Happy 1998 to everyone!

And since I'm still up I'll also wish a happy birthday to Luna Lovegood!

1998 is hereby instructed to be a better year than 1997.

Thanks, Sally-Anne.
I heartily second your wish.

(Happy birthday, Luna!)

(My fingers are about to fall off, you know.

Mrs Morgansen had been writing a novel in her head while she was in Azkaban, and wanted to get it down on paper, only she couldn't hold a quill properly, and I'd done dictation for Mr L, so I helped her until we could get our hands on a proper dictaquill. And she only took a break to get a drink of water, or when I made her eat something.

I'm not really sure what it's about yet, only that she really wanted to get it put down on paper. And I figured it'd make her feel better.
Anyways. I'll be there on Sunday. I'll get you your birthday present then. Many happy returns.)
I dreamed about the muggle aeroplane last night. You know, the one I saw when I took Pansy's divination potion last spring. The muggle aeroplane at the end was the only bit I could remember.

When I dreamed about it last night, I was in London again, and I saw the plane, but also fireworks, because it was New Year's Eve. And I looked down, and someone had written in chalk on the pavement, '2000.' In really fancy script.

I woke up and for a few minutes I believed I felt so hopeful. I guess I just wanted to share that.
drills went well the other day.

thanks to all who showed.

we need to talk about how to fight the inferi.
there's a meeting at sherwood tomorrow night to talk about our options.

ron, justin, hydra, you've had recent experience. if you can't come by, you can always pass along any insights.

I've never been much for words.
even when I'm at my best.
your mum is right.
you take care of yourself, son.
when you're ready, we'll be here.

Thanks for having us up, Mr Longbottom. I'm sure it wasn't easy to have us lot all bustling about with N.

It was good to have the chance to practise, and just to be together at Moddey with reminders all around of why we fight. Like Sally-Anne's aeroplane dream, y'know?
bustling helps.

good to hear it helped you too.

Yeah. I...

I dunno what to say really. I wish there was something I could do to help...

keep working on your combinations and footwork.

when it's time to fight, give them hell.

live through this.

remember.

Hey, you.

You up for keeping a preggo lady company for an hour or two on Sunday?

We do a pretty decent tea at Grimmauld, and I'm getting itchy behind the eyeballs and could really do with a strategy meeting to sort out how I can jump in to training and fieldwork once Bap comes out and I can move around again.
After all, we've got a lot of work to do before September, yeah?

I'm looking forward to working with you again, properly. It's been far too long, and I miss it. We make a good team.

Wish I could come to the meeting on Saturday.

@alt_frank at 2015-01-02 14:21:00
Re: Private Message to Frank

not much by way of company these days.

strategy I can do, though.

I'll catch you up on today when I come by tomorrow.

@alt_nymphadora at 2015-01-02 19:59:39
Re: Private Message to Frank

Good. That'll work well, then.

And whatever you want to talk about, we'll talk about.

And if you'd rather not talk for a while, well, we can do that too.

@alt_ron at 2015-01-02 18:55:57
(no subject)

I think I should be able to make. I'm out with Desai today, but she's been sending me home at half-five most days. Shall I come straight to MD, then?

@alt_frank at 2015-01-02 19:57:13
(no subject)

yes.

good.

we can talk over the sort of questions davidson will have and then head over to sherwood around six.
Yeah. Good.

We need to be ready.
PRIVATE MESSAGE TO D GREENGRASS

SHOULD HAVE

S hould have written before now to thank you for your kindness during my recuperation. You went out of your way.

Suppose you are out tonight at one or other of the gatherings Tosha's making the rounds of. If not, I wonder if you'd come lift a glass to the new year.

Oh, look at that! If you're penmanship is any indication, you're recuperation is very nearly complete. It was entirely my pleasure to provide the kindess, but your appreciation is most welcome.

I was at so many parties until late last night that, aside from lunch with my family and a dance session with Gerard, I've spent nearly the whole day idling about. So no, I wasn't planning to make the rounds tonight.

That's kind of you to think of me. Are you still staying at Cottesmore?

Cottesmore, yes.

And, yes. Am much improved.

Enough that I'm thinking of making an appearance at Sophia's tomorrow night. Understand you might be going as well? If so, perhaps I could escort you.

Sounds as if you're this season's It-Witch, on everyone's list. Makes
it all the more remarkable you managed so much time for visits to the infirm.

alt_daphne at 2015-01-02 03:53:34
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear it.

I suppose I am the "It-Witch," in a way, and you know, if that's one small bright spot in discovering that my father isn't really my father, then I'll take it. That's why I gave Sophia the interview in the first place, so that I could manage how the truth was presented to the public and protect both my reputation and my family's as much as possible.

No disservice intended toward Raz. I know he was a good friend to you, and he was a brilliant teacher - probably my favourite, in fact - but to think of him as my true father has been required quite a mental and emotional transition.

On - and yes, I did promise Sophia I would attend her party. If you're going to give me a reason to look forward to it even more than I already was, then I happily accept.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-01-02 04:11:58
(no subject)

Am sure it has been challenging to adapt. Particularly with Raz gone.

He was a good friend. Which- were his personal effects left behind at Spencer House? If so, I may need to apologise for several volumes you'll find on the shelves.

But do stop writing me back and step through the Floo. Do you prefer whiskey or port?
Yes. I wish he could have known.

Oh, really? I'm intrigued. You'll have to point them out to me sometime.

I know it would be more elegant and It-Witchy to say port, but if I'm honest I prefer whiskey. With good company.

There in five minutes.
This afternoon I had probably my longest conversation with Sarah Fawcett. Apparently, Mr Malfoy asked to see Draco (I think they're going to take him to Saltash soon, if they haven't already). And while he was there, Sarah came in to visit as well. Well, you know that look Mr Malfoy can get when he doesn't want to be disturbed? Apparently he can still do that, the Dementors didn't scare that out of him. But it did scare Sarah, so she scarpered.

Here's the thing, though, she doesn't want Draco to know it, but she's actually really quite worried that Mr Malfoy will somehow re-condition Draco so he'll be bigoted again. And I tried to tell her that really there's no way Draco will go back--I mean, once he started to see what was wrong with his parents' ideals, he changed his own opinions, and that's not going to just go away because he can talk to his father now. I mean, if anything, I think it'll help, because he can talk to him honestly about things, without being worried that his father will disown him or curse him or do something equally horrid. And just maybe, Draco can reach his father even if no one else can.

Oh, and I think the fact that he wanted to see Draco at all, and especially that she said he was 'clutching' Draco's hand when she walked in, is a really, really good sign. Don't you? Because if he knew Draco had betrayed him but he could still care about whether Draco lives or is going to be okay, then it means he's more likely to listen. Not to like what he hears, surely, but at least to give Draco a chance to explain.

Though it's rather a lot to put on Draco. And it got me to thinking: Do you think anyone else in the Order is worried that he'll recant?

I mean, they've worried about similar things before. I just don't want to see anyone go after him or accuse him of potentially double-crossing the Order because it's simply not going to happen. The double-crossing, that is, not people thinking he might.
You're right, Draco won't ever go back. To believe that you're less than any other wizard or witch? To thinking it would be a good idea to serve Voldemort? To betray you, and me, and Hydra, and everyone else in the Order? No.

I don't know what people will think, though. If you think about the way people used to talk about Hydra, or Draco. Especially Sirius. Could you talk to Mr Lupin?

Talk to him to tell people not to taunt Draco, you mean? Or about whether he thinks anyone would doubt Draco's intentions now?

The second one. I don't think anyone would taunt Draco. But, if you talked to him you could ask him if he thought anyone would be worried, because hopefully he'll tell you 'no, of course not' and then if anyone does, he can tell them to shut it.

Also, yes. I agree it's definitely a good sign.

He really can't betray us if he knows what's good for him, considering Draco's in the Order, and it was Narcissa who asked us to get him out.

But we really can't ever trust him. Because I'd trust Draco about anything, I'm not sure we can trust Lucius Malfoy to know what's good for him.
Oh, yes, I do know that look that Uncle Lucius has. And now I feel bad for Sarah.

That's a bit odd that she's worried that Draco will change back. Does she not realise that when MLE was searching for him as a kidnap victim, he could have just ran back to his parents then? They could have smoothed everything over for him, too, and probably make people forget it never happened. And he never did that, because he never would.

I suppose Sarah hasn't seen Draco change like we have, so maybe she doesn't have as much faith. But she should probably learn to find it.

I don't think anyone I can think of would worry about Draco recanting. Surely if they trust me, they can trust him.

Well, that's the other thing. She kept saying things like 'Don't tell Draco I said this, but' and 'Draco wouldn't like me saying that about his father' and 'Please don't say anything to him about my being worried' and so on. I don't think she'd tell him any of this herself, like...maybe she's afraid he's pretending to fancy her?

But, you haven't...well, no, of course you haven't, and anyway, you've not been around everyone enough to worry about trying to find out--oh, never mind, that's a horrible thing to ask you!

That's a good point about Draco going back then, when he had the chance. Of course, back then he--he was still--I mean, things were slightly different. But not in any way that's important.

The thing is, I can just about see someone making some thoughtless comment, or a joke, even, and Draco flying off the handle and getting all shouty at people, or huffy like he did when he got in trouble for using Harry's cloak to nick things.
And then people would think, 'Oh, there's Draco behaving like a spoilt pureblood again' and I just don't think I could stand it.

@alt_harry at 2015-01-02 06:06:55  
(no subject)

Well, if you're there, you could fly off the handle first.

@alt_hydra at 2015-01-02 06:07:48  
(no subject)

Why would she think he's pretending to fancy her? Oh, maybe because of how he pretended to fancy Daphne? But Daphne agreed to that, so it's not the same thing.

Maybe she just doesn't like to tell Draco what she's thinking and feeling. Some girls are like that, with boys (and sometimes boys are like that with girls).

Draco hasn't been shouty in quite a while, but I don't suppose he's forgotten how. And he's behaved like a spoilt pureblood before but, I don't know, I think he'd be very proud and opinionated even if he were a halfblood or a muggleborn. It's just who he is, don't you think?

@alt_hermione at 2015-01-02 06:20:52  
(no subject)

A muggleborn who shouted and acted like Draco does when he's in a strop would have been killed. I mean, if he hadn't been raised at Moddey, or something.

@alt_hydra at 2015-01-02 06:23:22  
(no subject)

True.

