by Rachel, to make sure your tracks are properly covered, but it would be a great help, yes.

And love, it might indeed be a small cut into the fabric of the Protectorate, but it does add up in the balance of things.

In all this darkness, it's hard to remember to laugh sometimes.

Satire is one of the tools people have used ever since we've had the written word. It draws attention to unfairness and hypocrisy in an approachable way, and laughing at someone immediately takes power from them, which is why our Lord Almighty can't stand it.

So nicely done.
It seems like such a small thing, really. After what's happened this week, I mean.

Still. We'll be sure to listen on our end too.
**2014-11-15 21:39:00**
*Order Only Private Message to the Juniors*

So that's Rhymes with Rudy?

A right jolly sort, yeah?

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**alt_pansy** at **2014-11-16 03:43:41**
*(no subject)*

You're telling me. I'm just wondering how on earth we're supposed to simultaneously tighten our security and 'start fires' at the same time.

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**alt_evelyn** at **2014-11-16 03:52:09**
*(no subject)*

He was one of the people who spoke out a lot against the idea of us joining, wasn't he?

I suppose he sees us as one of the giant security risks.

---

**alt_evelyn** at **2014-11-16 03:49:37**
*(no subject)*

It was so very hard to read about the Ireland rebellion. It makes me sick to my stomach to think of it happening again.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at **2014-11-16 05:08:12**
*(no subject)*

He's been in Ireland for ages, hasn't he?

Probably doesn't put him in a very jolly mood.
By the way. Is anyone going to take Desai up on that offer?

I'm trying to decide whether I should. It might be useful to get experience Healing on a battlefield.

You leaning toward doing it, then?

Yeah.

Was it something Madam Pomfrey said? I mean, I thought you were leaning the other way yesterday.

Yeah, well, I've been going back and forth. She suggested I hold off for now. Because I could always volunteer later. And I suppose she's right.
But that's not what you want to do?

Well, I hated being back at the school not knowing what was happening. Hated it.

Madam Pomfrey says that's sort of what you're stuck with, when you become a Healer. Only that's not precisely true; I could probably convince Dolohov I should come along next time, to Heal people right by the action, if anyone got hurt.

Do you think it would go differently if it's Dolohov you let recruit you instead of Desai?

I don't know. I mean, I think Dolohov would understand I wanted to go to learn battlefield Healing, not because I was hoping to get better at Dark Arts. More than Desai would. Other than that, I'd mostly figured I'd talk to Dolohov because I know he likes me and I'm not so sure about Desai.

I don't like it. I know your reasons, and it's utterly selfish of me, but I really, really don't like it.
You know I keep getting the urge to tell Rudy that I studied last summer with the Witch who made his magical eye.

Do you think if he ever comes back from Ireland he might let me have a close look at it? I can't think of a way to ask that wouldn't be rude.

Ron,

Not half so jolly as Mr Rookwood, what.

I say, did you notice that Antonin didn't seem to want to leave the room the whole time he was with us?

-Justin

Yeah, I did.

I wondered what he thought Mr Rookwood would ask us if he let him alone with us.

I mean, there wasn't much we could tell him, anyway, but... it did make me wonder. What Dovs was worried about.

What did he ask you about?
Right.

This is getting ridiculous.

And with the stuff that's been going on in New London and Ireland, it's not a joke. I saw 'Remember Sirius Black' in the bottom of my soup bowl on Sunday, and I know I'm not the only one.

The Headmaster and Professor Desai need our support. This has to stop. Besides. If they ask Patil and Finnigan to pick out people again, we know it won't have anything to do with who actually is responsible, and some of ours are going to get hurt in the process.

I won't stand around and wait for Moon to actually do his job at keeping order.

We need a list of suspects.

It looked like NEWT level charms work. And they might have familiarity with the house elves and the kitchens. Any Gryffindor you can remember who looked particularly well-fed back in 5th year? Known to have passed out food and the like? We shouldn't eliminate the other houses, of course, but they're the most likely.

This has the Weasley twins written all over it. If they were still around, it'd be obvious.

I thought they might've given their younger siblings the idea, but Ron and Ginny aren't as reckless by half. Ron's trying to get on Desai's good side, and he was knackered all weekend from going out in the field. And Ginny isn't advanced enough, and she's a Prefect, not a rabble rouser. Even if they are both Gryffindors.

It does seem like a Gryffindor thing. But what if it is someone in a different house doing something that seems like a Gryffindor thing?
And if it is a Gryffindor thing, should we tell Marvolo? Because he is in that house now and can have an influence.

That'd be devious. Which might mean a Slytherin. Maybe someone who wants to get Gryffindors in trouble or something.

I think we should go to Marvolo once we have evidence, yeah. We got on pretty well when we took over Defence the other day, I think he'd listen if I brought it to him. I think he went to Gryffindor to protect them. Because of their Head of House business. So I'm pretty sure he'd want to keep innocent people from getting into trouble.

And that's why we've got to do something. To find out who actually did it. So the wrong people don't get in trouble.

And what everyone else has been doing is clearly not working. Because it keeps happening.

What if it's a ghost?

Yeah, I saw it. Good thing it was at the bottom of the bowl or most of us would have been wearing the soup, eh?

If you're looking for a Slytherin with close ties to the Weasley twins, Parkinson's the likeliest person in school. Only she doesn't have a grudge against Gryffindors. And I can't think why she'd want to
remember Sirius Black. Regulus Black, more like. Remember how much she crushed on him?

I don't think a ghost could have done it. Maybe we should ask the Friar, though, if he saw anyone or if he could keep a lookout.

---

@alt_ernie at 2014-11-19 03:34:42
(no subject)

Yeah, she's always passing out samples and things from their shop. Perhaps it wasn't to make the Gryffindors look bad, but to

I don't know.

If it was supposed to be a joke, it's not a good one. And you're right. It's the wrong Black.

Maybe the Friar will keep watch over the kitchens? Let us know if anyone sneaks in and out?
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Luna Lovegood and Colin Creevey

(Lunes, Rangik wanted to pass along to you that you were right, the grindylow carcass we found on Sunday at the swamps would yield some usable parts. He says fresher is better, of course, because some of the tentacles were too degraded, but that they ought to get some wands out of the ones that are still good, and the fingers would be useful too. And Melli said she's made good use of that scrap of unicorn hair we found.

Patty made her first workable wand finally, it found an owner on Monday. She's been apprenticing with Melli for ages and ages, and I think she'd gotten frustrated that Ragnik picked up on it so much faster than she did, but he's so much older than she is, and he's spent decades crafting things, it only makes sense, really. Anyways. We had a bit of a celebration last night. Victor made dessert and everything. She was practically crying when the sparks came out of it right on the first try, like it should.

Hope everything's settled down at school. I really don't like the idea that they can pull you in and punish you like that, as a stand-in for the entire school. Not that you can't handle it, it's just not bloody right, and anyways. You stay safe, yeah?

Divs and Nicky say hallo. And to stay quick on your feet. Get it? And Divs says he should be able to come along this next go-round, now that he's caught up on brewing from the past week.

See you Sunday.)
Mrs Longbottom,

By now you ought to have received our report on the battle at Erewash. I say, I'm sorry it took so long for us to get it to you. We all of us took a number of invigoration potions to keep going, what, and it must be said that the combination of those and the restoratives have bally well played havoc with everyone's sleep patterns. Myself, I've been waking at about five, going straight back to the dormitories after lessons and napping until well after supper. I've just woken this evening and had to ask the elves for something to eat, what.

One of the elves said that the Fat Friar's just been in the kitchens asking them loads of questions about something in the soup today. I say, I'm not really quite sure what that's about.

In any event, we did finally all get our thoughts onto parchment, but I wanted to particularly call your attention to the end of the report. Sunday, Mr Rookwood from Mysteries came and interviewed us--with the Headmaster present, what--to ask about anything we might have noticed when Mr Dearborn was killed. Of course, that's not how he put it. He asked about the stones that exploded and the moment when those explosions triggered the fissure that swallowed Mr Dearborn, things of that nature. It's jolly well clear that they're researching our variant on the Fidelius.

It's also bally well evident from the Headmaster's actions that they've been told to watch for anyone casting a complicated or area-effect spell, what, and to target those individuals with extreme prejudice. If there are situations in future when the neo-Fidelius is warranted, then it will be necessary to provide the caster some sort of guard to keep him or her out of the line of fire.

As for Mr Rookwood, as I said, it was quite obvious early on that he was fishing for information, so we were all quite careful not to say anything that suggested we knew more than we ought to do. No one mentioned Mr Dearborn by name, for example, and no one recalled having referred to the Fidelius itself or the runes on the stones. We did have to confirm that there were runes, what, but it was simple enough to deny having had an unobstructed view of which runes they
were. Neither he nor the Headmaster pushed too hard, what. It was most routine.

The one odd thing we all noted later was that Professor Dolohov seemed anxious not to leave any of us alone with Mr Rookwood. He interviewed us in the groups we'd been in during the battle, what, but talking about it afterward, it's distinctly likely that he was nervous of Mr Rookwood's conduct around us, not of what we might have said to him, if you follow me. Ms Brodie, have you any idea why Anton the Headmaster might worry about him? He is an Unspeakable but he didn't strike any of us as like that contemptible Strangeweale bloke, as if he were going to steal any of us away and lock us in his dungeons.

That's the lot of it, I think. Unless one of you remembers something else important enough to point out, what, in which case, please add it along!

I suppose it's too late to go to the salle, so perhaps I'll see how long I can read until I fall asleep again.

-Justin

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👤 alt_rachel at 2014-11-19 04:22:10
(no subject)

Well, Rookwood is widely believed to be suffering from some sort of senile dementia. You've seen his PMs, he's constantly writing them to people who are dead, or in Azkaban, and I don't think it's because he's praying for the repose of their souls.

I've heard rumours he tested some novel potion out on himself, and other rumours he's been cursed by one of his fellow Death Eaters -- usually that one claims it was either Nott, Sr., or Corax Mulciber, possibly because they were unpredictable and vicious, possibly just because they're both dead and can't show up to complain about the accusations.

Anyway. Dolohov probably had multiple reasons for keeping those interviews supervised. One is that people so readily confused can behave unpredictably, and he wanted to make sure he was at hand to protect you. The other is that Rookwood might have started talking
about something he isn't supposed to mention, and he wanted to be on hand to silence him. That would be my guess, anyway.

Ms Brodie,

Oh, no, in fact, I'd not seen his PMs. I don't think I've ever asked my journal to find his posts before.

Well, he seemed perfectly lucid when I was talking with him, what, but perhaps he was on his best behaviour.

-Justin

Oh, I suppose you wouldn't have any reason to. I keep an eye on all the Councilwizards' journals, for reasons that are probably obvious.

If you haven't run into this sort of thing before -- it's not uncommon for people to have better days and worse days. If it's curse-based, there are also potions that can help temporarily, though they lose efficacy over time. Dolohov might have simply given him one.

I think we got everything into the report.

The thing in the soup was the words 'remember Sirius Black.' But you had to eat most of the way to the bottom to even see it. I don't know who it was, other than someone good at Charms.
Right. I'm done sitting on my arse feeling sorry.

I've been grateful for the hospitality at Moddey Dhoo, and the kids have been grand. But being idle isn't what I need now.

Alice, Remus, give me work. I need to be back out in the field.

It's what Dorcas and Caradoc would have wanted.

Kingsley,

We've been getting ready to make a run for Lilias Boardley, if you're interested.

Absolutely. Count me in.
Private Message to Barty

I've just been hearing about the Erewash incident - the unvarnished account, one might say - and found it curious that you've not been in touch to assure me you're all right. You are, I trust? Surely someone would have told me otherwise.

Then again, it seems the only times I hear from anyone lately are when my loved ones issue dire warnings not to approach Our Lord under any circumstances. Ptolemy invited me to dine with him and Karo at the weekend and I was treated to quite the lecture. Really, as if I needed the telling, given His obvious mood at His birthday remembrance and - other events of late. Nonetheless, it can't go on much longer, if Lucius is to be expected to put right everything going horribly wrong in New London. I fear the Minister can't make many more excuses, or so I hear.