That makes me wonder what I would have been like, if I'd had his parents instead of my own.
I can understand why you feel protective of him. You both went through something and it made you understand each other in ways that the rest of us can't. He'd do the same for you, I'm sure.

I don't think he'll be too terribly bothered by a random someone making a thoughtless comment or joke.

I think that he would be bothered if he knew that his own girlfriend was worried about him losing his ideals. But I suppose they're probably still getting to know each other in that way.

I just don't want to see him losing ground, is all--not that I think he'd revise his ideals, but remember when he threatened to leave the Order? I don't want that sort of regression, particularly when people would just take it for a confirmation of the very thing Sarah's worried about.

As to that, I told her I wouldn't tell him. Either she'll learn to trust him or he'll find out on his own that she doesn't.

I've know you've helped to calm him down and had to clear his thinking before, but that's something he needs to learn to do on his own, as well. Maybe you could trust him, too - to take that step instead of regressing? He's been pretty reasonable about everything involving his father so far, after all, and in the past he would have probably been much more pushy.

And that's probably best, about Sarah.
alt_hermione at 2015-01-02 06:45:26
Re: Private message to Hermione

Yes, he's been reasonable, but he managed to convince himself that his parents would hate him, once they learned that he'd joined us, and turned his back on their beliefs. It's not going to be as easy for him as that, unfortunately. Sarah called Mr Malfoy 'possessive' and she's afraid he's already planning how to win Draco back to him.

It's hard to let go of a parent when you know they don't love you, really, or not anymore. But it's harder when it's obvious that they still care about you more than almost anything, I think.

alt_hydra at 2015-01-02 06:50:42
Re: Private message to Hermione

No, I didn't say it would be easy for him. He'll definitely need our support, too.

I can't tell if you're worried about the same things Sarah is worried about, or if you're more worried about how hard it will be for Draco.

alt_harry at 2015-01-02 06:07:59
(no subject)

Do you really think anyone would? Make an idiotic comment, or a joke about it.

alt_hermione at 2015-01-02 06:09:07
(no subject)

Yes.
Is there anyone in particular you're worried about?

Yes. Fred and George Weasley, for starters.

Some people I'd have offered to talk to but I think with the Twins it would be better to just hex them from here to Calais if they say anything.

There's...there's Terry, too, but for different reasons.

I think Draco will hold his temper if it's Terry. He knows Terry was wrecked over what happened to Neville. And -- well, yeah.
Hello, sweetie. Are you recovered from the festivities of the last few days? I ended up staying in last night, for the most part, so that I could be in top form for Sophia. I promised her that I would be willing to answer questions from her most coveted guests, including Tartarus Kendall and Chance Carsten, the Whirl editor, and I know she's counting on me to make a favourable impression.

Oh, and speaking of, I know we'd discussed attending her party together, but just recently someone asked to escort me and, well, I'd have to be a bit of an idiot to turn him down. If you'd rather not show up without a plus one you might think about asking Elsie. She and Hermes had a fight just before Christmas and they're "taking a break," as she says. And I know she's always thought you terribly handsome, besides.

Letting me down softly, then?

All right, I'll ask Elsie. I suppose you think E's being seen with me will make Hermes jealous enough to come to his senses? I'm going to pretend that's flattering.

Am I meant to guess who your trump card is?

Fine. I'll guess that it's the Knave of Clubs.

Just-

Don't fool yourself he's actually Knave of Hearts.
Ask whoever you like, silly. Elsie was just a suggestion.

Alright - I'm going with Barty Crouch. And I didn't accept his invitation just to be polite, or to make waves in the society pages. I enjoy his company and I think he enjoys mine. I'm quite excited, to tell you the truth.

That doesn't mean I take pleasure in breaking my plans with you, though.

And card analogies, really? You know by now that I have to make up my mind about these things for myself.

I'm not put out, you know, and I've already asked Elsie.

We'll see you there, then.

What do you plan to wear? Have you decided?

Rossignol. They're slim-fitting in a dark wine colour, with cut-outs on the shoulders. When she sent them over I thought they might be a little severe for me, but now that I know I'm being escorted by an Auror who's what? 35? I think they'll look perfect.

Save me a dance!
You'll look gorgeous.

He won't know what hit him.

Any dance you choose.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Remus, Charlie, and Bill

We need to talk to the centaurs and werewolves sooner rather than later.

I wouldn't have thought of it if Colin hadn't said anything, but Charlie, should we send our group to the Forest tomorrow, as per their usual routine, or hold off in case the centaurs are particularly sensitive right now?

I know the werewolf situation is highly volatile and complicated to say the least. But with recent events, it might be time to move forward more directly with those who would be more receptive. It also would be worth our while to check on our contacts and see how they're doing, Beverly especially.

And there's the giants, too.

Hagrid is particularly eager to help, but I don't want to send him there unprepared. Still, now might be the right time for it.

This is difficult to do well in the best of times.

At least the goblin allegiance appears to be going well. Ragnik is most decidedly still amenable to working with Melli. He gave me a dagger this morning, to help avenge the wrongs done on my house. I'll need to give him something in return, for the wrong done to his people, only I've no idea what. Can we figure out the names of the goblins who were killed?

Ugh, sorry, I missed this until just now. What did you wind up doing?

I may have some days off this week -- if I do, I'll head on up and see what I can get out of the centaurs. Either they're going to decide to work with us because the enemy of my enemy is my friend, or they'll decide they want nothing to do with wizards, even us. I'm honestly not sure which.
We held off going to the Forest, on the off-chance it would be seen as insensitive. Keep me informed.

I ended up making a stone cairn in our Memorial garden for the goblin dead, and passed along some of Severus's top shelf poison to Ragnik. We couldn't spare much, of course, but he seemed to appreciate the gesture.

Yeah, the way you lot have been treating Ragnik has been really working. I was in Gringotts just before Christmas to make some withdrawals from my vault for the Christmas shopping, and Griphook made it a point of being the one to escort me. He didn't say anything openly that anyone else would have been able to understand, but he said he'd heard from "your friend" Ragnik about how much he's been learning in his apprenticeship, and how Ragnik's master has been treating him with every courtesy.

So, I know it's always full of wondering whether you're about to hit some huge cultural barrier, but tell Melli she's been doing a great job.

I'll try to get up to the Forest as soon as I can. I'm sorry it's been mad up here.

Also, are you at the point where you want to talk to someone, or are you still at the point where everything's all raw and painful and horrible? Because if you need to talk to somebody, and you'd rather it not be somebody you have to see every day, well, you know I've got a shoulder for you. Always.
@alt_alice at 2015-01-04 04:23:15
Re: Private message to Alice

Oh, love.

It's a waking nightmare.

If I dwell on it for too long, I fear I'll fall completely to pieces.

@alt_alice at 2015-01-04 04:25:50
Re: Private message to Alice

Keep hold of that shoulder for me, though.

I have a feeling I'll need it later.

@alt_charlie at 2015-01-04 05:08:54
Re: Private message to Alice

I know how that feels.

When Dad was killed -- I don't know if you noticed or not, but I spent that first week doing everything I could to handle all the sensible, practical things. Making tea and handing out potions and helping Mum sort out the books and arranging the funeral and passing out blankets and ... well, you get the picture. Because it was something to do, if I kept busy, and if I handled all the little practical details, then I wouldn't have time to think about everything.

So, I mean, I know how that all goes. But be careful that you're not alone when it finally hits you, yeah?

And I'm always here for you.

@alt_lupin at 2015-01-04 05:09:39
(no subject)

I'll check our contacts.
Also, Saltash thinks they'll be ready for Lucius on Monday -- they're turning one of the existing buildings into a small prison, essentially. He should also be well enough to move by then.

Good.
Has Dedalus had any change?

I wish I could say I’ve seen any change, any glimmer of cognitive orientation to his surroundings, but there’s been nothing to offer any hope. I'm sorry.

I do hope that Albus will come have a look at him. Perhaps he will see something I cannot.

Yes. I hope so as well.

I might read to him if you think it would be all right. It couldn't hurt him, could it? And I need to I need to.

Absolutely. I think that would be a wonderful thing.
Quite a party last night.

Karo can't stop talking about after. She's glowing. I've a feeling we'll want to repeat the experience, if you're interested.

We're off to my father's this evening but perhaps supper on Tuesday? If you want to bring Orion, do. It's about time you two made things more official.
I spent about an hour last night chatting with Lucius.

I shouldn't find him infuriating, at this point. Dangerous, sure, but infuriating? the man's our prisoner. But -- he kept asking me what we wanted from him. And everything about the way he asked made me think he was grasping for any scrap of power he could, because if we wanted something from him, he could hold it over us.

That said, of course we want things from him. Information. I'm not sure specifically what; I don't know what specifically he knows that would be of use to us. And, of course, we can hardly ask him if he has any thoughts on things Voldemort might have turned into horcruxes without explaining the whole business with horcruxes to him -- not that it's going to be news to him that Voldemort can come back from the dead, given that he was actually there when it happened.

What do you think I should be asking him? The next time I go talk to him, that is. Which will probably be at Saltash.

Honestly, it's a miracle he even deigned to talk to you - a halfblood and a werewolf. Though I suppose he knows his choices are really one indignity after another with us: disgraced purebloods, former Aurors, halfbloods and muggleborns and so on. Maybe he wisely determined one curse was as bad as the next.

Anyway, I'm not surprised you found him infuriating. Good thing I wasn't there, I guess. I'd have likely resorted to physical means of persuasion.
Yeah, I actually told him that we were not going to torture him.

Because we're not. We're the good guys. If we really need to know something he's not telling us, we'll see if Hydra or Severus can read it out of his mind.

Anyway, he might very well have given me a straight answer if I'd asked him a straight question.

Well, you could ask him about artefacts or objects that Voldemort prizes, or places he holds in high regard. That's how Draco and Hermione were trying to trace the locations or types of horcruxes. We can find out about that without getting into the why.

I suppose it might also be useful to find out if he knows where the inferi factory is.

We could ask him about who was in favour and who was out, but his information would be old on that sort of thing. Though he might know who else was less than happy with the state of the court - no one who'd started to doubt Voldemort six months ago is going to feel more disposed toward the bastard now than they were then.

Those are all good questions. Probably better to ask him who had doubts about Voldemort, that he knew of, than who's in favour or not. He went to Azkaban in early summer, and His Noselessness is a changeable sort of despot.
I'll note that some of what he did say suggested strongly he had his own doubts about Voldemort, but thought rebellion was hopeless.

Well, that puts him in Regulus's category, then, if that's really true and not a trick.

Yes and no.

Regulus rebelled anyway. Despite his belief things were hopeless.

If you did not find Lucius infuriating, I should think Azkaban had broken him completely.

Asking about the Horcruxes is probably our best bet to gain something useful from him. You are correct that we may need to resort to Legilimency; I will give it a try.

It occurs to me that if we do want to legilimise him we won't be able to do it at Saltash.

I still think it's the best place to hold him, though.
Undoubtedly, yes. And I had not thought of that.

When is the transfer scheduled?

Currently Monday. We could talk to Alice about putting it off again. The risk, of course, is that he'll get his hands on someone's wand. (No one's giving him pepper with his eggs, at least.) At the moment, he's so weak and drained from Azkaban I doubt he'd be able to manage an apparition even if he did get a wand -- I also pointed out to him that if he returned to Voldemort, he'd be legilimised, and Narcissa's role in the Azkaban breakout would be revealed.

We've currently got him under a spell that slows him down. Movement, reflexes, all of it. So if he did make a grab for a wand, it shouldn't be hard to dodge.

I shall endeavour to visit him tomorrow, then.
2015-01-04 09:55:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Kitty and Artie

I know it will be hard today.

Take care of each other, all right?

And keep an eye on Fitz, will you?

I miss you both already.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-04 18:07:48
Private Message to Kitty

Just a few more weeks, Bun.

Then you'll be done with Hogwarts, and we can sort out what'll happen next.

You'll do wonderfully on your NEWTs. I know it. And no matter what, you know you'll be able to work on something that'll make a real difference.

I love you so very much.

Hug and kiss Felicis a few extra times for me, will you?

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-04 18:30:34
Private Message to Artie

I've been reading 1984. And I finished the Foundation series. When they first built Moddey, they cleaned out a Muggle library, which means I've got a tonne of things to work my way through.

I'll put aside the best ones so you can borrow them.

I know it's only been two years. Well. Two years come March. And I know we're both still very young, and that the future is uncertain. But what we have is worth fighting for. I believe that with all my heart.
I love you.
I borrowed that gem from Draco and Hermione, the one that's supposed to find dark objects that are 'highly personal.' It didn't do me a lot of good because it seemed like practically everything in Buckingham set it off. I got it back to Hermione a few days ago because I didn't think taking it back to Hogwarts with me was a good idea.

But, okay. I tried just looking for things that made me feel the way I felt when I touched the locket. Or the diary. I didn't find anything in Buckingham, and after the Triumph (that's what He's calling it) I started thinking He probably wouldn't keep his horcruxes in Buckingham, because that's where he lives.

Yesterday I went over to see the Protector's Collection. Because -- Hermione suggested it would be things that were important to him. That were symbolic in some way. It seemed like the things in the Protector's Collection would be helpful to look at.

Almost everything in the collection is magical, or was wizard-owned. But, there's also one piece from the old muggle royal family's crown jewels -- the 'Sovereign's Sceptre.' The sign by it says it has also been called 'the Sceptre with the Cross' or 'the Royal Sceptre' and contains a diamond called the Great Star of Africa. It symbolised the authority of the muggle monarch before our liberation blah blah blah.

There's a special guard in that part of the museum at all times.

I'm not sure, because it was behind glass and it's not as if I could go back there and touch it. Or at least -- you know, maybe they'd let me? If I asked? But they'd certainly tell Voldemort, and I don't want him to guess what I'm after.

But, I think the sceptre is a horcrux.
Well done.

As to the others: for the past several days, Lupin has been discussing matters with Lucius, endeavouring to convince him to disclose what he knows of Voldemort's plans. Having realised that Legilimency will be removed from our toolbox once Lucius is moved to Saltash, I joined the discussion today in the hopes I would be able to obtain some information before it is too late.

Unfortunately there was little information to be had; Lucius is well aware of my skill in Legilimency, and although Lupin was careful to keep his head down taking notes and allow me to ask the questions so that I was the logical person to make eye contact with, Lucius was more guarded than not and avoided eye contact as much as possible. It is possible someone with the natural gift, who does not need to look in the subject's eyes, might be able to extract more pertinent detail. He did slip several times, however:

— When Lupin asked about objects or artifacts the Dark Lord prizes, Lucius thought immediately of the diary that has already been destroyed, but I was unable to see any further information.

— When asked of any locations of which the Dark Lord is especially fond, Lucius thought of what I believe to be Eton: again, information we already had. I also saw a flash of a cave-mouth that appeared to open onto a much larger subterranean network, but the image lacked context clues to suggest at where it might be located. There were also several locations of which the Dark Lord was fond during the pre-war years, at least one of which I know to have been destroyed since. The remainder are perhaps worth visiting, though the sense I obtained from Malfoy's mind is that they have not been used in some time; Alice, I will prepare a list of those I recognised.

— Lupin and I both pressed Lucius upon the question of who else in the Dark Lord's confidence might be dissatisfied with him. (I was darkly amused by his verbal answer, which was that at one time or another the Dark Lord has disciplined nearly all of his councillors, and so it's likely any of them could be wavering in loyalty. If only we were so lucky.) I saw images of Selwyn and Yaxley — Selwyn, presumably after his execution; he appeared deceased — and Minerva, the Averys (Ursula and Gaude), and a brief flash of Derrick.
The memories did have the feel of additional weight, however — the sort that often indicates there is more that the recaller is deliberately keeping himself from thinking. (He also thought of Bellatrix, kneeling at the Dark Lord’s feet, with the sense that there is an exception to every sweeping statement.)

That was the extent of potentially-useful information; the remainder of the thoughts I was able to see were of a personal nature, and not relevant to our information-gathering. (Not that the pieces I did see were entirely relevant either.)

I was not paying close attention to his verbal answers — Lupin can speak more to them — but the few I did hear indicated that he was no more forthcoming aloud than he was in his thoughts.

---

**alt_lupin** at **2015-01-05 21:15:34**

(no subject)

No, you're right about how forthcoming he was. His answer to the question about things Voldemort prizes was, 'Well, his person, obviously. Why, are you thinking of sending him a Christmas present?' It wasn't until later I realised he didn't know Christmas was well over.

We took him to Saltash this morning. I explained to him about the null field -- I don't want him to think people are denying him warming charms out of cruelty. He's rather sensitive to cold at the moment; his keepers are going to give him extra blankets.

He's got a shelf full of books in his cell at Saltash (it's a 'cell' because it's secure; they have bars on the windows and door so he can't get out easily. But it's really just a bedroom in a house.) And paper and ink, if he wants to write letters. He asked if he could see the Prophet, but I didn't have one handy. Bill, if you want to save up copies, we could drop them off for him when we're there to visit.

---

**alt_lupin** at **2015-01-05 21:19:37**

_Private message to Pansy_

I asked him if he wanted to see anyone -- not that he knows you're in the Order, no one's mentioned that, but I asked him if there's anyone -- old friends -- he'd like to see, because if they're part of the organisation I could let them know.
He said no. 'I have no friends here.'

But, he's comfortable. There are no Dementors at Saltash. The room's warm; he has a bed and a desk. The bars on the windows were put in so he'd be able to open and close the windows if he wants fresh air, though it's chilly right now and he's much more inclined to want heat. If there's any books you think he would particularly enjoy, write up a list and we'll make sure to include them.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-05 22:42:53  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

Thank you.

I'll put together a list, yes.

And I might send along some tea he's particular to, and some fresh fruit. Oh, and he'll need some new robes, I'd imagine. Unless you think it wouldn't be appropriate to give him too much special treatment.

I know it's not particularly what you all had in mind, but I'm still grateful.

I hope that once he's had time to settle down, to recover a bit of his dignity, he'll be a bit more helpful. It's the only thing he has to bargain with, really, so I can see why he's holding his cards close. If he truly comes to believe that we're his best option for getting his family through this alive, that might help.

Have you told him about the Selwyns?

alt_lupin at 2015-01-07 05:34:11  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

You can send him whatever you like. It's not as if he's in a prison with loads of others.

I haven't told him about the Selwyns. That's an interesting thought, though.
All right. But if it is, and it's guarded like you say, then how do we get to it? Even with your cloak.

I'll think about it. We might have to polyjuice someone into the guard.

I worked too late to go have a look today.

Maybe tomorrow. I want to try to get an idea of who the guards are, how many, how often they switch. That sort of thing.

There's undoubtedly wards and so on as well. Probably rather complicated wards.

The thing that strikes me is that if we get the sceptre, Voldemort may guess people are after his horcruxes. Though, we've destroyed three and he hasn't taken the sceptre off display.

Yes. That's a rather good point. Unless we can replace it with a lookalike, we might want to save that one until we're towards the end.
It's good to be back at school. I had a nice Christmas and a very productive and educational holiday.

I look forward to Transfiguration class with Professor Glozeman and Herbology with Professor Cavanaugh. (I won't be having class with Professor Donnelly, but I look forward to seeing him around the school.)

The new Transfiguration Professor is Xerxes Glozeman. He's German or something. Council, but not one I know much about.

Herbology is being taught by Neave Cavanaugh. She's Irish, I guess, though she's lived in England for a long time.

The new Hufflepuff Head of House is Professor Grubbly-Plank (though apparently it could've been Professor Cavenaugh, she was a Hufflepuff back in the day.)

The new Astronomy professor is Alexander Donnelly. Moon looked a bit shocked by that, from what I could see.

There's no proper Matron yet. We're still getting a rotating group from St Mungo's. On the plus side, I'm getting to meet a whole lot of my future colleagues.

Anyone know anything about the new professors?

I'm very sorry about Donnelly. (Ravenclaw, him.) He's wanted the job for decades. His father (Phillip) was the Guild Master before Georg Bright, the current one, and Donnelly got his Mastery very young. I gather he was thought a prodigy for a while, and then
didn't live up to the expectation.

A couple of years ago, Guild Master Bright had me (and I had Linus help) on a project to review research standards in the Guild, and we found several places where Donnelly falsified research. Before you ask why he's still a member in decent standing, well, all places have politics. He still has a number of friends and allies in the Guild, and it was easier to work around him than through him.

My guess is Georg's hoping he fails visibly, and then Georg can propose someone else for next year, but that doesn't help right now.