In any event, promise me you shan't lecture if you join me for supper? Friday?

It's terribly dull here, you know, now the leaves are down but before a proper snow. Do say you'll come and liven things up.
Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

Sir,

I'm sure you've noticed by now that while the incidents of graffiti have subsided, students continue to find ways to express their "Remember..." messages in a multitude of creative ways. Evening soup aside, Madam Pince has also reported that many of the library books have had homemade bookmarks slipped into them that are inscribed with messages similar to those seen in the graffiti. While I have no intent to criticise the disciplinary lengths that you and the rest of the staff have gone to to quash this meddlesome trend, it does appear to be continuing despite our best efforts.

And, if you may forgive me for being terribly forward, those very lengths you've gone to have had the unfortunate side-effect of severely souring the students' disposition toward you. As Head Girl, I'm perhaps more aware of the school's current emotional state than any other, and I only tell you this with the intent to help both you and the rest of the staff address that emotional state as is best possible. Where they were once eager to please and impress, many now see you as a tyrant who is only slightly removed from those tyrants we have suffered before - specifically, Madam Umbridge and the Professors Carrow. Indeed, many of the students lack the maturity and world experience to understand what distinguishes your methods and reasoning from that wielded by those who came before you; nor do they have the insight to recognise that you only have their own well-being in mind.

I fully understand that treason is a serious concern. I understand it on a very personal level. (I am sure you need no reminding of my past relationship with Draco Malfoy.)

I do wonder, though, if the students should be so adamantly dissuaded from remembering traitors and acts of treason. One of the most disquieting things I have had to come to terms with in these last months is this: the temptation to defy the Protectorate is something that can manifest in anyone, even the most loyal and pure of our citizens, and to think that any of us are safe from such temptation is plainly hubristic.
How, then, do we guard against temptation itself? I cannot name the logic behind the temptation, I can only speculate that youth is a time in which many test the system of values they reside in and are compelled to contemplate alternatives. The wise and well-guided among us will discard the unseemly and find their dedication to proper values renewed. But meanwhile, what do we do with the unwise and the un-guided?

In pondering this problem, I believe I may have hit upon a solution.

I would like to propose that the school hold a Day of Remembrance. A day absent staff and council member involvement, planned by the students, for the students. Perhaps a ceremony by the lake, where students can light lanterns and remember whatever they like, free of observation or punishment.

If you offer the students a degree of trust and freedom, you may find that things work far better in your favour from here on out.

I hope you don't find my proposal too presumptuous; I only know that you, the staff, and the Prefects have been worked to near-exhaustion dealing with this matter, and thought that a different approach might suit.

What are your thoughts?

Sincerely,
Daphne G. Greengrass

---

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-20 23:15:15
(no subject)

Thank you for your concern, Miss Greengrass.

I have no problems with a student-organised remembrance ceremony; what I am concerned about is the expression of treason. I must be seen to act to punish sedition, lest it grow, and lest it invite attention from outside Hogwarts. If you are careful to organise a remembrance of the dead that is free of the such sentiment I would not object.

If you are thinking a lakeside ceremony with a lantern-lighting, allow me to suggest 13 December, the feast of St. Lucia; candles and lanterns are traditional upon that day.
2014-11-19 18:28:00
Private message to Narcissa

I saw that you had written Barty, and --

I'm so sorry, milaya, I'd meant to write you sooner, but I haven't had a moment to breathe. Barty was summoned by Our Lord after Erewash and sent to Ireland. To handle the recent troubles there, I'm assuming.

I don't know for certain, though. He was just able to let me know where he was and that he was safe. It's the ward crossing, you see -- it apparently takes quite the toll upon anyone doing it, even if they are authorised. From what I was able to gather from Gus, they've developed a potion meant to ease the strain, but if that's the case, I'd hate to see what would happen to someone without it. It looked as though it had taken him an hour to write the PM header and a two word message.

I haven't heard from him since Friday. I'm not -- well, I'm trying most diligently not to worry. Any more than I already am.

alt_narcissa at 2014-11-20 18:47:46
(no subject)

I may personally murder Mafalda Hopkirk if she doesn't start being more helpful.

I'm sure you saw his attempted message last night. I got hold of Mafalda but she merely stated that she 'could not possibly be at liberty to comment' on his whereabouts or why he might have posted in such a fashion.

I told her that I was under no such restriction and I could unequivocally state that he is in Ireland and apparently in need of assistance. Surely even if he is working directly for Our Lord, the Aurors can dispatch someone to provide him with the proper care?

Bella must know some way to shift Mafalda but I've not been able to reach her this morning, either.

If I can't prevail on Our Lord on my husband's behalf, Toshenka, surely He would see the benefit of authorising aid to Barty, especially
if he is conducting Our Lord's business there?

Oh, this is absolutely intolerable.

I don't know that there is anyone in Ireland available to send assistance; I know nearly everyone pulled out before the new wards were put in place, lest they be stuck there.

I will not attempt to talk you out of petitioning Our Lord, but -- oh, milaya, be careful. His temper is so chancy lately. I could not bear to lose you too.

Any news?

Nothing.

I have told Barty that if he is not able to write me a coherent sentence by a week from now, I am going to Our Lord and begging to have him recalled come hell or high water.
I don't know if I can wait that long. He could be d--

Anything could happen to him in a week. I know he'd be cross if he's doing something particularly crafty, such as feigning an incapacity to make contact with someone or other, but if that were the case, why would he not tell either of us?

In any case, I'd much rather have him cross but whole than any alternative.

I've already asked Broome for audience. He was reluctant at first but I stressed it had nothing to do with Lucius. I'm allowed to attend on Monday.

Be careful.

Toshenka, what does he say?

Anything I ought to know before I see Our Lord?

He wanted to know what day it was. And when I told him, and asked what could be done to help him, he said "V ill but magic stabilising." And that he was safe.

He did not, I note, say he was 'fine'.
Actually, that is mildly reassuring. 'Fine' I have found generally means anything but.

Whereas I took this to be so far beyond even the exceptionally porous boundaries of 'fine' that even he could not bring himself to go that far, but I like your interpretation better.

He says you should not contact Our Lord, by the way (the 'no' was underlined most emphatically). I will try to press him for further explanation, but his handwriting looks as though it's deteriorating again; I do not know how much longer he will be lucid tonight. Still, if he believes petitioning Our Lord on his behalf to be a bad idea, perhaps it would be a good idea to listen. I don't know whether He used the carrot or the stick.
Private Message to Barty and Toshenka

Tosha!

Barty, please, are you all right?

Toshenka, there simply must be a way to -

I shall notify Mafalda at once.

This is horrible. What does He hope to gain from this? Why is He risking you?

If there's anything I can do from here, anything at all, find a way to let me know. Please.
Re: Private message to Barty

I'm thinking of you.

I asked Gus to Hogwarts last Saturday, after I'd spent Saturday playing with dead things. (Still no progress. As should surprise you not in the least. At least Our Lord did not deign to join me; I could not have kept my mouth shut.) Ostensibly it was to discuss the modified Fidelius that was used at Saltash, and that we think may have been started and not completed at Erewash, but I steered the conversation to the Ireland wards, and

I can't stop worrying about you. From what Gus has said, you're suffering dreadfully right now. Surely He could have found someone else to do whatever He wants you to do there?

It's not that I'm surprised that He does not value our lives; it's that I'm horrified every time it

I am still praying for you. And if you cannot write a coherent sentence by the end of next week, I am going to Him and doing whatever I can to have you recalled, whatever it might cost me.
I wrote to the Headmaster with a proposal of sorts. It involves - bother, I do hate to summarise my own best efforts, so let me just re-write it here, yes?

Sir,

I'm sure you've noticed by now that while the incidents of graffiti have subsided, students continue to find ways to express their "Remember..." messages in a multitude of creative ways. Evening soup aside, Madam Pince has also reported that many of the library books have had homemade bookmarks slipped into them that are inscribed with messages similar to those seen in the graffiti. While I have no intent to criticise the disciplinary lengths that you and the rest of the staff have gone to to quash this meddlesome trend, it does appear to be continuing despite our best efforts.

And, if you may forgive me for being terribly forward, those very lengths you've gone to have had the unfortunate side-effect of severely souring the students' disposition toward you. As Head Girl, I'm perhaps more aware of the school's current emotional state than any other, and I only tell you this with the intent to help both you and the rest of the staff address that emotional state as is best possible. Where they were once eager to please and impress, many now see you as a tyrant who is only slightly removed from those tyrants we have suffered before - specifically, Madam Umbridge and the Professors Carrow. Indeed, many of the students lack the maturity and world experience to understand what distinguishes your methods and reasoning from that wielded by those who came before you; nor do they have the insight to recognise that you only have their own well-being in mind.

I fully understand that treason is a serious concern. I understand it on a very personal level. (I am sure you need no reminding of my past relationship with Draco Malfoy.)

I do wonder, though, if the students should be so adamantly dissuaded from remembering traitors and acts of treason. One of the most disquieting things I have had to come to terms with in these last months is this: the temptation to defy the Protectorate is something that can manifest in anyone, even the most loyal and pure of our
citizens, and to think that any of us are safe from such temptation is plainly hubristic.

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If you offer the students a degree of trust and freedom, you may find that things work far better in your favour from here on out.

I hope you don't find my proposal too presumptuous; I only know that you, the staff, and the Prefects have been worked to near-exhaustion dealing with this matter, and thought that a different approach might suit.

What are your thoughts?

Sincerely,
Daphne G. Greengrass

And this was his response:

Thank you for your concern, Miss Greengrass.

I have no problems with a student-organised remembrance ceremony; what I am concerned about is the expression of treason. I must act to punish sedition, lest it grow, and lest it invite attention from outside Hogwarts. If you are careful to organise a remembrance of the dead that is free of the such sentiment I would not object.

If you are thinking a lakeside ceremony with a lantern-lighting, allow me to suggest 13 December, the feast of St. Lucia; candles and
lanterns are traditional upon that day.

Of course, what I was actually thinking was that it might be an opportunity for recruitment, to spread information, or to simply assess what students do and talk about once they're free from the castle. And even though I indicated that no council members should be present, I do think you should be there, Hydra - your legilimency would be enormously useful in such a situation.

---

**alt_justin** at **2014-11-21 00:30:00**  
(no subject)

Daphs,

I say, I think you're brilliant. (Antonin may not have quite realised the full extent of his decision in making you Head Girl, what, but he certainly knew what he was doing in choosing you over Patil! She'd never have proposed anything so diplomatic, even if it weren't a recruiting opportunity.)

-Justin

---

**alt_pansy** at **2014-11-21 01:14:56**  
(no subject)

I agree. It's completely non-offensive, and a real way to bring some of this to the surface and see how people feel about it. Perhaps we'll get a better idea of who's been behind some of the recent activity.

What do you think, Harry?

...and, of course, a follow-up question would be what defines 'treason' and 'sedition' in his book. But because he seems all right with a remembrance day, he seems to be more focused on the act of writing graffiti (or putting names in the bottom of soup bowls, which was brill) than the intent behind it, because it's public, and defiant.
I like it. Yeah. Though do you think people will talk freely, if Hydra's there? I agree that she should be.

I could wear the cloak.

Oh, yeah. That would work.

Do you think you could suggest to Finnigan and Patil that you're going to come spy? So that they won't think they'll need to. Tell them you'll use a disillusionment charm or something.

I already asserted authority over them once and they didn't like it. That never stopped my mother, but I don't think either of them are as afraid of me as people are of her.

Both of them are enjoying this too much to turn down an opportunity to catch more traitors, I think.

The Headmaster did approve Daphne's proposal as it was written, though, and he didn't insist that any teachers or council members be present.

I'm not sure what to do to make sure they don't stick their wands in things.
That's very kind of you, Justin. Honestly, though, it seems such a gesture is sorely needed, and I find it curious that a man as Slytherin and intellectual as the Headmaster hasn't thought to combine his "stick" approach with a few carrots.