Xerxes Glozeman taught during the war (Charms, then.) He's been consulting for Gringotts, cursebreaking, mostly. He does know his field, from the couple of conversations I had with him, but I've no idea what he's like as a teacher.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-01-05 04:23:11
Re: Order Only

Oh, about Glozeman. I was just with Desai to help her— (doesn't matter). She says Glozeman's Austrian and a curse breaker. Came over some time before the war to work for Gringotts. He taught here before, too. Charms—before Acton was hired. Anyway, he overlapped with Desai then, and she's the one who suggested him to Dolohov.

The way she talked about him, I get the idea he'll be strict. I mean, we could guess that from the way he looked tonight, though, couldn't we?

Sorry. That's all I've got.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-05 04:26:38
Re: Order Only

Well, he can't possibly be worse than Carrow. Because Dolohov hired him, and he wouldn't have hired Carrow without Voldemort ordering him to directly.

I mean, unless Voldemort ordered him to hire Glozeman. Which I suppose is a possibility under the circumstances.
Don't say that.

Seriously.

Things can always get worse. Aren't you the one who's always saying that? I'm sure it applies to teachers, too.

Well okay. He'll at least be different from Carrow. Do you REMEMBER what he was like? I think the Headmaster would take the class on himself before he gave it to someone like Carrow.

I remember I tried to set him on fire.

Reckon I can't do anything like that now.

D'you remember that? We were trying to keep him from doing something awful to Dean Thomas. And Hermione.

That seems like a hundred years ago.

I'd forgotten that involved you setting him on fire.

And yeah. That does seem like a long time ago.
Well, to be strictly truthful, he was already on fire. I just sprayed burning oil on him when other people were shooting Aguamenti spells out of their wands at him. Not that anyone really wanted to help him, but I wasn't even pretending.

It was Terry who set Carrow on fire to begin with. The rest of us tried to keep Carrow distracted so he wouldn't realise. And I had the broken wand, remember? So my spell came out a bit wild. A bit.

I'm not sure everyone really got the full story then. The grownups, I mean, and no sense bringing it all up again now. I reckon Terry's got enough weighing him down without remembering...

You're probably right. Good on him, though. He must have set Carrow on fire with his natural magic; he didn't have a wand then, did he?

Anyway your wand gave you a good excuse.

Yeah, it was definitely wild magic from Terry. I think he was terrified Carrow would hurt Hermione. Terrified and furious.

I can still remember what he looked like. Well, both of them. Carrow and Terry.
It's funny, I don't really remember what happened with Hermione once all the chaos started. Or Dean. After Carrow'd turned all his hair to mud. But I can still see Terry's face. And how completely mad Carrow looked.

It's really amazing none of us ended up dead that day.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-01-05 04:44:39

Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

So.

Apparently I eat firsties for breakfast and have the odd second year as a snack. Honestly. Gilhooly and Whitby nearly wet themselves when they passed our compartment and saw me sitting there.

And I heard Yordanova telling that weedy-looking Hufflepuff with the different coloured eyes that I was the one who caught Neville and turned him in for a traitor.

Nice.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-05 04:45:10

Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

Oh.

That is NOT FAIR.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-01-05 04:56:58

Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

It didn't exactly make my afternoon.

---

@alt_harry at 2015-01-05 04:46:29

Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

Do you want me to tell them you didn't? And wouldn't?
I'm not sure they'd believe me, but I could try.

**alt_ron** at 2015-01-05 04:53:44
Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

I think it's to do with the arena fighting.

Bundy told me Lucy Baddock ran into F-F as she was coming out of the loo on the train and screamed. So loudly people came running to see what'd happened.

So it's not just me.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-01-05 05:00:24
Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

Are they screaming and running away from Finnigan and Patil? (And Hydra?)

**alt_ron** at 2015-01-05 05:13:53
Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

I don't know.

You'd think, wouldn't you? I mean, Hydra, especially.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-01-05 05:21:45
Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

Well they don't know she... Oh, you mean because of her legilimency.

Yeah, well. True.

**alt_ron** at 2015-01-05 06:07:14
Re: Order Only Private Message to the Juniors

I was thinking because of the way she fought in the arena, actually. But, yeah. They're all skittish about the legilimency.
Hullo,

In the sett, they've been having all manner of discussion of Neville, too. Only whenever I come within earshot, what, they change the subject immediately.

Smith's been uncharacteristically quiet in the dormitory, what. It's bally well giving me an idea of how it's been for you in Gryffindor for six years.

-Justin

Yeah. I told you, you're going to miss our ghoul now you're back where it's too quiet at night!

What do you reckon Smith's thinking?

Oh, probably wondering whether I'm going to murder him and Ernie in their sleep, what.

I say, I'm sure the reception will get ten times worse when they learn I'll be replacing Cedric.

-J

Maybe they'll see sense and realise if they make nice with you, you could put in a good word to Dolohov if they ever need it. I mean, if they're clever, they'll see that having you up in his office could turn out dead useful.
Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne

So which nights are you going to be working in the Hospital Wing?

Do you get to say how many hours that'll be?

Re: Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne

I feel like I should at least check in every night? But hopefully I won't have to stick around for hours babysitting Healers who don't know their murtlap essence from their mandrake draught. (Well, really, that's not fair, they're all perfectly well trained, it's just that some of them don't really remember what sorts of things you'll run into in a school. I had to explain to the bloke who was there tonight that Tansy Levingworth had almost certainly been hexed and it would be worthwhile removing the hex before he started checking between her toes for signs of dragon pox.)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne

Seriously?

Re: Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne

Seriously, I need to check in every night or seriously, did tonight's Healer think Tansy might have dragon pox? Well it's yes to both, anyway.

I left a while ago, though. I mean once we had the conversation that went 'but you're not supposed to be hexing each other, it's against the rules!' 'wait, you WERE A STUDENT HERE once, weren't you?' he seemed to catch on. (Ravenclaws. Honestly. Some of them, anyway.)
Ravenclaws can be a really special kind of daft, can't they?

SERIOUSLY.

And it looks like Siz agrees. At least about the new Astronomy professor.

Yeah, well, the funny thing about that is that I'd totally include Linus at the top of the Daft Ravenclaw category. But I don't think Siz does.

I've been thinking... Cavanaugh's Irish and Donnelly's an Irish name, too.

I wonder what they thought of it all last weekend? I mean, it was hard to swallow if you're English (or Scottish or Welsh, I imagine), but if you're Irish?

How exactly do you sit and watch that?

Or come here and teach? After we've just purged a load of traitors off the staff...

Only, I haven't really heard anyone whispering about that. Have you?
(Sarah, I'm not sure if you're still reading for him, I thought I'd include you just in case. I hope you're doing well, given all the madness and upheaval over Christmas. And please do give my best to Mrs Perks, will you?)

How're you getting on, then?

Have you seen Lucius yet?

I asked if I could, but Mr Lupin thought better of it, and he's probably right.

It's such a relief to know he's out of that horrible place. Even if I never get the chance to talk to him again.

There are so many new teachers here, it's sort of mad. I can hardly keep any of them straight, and the Ravenclaws are panicking about their NEWTs (well, we all are to a certain extent, but honestly, there are far more important things to panic about).

Have you ever tried brewing beer before? It's an interesting process. I've had to sweet talk Professor Gimlet into giving me additional hours in the laboratory, but he's used to my messing about with all sorts of random things already for Whizbangs, and it's not the sort of thing that's likely to explode or catch fire, so he didn't put up too much of a fuss.

I think he wants to sample the wares.

Anyways. I do hope you're feeling better.

---

alt_draco at 2015-01-05 18:55:36
(no subject)

No, I'm out of stasis now and allowed to read, write, converse, and do magic. Thank Merlin. Sarah gave me my book back yesterday morning.
And yeah, I saw Father last night. I won't say it was horrible, or really even close to horrible, but we didn't leave off with any kind of great, new understanding of one another.

Good. Very good. I can't imagine how stifling that was. I'd have gone

Well. It sounded terribly boring.

Was he changed much?

He's lost his streak of optimism, that's for certain. And he's a bit put out that I've apparently ruined his life, and Mother's.

Yet he seemed strangely relieved to see me and speak with me. So, there's that.

Of course he's relieved. He loves you. And he saw you get hurt, which must have been just utterly terrifying for him.

He knew you weren't really dead, but seeing you face to face and knowing you helped to bring him out of that awful place I'd imagine it's a mixed blessing from his perspective, but still.

Do you think Aunt Narcissa will stay out in the open? I can see how it'd be difficult to throw one’s lot in with so many unknowns, but she did entrust us with Lucius, and she knows you're in the mix.
Yes, he loves me. I believe that. And I love him and mother both.

But that doesn't make him a good parent. Or a good person.

I don't really speculate on my mother's actions any longer, because there's no way of knowing, is there? And it's not as if I can ask. I wouldn't suggest that you try to probe, either. Doesn't seem wise.

You're right.

I'm sure he thinks he had very good reason for what he's done. And don't worry. I highly doubt she'd ever go out of her way to confide in me, and I won't make the mistake of assuming we're closer than we really are, or trying to outmanoeuvre her any time soon.
2015-01-05 15:38:00
Order Only: Private Message to Remus

How did the transfer go, then? Going to make it home before dark? Might get a move on if you've not started.

Hope you remembered to tell them Bedford has new shipments of woollens ready in the next two weeks. I dunno about you but I'm tired of them asking.

alt_sirius

alt_lupin at 2015-01-05 21:53:31
(no subject)

I'm out of Saltash, but went to Moddey. I'll be home well before dark.

Severus thinks so long as I drank my wolfsbane at the proper times, it shouldn't matter that I went to Saltash this morning. I'm a bit nervous anyway. It's not as if the rest of you would have an easy time getting to safety if he's wrong.

alt_lupin at 2015-01-05 21:54:21
(no subject)

Oh, and, right. The woollens. Yeah, I told them. Didn't stop them from telling me again how annoying they've found the wait.

alt_sirius at 2015-01-05 22:00:28
(no subject)

And their semi-permanent guest? Settled all right?

I'm sure they'll be careful but I admit I'm worried they'll underestimate him. Even without magic, he might become a handful.
I saw my father last night.

I wouldn't declare it a triumphant reunion, but it wasn't a complete disaster, either. Being in Azkaban has dampened his spirits significantly, no surprise there, and he seemed somewhat out of sorts at times. Definitely not his usual handsome self, either.

It started off slow, I guess. He appeared to expect some kind of explanation from me, which at one time I would have completely understood, but now, not so much. Because I no longer feel I've done anything wrong, anything that I need to answer for. One of the first things he asked me was what "they said" to turn me. I told him that no one said anything, that it was a process that unfolded over a number of years, and that growing up with a box seat to Protectorate happenings had a good deal to do with it. That and the fact that all the people I was supposed to admire and look up to (the Carrows, Auntie Bella, Crouch, Tom Riddle - all the great leaders of the Protectorate) had done nothing but hurt me and the people I cared about.

He was surprised to hear the name Tom Riddle, that's for certain. I didn't tell him that we know far more about Tom Riddle by now than either he or any council member does.

From there he launched into a story about how he realised a while back that Voldemort's style of governing wouldn't work in the long term, and that he'd had a plan all along for us (he, me, and my mother, I guess) to learn Voldemort's secret to invulnerability, become invulnerable ourselves, and boot him out of power. He thought if I stuck close to you, Harry, that Voldemort would deem me valuable - indispensable, even - thus allowing us enough proximity to uncover a way to immortality.

Yeah, and then he said we were doomed because his plan was the only thing that could ever work. Can you believe that? Like I said - completely out of sorts.

Apparently my father's convinced that becoming as powerful and invulnerable as Voldemort is the only way to unseat him. I told him (minus the details) that the Order had already determined a way to
rob Voldemort of everything that made him invulnerable and immortal, and he kept insisting that Voldemort would find out what we were doing and stop us. I told him that we'd already made progress without Voldemort finding out, and he replied that we'd only been lucky.

And then he had a bit of a breakdown and said that if I'd only returned after my "kidnapping" then his plan would have worked, but now Voldemort will kill Mother while I'm off on my fool's errand. He even seemed to think that I could somehow be welcomed back into the fold if Harry saw fit to forgive me and, I don't know, declare me rehabilitated, or some such.

I told him there was no possibility of me going back. He brought you up then, Hermione. And said surely I hadn't been the one to teach you magic, that it had to be Harry, because he'd always been too soft. I told him that neither of us taught you - that it was Minerva.

Then I said that I wished I were the sort of person who would have turned and joined a rebel organisation all on my own, but I was dragged along with my heels dug in.

Seems my father was always worried you'd soften me up, Harry. Even when we were both kids. Because he saw that you influenced me more than the other way around. I suppose he meant this as some kind of character weakness, on my part, but I told him that the reason you were able to influence me was because you were always right. And that I'd chosen who I was throwing my lot in with and that was that.

It was utterly surreal, in a way - admitting everything to him, more or less. Not to throw it in his face, or to upset him, but just because it was the truth.

And then he retorted that "my lot" was halfbreeds, mudbloods, and blood traitors. Because that sort of thinking is one of the few things he has left. I pointed out that bloody Tom Riddle himself is a halfblood, and that his words and categories are just inventions with no real meaning, and he countered that Voldemort is the Heir of Slytherin, and that he at least had the sense to feel shame for his muggle heritage and embrace his magical birthright.

I told him that in the Protectorate, even purebloods are dispensable, and he only need look at himself to see that. To that he sort of sighed, and said that he supposed I needed him to be a villain right now.
I was pretty tired by that point, so I just said that he wasn't a villain to me, but that he definitely is to others.

And then I told him that even if he's not a villain, he's still wrong. But that I wish he weren't.

So that's where the conversation ended, pretty much. I told him that I would try to come and see him in Saltash. I think he was relieved when I said that. I think he didn't want to have to ask. So that's one thing Azkaban didn't get - his pride, I mean.

---

**alt_hermione** at 2015-01-06 01:21:43  
(no subject)

Honestly, that sounds better than I thought it might have gone. I'm glad he didn't attack you or try to shout or anything. Imagine if he acted like Mrs Black's portrait. You'd have been entirely right to walk out on him then, and I think being able to keep talking to him is potentially important. You know Mr Lupin's quite discouraged but your father told you more in that meeting than Mr Snape and Mr Lupin could learn in the whole time he's been at the safehouse. So it's good he wants to see you.

How do you feel about it? Talking to him, I mean. Because if it's too painful...well, I'm sure they'd think of another way.

---

**alt_draco** at 2015-01-06 04:22:05  
(no subject)

I'm not sure that what he told me is terribly helpful to us, though.

It wasn't painful. It was... tiresome. Because he clearly thinks that I can be talked out of everything I've done and everything I've come to believe, and I know that he can't. But when I tell him it can't be done, he doesn't believe me.

I'm not sure he even thinks of me as my own person, or just some extension of him and mother, designed to go along with whatever plan or whim he has in mind for me. Like his plan for me to become valuable to Voldemort by being Harry's mate, so that we could learn Voldemort's secrets? I didn't agree to that. I had no say.
It's been a long time since anyone asked him to change his mind, though. You've had some recent practice.

Anyway, he told you that he's had his own doubts, and that he was making plans to overthrow Voldemort himself. All right, it wasn't a good plan, and he never told you, but honestly, would you have told you? No, of course not. But it doesn't matter because it means he already knows Voldemort needs to be stopped. So all you need to do is convince him that you're the one to stop him, nevermind how, and you need his help to do it.

Did you miss the part about halfbreeds, mudbloods, and traitors? He doesn't want to help us create a free society, Hermione - he wants the Protectorate, but done his way. I have serious doubts that he'd agree to help if he knew he was also helping out the halfbreeds.

Well, you'll also need to convince him that it's worth stopping Voldemort even if we also completely change society.

I mean, he has to choose between a society where pureblood wizards are in control, and having safety for his family. He doesn't get both.

(And he never did. Does he realise that part?)
I really don't think he realises that, no.

Exactly. Listen to Harry, Draco. He isn't going to have a say in what comes, either way, but he can help you succeed, your way. Make it personal, not ideological.

I'm really not sure how I can do that.

But I'll think about it.

So on one hand, he thought I ought to welcome you back and declare you 'rehabilitated' but on the other he's convinced I'm the one who corrupted you? (And taught Hermione magic.)

Holding on to multiple contradictory beliefs doesn't really seem to be a problem for him, but I think he's speaking to your public image as Voldemort's heir. 'Course, he doesn't know that you've been rocking the boat ever since he was imprisoned.
True. But I mean, if I could have protected you from Bellatrix and declared you 'rehabilitated' or whatever, I would have done. Last summer.

How much power does your father think I have? Maybe I should try throwing it around more.

Yeah, maybe you should.

Wait, haven't I said that before? Because I'm having deja vu.

Well, I did successfully put myself back in Gryffindor.

For all the good it did.

Why don't you declare yourself Head of Gryffindor next?

Or Headmaster? I mean, just get wildly outrageous and see what people do about it. I'd like to see that. I mean, I won't, but even hearing about it second hand would be pretty good.
I'd be a well better Head of Gryffindor House than Lana Sandoval!

She's not even a Gryffindor. If they're going to change the rules for her then surely they can change them for Harry Marvolo.

I also think I'd be a rather better Head Boy than Linus Moon. Maybe I should declare myself Head Boy while I'm at it.

Please tell me you're not taking the mick and will actually do this?

I'm taking the mick, sorry. I can't think of any actual good reasons to do it, other than amusing you.

Oh, well. It was still fun to talk about. And imagine Sandoval's reaction.

Except she'd probably cruciate a bunch of third-years, so scratch that.
But Linus would just sputter poetry and run to Dolohov.

**alt_harry** at 2015-01-06 06:03:31  
*(no subject)*

I'd rather pick a fight with Sandoval, because she's a horrible person.

Linus isn't horrible, even if he is the one who betrayed Sprout. He might even be useful, if we could get him analysing, I don't know, where Voldemort would hide his horcruxes or how best to take down the wards.

He is a pretty terrible Head Boy, though.

**alt_draco** at 2015-01-06 05:16:27  
*Private message to Harry*

He asked me more about Hermione. He asked if it was true - everything that Bellatrix uncovered - and even though I didn't really give him a straight answer I could tell that he thought Hermione must have seduced me, or something.

But I'm not sure that's true. I mean, obviously she didn't seduce me, but sometimes I wonder if I could have come this far if I hadn't known her. And I don't think I could have done. Which makes me feel disappointed in myself, some how.

**alt_harry** at 2015-01-06 05:25:09  
*Re: Private message to Harry*

You came far enough that you were able to listen to her, and see her for who she was.

**alt_draco** at 2015-01-06 05:27:19  
*Re: Private message to Harry*

Yeah, but in part because I wanted her to - I don't know. Not fancy me, exactly. Make me feel better about myself.
Which is just too much to put on any one person.

@alt_harry at 2015-01-06 05:31:51
Re: Private message to Harry

Well it's true you didn't wake up one morning and realise, 'wait, it's all bollocks, from blood purity to the Lord Protector's natural right to rule!'

But neither did I. Maybe Pansy did, and Hydra, I'm not sure.

I'm just saying, for Hermione to influence you, you had to get to the point where she could influence you. So give yourself some credit.

@alt_draco at 2015-01-06 05:36:00
Re: Private message to Harry

So what you're saying is: there is no one correct path to wisdom.

Very wise of you.

@alt_harry at 2015-01-06 02:18:56
(no subject)

And we've discovered the secret to Voldemort's invulnerability but making one requires that you murder someone. Not a lot of fun for the other person involved.

@alt_draco at 2015-01-06 04:12:09
(no subject)

I really don't think that stipulation would be an obstacle for my father, though.
Unfortunately you're probably right.
Hullo, all,

I say, first day back. How was it for everyone? Have any of you younger lot had the new professors already?

I've met Professor Glozeman, what, just a few minutes ago. He came to see Headmaster Dolohov without an appointment but we thought perhaps some of that might happen, so I offered to announce him directly. He peered at me and said, 'You're the one who duelled the Headmaster last week. The French transplant.' I said yes, apart from being very much British, not French. He shrugged that away, what, as if it made no difference to him what I claimed. Then he said, 'Had a look at last year's standings. You were top of the class, too.' I said yes, alongside you, Sally-Anne. (I say, you can probably guess that he shrugged again.) 'Well, nonetheless, I hear we expect great things from you, young man.' Then he leaned in, smiling, what, and added, 'I look forward to seeing what you're capable of.'

I say, he sounded pleasant enough. But something about his eyes seemed jolly well calculating. Even for a Councilwizard, what.

Ron, if he makes any similar overture to you, let me know. I'll feel easier if it's just his way of sizing up his possible future comrades.