How do you suppose Padma and Seamus will feel about being excluded?

Have you seen that random thing Barty Crouch wrote? Is it code? Aunt Narcissa and Headmaster Dolohov have both been writing him a great deal recently, it seems like.

If it's code I don't know why he'd write it out in the open...though it almost looks as if he started to write "private message" and became unable to compose properly.

Then I'm hardly one to know what Auror Crouch gets up to! Perhaps you might ask Hydra?

Ah.

All right, then.
I like the idea very much, Daphne.

I'm wondering if Nev and I should stay behind, though. To keep from drawing attention.
First there's the soup, then the bookmarks, then the Great Hall gets filled with feathers.

The soup and feathers are definitely connected. They're both cheeky, and require advanced charms and access. How on earth did they manage to do the spellwork in broad daylight? Unless whoever it was managed it get the elves to deliver them somehow. But the Friar hasn't seen any unusual activity around the kitchens, and claimed the house elves were utterly clueless about the soup.

The plot thickens.

And what sort of thing are we supposed to remember involving feathers? Or was it just to defy the Headmaster? At least he didn't look too fussed.

No idea. Anyway, the feathers were just a bit of fun, right? Leastways it seemed like it with everyone making them into flowers or birds or what have you.

Hey, any clue who did the banners? It was wizard how they had the emblems sort of cut out like that, since it was all white. Oh, and I think that wave effect was from the Ravenclaw table, but I didn't see who did it. Corner, maybe?

Su Li does that paper art sometimes, and Perks went through a phase with folding paper, maybe it was one of them?

And yeah, might've been a prank or something, but it was a pretty massive one, wasn't it? Once again, Moon fell asleep on the broom.
Well, the good news is that Lilias Boardley is safe and sound at Moddey.

The bad news is that the camps are tightening security - at least if East Yorkshire is any indication. Not too surprising, what with Erewash slipping from their reach.

We got in without much issue and it didn't take long to find someone in the button network to help us find the Boardleys. But in the middle of our conversation with them, we were interrupted by one of those surprise inspections the camp administrators seem so fond of. Mrs Boardley handed off little Lilias quickly and the spotter got her off to another family while the administrators came through. We had to pretend to be 'very interested' in how they assured that the census was accurate and the rules of the camp enforced; it was nearly two hours before we could safely return to the Boardleys' quarters, by which time Lilias had been handed round to about six families in order to keep her hidden from the inspectors.

So after all that, they were well prepared to let her go, but they wanted to spend a bit more time with her before we took her away. All the while, Kingsley and I were trying to chivy them along without seeming too eager to pry her from their loving hands. Somehow we convinced them that they'd be able to keep in touch well enough with the button, ring and picture, and that the longer we stayed with them, the more likely it would be that the camp administrators would suspect we weren't who our papers said we were.

Finally we got them to surrender the sprog and we got out as quickly as we could. But Bill, I'm afraid that we can't use the identities you provided for us for any other forays into the camps. Not for a good long while, at least.

Sorry if I worried you. Couldn't help how late it got. At least Kingsley could take Lilias to Moddey so I wouldn't be stuck there tonight.
I'm dead knackered and really not in the mood for ginger tea. Come up when you're ready; I think I'll read for a while yet before I'll be done in. No promises, though.
2014-11-21 22:11:00
Ffffffffffeathers!!

Just found another one in an unexpected place.

At least it didn't turn into a sparrow while it was in there!

alt_ron

alt_hermione at 2014-11-22 05:20:14
Order Only

Do we even want to know?

alt_ron at 2014-11-22 05:25:39
Re: Order Only

Supper was late because some fluff-head filled the Great Hall with feathers. And when I say filled, think stuffed to the rafters and so full, you couldn't force your way inside.

Hilarious some of the things people thought of to get rid of them.

Mind you, not everyone thought it a lark: Milland had steam coming out his ears. And Sandoval-Pennifold must've got one of the tiny ones stuck down the back of her throat. Had to go to Madam Pomfrey when she couldn't gack it up. Turned a lovely shade of purple first, though.

alt_justin at 2014-11-22 05:41:21
Re: Order Only

Ron,

I say, it looked like you didn't find it much of a lark when those spiders came marching out, what.

Personally, I rather fancied the train locomotive that made tracks round the tables. But I did not care for the gobstones. Or the crabs, particularly as they didn't seem to want to leave! One had to vanish crabs, what, instead of feathers.
Oh, thank you ever so for reminding me. Gah!

The crabs were almost as bad. And fast! If any of those got away, we'll be smelling them forever, don't you reckon? That'll make Milland happy!

Did you see someone turned a pile of them into mice, and then set a cat loose on them. Not sure if that was someone's familiar or whether it was transfigured, too.

Brutka was having a jolly time of it, watching what everyone did. He was the one turning them into fruit jellies and flocks of butterflies.

They were bally well jolly spiders, though, Ron, with their white fluffy legs!

As it happens, I did see the mice but I feel about them and rats (in quantity, what) about the way you do spiders, so I was just as pleased to see the cat going after them.

I say, do you think Professor Brutka's the one who made all those feathers in the first place?

Oh, ha. I reckon it could've been!

I mean, he looked genuinely surprised, but you really can't tell with him. He could do all sorts of dodgy stuff and no one'd ever guess.
He definitely could've done it, and quickly enough to get away with it. I mean, that's the thing, innit? Who could transfigure or conjure or miniaturise and then enlarge that many bloody feathers and do it so no one knew?

alt_pansy at 2014-11-22 06:23:12
Re: Order Only

I think the entire incident scarred poor Sebastian. Then again, he is rather sensitive.

And yes, I call it for Brutka, for the feathers and the soup too while we're at it.

alt_ron at 2014-11-22 06:27:52
Re: Order Only

Well, but then, the thing is, it's rather obvious someone'd suspect him, and I don't think Brutka's one for putting himself under suspicion, y'know?

I reckon the Headmaster'll have a conversation with him about it, though, and I'd love to be there to hear it!
2014-11-22 19:20:00
Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Miss Daphne Greengrass

- Ladies,

Forgive the lack of preamble, but I believe I've waited time enough for the results of your independent evaluation.

We should all be able to agree on the results of the evaluation by now, I would think.

R. Lestrange

alt_poppy at 2014-11-23 03:24:05
(no subject)

Rodolphus,

My apologies for the delay. You are correct that I have completed my examination of the samples.

I believe that it is for Miss Greengrass to discuss the matter with you, however. Unless she would prefer that I summarise the findings.

alt_daphne at 2014-11-23 04:00:43
Private message to Rodolphus Lestrange

Mr Lestrange,

I do apologise for the delay. I intended to contact you when the results were finalised, but I'm afraid that I felt it only right to have the evaluation done twice - for the sake of my parents, you see. Just to be certain.

Given that you've put no small effort in bringing this truth to light, I imagine that you would like it made public in the near future. If you would be so generous as to extend your patience one more time, I would like to ask that you give me until the weekend to prepare my younger sisters and extended family.
Your way with words surpasses his, I must say. But the tendency toward avoidance is familiar. Pleasantly so, in fact.

Forgive me for revealing my impatience, but I was beginning to question the competence of the school matron. If she has adequately satisfied your scepticism, then I would indeed prefer to move forward as soon as possible. A week seems a small amount to request, given how the situation impacts you personally. Take longer, if you prefer. It is not my aim to cause you discomfort.

It was I who asked Madam Pomfrey to run the evaluation twice, so please don't think her incompetent in any way at all.

A week is all that I need, but it is kind of you to allow for more. Thank you.
Sophia,

I've just sent Omen back to you with the signed parchments; mind you don't feed him too many treats or he'll never leave your window!

My time is tight here at the castle, but I should be able to manage a firecall on either late Tuesday or Thursday night. Or we can do both - whatever you think's best, really.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Best,

Daphne
WHAT DAY IS IT?

alt_crouch_jr

alt_antonin at 2014-11-24 02:04:09
(no subject)

Sunday, love. Sunday the 23rd. You left for Ireland on the 12th.

(Thank all the gods and saints and anything else that had a hand in it that you are at least able to write a coherent sentence.)

What can I do? How can I help? What are you there to do and can I accomplish any of it from here?

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-24 03:08:45
(no subject)

V I L L

B U T  M A G I C  S T B I L I S I N G

I F  C O N C E N T

S R Y

S A F E

alt_antonin at 2014-11-24 03:14:29
(no subject)

Your definition of 'safe' and mine are two entirely different things, lapushka.

How soon do you think you can be finished and
Although the crossing back might be even worse, home? Narcissa is determined to petition Our Lord on your behalf. I tried to talk her out of it, but I must admit I did not try too hard; she has her oceans-would-boil-before-she-gives-in air about her.

The fact you have been saying 'safe' and not 'fine' is concerning me. For you to abandon 'fine' means it must be very bad indeed.

I tried, dear heart; she would not hear of it. I'll try again, but I doubt she'll listen.

He is clearly not concerned with failing you; why should you?

?
I was just coming to write you.

She is -- alive. Injured, but alive. Our Lord apparently took issue with her petition. She said -- He called the Blacks a disappointment, Lucius and Draco traitors. That He was taunting her, twisting everything she said and trying to lead her into His traps. You know how He can be when He is in one of His moods.

She did not give the exact details of what He did to her, only that it involved a curse, and that Fletcher -- whom Ptolemy called for her; she had forbidden the elves to seek out a Healer but thankfully had not forbidden them to seek out someone who might do so on her behalf -- was not optimistic about the ability to prevent scarring. Ptolemy said Karo made some remark about at least robes are high-cut this season (which of course was the wrong thing to say) so I am presuming it's something that can be concealed, but she's having a hard time of it. I tried to help, but you know I'm the last man on earth to be useful there. She's told me to stay away, but if she hasn't changed her mind in a day or two I'll ignore that and barge in anyway.

I'm certain she'd be furious if she knew I told you, but -- if you are able to write, I think it would do her good to hear from you. Even if it can only be a few words. And if you only have those few words in you, save them for her, not replying to me.

I am so sick of being useless.
2014-11-25 10:30:00
Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

At the risk of Narcissa assuming the worst from this message header, wanted to let you know her audience went about as expected. Perhaps worse, in some ways.

One of her house-elves sought us out just before supper last night. The creature was beyond distressed but apparently Narcissa had forbidden it to seek Healer Fletcher. Luckily, Karo and I are under no such restriction.

We're staying with her at the Manor for the time being. She's refusing visitors; indeed, it was difficult to convince her to let us look after her. It took Healer Fletcher's insistence and even then she'll barely admit Karo into her chambers and prefers the elves to tend her.

Still, I knew she'd spoken to you about her intentions and you might be worried. There's nothing you need to do, though news of Barty would clearly ease her temperament. That's if the news is good, naturally. If it's not.... For now, we should keep that from her, I think.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-25 17:04:46
(no subject)

Salazar's mercy. How badly was she hurt?

If she is in Fletcher's care, then she is getting the best care possible, but please do keep me informed, no matter how much I'm sure she'll protest. I'm glad you and Karo are able to be there for her, at least. If you think it will help, I can stop in tonight after supper, assuming there are no further crises on my end.

I don't have any more news about Barty, I'm afraid. I wish I did.

alt_ptolemy at 2014-11-25 17:33:38
(no subject)

Not badly but--it wasn't Cruciatius. It's--well, you know how beautiful she is. Let's just say Karo tried to console her by telling her no one wears low-cut robes in winter, anyway. Didn't go over well.
That's why she wants no visitors. She's adamant no one should see her in her current condition.

Fletcher's certain it's a curse-mark, too, so he doesn't even think he can fade the scar with time. Karo's right that it'll be easy enough to cover up, at least, but this is Narcissa we're talking about.

I haven't been able to get her to explain why yet--I mean, what she said or Merlin, even thought to prompt Our Lord to lash her like that. Maybe if you wrote to her she'd tell you?

---

**alt_antonin** at 2014-11-25 17:39:40
(no subject)

Fuck.

Yes, I can imagine precisely what she is thinking. If Fletcher has need of a consult he has but to ask. Though I'm certain if it's something he can't heal, I am not likely to be of much more use -- but one does like to be sure the offer has been made.

I'll write to her, yes. Though if she's as upset as you say, I don't know that I'll get an answer.

---

**alt_antonin** at 2014-11-25 17:40:14
(no subject)

And -- I did not say -- thank you for taking care of her. I'm sorry; I ought to have said that first.
Private message to Narcissa

You've seen Ptolemy writing to me, no doubt, but he wasn't able to tell me much -- just that He cursed you you'd been injured and that Fletcher had seen to you.

What do you need, milaya? If it is within my power to do it, I will.

Nothing. I need nothing. I'd send them away if they'd go.

Darling. I'm glad there's someone there with you, at least, however much you'd prefer to be alone. I would show up myself if you wouldn't throw things at me.

What happened? What did He do to you

С любовью.

He - Barty was right; I should not have disturbed Him. You know how He can twist one's words. I thought a private meeting would go better than one in which He had an entire Court for audience. If I'm correct, then I'm very glad we were alone.

I had resolved to carefully avoid any question of Lucius and confine my request to providing whatever aid Barty might need to complete his mission in Ireland. He asked why He should do anything for me when - when so many of our family have been such a disappointment. Sirius, Andromeda, Dora - it can't be
I ought not to have risen to the bait. But to include them in that nest of traitors - I could not let it stand. Of course, I think He might have intended that. If I had said nothing, perhaps He would have taken that to mean I agreed they were disloyal. Instead I defended them. No. I - I defended Lucius. 'Lucius is still loyal ... but not your son?' I reminded Him that Draco died because of his loyalty. He - He seemed not to believe that, either, but I turned the subject back to Barty as quickly as I could do.

Regardless, He seemed determined to force me into verbal traps. That was only one of them; He was ... amused that I had put myself in His hands for Barty and wondered whether I had given up on Lucius. I said that He had made His position clear about Lucius, so it was pointless to press, whereas Barty may need help if he is to execute His orders in Ireland. You can guess what He made of that.

At least I am assured I have not made Barty's situation worse. He was more interested in ... taunting me. Comparing me to Walburga in her 'final audience,' that sort of thing. He's made certain I'm to be alone - quite alone - for the rest of my life.

---

@alt_antonin at 2014-11-25 19:21:16
(no subject)

It sounds as though you caught Him in one of His moods. And as though you were very lucky it was a private audience, indeed. He is always more vicious when He is trying to make an example for others

At least it was not worse; He could have killed you and made me be the one to

Everything I try to say turns out wrong. I'm at a loss for how to respond, darling, really I am. Other than to say that you aren't alone. I know that is not the way in which you meant it, and that the love of friends and family pales in comparison to the love of husband and child that you have lost, but those of us who love you will not let that change, no matter what. It does not matter what He has done or what He might decree or inflicted upon you:
you are my own chosen sister for this life and the lives beyond, and nothing will change that. Nothing.

Is there anything I can get you? Send you? Do for you? This is intolerable and I am sick of sitting here helpless in my castle while people I love get hurt and hurt

Oh, Toshenka. No, that is not how I meant it. I know I've support. I can never be - be seen, now. He's made sure of that. At least, Healer Fletcher is fairly convinced there's nothing to be done to reverse the - scarring.

One does feel a horrid whinger even mentioning it, when it could have been worse. We were all so terribly sorry for Bettina, after all. And I have no interest in being the object of others' pity, thank you.

Still, there's no going back, only forward. It's just as well my public life is all but gone.

If anyone says anything catty to or about you, I will simply eviscerate them slowly and present you with their entrails. Or perhaps their skin, for the house-elves to tan and stitch into a cloak. It shouldn't take more than three or four such instances before the message gets across.

Though I know that's not what you mean.

I know that my opinion will not change your mind -- I can imagine you rolling your eyes at me and huffing 'men!' in that tone of yours -- but however bad the scarring might be, I cannot imagine any way in which it would make you less beautiful. Perfection is not the only sort of beauty that exists in the world: there is beauty in surviving adversity, and scars are proof of having survived. Yours has never been the beauty of the delicate hothouse flower that wilts at the slightest hardship.
Yours is the beauty of steel and determination, of confidence and competence -- the grace of a well-tempered sword -- and nothing can blemish that. Anyone who thinks otherwise is someone whose opinion is not worth heeding.

I am certain Fletcher has done his utmost, but if you'd like me to come and take a look, I can see if it is a spell I recognise and can help at all with the treatment. And although my library is somewhat short on the topic, I will look up cosmetic charms -- there must be something that will help cover it.

Spoken like a man. No, dearest, that is not - precisely - an insult. You all wear your scars as badges of honour, obtained in glorious combat. Or something like that.

No doubt on the rare occasion which calls for intimacy, your scars have even served to pique the interest of your partner.

We women are not so privileged.

But thank you, dear Dedushka, for the attempt. I am sure that once the initial wounds have healed, some cosmetic correction will be possible. It just won't be the same.

I'm sorry, milaya; I know I am a poor confidant for matters such as these. I may not understand, but I care because you care: I did not for the world mean to imply that you are wrong to be upset. It's only that I feel so helpless; all I can offer you are words, and they always fail me at the critical moments.

And I can't help but mourn the fact that this is what the coin of all our sacrifice and suffering has bought us. I am beginning to think it was a poor bargain indeed.

I love you. And I am praying for your swift healing.
2014-11-25 15:35:00
PRIVATE MESSAGE TO ON MALFOY
REST & HEAL
STAY
SAFE
ALL LOVE

alt_narcissa at 2014-11-26 02:06:16
(no subject)
Oh, my darling, I don't care that Toshenka undoubtedly put you up to writing. It's good to see you improving, even a tiny bit. You ought to take your own advice.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-11-26 04:55:39
(no subject)
N
HATE THAT I CANT BE THERE
HATE THAT YOU'RE ALONE
DAMMIT
WANT WOULD BE WITH YOU IF I COULD
WILL FINISH HERE AS SOON AS &nbsp;ABLE
Promise you
2014-11-25 22:00:00
Private Message to Parvati Sharma

I got your owl. You know how Dovs is doing these lectures and such? Well, even if you're not at all interested in the topics, you could come for those. I mean, Inderpal can't object, even if you don't think he would anyway, and then we can go and talk and he'll never know the difference.

Anyway, I'm still not sure what you think is so odd. Obviously he travels loads for work and he has loads of places to patronise. He's not building up piles of debt or anything, is he?

Oh, also, if you come up this Sunday, we can grab Seamus and talk to him about it, too.

Everything here is the same old boring stuff, especially compared to being at Erewash. It was really amazing, Pavs. I mean, it was frightening, but really exciting, too. School just doesn't come close, even with feathers disrupting supper and people writing all over the walls. In an odd way I'm grateful we were called out to the field, you know? I mean, Lana and Professor Desai and Dovs--even Seamus--were all sort of whinging on and on and on about how awful I was at duelling. And really, I'm not that dreadful, but being in battles like that is just different from anything we did at CCF. I mean, CCF was meant to approximate what it's like but really it's not the same at all. But because of Erewash, they all saw that I really am up to the job, you know? I mean, I may not ever be the sort of proper warlock that Auror Lestrange is, but honestly, who is?

So even though it was rather horrid, fighting those muggles like that, and sometimes scary, at least it was a chance to prove that I'm not completely naff. And yes, the dreams aren't nearly as bad as they were at first. Thanks. I'd be grateful if you never mention any of that stuff to Mum and Dad. Haruman might have some idea, I think--he wrote to me afterward, did I tell you?--but you know how Mum and Dad are, they'll just get all the wrong notions. Being on the Council really is the most important thing that's happened to our family. Sorry, I know they're still well proud of you getting married already, but honestly the advantages our family will have are so much more enhanced now that I'm on the Council. Not that Inderpal's not influential, or anything. I mean, I'm sure he is, and he's the luckiest husband in the Protectorate because he's got you.
But if Mum and Dad think it's all danger and nasty muggles trying to blow us up or set us on fire, they'll take away all the wrong sorts of ideas. It was bad enough that the papers had so much in them. (And that's odd, too, isn't it? I mean, the *Prophet* seems to have loads of unpleasantness in it nowadays. Does Inderpal think that the Wireless has more in its broadcasts lately that--well, that criticises Minister Fudge? Because the *Prophet* certainly does.)

Anyway. Come on Sunday if you can and we'll use the chance to talk. That way you don't have to get away for a whole Saturday in Hogsmeade. And let me know if you want Seamus's opinion, too, he's really good at figuring out whether there's anything suspicious in someone's actions. I'm *sure* Inderpal's not having an affair, though--I mean, you haven't even been married for six months! I mean, you're happy together, aren't you? And he's not--asking you to do things you don't want?

So I don't think that could be it. Still, you could ask Haruman if maybe he can talk to Inderpal sometime, man-to-man, you know, and see if he talks about anyone else. Or if he mentions knowing loads about gentlewizard's clubs and things like that. (I mean, I guess he could be attracted to some *gori* and has to hide it, but if that's the case, well, I think you'd probably be better off pretending not to know about it.)

Look, just come on Sunday, okay?
I've been disappointed by the lack of interest in the invitation I issued on the 14th. Have any students approached you? I've seen Crabbe's and Goyle's sons, as well as a Gryffindor sixth year who's not sure if his mother will give permission -- Archer.

I suppose it's possible that between us we'd got all the likely ones already.

No, not much interest here, either. Miss Bundy did talk to me (I do not, needless to say, believe we should select her), and I have had several of the fifth-years stop me in the hall and say they hope the offer will remain open until they are eligible to participate, but that's been the extent of it. I'm certain the response would have been greater before Halloween.

I may speak to Miss Perks about joining us as future-Healer -- if she is interested I will see about arranging for her to attend one of St M's emergency-aid classes over winter hols. Other than that, no, no one springs to mind as obviously lacking from the list.

It really is a shame Tony's daughter seems to take so much more strongly after her mother. Not surprising, I suppose, given that she barely knew her father, though Lucius -- well. Quite a shame.
2014-11-26 20:47:00
Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov

Sir --

After several days of investigation, I believe I have a few promising leads on the recent feather and soup debacles. I know that discipline matters in times like these, and it is quite important to properly discourage acts that would have a much harsher consequence outside of these halls. I respect your position, sir, and I want to do what's best for our school, and not let a few malcontents ruin it for the rest of us.

I know you're a busy man, and I understand if you don't have the time to meet. But I did want you to know that I was following up on recent incidents, and that there are many loyal Prefects besides just myself that want to maintain order and honour at Hogwarts.

alt_ernie

at 2014-11-29 01:56:57
(no subject)

Thank you for your diligence, Mr Macmillan. I appreciate it greatly.

As it happens, I am already aware of who was behind the feather incident, and have been since it happened; I've handled it appropriately. Anything you're able to discover about the other incidents would be very helpful, however.

alt_antonin at 2014-11-29 01:57:44
(no subject)

And I am always available to you if you'd like to meet; I ought to have said. Hogwarts, and her students, are always my first priority.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Grimmauld

Just a heads up, I'm not quite finished recovering the chairs in the library, so watch where you sit, yeah? The stripey one is still a work-in-progress and may have some sticky-up bits, and the dark blue one isn't tacked down properly yet. And I'm nearly finished clearing out the hallway closet on the ground floor, apologies for the dust.

And no, Sirius, I haven't gone round the twist. I'm experimenting to see if we can't sort out something so we don't have to keep tiptoeing around a portrait.

I never said you were going round the twist.

You might not have said it, but I could hear you thinking it at dinner, clear as day.

Perhaps Hydra's not the only family member with mind-reading skills.

 Might want to work with Hydra a little on your skills, then, love. Believe me, no one would be happier than I if we could remove, silence or otherwise neutralise that portrait. I think what I was thinking was that we've more or less tried everything already.
But so long as you're not wearing yourself ragged trying, if it pleases you to experiment, then by all means.

@alt_lupin at 2014-11-27 05:52:54
(no subject)

Did you want any help with the chairs?