-Justin

---

Apparently, Donnelly's already been making the rounds chatting up all the NEWTs. I think he's angling for help with setting up and the like. I saw him cornering Morag after lunch.

Linus does not seem keen on stepping up and helping, though, that's for sure. I've caught him throwing a few sour looks Donnelly's way, and it hasn't even been two days yet.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-06 03:21:23  
(no subject)

I'm just glad I took Madam P's advice and stuck with Creatures instead of Astronomy. The only reason for me to take Astronomy was to stay on Professor Sinistra's good side.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-06 03:26:53  
(no subject)

...yeah. I mostly was thinking I'd pick up a relatively stress-free NEWT. Besides the good side part.

I'm hoping I can beg off 'helping' him do his job due to my extra potions work.

alt_susan at 2015-01-06 05:38:34  
(no subject)

I feel the same!

It feels strange having Professor G-P as Head of Hufflepuff, and not only because I miss Professor Sprout. Precisely because she's family, I feel as though I have to be extra careful. But I think she'll be a good Head.

That Professor Glozeman is well scary! A lot of the younger ones in the sett are nervous about him, and miss Professor Brutka although they'd never say so openly.

alt_justin at 2015-01-06 05:56:55  
(no subject)

Sue,

I say, I think Professor Glozeman isn't the only one about whom students in the sett are nervous. I came down from the Headmaster's office about two hours ago and they moved out of my path remarkably quickly.

It's also been rather chilly in our dormitory, what.
That said, I hope you can find out which of the students were rather more saddened by Professor Brutka's departure than others. We may be able to use that to our advantage.

-Justin

alt_susan at 2015-01-08 00:18:16  
(no subject)

I had noticed, yeah.

Do you have a preference about whether I play the good Prefect and suppress that sort of thing, or sort of encourage it to see who comes out of the woodwork?

I suppose I'm most inclined to take a middle-of-the-road position in public and see how people respond.

I wonder, is Ron getting more of the same over in Gryffindor?

alt_justin at 2015-01-08 05:16:25  
(no subject)

It's nothing I can't address, thank you. It might actually present opportunities, as you say.

I did talk to Ron, what and he's getting a somewhat mixed in reception. I would have thought more Gryffindors would be worried about him but there I think the reaction in Hufflepuff relates more directly to Professor Sprout's death, what, and any part Headmaster Dolohov might have played in it.

I say, I hope we can dispel some misinformation tomorrow.

-Justin
Glozeman's stuck around for a good long while without getting mired down in all the politicking and backstabbing. I'd say that alone means he's very canny.

Wasn't he at Hogwarts before? Maybe Tonks or Charlie'd be able to give some insight. Especially if he keeps taking an interest.

Haven't met him to speak to yet.

I thought about going up there snakewise, but until I'm sure he's not an animagus or the sort who recognises one at first sight, I don't want to be stupid and give myself away. I am really keen to know what he's done with the office. I reckon the Aurors took everything Brutka left behind. (I couldn't find out anything about that over hols. They were all completely mum around me about anything Hogwarts-related.) But I'll be really interested to see what he's brought along.

I'm not surprised he was sizing you up. After the show you gave in the arena, I expect lots of people want a closer look at what you can do. Suits me if they look at you and don't particularly notice me for now.
It isn't fair.

It isn't just fair.

He lost Hannah, and Professor Sprout, and then he lost everything.

And I'm sitting here thinking about my future and I just want to scream because he doesn't get to have one and he deserves he deserves so very much

and there's nothing we can do to help him

and this is so wrong and nothing will ever put it right again.

I hate this.

I hate this so much, and I hate what it's done to it's just

I

I'm sorry.

hey.

hey there.

nothing to be sorry about, sweetie.
when you're a fighter
and you are, kiddo
it's hard to look at something and accept that there's nothing you can do.

We'll keep trying, though. Won't we.

yes.
always.
come on up, sweetie.
neither of us are going to sleep any time soon, might as well wait up for your mum and have a game or two of chess.

Oh, lovie.
It hits all of a sudden sometimes, doesn't it?
I'll be another hour at the absolute latest.
okay.
Right. Like I promised, writing this out, so we can both refer back to it. As much as I can, I want to do things so that if there's ever a time in the future when we're not, well, fugitives, it will be simple and obvious for the Guild to understand and recognise the work you've done.

The simple part is the next few months. I think we can quickly get you through the rest of the OWL material, then start on the NEWT content. I have old exam copies, so you can sit one or two of those, and that would give us some documentation for later.

In the normal way of things, you'd spend the first 2 years or so after the NEWT continuing broad education in the field (though apprenticed to a Master who worked in your general area of interest.) It’s only after that you'd think about focusing on a particular topic. But that seems idiotic here, when specialising sooner might be very helpful to the Order in various ways.

As I think you know, the basic divisions of the field are observation, theory and cosmology, locational magics, chronological magics, and design of telescopes and related devices. We'll continue to work on observation, and the NEWT material is the beginning of work on theory and cosmology. Clearly, locational and chronological magics are more practical use in many ways.

I've done a lot more with the locational magics. They include the Octoboros work, location-based wards, or apparation by coordinates. Also the Floo Network and Portkeys, but there's a lot of specialised knowledge for those I don't have. I've been starting to see what I can work out about how the initial wards in 83 were cast. Whatever else we do, your help with the equations as I work through possibilities would be very useful.

Chronological magics encompass everything from time-based triggers for something (either short term, or longer term) to cyclical magics. Some agricultural magics, potions that require specific astronomical conjunctions to work. Also things like the effects of comets on systems, long-term magics, herbology, potions, etc. I've done rather less here, but I do know most of the theory.
I'd suggest one of those two as the most likely to be useful, but I don't know if it's better for you to do locational (where you've done some and I'm stronger) or focus on the chronological (and start getting comfortable with practical applications I haven't done much with.) Which is the bit where we could both talk to other people about what would be best.

More in a minute, about the traditional bits.

---

**alt_sinistra** at **2015-01-07 02:01:14**  
(no subject)

In the normal way of apprenticing, there'd be a formal contract. To make sure everything was fair on both sides.

The usual thing is that I'd be responsible for feeding and housing you, a stipend, making sure you had all the equipment you needed, and access to books and charts and reference materials. Introducing you to other people in the field. Arranging projects for you to assist with, so you got breadth of knowledge and experience.

And I can't do much of that. Obviously.

I have most of my library and I'll show you how the book trunk works and where things are shelved. And I've got spare blank books for you to use for research notes, and plenty of quills and chart parchment and ink and such, at least for the moment. (One thing I am going to insist on is the habit of daily record keeping. It really is a help later.) And whatever you want of my time or what resources I have, barring the other things we both need to do.

Chances being good that the unexpected will become very urgent sometime.

For equipment - I think you've figured out my personal telescope is precious to me for both professional and personal reasons. But good equipment makes such a difference, and I do want you to use it when appropriate. I know you'll tell me immediately if something doesn't seem right, and you'll be careful with it. (Mind, this assumes I can get a couple of the charms behaving again.)

The traditional apprentice responsibilities usually involve a lot of tedious things like filing and copying and observations on cold nights
when your Master would rather be somewhere warm. I'm rather more likely to ask you to check my arithmancy for me, which you don't seem to mind at all.

Beyond that, well. Maybe I should tell you some stories of my own apprenticeship sometime. Alde did a lot to make me who I am, and not just about astronomy. Watching other people and their apprentices, I always thought that was a good model.

---

**alt_evelyn** at 2015-01-07 02:22:52
*(no subject)*

Oh, I'll be ever so careful, Professor.

You're right, checking arithmancy seems like it'd be straightforward enough, and I wouldn't mind at all.

I wish I could

And I'd love to hear more about your apprenticeship.

---

**alt_sinistra** at 2015-01-07 03:01:29
*(no subject)*

I suspected it wouldn't be a problem.

(And - I'm not Septima, but I'll do my best to do right by you on the Arithmancy. She was alway praising your skills there. I'm decent at it, but I had to work for every bit, not like those of you who have the gift for it.)

Alde was a grand old Slytherin witch - over 110 when I met her, plots that ran decades, very clear about her ambitions and her standards and her ideas of how the world should behave. Absurdly high standards and expectations.

Terrifying. I spent most of the first year in tears every night, because I felt stupid all the time. But I knew she'd taken me on as a favour to Alcor (my predecessor, teaching) and I didn't want to let him down, so I kept slogging through it.

It wasn't the Astronomy that was the thing, but all the other skills she thought I needed. Latin. German. Grammar. Rhetoric. Etiquette. How to talk to people at parties. All the social things I'd
need to manage the Guild, being a Master. (And as it turns out, being married. She would have laughed and laughed at that.) It got a lot better, after that first year, and I have so many fond memories of sitting by the fire in her library talking on cloudy nights, and her putting music on, or talking about literature and plays and all sorts of things.

She's the one who pointed out that if I was going to teach, I should train as a generalist, so I worked on her chart project as her apprentice, but she also set it up so I worked on projects with other people, did things to demonstrate I really knew what I was doing. Well, half a dozen reasons for that, one of them named Alexander Donnelly.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-07 02:19:57
(no subject)

I can really see the value of cracking portkeys. And I think I can see how it'd be useful if I specialised in the chronological side of things, especially if it was able to cover areas where we might have gaps. And I know that as they are both gaps, though, it might be tricky both in terms of equipment and references on hand, as well as the fact that neither are your primary area, and chronological is a bit further afield.

I suppose I'm just a bit uncertain as to whether we'd get to a certain point, but really get stuck or something. If that makes sense. But that'd be something you'd know far more than me.

I'm certainly not afraid to dive in to something unknown and muddle through. I just want to make sure to use our time effectively.

And maybe we could come up with a more concrete list of applications for the chronology side of things that could be useful before we settle, only because I don't know as much about it, and sorting out portkeys would be an obvious need but I don't want to dismiss chronological magics out of hand until I know a little more.
Well, if they were simple problems, we'd have solved them already, right?

Portkeys - they've always been rather tightly controlled, is the problem. If I could talk to people in the Guild. There's several pieces. There's making the thing itself - that's the bit no one really talks about. There's the programming it for where you go. (That part, I'm fairly sure I could sort). And there's the part about adapting for the effects of the wards (Which is a thing we could work out how to test. Carefully. In a large open space.)

Possibly also the part about whether MLE has figured out how to track them specifically or any of the other security concerns.

Chronological is a bit easier to play with, at least in the smaller applications. And we might get stuck, but that's part of learning, and either we'll figure it out or go work on a different problem. It's not like we've got a shortage.