@alt_nymphadora at 2014-11-27 06:21:51
(no subject)

Another pair of hands to help with stretching is always appreciated, ta very much.
I'd like to speak with you in private sometime before the weekend.

It's nothing to do with school - more of a personal matter, you might say.

-DGG

Certainly.

I'll be in my office (and without other appointments) either tonight between curfew and eleven, or tomorrow between three and supper. Come up whenever suits.
Students

I am cancelling class tonight. Third years, finish the assignment given in class today before our next session.

Seventh years, please continue to work on your ongoing research projects. If the weather clears, you are welcome to use the tower on your own under the usual agreements, but materials in my office or the classroom won't be available.

As always, questions welcome here, or you can make an appointment for next week.

Private message to Tosha

I was told something yesterday I'm still sorting my way through. Won't be at supper, but please do come up after. My rooms, not the office.

For a change, there's a thing you can help with, if you're willing. I think. Just also the sort of thing that may call for the good brandy.

If you wish to scold me for cancelling class, well. Not tonight, please?

Re: Private message to Tosha

It's all right, dear heart; it is not as though I've never cancelled class for personal reasons myself.

I'm running a touch late tonight, but I'll be there. I'll listen to your woes if you listen to mine. (As to the good brandy: I have a bottle of very good vodka I have been saving. I have been contemplating it all week. Perhaps it will come with me.)
Are you okay?

Got told something complicated last night, and I'm still sorting through it.

And how to be fair about a few things.

I'll be okay once I manage that.
ORDER ONLY

We're having a meeting at Sherwood, working through everyone's reports and sorting out our next steps. We've showed our hand somewhat now that they know some of our weapons capacities, and we'll certainly have to make adjustments. It's quite clear that although the flash-bombs worked to prevent apparation, for instance, they proved equally effective against both sides in active fighting situations, which was a decidedly mixed blessing.

Ron, Hydra, Justin, your reports have proven quite invaluable, and we truly

---

alt_rachel at 2014-11-29 04:54:47
Private message to Alice, Remus, Sirius, Severus, Kingsley, Bill, and Charlie

Right. Not that this is a great time for you to be dealing with this, but I want to tell you about it while it's fresh in my mind. (This is what I PM'd Sirius and Severus about, earlier. I told Bill in person, at his flat just now.)

I got an owl from Narcissa Malfoy yesterday, inviting me over for tea so she could thank me for my 'help' the day Draco 'tragically died.' As you recall, I made sure the Malfoys knew right away, so that they could blast Draco's name off their tapestry and cover up that he was actually still alive. Narcissa guessed, at some point, that I was part of the group that was protecting Draco. She's kept it a secret -- possibly because it would have been hard to report without implicating herself, possibly because we've been her fallback plan since it became clear Lucius wouldn't be able to keep himself safe.

She wants us to get Lucius out of Azkaban.

I told her to have any chance of accomplishing this I'd need some of Bellatrix's hair. She promised she'd get it.

I don't know if an Azkaban breakout is possible, with or without Bella's hair -- I demanded it because I thought it might be useful, and it's nearly impossible to get under normal circumstances, and because it implicates her thoroughly enough to make it extremely
difficult for her to turn on us later.

I definitely don't know if we want a liability like Lucius on our hands. Though, as I noted to Sirius and Severus -- Lucius knows a lot, and I believe his first loyalty is to Narcissa. If he knows she approached us, gave us her sister's hair, cooperated in the breakout -- even if he has the opportunity to return to his master, he won't do it unless he can think of a way to get Narcissa out of danger. If he believes the only real safety for his family lies in our victory, he may even cooperate fully. Severus suggested I have Narcissa write a letter in her own hand, sealed with her own magic, saying that she approached us of her own free will.

Sirius suggested the alternative of sending me into hiding. I'll do that, if I'm ordered to. But you should know she also threatened the Weasleys, because she knows of my association with Bill. I think if you'd prefer not to take the risk of an Azkaban raid, it will be better for me to stay where I am, and gamble that Narcissa will judge it too risky to turn on me. If I'm wrong, I expect it'll be me she turns in, not Bill.

Narcissa's preference is for us to slip Lucius out so quietly no one knows it's happened. Which could probably be done -- we could trade him for Otto Strangeweale and the dementors will never notice. But both Sirius and Severus suggested we consider a larger breakout, if we're actually going to do this. Though in that case, I should try to find a way to check the paperwork on who's in there so we can leave behind the actual murderers when we pull out potential allies.

---

 anonymously at 2014-11-29 05:30:06
Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, Sirius, Severus, Kingsley, Bill, and Charlie

Bloody hell.

Thank you for telling me.

This deserves more attention than I can give it at the moment. I do know that I would like to weigh whether a larger breakout would be worth the potential cost. So yes, please do what you can to find out who else may be there.

We will talk further. Soon.
I'm sorry to have put your family at risk.

This is why I spent years avoiding close associations with anyone I actually liked.

There's no point at all in going down that road, love. We were always at risk, you know, long before I met you. We were at risk from the first moment that Dad took the oath. We were at risk from Percy for years. Bloody hell, we're used to it.

I don't regret anything between us, you know. Not even for Stephen McGivern, because I know you were offering him a mercy he couldn't have had any other way. I have no regrets even if I end up dying for it.

But I'll fight like hell to make sure I don't, along with the rest of my family and the Order. And that includes you.
One of the Zulu companies has been ambushed. Terry's unit. There was a brief report of an attack, and then silence.

John's coordinating the effort to go to their location and sort out what's happened. Kingsley's going with. I'll keep everyone informed.

I'm going too.

You're

All right then.

Be careful.

Do you need more people?

What Remus said, Allie.
And I as well.

Well, if you're all going then I am, too!

We don't know what we're looking at just yet, Hermione. And we will need to be cautious.

But you would be welcome.

Yes.

Carefully.

We don't know what's happened. It sounds like they walked straight into a trap. This shouldn't have

They've managed to keep under the radar for years.

There's a dozen men and women in the company. We're coordinating at Sherwood if you want to meet us there.

We're on our way.
Miss Granger and I will join you in a moment, then.

Terry's all right, though, isn't he?

And Tim?

Tim is the one who ran in with the alarm. He'll be monitoring from Central. They're bulking up security round here in case there's been a breech of some kind.

And Terry

Well, love, we don't know if anyone in the company is all right. We'll have to wait and see.

I very much hope that he is.

Oh.

Oh, that's awful.

Please let us know what's happened once you learn more.
no word on terry yet, evie.
we're still tracking everyone down.

he's a survivor. always has been.

If another broom would help, I'm in.

sure, kid. could use another set of sharp eyes.
make sure you're disguised and be careful.

it'll take some time to track everyone down, and there's still MLE out there looking for some of the same people.
right now my group is in roe wood outside of winkburn. due west of the trent river. can stop by sherwood for precise coordinates if needed.
Sirius, you'll no doubt be delighted to hear that your cousin Narcissa was clever enough to work out that my willingness to write directly to the man I was sleeping with and his wife, in order to make sure that they had ample warning to conceal the fact that Draco wasn't dead, implied that I might just be in touch with the organisation that's been keeping him safe.

Whatever else people say about the Blacks, no one's ever said they're stupid.

She wants us to break Lucius out of Azkaban.

(Was that coherent? Possibly I should have led into this with, 'Narcissa Malfoy owled me, and invited me over for tea. And made it clear that she's certain I'm a member of a seditious organisation, and asked me to have that organisation break Lucius out of Azkaban. ')

Severus, she said at some point when I asked why on earth she thought I had those sorts of resources at my disposal, that we did have as a member the one man who'd ever escaped. I suppose that's what we get for setting you up as the villain of our little drama, last June.

You're going to have to back up a bit, though, Rachel. When did she invite you and why? (I mean to say, what was her reason that got you to come? I'm sure she didn't mention your treachery in her invitation.) And why didn't you just tell her she was out of her tree?

(Also, Lucius bloody Malfoy. Might as well ask us to give succor to Voldemort himself. Merlin.)
And most importantly, what did she offer in exchange?

Oh, she worked it out a while ago. She's just only recently reached the point of desperation.

I got her owl yesterday, inviting me over. She mentioned wanting to 'thank me for my help' when Draco was killed, which made the agenda rather clear.

I tried telling her she was out of her tree, but she was such an idiot that day Draco 'died,' I may have spelled it out for her more than I should have. She knew. She made it clear she knew.

I told her we'd need Bellatrix's hair. Not because I actually had some clever thought about getting in and out of Azkaban as Bella, but because it ought to come in handy for us. And Bellatrix uses every precaution you can imagine against someone getting her hair. If Narcissa hands over her sister's hair to Severus Snape and Sirius Black, there's no going back for her.

Well, we'll have to come up with an easy test to make sure it is Bella's hair and not someone else's. If she can even get it.

That's if we even decide it's an acceptable risk. Did she give you any ultimatum about how soon? Any other conditions?
I didn't ask her how soon she expected it done because I didn't want her to get the idea she could set a deadline.

She didn't actually threaten me explicitly. I knew she could turn me in; I also knew it would be complicated for her to make an accusation that did not implicate her along with me; I also knew she hadn't, previously, which rather says something about her loyalties. And her trust in the regime.

I did ask her if she was prepared to leave the Manor. She said she is, but she's hoping to play dumb. In fact, she'd love it if we could spirit him out with no one the wiser -- which might even be possible. It's not as if the Dementors would notice or care if Lucius Malfoy turned into Otto Strangeweale one evening.

As for what was offered in exchange --

If we did get Lucius out, we'd have to keep him, and Narcissa clearly understands that. He'd know we'd gotten him out at Narcissa's behest. He'd know his son was part of our organisation.

I think he's more loyal to his family than he is to Voldemort. If he believed his family's safety was contingent on us winning -- he might choose to help us. And he knows a great deal, far more than I think Voldemort's other loyalists could protect against. I mean, he knows the other Death Eaters. He knows their secrets. He knows who's vulnerable to blackmail, who forgets to ward their door, who's wavering in their loyalty.

If he decided to help us, he would be useful.
He'd also be a huge liability.

I don't know. I'm not sure he's worth trading your safety - you're valuable at the Ministry, but I'm not necessarily prepared to play host to Lucius just so you can go on stealing secrets.

She also threatened the Weasleys.

(You can see why I didn't want to talk to Bill about this. Especially given that tomorrow's his birthday.)

How many people do we send into hiding, then? It might be easier to kidnap Narcissa.

Ha, now she can be trapped here with my mother's portrait for eternity! But then we'd have Farty on our doorstep waiting night and day.

Actually, maybe that's not a bad plan at all!

I would never do that to you! Either of them would be safest at Saltash, I'd think.
alt_severus at 2014-11-29 03:22:01
(no subject)

Oh, that would be some of the greatest entertainment I could possibly imagine.

alt_severus at 2014-11-29 03:01:49
(no subject)

The question is whether he would make that bargain, or whether he would become a walking, breathing security risk that would have to be guarded constantly lest he escape and turn us in as a bargaining chip.

I cannot predict him. I could not predict him before, but months in Azkaban will have changed him thoroughly enough that even those who knew him best could not predict him now. I escaped with my wits intact (do not say it, Black) due to exceptional discipline and incredible luck. I do not think Lucius has either the skill or the discipline to employ the methods I used.

As to the practicalities, I can offer limited insight as to the world behind the gates. My escape, much like my survival, was good fortune, not good planning. That having been said, I will provide what information I can.

alt_rachel at 2014-11-29 03:06:54
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know.

I don't trust him at all, and never have. But I do know he'll do anything he can to protect Narcissa. Knowing that Narcissa came to us to get him out of Azkaban will make him a good deal more reluctant to turn us over. Which isn't to say that he won't do it. He just won't do it unless he can work out a way to also protect Narcissa from the consequences of working with us.
That is something that could be asked for to gauge Narcissa's sincerity: a letter written in her own hand and sealed with her own magic saying that she came to us under her own volition and is working with us on Lucius's escape. Should she be willing to provide such self-incrimination, it would not only prove her complicit in the event of future consequence, it could secure Lucius's coöperation in advance.

That is an excellent idea.

Which effectively negates his usefulness as an information repository, even a hostile one.

She's suggesting that we pull him quietly, in an exchange of some kind. On the other hand, if we did go in, we might be able to rescue more than one prisoner. There are any number of 'enemies of the state' who could help - if they have their wits about them, that is - and even if they don't, well, it's a good excuse to let them live out their days in relative comfort.

And if we can do it while implicating Bellatrix, so much the better.

Break out a whole load of people, you mean?

Or everyone?
Well, I wouldn't break out people who were put there before Voldemort took power - Azkaban does have a handful of people who came by their incarceration through legitimate acts of malice. But when I think how many of our allies could be behind its walls, it's a tempting idea.

I'm not sure how many of our allies are alive and intact. None of us would ever be incarcerated at Azkaban.

The advantage of letting everyone out is that it'll be harder to trace it to us, of course. And it'll tie up Voldemort's resources trying to hunt them all. But we couldn't guarantee everyone's safety if we did that, I think.

If we could get hold of a list before we went in, and know who was in for treason, who'd committed petty crimes that annoyed the wrong person, and who was the sort of bloody-minded murderer best kept confined -- well, that would be ideal. Those aren't files I could look through without raising suspicions, though.
A widescale Azkaban breakout could do much to demoralise those in charge, and could conceivably lead to a rash of the Dark Lord's finest coming down with sudden cases of Avada.

Although many of the residents are in there for a reason that is not 'having displeased the local tyrant'. Winnowing the wheat from the chaff in the heat of the moment might prove impossible, and unleashing certain elements of the population on the Protectorate at large would not win us any favours. The gentleman across the hallway from my former abode, for instance, was imprisoned for his predilection for artworks using the blood of his neighbours for pigments. I do not think we ought to grant him early parole.
right.

nearest we can gather, the company was meeting up with one of their regular farms to pick up some supplies. they walked straight into a trap. MLE knew exactly where they'd be and when. near as I can figure, either sherwood has a mole, or MLE managed to take someone alive at Erewash.

spent most of the night trying to find everyone who scattered without running into MLE ourselves. terry managed to find us early this morning. had a cut from a hex and sore paws, but was otherwise in one piece. there were twelve in the company. we've got three survivors, one badly wounded. we found five bodies, the others who are missing might've been taken for questioning, could still be in deep hiding and might find their way back to us, we're not sure, but we're not hopeful about their odds. the farm lost some people too. the man and the woman who were their usual contacts were killed right off.

spent the rest of our time trying to access the farm, try to sneak people out. we figured the lot of them will be pulled in for questioning or worse once things settled, but it was impossible because MLE was still sniffing around, so we cut our losses and came back to sherwood.

Harry, love, Dudley's told me that he'll be helping the Zulus fill out their ranks, and wanted especially to pass it along to you.

It's a risky job, going out on supply runs, especially now.

But Davidson's working to change things up to make it safer in light of the security breach, and Dudley's trained quite hard, and he and Finbar make an excellent team.

I just wanted to make sure to tell you before things got too mad, and to let you know that I'll be sure to keep an extra pair of eyes pointed his way.
Thanks. For telling me. And for keeping an eye on him.

Davidson's in the process of pulling in all the Zulus and regrouping.

Everyone, please expect enhanced security at Sherwood, and be prepared to submit to a polyjuice and imperius screen.

Thank you to all who jumped in to help with search and rescue.

How, Mum, how could it have happened?

I just can't imagine anyone in Sherwood betraying our people to the MLE. It must have been someone from the farm? Does Davidson have any idea?

We lost some people at Erewash, and weren't able to recover the bodies in the chaos. We assumed they'd all died. But now

He suspects that someone was captured alive at Erewash and questioned. And love, when someone gets put in that sort of position

He or she might've had incredible strength of will. Deep convictions. Would've rather died than betray comrades and
friends. But the people we fight against stop at nothing to get at what they want, and are very, very good at it.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-30 01:25:38  
Private Message to Frank

I feel so much better now that I've seen him with my own eyes.

Merlin, Frank.

@alt_frank at 2014-11-30 01:33:25  
Re: Private Message to Frank

every time we found another body I thought that'd be the end of it.

he tell you he took a chunk out of someone's arm? ran off with his wand.

for the sake of the people at the farm, I just hope the damn fool doesn't think he had a close encounter with sirius black.

we couldn't get any closer. kept hoping one or two would sneak out to us.

@alt_alice at 2014-11-30 02:05:21  
Re: Private Message to Frank

Oh, love.

I know.

I'll be here for a few more hours yet. We could use a tactician. Care to join us?

@alt_frank at 2014-11-30 02:08:31  
Re: Private Message to Frank

aye aye.
2014-11-29 21:42:00
Order Only

I'm all right.

But Ferdy and Willy and Noor and Ruby and...oh hell. I thought Lew could fight his way through anything. And there's still no sign of Nysa or Declan or--

I want to know who or what betrayed us.

alt_gredforge at 2014-11-30 03:59:40
(no subject)

Know it's not much comfort at the moment, but we're bloody relieved you're all right.

alt_evelyn at 2014-11-30 04:01:47
(no subject)

Me too.

alt_neville at 2014-11-30 04:03:36
(no subject)

My thoughts, too.

I'm so sorry, Terry.

alt_kingsley at 2014-11-30 04:01:43
Private message to Terry

It hurts, son. Don't I know it.

From what Frank said, you acquitted yourself well. Give yourself as long as you need to rest and recover. But don't stay idle a moment longer than that. That's the best advice I can give you when you lose comrades in arms.

Remember their names, and fight like hell for the living.
@alt_frank at 2014-11-30 04:20:08
Private Message to Terry

kiddo, whatever you need. you just say the word.
you need to work off some anger on the course
or come home for a night or two
well
your mum and me wouldn't mind that one bit.

@alt_terry at 2014-11-30 15:20:45
Re: Private Message to Terry

Thanks, Dad. But I'm staying here for now. The Colonel wants me here for debriefing, and if we retrieve any of our people. I don't want my mates to think I'd just check out when things get rough. And...I just think my place is here.

@alt_frank at 2014-11-30 21:34:17
Re: Private Message to Terry

completely understood.
do me a favour, kiddo, and make sure finbar and dudley know they're welcome for sunday dinner whenever they're back at the home base. and don't hold back in training. those lads need to be as prepared as possible.
sherwood's lost too many already this year.

@alt_hermione at 2014-11-30 16:28:25
(no subject)

I'm so glad you're okay, Terry. I know it's hard to lose so many good friends, though, but you'll be all right in the end. I know you will.
I'm glad you got away, Terry.

I'm glad you made it out Terry.
Private Message to a Dolohov

Have had first success. Good reason to expect more soon.

MAGIC CONTROLLED AGAIN. BODY NEAR ABLE TO MANAGE REASONABLE DURATION AT LEAST. LUCKILY O CONNOR HAD NO NOTION HOW ILL-

What have you learned re n? Is she recovering? Have you seen her?

Are you well? I injured today?

Must sleep now but let me hear from you soon

---

@alt_antonin at 2014-12-01 06:06:40
(no subject)

Oh, lapushka, I'm sorry I didn't see your message until just now. I overslept (and slept, and slept) and then rushed right off to the site as soon as the hangover potion had taken effect -- from the times it appears as though that was just before you wrote, and I was distracted enough this morning to leave my journal behind.

Yes, I spent the day with our recalcitrant shambling horrors. I think they miss you: they were even less cooperative than usual today. Twelve hours of beating my head against the problem did not get me anywhere, but then again, we are long past the point where getting results other than "not getting eaten" would be worth fireworks and angels singing hosannas. Next week I may bring a picnic lunch and practice my lectures on them; at least that way they will be useful.

Apologies. I am exceptionally out of sorts this weekend. At least Our Lord was not there to see me.

I haven't seen Narcissa yet, no. She's been most firm in her desire to avoid company. I was thinking of stopping by tomorrow afternoon to see if I could win my way in with charm.
I'll be certain to let her know that you're doing better, though. You sound much improved. I am thrilled to hear that you are recovering; my prayers continue with you.
You've certainly floored the entire school--maybe even the entire Protectorate! Congratulations to you and Ms Novello on what is sure to be the scoop of the year.

Imagine, to find out that you're really the daughter of Professor Lestrange. I'm sure it was quite a revelation for all of you, including you, Professor Sinistra. I hope Daphs is quite accurate when she said that all of you will 'adjust gracefully to the new reality.' Really, Daphs, such a skillful turn of phrase. Almost like you rehearsed it. Only someone like you could turn this sort of situation into an opportunity for the spotlight. Well done!

I can't tell you how much I wish the best for you all. It's sure to be a festive Christmas at yours!

I do not. BELIEVE. It. I don't believe it.

What, being Head Girl wasn't enough for her? She had to invent a connection to a Councilwizard--and Raz of all people, when everyone knew she had the most awful crush on him? I mean, about the only good thing about it is that it's almost certainly why Siz cancelled class, don't you think? She's sure to be over the moon to find out she's got a step-daughter. Do you think she was upstairs crying into her tea all night or were she and Daphne doing each other's hair and connecting?

I can't imagine her brass, though. I mean, if I found out Pavs and I were illegitimate, we'd be properly ashamed. Wouldn't you? Honestly. Of course, Daphs wants to be an actress, so I suppose being notorious before even leaving school is an asset in that career.
alt_seamus at 2014-11-30 15:57:54
Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Do you think she's lying about it? I wouldn't think she'd dare, not given who she's claiming to be a relation to.

I'm sure you're right it's why Siz cancelled class. Though really, if it's true, Daphne would've been conceived years before Siz even MET Raz, it's not as if someone's saying he cheated on her. Rather unkind of him not to mention it to her before he got himself killed though.

alt_padma at 2014-11-30 16:03:45
Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Well, she says he didn't know. I mean, she says it was an investigation that his 'family members' (that has to mean Mr Lestrange, Auror Lestrange wouldn't care) conducted to find out if he left any heirs. Which also has to mean that Mr Lestrange wasn't very happy about the notion of Razzer leaving everything to Siz, doesn't it?

alt_seamus at 2014-11-30 16:06:16
Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Oh, I know. They SAY they didn't know. Maybe Raz knew and just didn't want to acknowledge it, though.

alt_padma at 2014-11-30 16:09:16
Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Ooh, that sounds just like something he'd do.

See, that's why it's important to have the input of a bloke sometimes. A witch wouldn't have kept a secret like that. Well, not if she were certain about her husband, anyway. And not if it happened years and years ago.
Really, she never would? It sounds like Daphne's mum kept it a secret. But, since she was actually ENGAGED to Mr Greengrass at the time...

Should be quite a jolly Christmas, don't you think?

Hey, this same thing happened with Michael Corner, didn't it? Only his parents DID know. He thought he was a Pureblood, but he wasn't, actually.

Well, there's nothing to say she didn't tell Mr Greengrass later, and they kept it from Daphne, but the thing is, with women, it's easier to just pretend that the baby belongs to the man you're marrying. If she knew for sure, then I think she'd had been more like Michael's mum and told her husband, but then they decided not to tell him.

Of course, in that case they were preserving the fiction that he was Pureblood, as you say. So they had a vested interest in pretending he belonged to Mr Corner. And you'll recall he was proper ashamed when he found out!

Oh, and honestly if it turned out I had a proper wizard as a father I'd be delighted, even if that meant my mum had been messing around. Better to be some wizard's by-blow than have a filthy muggle as a parent. (At least I know my wizard parent's my proper parent, since it's my mum.)
Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Sure, I suppose, but as far as anyone knows, Daphne was already from a proper wizarding family. I mean, the Greengrasses are quite old, and her mother was a Montague by birth. So it's not as if she's trying to make herself seem more magical. She's just trying to cash in on his status as a Councilwizard.

Re: Private Message to Seamus and Lavender

Yeah.

Maybe she's cross she didn't even get invited to participate in the Challenge. Thinks having a Council parent might give her an edge if there's a next time.