How about I lend you some books and you can work through some of the different applications and make a list, and then we'll go through it and figure out which ones you might make some headway on in a reasonable amount of time?

Yes. That sounds like it'd be a good first step.

I am very grateful, Professor.

That you're taking all this extra time with me.

And that you're willing to take me on like this.

It's an honour, it truly is.
I know

I know this wasn't what you had in mind.

But I am grateful that you're here.

Truly.

_user alt_sinistra_ at _2015-01-07 03:08:47_

(no subject)

There are rather a lot of things in my past few years I never expected.

After we escaped I thought that

It helps a great deal to know you want to learn this. With me. From me.

To look forward to teaching you new things. Seeing what you make of them. That's why I like teaching.

And I'd much rather fill the spare time I have with that than with almost anything else.
Harry, when are we holding a meeting? We want some answers. And we need to figure out how to manage these new professors, they're AWFUL.
Thursday night 8pm. Secret room. -HM
When we took Lucius to Saltash, he did have one suggestion I thought was interesting. Request, really, but he phrased it as a suggestion -- that we should offer to trade him for someone else. This would cover for Narcissa, I guess, and make it look like he was our unwilling prisoner being held as a bargaining chip. (As opposed to our reluctant prisoner being held because the alternative is Azkaban.)

I'm not sure what I think. I'll admit I'd be suspicious of his motives no matter what he was suggesting, though.

Regarding fruit, new robes, that sort of thing -- you can, if you want. He's being fed and clothed but I'm sure he'd appreciate whatever you wanted to send along.

You could write to him, but you'll need to owl the letter to me or someone else in the Order to pass along -- owls can't get into Saltash.

Of course.

I'll send Pig to Hitty with instructions.

Should I pretend I think he's still in Azkaban in the letters?

I suppose telling him I'm part of all this on paper instead of in person would be easier for everyone.
If you're going to tell him you're in the Order, don't bother pretending you think he's in Azkaban; that would just be confusing.

Owls have been known to fall into the wrong hands, though. This was all easier when there were adults.

Oh, sorry.

I meant I could either just keep writing him as I have been, and pretend as if I think he's still in Azkaban and nothing's changed, or I could write him and tell him that I'm in the Order and drop all pretense.

I'll be careful. Pig is rather good, and I'll put some safeguards in place. (And yes, I know, null field, I'm on it.)

If it's delivered by us, he'll certainly know you're one of us.

I know.

I was just checking to make sure you were all right with being open about it.
**alt_alice** at 2015-01-07 05:44:52  
*Private Message to Remus*

I suppose our list would be rather short at the moment, wouldn't it.

---

**alt_lupin** at 2015-01-07 05:51:48  
*Re: Private Message to Remus*

Not necessarily. We could be offering to trade him for someone we want dead. We could implicate someone we want them to distrust by demanding them. We could confuse them immensely by demanding Maghnus Derrick.

His point was, it wouldn't work. So it doesn't matter who we want; the question is, who is it to our advantage to ask for.

---

**alt_sirius** at 2015-01-07 05:50:46  
*(no subject)*

Oh, hello, you're awake! Hungry? I can have Kreacher heat up the remains of supper, or some soup if you'd rather something light.

Anyway... I wonder who he thinks there is left to trade, since we cleaned out Azkaban. Though we still haven't found Neville or Xeno.

But I don't know if we should do it. What if ... well, whoever approves these things (Voldemort, I suppose?) says yes, he wants his prize prisoner back?

---

**alt_lupin** at 2015-01-07 05:52:11  
*(no subject)*

Soup.

I suppose.

Soup doesn't sound too terrible.
Soup it is.

Anyway I was saying to Alice that it doesn't have to be someone we actually want (and probably shouldn't be, actually, since this isn't meant to work). We could demand someone loyal, implying that they're not and possibly making them distrust them. We could say we'd trade him for Barty Crouch's head on a platter. We could demand someone we have, and confuse them because presumably they know that person's gone from Azkaban, so if they're not with us, where are they -- right?

The question isn't, 'who do we want,' the question is, 'who is it to our advantage to ask for.'

All right. But we can't ask for the moon, either, because then they'll know it's meant to be refused. But in that case, it might be better to ask for someone like Rosier or Rookwood.

Well, I suppose confusion or misdirection are both possibly useful, even though it'd probably be limited.

Would there be a way we could use this to put someone under suspicion? Make it seem like they know something they shouldn't in a way that he'd find threatening?
If that's the angle we take, it should preferably be someone we could plausibly think was being held against their will.

Seamus Finnigan.

Oh.

Oh, now.

That's interesting.

I think it would be more interesting if we didn't know the part he played in detaining Professor Sprout and Neville, though.

Do they know we know?
Not necessarily, but the problem is that they have no reason to suspect Mr Finnigan, even if we tried to make it seem he's questionable. He turned in a classmate, which makes him extraordinarily cold even if he didn't know it would lead to such a major breach of the Order's security. If he had been a member of the Order, it would have been far too risky a move to make.

Rookwood's a better candidate to smear, given that he habitually writes to Malfoy in PMs despite Malfoy not having had a journal for months. But he's also enough of a liability for them (for that same reason - hey, I just thought of something. I wonder if we could get Malfoy to read us those messages if we showed him a journal?), that they just might take us up on the deal.

Have to give it more thought.

Suggesting dissatisfaction sometimes is enough.

If we play it right, and it's an odd enough choice, they could wonder what makes that particular individual such a person of interest, too, which would be very uncomfortable for him or her.

Or we could make it seem like we're taking advantage of an opportunity to pull in a double agent because of the recent fallout at Hogwarts and the fact that we're worried about more people getting found out.

Mind, I've no idea how we'd give that impression without being too painfully obvious.
Dear Great-Aunt Mina,

I'm so sorry that it happened under such shocking circumstances, and I have a feeling you'd probably have rather stayed with your creatures, but I'm glad you're to be our new Head, and I think you'll be a good one.

I wanted to let you know that I'm here to support you, both as a senior Hufflepuff Prefect, and just as myself.

As far as the Prefecting goes, you can rely on Ernie and me--feel free to put us to work and generally delegate as you need to--and we'll make sure everyone's digging in the same den, so to speak.

I know you've got quite a full load, so anything I can do to lighten it, I'm happy to offer.

Best wishes and love,

Susan
Order Only: Private message to Mum, Dad, Evelyn and Kevin. And Nev, if he could read this.

All right.

My commander has talked to the Healer and Madam Pomfrey, and he's told me to take what time I need.

Fred's been round to cuff talk some sense into me. I'm sorry if I hurt you by staying away, but my thinking wasn't very clear, and I had to figure out some things.

There were all the times that Carrow terrorised and injured me when I was young and all I wanted was a mum or dad to put their arms around me. I'm not going to let that git live in my head by telling me mudbloods like you don't deserve a family when the fact is you picked me to be a Longbottom like the rest of you. I don't have to be without my mum and dad when I'm hurting so bad.

Neville didn't deserve this. But I didn't do this. Voledemort did. I didn't cause this just by being who I am. It sounds funny when you put it like that, but it took awhile to convince myself of that.

I know I'll never, ever replace him, but Mum and Dad, maybe it'd help you if your other son was back with you. Just a little bit. Even if he stays as the Professor a lot at first.

Evelyn and Kevin, I would've done anything to have taken his place, even though I'm not sure I would have been so clever and brave in the way he saved the Order. But at least I can still be a big brother to you, and if it's not the same and I'm not as good, anyway, I'll try. And you'll tell me if I'm doing anything wrong, yeah?

And Nev. I will do everything I can to help you rejoin your family. A family that includes me. I swear it.

So I guess what I'm saying is...can I come home?
alt_alice at 2015-01-08 06:43:28
(no subject)

Oh, love. Yes. Always. Tonight, if at all possible.

We've been piling into the bed at night and reading Kevin his favourite stories, and it's decidedly less crowded than it ought to be.

We could use our dear Professor.
There was a galleon meeting last night. All the kids who weren't in the Order wanted to know what had happened with Neville, and those of us who are in the Order wanted to make sure they knew it wasn't Ron or Justin who'd turned him in. We didn't tell them what Hydra did, or that Neville had asked her to.

A lot of them wanted to know about the inferi. What were they, exactly, what were they for, how did Ron and Justin and Hydra manage to fight them. Justin and Hydra told us what Dolohov had told them, about how best to take out an inferi, and I suggested people ask their professors -- Desai, Dolohov, Sandoval, anyone -- for more information. There's nothing all that suspicious about wanting to know more about them, especially if we spread around the job of asking.

There was a lot of speculation about the inferi. Some of the students had heard the plan was to use them to kill all the remaining muggles. Someone else thought the wards were coming down, and the inferi were to protect us from invasion, or possibly Voldemort was going to use them to invade France, and someone else thought they were just to keep everyone in line, which I think is probably closest to the truth. Though the possibility about muggles -- I don't know if we'd know in time to do anything, anyway, is the thing.

We had Defence today with Desai and asked her about the inferi and she actually spent the whole class talking about them. She had Justin and Ron stand up and talk about fighting them (so, we heard some of the same tips again, but actually I don't think it's at all a bad thing if the people who aren't galleon holders hear it). She said she'd seen them used a few times during the first wizarding war, that they make a tremendous weapon but it's important to think of them that way, as weapons rather than fighters themselves, because wizards can improvise and respond to changes in conditions and inferi can't, they're puppets, basically, controlled by their creator. Except, I was sitting near Voldemort during the Triumph and he didn't seem to be doing anything, exactly. So it's not like they're puppets on strings, either.

After class, Linus Moon wanted to chat about analysing the exact
fighting techniques that inferi use and what the best techniques are to use against them and I told him yeah, do it. He has some daft idea about publishing a paper, but I think I can convince him not to. Oh and there's some special parchment that's particularly good for whatever he does. I offered to get him some and he got all excited and said that made me his patron and ... anyway hopefully that'll be useful.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-10 03:07:26
(no subject)

Hypatia's Ideal Analysis Parchment.

That's probably what he wants.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-10 03:09:01
Private message to Evelyn

Evelyn when we were talking at the meeting we told people that you'd got warning somehow and knew to run away with your Gran. I went back and looked -- how did you get warning? What was it Dolohov told you?

@alt_evelyn at 2015-01-10 03:15:13
Re: Private message to Evelyn

Let me copy it down.