(no subject)

It was simply inevitable that the truth be made public. I heard from a mutual friend that Sophia was interested in doing a story on me and other notable Slytherin women, and she and I agreed it would be a good opportunity to set the record straight before rumour took hold.

It's so good to have your support. Everyone's been so very kind!

(no subject)

Well, of course! We witches have to stick together, after all.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-30 16:30:18

Order Only: Private message to Daphne

Ugh. Padma is THE WORST.

I am SO GLAD you're Head Girl and she isn't.

alt_daphne at 2014-11-30 16:49:52

Re: Order Only: Private message to Daphne

She's certainly the worst at disguising her jealousy - it's practically oozing from her ink. And what a ridiculous thing to be jealous of, honestly.

Though more likely she isn't jealous about Raz, but rather that I've managed to turn the story to my advantage. She probably thinks I should be weeping into my pillow in shame.

Oh. Sorry I didn't tell any of you. Only Madam Pomfrey and Professor Sinistra know. Or knew, rather. Maybe Hydra, too, though we didn't discuss it.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-30 18:15:22

Re: Order Only: Private message to Daphne

She's jealous of the attention. It scarcely matters what the attention's for.

And of course that you're Head Girl. If she could trade in that Dark Mark for the Head Girl badge she'd do it in less than a heartbeat.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-11-30 18:16:08

Re: Order Only: Private message to Daphne

And about keeping it a secret -- it was your business, wasn't it? Just because we're in the Order doesn't mean we've promised to tell every last personal detail of our lives to Alice Longbottom. I hope not, anyway.
I say, Daphs, masterfully done.

Let us know if you need anything, all right? You've got quite a bit of support at the school already, of course, which helps.

What in Hades is everyone on about? We don't take Whirl at the House of Hidden Fugitives.

Draco,

Perhaps Daphne ought to tell you, what. There's an article on impressive women in Slytherin and she's profiled.

There's a small note on Hydra, too.

-Justin

Given that Daphne already told the magazine I think it's probably okay if one of us fills you in?

You probably guessed from what Padma said that the article says Daphne is actually Raz's daughter. She's on the
cover of the magazine -- Daphne, not Padma -- with a bit headline saying, 'Who is the Lost Heir of Rabastan Lestrange?'

Daphne was interviewed by Sophia Novello. She says Philip Greengrass is her father but Rabastan is her biological father; he died before knowing they shared a connection. After his death, his family members (I'm guessing that means Rodolphus) conducted some research to find out if he left any children behind and discovered Daphne.

Let's see. She says that she was concerned for her parents and sisters but 'we all love each other very much, and I have every confidence that my parents will adjust gracefully to this new reality' and 'Philip Greengrass raised me and will always be the one I think of when I hear the word "Father." When I think of Professor Raz, I remember a brilliant teacher and quidditcher.'

You came up, Draco. Here's how that bit went:

Q: The last person you were linked to romantically was the late Draco Malfoy. Can you tell the public anything about him or your relationship with him?

A: Draco were friends long before we ever dated, and I always deeply admired and respected both him and his family. I don't feel I'm in any position to comment on his tragic death or the events that preceded and followed it; I can only say that his loss is keenly felt within both Slytherin and Hogwarts.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-12-01 15:35:04
Re: Order Only: Private message to Daphne

(Hope you don't mind my answering, Daphne. I figured you were probably sick to death of talking about it by yesterday evening.)

@alt_draco at 2014-12-01 23:57:44
Re: ORDER ONLY

Bloody nightshade, how long have you known, Daphs? Did your mother tell you ages ago, or what?
I should just go out and nick a copy of *Whirl* from somewhere...

[@alt_hermione](http://example.com) at 2014-12-02 01:22:28
**Re: ORDER ONLY**

Nicking is frowned upon, remember.

[@alt_draco](http://example.com) at 2014-12-02 01:54:18
**Re: ORDER ONLY**

How could I forget?

That rag is plastered all over the streets of New London, though. If I stick my wand out the window and perform "Accio Whirl Magazine" have I really nicked anything?
Good morning,

I say, I thought you both might like to know that some of the older Hufflepuff girls were giving your sister Queenie some trouble this morning. I spoke rather sharply to them, I'm afraid, but felt it better to intervene before any of them did something she might regret.

I've also let Sue Bones and Ernie Macmillan know about it, as Prefects, in case anything of the kind happens again. I doubt there's any call for more action immediately, what. I simply felt you had an interest in the matter and ought to be informed.

Cordially,

-Finch-Fletchley

And which Hufflepuff girls were those?

Daphne,  
Kelly Drumgoole was the ringleader, I think. She had two younger girls with her, what. Let me see....

I think it was Branstone and Forney. Luciana, is it? Delia's sister; I'm afraid I don't know them well.

I don't wish you to think Queenie was in acute distress, what. She was capable of defending herself; one simply doesn't like to see a young lady in a position to have to defend herself.
Miss Greengrass,

Truly, it's not necessary. I only did what anyone would have done. Please think nothing further of it.

As for the other--I say, it's absolutely none of anyone's business but your family's and Professor Lestrange's. I shouldn't wonder if the novelty will pass in a day or two and Queenie and the rest of you will be well out of everyone's focus. No, I haven't read the article, nor the comments on Miss Lestrange. Whatever it says, one ought to remember that it's merely a glorified gossip magazine. They jolly well rarely include the whole truth, what.

-Finch-Fletchley
If you should need a bit of respite from the buzz of curiosity and ill-advised remarks sweeping the halls today, I would certainly be willing to take on some of your rounds in addition to my own. It would be fully understandable should you choose to let the astonishment and inappropriate levity subside a bit before engaging with your peers again, especially certain members of the student body, with whom I have already had a few words and who are even now applying themselves to preparing a recitation of some poetry against gossip, which I myself have penned for their edification.

Poetry? Very thoughtful, if unnecessary. Though I am curious as to what kind of poetry you feel suits an occasion such as this.

No respite needed - life moves forward as always, and I'd hardly be cut out for Head Girl if I let such a trifling thing slow me down. I've nothing to hide, as I believe my willingness to converse on the record with Miss Novello demonstrates!
Are you alright?

If you want to talk I could come back after family dinner earlier this evening. Mum & Dad would understand a friend in distress, she'd probably even send along some home-cooked biscuits or scones.

Still sorting through things. I'm not upset with Daphne. She told me Thursday. In New London for the afternoon. (Hypatia, I hate the floo.) Not sure when I'll be back tonight - Mum and Dad are meeting me later.

And I'm not really ready to talk about it yet. Maybe tomorrow.
Late last week, Narcissa Malfoy invited me over. She'd guessed I might have contacts with the people who were protecting Draco -- she made that clear -- and she told me she wants us to break Lucius out of Azkaban.

She hinted that she'd turn me in to MLE if I refuse. Though it's possible I could persuade her that's really not in her interests. (It's truly not!)

I told her that she'd need to give us some of Bellatrix's hair, if we're to have any shot at pulling it off -- mostly because that'll put her in deep enough she'll have a very difficult time turning on us later. Also, it might come in useful.

So, if we do attempt an Azkaban raid, I agree with Sirius and Severus that it would be foolish to just pull Lucius out. There are undoubtedly people in there for sedition who could be allies, or at least gadflies to our mutual enemies. There are also people in for ax murder, though; we'd want to know which was which before we started breaking open locks. The Wizengamot has files on who's in there and why; once I thought about it a bit, I realised I've gone into those files once or twice. I do have access, but if I'm rooting through them right before a prison break, well, I'd better have a very good reason, and right now, I don't, especially to be in them as long as it would take to copy down the names and crimes of everyone in Azkaban. I think I'm going to Imperius a clerk (and then Obliviate them).

Draco, I'm not asking you what you want us to do here, because you've already answered that, months ago. I'm asking for your insights on your parents. I think your father's first loyalty is to your mother. If we get him out -- at your mother's behest -- and he knows she's committed treason by coming to us, what's he likely to do? Would he run to the Lord Protector, given the opportunity? Or would he stay hidden, lest he bring danger to your mother?

Or -- I've been pondering whether we even have to keep him. If we broke him out and just left him somewhere, what would his next move be? Turning himself in to Our Lord might win him enough loyalty points to win him his freedom, but there'd be no guarantee. Most
people who've been in Azkaban come out feeling like they'd do anything in the world not to go back. So, there's that.

It's a shame the wards don't drop at solstices anymore. He'd be quite a bit less potential trouble as an exile. We could even send Narcissa with him, put her out of Voldemort's reach, too.

Hydra, I asked Narcissa if she could occlude and she told me that she could. How well? She wants to stay in the Manor -- I'm a bit concerned that Voldemort will take her hostage for Lucius's return, but that's a risk she's willing to run. Can she actually keep your mother out of her thoughts? Voldemort?

Anyway, it'll take her some time to get the hair, I assume. She's going to call me to come back over once she has it.

---

@alt_draco at 2014-11-30 23:54:02
(no subject)

She -

Alright. To answer your question, I want to say that my father's first loyalty is to his immediate family over Voldemort. And mostly, I believe that to be true. He did allow the arrangement I lived with as a child, being punished in Harry's stead and whatnot, but I think he believed it was an arrangement that would improve the family's standing within the Protectorate, and in a way he was right about that. And both of my parents spoiled me in all other ways to make up for it. Which isn't to say I forgive them, really, only that I see how they rationalised it in their own minds.

Question is, is my father going to be himself enough to do as we hope and predict?

@alt_rachel at 2014-12-01 02:43:21
(no subject)

Six months in Azkaban ... I expect he'll recover. Though his first few weeks out may be very different.
I remain a touch baffled as to why she is so insistent on staying in the Manor instead of going to ground. What would she hope to accomplish?

Might we convince her to come in instead, to keep from being used as a bargaining chip?

If it were to be a mass breakout, I don't believe they would immediately leap to the notion that Lucius Malfoy was a specific target, but still. It is certainly a risk.

But Allie, if we made a switch, or spirited him away, it could be months before anyone even realises he's gone. I think that's what she's thinking. In that case she'd be mad to go on the run.

If we removed him more dramatically, then yes, she puts herself more at risk by staying than by leaving.

I suppose the impetus would be on us to give her fair warning that there was going to be a bigger fuss than she was expecting, then, and see what she'd do.

She made it clear she prefers we do it quietly -- quietly enough that no one even realises Lucius isn't in Azkaban anymore.

We'll need to let her know that's not how it's going down, but probably not until closer to the time.
Private Message to Rachel

You know, if I were colder about it, I'd say our best option would be to tell her we'll have to make it a mass breakout, so her best bet is to enter our protection, get her to Saltash, get Lucius out and then kill him.

But I don't think I'm quite that cold. Pity.

Re: Private Message to Rachel

Do you hate your cousin that much? That would be a **terrible** option, even if Draco and Hydra weren't Order members.

Narcissa would be a difficult, complicated reluctant ally to have sheltering with us. But she would be a really terrible sworn enemy. If she has nothing left to lose, she would be incredibly dangerous. I think people underestimate Narcissa simply because she's so much less frightening than her sister. Don't make that mistake. If we'd killed Lucius, I think she would whittle a knife out of stone with her **teeth** to fight her way out of Saltash.

If, on the other hand, we've saved him? ...doesn't mean she'll like us. But she's not going to be **highly motivated to kill us all**.

Re: Private Message to Rachel

You think I'm daft enough to **tell** her we killed him? She wouldn't need to know **how** he died!

But.... Actually come to think of it, if we're releasing 15-20 prisoners and Malfoy happens to be one of them, she might be safe enough. Who's going to suspect her? Even if she had reason to want him released, she isn't improving his situation by throwing him among traitors.
Honestly, that's the thing that still bothers me about this whole thing. Are you sure she's not trying to entrap you?

@alt_rachel at 2014-12-01 04:50:44
Re: Private Message to Rachel

Oh, she'll blame us if he dies even if we tried our best, I'm sure!

Anyway. Good thought about a large-scale break providing plenty of camouflage. She's very good at being convincing, she should probably be able to stay on her feet.

As far as entrapping me goes -- are you thinking she wants me to free Lucius so she can turn me in? That seems like a questionable way to keep Lucius safe. Or are you thinking she wants me to prove myself a traitor? She hardly needs to go to that sort of trouble. She doesn't need to prove anything to accuse me to Bellatrix.

@alt_sirius at 2014-12-01 04:57:53
Re: Private Message to Rachel

I dunno. I've been thinking about it since you told me and I just can't figure out her angle. And trust me, there's something in this for her. Narcissa doesn't know the meaning of selflessness.

We almost don't have a choice, though. Unless you double-cross her and that's not a wise course.

Times like this I wish I could fog my mind and get some clarity.

@alt_rachel at 2014-12-01 05:12:25
Re: Private Message to Rachel

I've been turning it over plenty. There are people who could benefit by luring me into treason, then betraying me, but they are not people with easy access to both Barty and
Bellatrix.

Azkaban would be a genuinely difficult and unpleasant place to lay a trap. If the goal were to lure the Order into place and take loads of us at once, they could surely come up with a better lure. Somewhere easier for them to lie in wait for us. Somewhere that they could be more certain of our timing.

I think Lucius is what's in it for her. They really do like each other, you know.

alt_sirius at 2014-12-01 05:24:08
Re: Private Message to Rachel

I do know. But she's not getting him this way, is she? She's getting him out, sure, but if she's not planning to pack a bag and camp in the woods with him, then she's not really gaining much.

Apart from peace of mind, I suppose.

It's too much to hope her loyalty has shifted. Then again, I've no idea how she feels about Voldemort, especially lately. Possibly she views him much like my late unlamented mother did. Possibly she's always felt that way and is only now reaching the point where she doesn't care to show a little contempt.

I dunno. It doesn't make sense, but then, Narcissa hasn't made sense to me for a long, long time.

alt_rachel at 2014-12-01 05:28:34
Re: Private Message to Rachel

How much would you risk to get Remus out of Azkaban, if he was in there? Even if you'd never seen him again -- just to get him out? How much do you think he'd risk, to get you out?
If Remus were in there, I'd tear the place down brick by brick if I had to do. But I wouldn't send someone else to do it for me.

Not even if you thought they could get in, and you wouldn't have a chance?

I'd go with them, perhaps. If it were a guarantee that someone else could do it, I might let them go without me, if that's what it took for them to succeed.

But that's a bit of an evasion - your original premise was that Narcissa would rather risk someone else's neck than her own on what she isn't even certain will bring him succor, and if it does, will leave him in the hands of his enemies. And I wonder just what makes her so desperate that she'd come to you and not her own people.

Well, true. Narcissa would certainly prefer to risk our necks than her own.

As for why she came to his enemies -- I'm fairly certain she'd recently gone to Voldemort to beg for mercy for Lucius. And his response was sufficiently unambiguous to leave her shaken, in pain, and desperate enough to come to me.
I guess that depends on what we decide. There are advantages to forcing her to run as well - among other things, she wouldn't be in a position to blackmail Rachel *again* - but there are definite disadvantages to putting her and her husband in Saltash.

Saltash probably wouldn't be too happy about playing host, either.

But she may be right and a large-scale breakout may be more challenging than slipping one of our current problem children into Azkaban in his place. And *that* likely depends on what Rachel finds out.

Yes, agreed. We ought to avoid settling on anything too firmly until we sort out who else is in there.

She can occlude, yes. It's one of the advantages of growing up with a legilimens for a sister, I suppose, though usually my mother refuses to teach people to occlude. She'd rather everyone be an open book to her.

I don't know how well Aunt Narcissa would hold up under severe interrogation, though. Everyone's different, when it comes to that.

I'm not terribly worried about her being interrogated -- I just wanted confirmation that your mother wouldn't likely glean my name from her just by being in the same room.
I've been thinking about possible ways I can help with food this winter. Seven hundred odd extra mouths to feed is quite a lot, after all.

The problem is that either I need to buy a tonne of food and account for where it's gone, or I'd need to funnel funds to a second party to do it, and would have to come up with a decent reason why they would be buying a tonne of food so it wouldn't strike anyone as overly suspicious. And it'd have to be someone I'd trust, which narrows the list.

One possibility is that I could start a new side-business that works with food, like a restaurant or owl order business, and have it just massively fail. I could sink a lot of money into product, and only manage to sell a little, claim the rest spoiled or was wasted, and have everyone assume it was a frivolous risk made by someone who can afford it and who can keep failing at it on a lark, so it can continue to limp along even though I'd be spending far more than I'd be making. I could even have a few shipments of product 'rot' at the docks due to a delay, and have to re-order everything (that'd be where you'd come in, Stebs -- let me know if that sort of thing would be something you could help with. I might need general help with transport too, as I'll be doing some of it remotely. I can even put you on payroll).

The simplest option is to just have Hitty buy up a load of food using a lot of different stores, and cover her tracks so no individual store realises. House elves pick up food all the time, and for holiday parties and such it's not unheard of for them to handle quite a large order, and there's enough of them popping in and out that shop owners don't look too closely. I figure I could do a combination of having Hitty buy up while I'm home for hols, and start the business during hols so we could have a supply after.

There's always the fake charity route, too, of course, but I'm getting sort of stuck at how I'd get a proper excuse for buying food and then accounting for where it's gone to if anyone looks at it for more than a few seconds. And I've no idea how much scrutiny either venture would be under, either.
A failed business venture would be an excellent cover in some respects. No one from the Ministry is likely to look overly closely.

The risk is gossip -- and there's quite a bit more making it into the papers than was the case before Lucius Malfoy went to Azkaban. You never quite know what's going to happen once a reporter gets hold of some tidbit, and 'young Pureblood makes utter fool of herself' is always a tempting story. That ought to be manageable, though. They know they've gone too far when someone threatens to curse them, you know? (Reporters, I mean.)

It is tempting, yes. But I think I can play it as an amusing side-project and not suffer too much in terms of reputation.

I'll see if I can't get in Mr Baddock's sphere more closely so he can stay on top of things like that. I'll make some gestures over the holidays.

Didn't he used to manage your affairs?

If you involve yourself too closely with him, he may end up paying quite a bit more attention to the finances of this project than you'd really want.

Hm. That is a problem. He's the only remaining councilmember I'm remotely close to, and if I go to my stepfather instead, he might dig deeper too.

I might have to do as Sirius says, go off on my own about it, and
just blame it on a lack of guidance and oversight from Lucius when it crumbles. I was rather stubborn about Whizbangs, after all.

alt_sally_anne  at  2014-12-01 17:01:01  
(no subject)

I don't know if Jeremy has enough hours in the day to do this, but he'd be the perfect person to hire as your buyer. He knows the business, he knows the people who grow stuff, all of it.

Oh, you know. You could start a distillery or a brewery. Or both, plus a winery. Buy up a whole lot of grain and fruit (oh, and potatoes! people make vodka out of potatoes) and then don't get the facility built in time, oops.

alt_sally_anne  at  2014-12-01 18:01:57  
(no subject)

You could get a HUGE muggle work crew to not build you that distillery in time, too.

alt_pansy  at  2014-12-01 19:50:30  
(no subject)

Yes! Point. I'd probably need to get someone to supervise the construction who's in on it, though. So it could be appropriately slow and leisurely.

alt_pansy  at  2014-12-01 20:27:04  
(no subject)

Short of asking Fred and George to supervise on top of their own business, or getting Lee or Wayne to step in (and I know they're quite busy), there aren't that many people available right now, are there?

What do you lot think about bringing in Jack Sloper or Ken Towler? I know Sloper's recently left school, but I don't know where he ended up getting work. He was a regular at the galleon
meetings, and I remember he was really helpful with the Teddy problem in particular. And Towler's got his older brother in things already, too.

I don't know if we'd have to bring whoever it is fully in, but it could be a good precursor to the Order proper, perhaps.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-12-01 22:40:28
(no subject)

I think either is a good idea. Cedric, Jeremy, anyone from your years who'd be trustworthy enough we should think about them?

alt_sirius at 2014-12-01 17:19:26
(no subject)

It's a brilliant idea, Pansy. Businesses fail all the time - it's nothing surprising.

As for gossip, you can always claim that you don't know what happened, but you're certain it wouldn't have happened if you'd had your mentor Lucius Malfoy there to advise you.

alt_pansy at 2014-12-01 19:50:50
(no subject)

Naturally!

alt_poppy at 2014-12-02 04:29:40
(no subject)

There is certainly going to be a great deal of need, and I think you're right that you are in a position to make a significant contribution.

First, however, I suppose someone needs to caution you not to embark on projects that could capsize your preparation for NEWTs, as those exams are an important step if you wish to place yourself in a working situation likely to be of strategic use to the Order. You may need to balance immediate goals against longer term ones.
That said, I might be able to help you develop your ideas for a business enterprise that would appear legitimate while funnelling support to the Order. Pomona and I might help, I should say. This is very much the sort of business we've been doing for years, purchasing needed supplies for the school and cultivating sources of materials and funds for the Order under cover of that open business.

Perhaps we could find a quiet moment here of an evening, or failing that--sometimes it's impossible to speak safely in this hospital wing--we could meet once the holidays have begun. At Grimmauld Place, perhaps.

éal_pansy at 2014-12-02 05:13:30
(no subject)

That would be much appreciated. Thank you.

While we're at it, we might talk about funneling some funds your way, too, as I'm sure you'd make good use of it, and no-one pays any mind to how I spend my profits from Whiz. Or really any of it, now that Lucius isn't looking over my shoulder.

And yes, I'll mind my NEWTs.
Sorry our tea was cut short. (Have you ever seen anything as bedraggled as Messrs Montrose and Gilhooly this afternoon? Well, I suppose you have, but still, they were a sight, were they not?)

I wanted to hear your story about Tilda's new boarder, though, and then the real business I'd hoped we'd get to was to do with our Christmas giving. I'm afraid this isn't going to be our best year for the sloe gin (there'll be no repeating last year's success at Hebden Bridge), but the damson bottles are looking especially promising. Perhaps we should test that proposition next Sunday afternoon?

Oh, Pomona. I'm dreading the holidays this year. Do you know, I'd found the perfect gift for Caradoc. It's sitting in my cupboard, wrapped and ready to send.

It's no good dwelling on it, I know that, but I can't bring myself even to tuck it out of sight. Or get rid of it. But seeing it there, well-

And here I am getting maudlin. Where are the ludicrous hex calamities when you need one?
2014-11-30 21:59:00
Private Message to Sarah Yaxley

So, what I was telling you about Friday?

Gah. I hate to go on and on at you about it, but I have to tell someone, and, you know, it's just not the sort of thing- well, you understand. With everything still uncertain.

Yesterday was... so intense. I mean, he wants this so much. It's irresistible, really. How can I not want it, too?

And once you start thinking about it seriously, well. The idea? Of having a child you've made, who'll be part of you, so much like yourself, but mingled together with parts of him? That's...

And then to think which parts of him... his eyes? or that nose? I'm really a bit daft about his nose. And the way his lip curls. Seriously. On the left side.

He's completely mad about it. And it's putting a keen edge on everything between us. Being together has always been delicious, but now every minute is dear, and we don't waste any of the time we have. Yesterday, he was absolutely shimmering with desire when I got there. Glowing. I suppose it sounds like I'm exaggerating, but I don't know how else to describe it.

And I just-- I told him yes. I told him I'd work it out somehow, and I will. The Mastery, the department, all of it.

And then--there are spells, you know, to encourage fertility? Let me tell you: you've never felt anything like it. I never had. And you know we've tried some adventurous things! I still feel like I'm throbbing with the energy of it, buzzing with the magic. And I'm completely over the moon about the whole idea, where even on Thursday, I thought I might say no.

But now I've gone and said yes. I'm pinching myself, but I'm awake and it's real and I said it.

And what I really want to know is when can we try again? How soon?
Ha. I've no idea how I'm going to concentrate on lessons tomorrow! Can you imagine?