'Miss Longbottom,

I've stopped by your house to bring by the next set of exercises I promised you, but your brother has let me know that you are out shopping and aren't available for enquiries. Will you be returning soon? I would be happy to wait.'

He'd given me work before hols, and there was enough to do that there was no way I'd be ready for more. He hadn't promised any additional exercises, and certainly hadn't talked about dropping anything off at my house.

So.

Yeah.
That was why I tried checking in with Nev.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-10 03:20:20  
Re: Private message to Evelyn

Do you think

I think he was trying to warn you. While making it look to Bellatrix like he was trying to lure you in.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-10 03:22:38  
Re: Private message to Evelyn

I think so too.

He didn't need to write anything.

We would've just gone home.

We wouldn't have known anything was wrong at all.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-10 03:23:51  
Re: Private message to Evelyn

And it was obviously off to me.

But I'm the only one who would've known it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-10 04:19:02  
Re: Private message to Evelyn

Yeah.

He couldn't very well write to you and say, 'MLE's got your brother. Run.'

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-10 04:41:47  
Re: Private message to Evelyn

He must've thought that I was a part of things too, though. That I was a traitor like Neville. Because if I wasn't a traitor, I wouldn't think to
be suspicious.

And he still

I don't think he's switching sides any time soon. And I don't think I ever want to chance running into him or something.

But.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-10 04:59:13
Re: Private message to Evelyn

Either that, or he couldn't think of any way to warn you if you didn't have some reason to be wary.

But -- well, he let us go, too, that time in Mysteries. And, I think it was because he'd worked out we were there for Arista and Hector. (Though even so he almost killed me. I wouldn't want to have to do that again.)

---

@alt_pansy at 2015-01-10 03:20:34
(no subject)

Before I forget. Bitsy Corner came up to me today and asked if we could do another book exchange. Said she'd been looking forward to it all hols. She got a little teary about it.

I think it was because you were always so keen about it, Ev.

And Capper looked rather fierce at the meeting yesterday, didn't he?
Sloper, I've just sent off the latest samples, along with more extensive notes. See if you can send me the next batch by the end of the week. We're going to need more citrus and cloves, and I think it needs some cherry too.

And tell me you didn't order those potatoes you had listed on inventory yet. When I said that vodkas were an eventual extension of the line, I didn't mean you ought to start working on them right away. It'll be wine and beer to start, and for Merlin's sake, we haven't finished sorting the wine out, which needs to happen yesterday. And once we do have it sorted, we'll need grapes. Last I checked, that's what wine was made of.

Towler, if Sloper did indeed get over-excited about the prospect of making vodka, I suppose the help will get used to eating potatoes.

There certainly is enough to go round.

Have you had the renovation plans approved yet? Let me know once you do.
Anything further from Bedford? We could transfer several of the women here as soon as they are ready to receive them. That's assuming they are truly willing to take on the burden of longterm care for people not likely to make much improvement. (I've in mind Mrs Bigglesby and Misses Braith, Chandar and Monroe. Miss Wynn and Miss Levi might be candidates for Bedford, as well, though they'll demand a different sort of care, and perhaps we ought to consider other options for them and for Astra Morgansen. I do trust that she'll revive from this nervous collapse. The mania of her first week here was bound to take its toll, but there are good reasons to hope for her recovery.)

Remus, you asked about the Woods and their group from the Vale of Glamorgan: I don't believe they'll consent to Miss Yates' being sent anywhere they were not also going, though she's still not showing improvement. They're absolutely insistent that they'll care for one another and that they'll keep together, the five of them. I've tried to manage their expectations with respect to Miss Yates' condition--I've told them that their own progress has come much more quickly than anyone could have expected and that she may require round the clock care for the rest of her life. They're committed to one another, whatever may come, and they're buoyed by Miss Maddox's progress and Mr Perkins' increased wakefulness. And who knows? They could be right that with their attentive care, Miss Yates will respond one day. Some things are beyond knowing.

We do still need to find longterm situations for the others. I'm afraid I'm not optimistic about Mr Atkinson or our John Does; all remain unresponsive even to painful stimuli. And, of course, there's Dedalus and Mr Kinlan, our hollow men, to make decisions about. Poor Mr Skeates and James Prescott will both need secure facilities in which to convalesce as they're both prone to wandering--there's still no improvement to short term memory for either of them. (Nor long term memory for that matter, but it's their inability to retain where they are or what's been told them that causes us difficulty minute to minute.)

At least I can report that Antigone Cantwell continues to do well: she's emerging from her fog for longer stretches of time, and this weekend's bright mornings have been good for her. As long as the
room is bright, she's alert and engaged. She's able to dress herself, and I've set her certain simple tasks, like folding laundry and putting clean cases on pillows for me. She's even gone and plumped pillows for people in nearby beds, and today, I found her sitting with Miss Levi, holding her hand and asking after her symptoms. Of course, I'm pleased to see her acting the Healer again, and I want to encourage this as a way of helping her find herself, but the vital spells do end rather suddenly in exhaustion. She's been napping by noon every day--earlier if the morning turns grey.

If Healer Cantwell is the happiest item in my report Anna Lexington remains the most perplexing. Truly a puzzle. I've tried working out why I suspect her, Alice, but, really, I'm simply less and less convinced by her.

Do you know, she alone of all the patients has made it a point (more than once, actually) to declare her identity to me. Well, there's Astra Morgansen, but that's a rather different matter. Of course, many of them have lost their memories and their sense of themselves, but the ones who can provide their names when asked have seemed somewhat fazed by the question, and they've needed to think before finding the words. Most of them seem quite unmoored from their past lives and from time, including the present moment, but this woman calling herself Anna Lexington is different. She... seems eager to talk about herself; she's continually narrating bits of story about her past.

I've noticed two things about that, however: first, while her talk is almost always about her experiences (supposed experiences) as a Healer's apprentice, she cannot be led to talk about Healing itself--it's always a pleasant anecdote about a patient or their families or about unnamed colleagues, but it's never about particulars of symptoms or treatment; and second, those stories are never about things that would be part of an official record one could check.

I admit she looks enough like my memory of her that when I first saw her, I had no trouble imagining that the girl I knew might have become this hagard woman we liberated from Azkaban. She does resemble her, but... I don't know what to tell you, only, I honestly suspect our Miss Lexington is not, in fact, Anna Lexington, at all.
Well, that's unfortunate.

I'll check the records again -- are there any Jane Does, or only Johns? If this isn't Anna, she either knew her rather well in Azkaban -- well enough to know that she'd better tell stories of being a Healer's apprentice -- or she's sufficiently oriented to have grasped those essentials from eavesdropping. Keep an eye on her, at least.

Yes, we have one unidentified female, but she's black. Certainly not Anna Lexington.

If the woman who says she is, is not, then we missed her altogether. Perhaps she died in prison?

Is it terrible that I find that more reassuring than the idea that we simply missed her?

No. Not in the least.

Agreed.

Perhaps she's worried she'll be sent to Saltash with Messers Malfoy and Derrick.

Speaking of, how has that been going?
As far as secure locations go -- there's Saltash, but I'd rather not muddle things by giving them patients as well as prisoners. We should talk to Aldrich. I'll try to get over there this week -- I still need to check on the werewolf enclave, though. I thought it best to wait until after the full moon, but I've no good excuse to procrastinate that's done, so.

The women's enclave at Bedford should be prepared sometime in the next two days to take on their people. Last I spoke to Sylvia, she was quite practical about what would be needed for continued care, and the group's willingness to provide assistance (although she was still very firm regarding their decision to only accept women).

Miss Wynn might find kindred spirits there who would be able to speak to her in a way we can't. Perhaps we might see how she takes to it?

And if you need help smoothing the way in Aldrich, let me know.

I'm inclined to bring Dedalus here to Moddey. But if we need to come up with something more permanent to help the others requiring constant care, it makes sense to not spread our resources too thin.

That's just it. There are several of them who will need perpetual care. And others who will need round the clock assistance for the foreseeable future.
I suppose that's why it took so long to recognise that Anders Kinlan had been Kissed. I'm rather embarrassed that it was several days before I examined him properly, but that tells the story of those first days caring for them all.

@alt_poppy at 2015-01-12 06:37:51
(no subject)

I shouldn't think Saltash is needed for our wanderers, just a well-staffed facility with doors that can be secured with the sort of locking charms Mr Prescott and Mr Skeates won't be able to undo on their own.

Speaking of Saltash, though. I have wondered if the null zone might be a blessing for some of them. Cassiopeia Fawley, for one. She is reacts with terror whenever anyone uses magic. And John Doe #4 grows agitated at the sight of a wand.

Miss Wynn might be another, but she's so detached her reactions are muted. She's suffered terrible injuries, though--no doubt at MLE's hands--so I shouldn't be surprised if she were as terrified of magic as the other two.
I visited a werewolf enclave today, the one where Hermione's mother is the Alpha.

We'd already heard through sources that Mrs Granger was not among the group forced to fight at Voldemort's event, but I was relieved to be able to confirm that.

Here's what else I can share. The werewolves at Smythstone, and according to their reports, this is true of other enclaves as well, were horrified and furious when they found out that their kind was treated as monsters to fight and kill for Voldemort's entertainment in December; they're far more open to allying with us, though still distrustful.

The other thing -- I'd heard that the werewolves at the Triumph were bestial, even though it wasn't a full moon. Not fully transformed, but partly, and -- vicious. I'd more or less written that off to the sort of hysteria that thousands of marching inferi might readily engender. But the werewolves at Smythstone told me there's been a couple of Healers coming round testing out potions on werewolves. On research subjects who did not volunteer. And that was the goal of the potion -- to force transformation, or at least partial transformation, even when the moon wasn't full.

I don't suppose any of them knew the names of those Healers? Only, dodgy Healers working in the enclaves have come up before, and I'm curious.

I was told that Dribble was the underling, Wanker was the superior. However. These were actually the insulting nicknames based on the real names, which were similar but not identical. Only the insulting versions got passed along this far.
Druble. And Wenger.

I'm sorry to have confirmation that they're experimenting on the werewolves, but if it makes the rest of them willing to make common cause with us, that is very good news.

Now if the Centaurs could be similarly persuaded...

Do you think the werewolves will kill them if they show up trying to experiment on them?

Interesting question.

I imagine they don't come by themselves, especially not at this point.

Drubble. Two b's.

Ah.

Rhymes with Trouble.
That's good to hear.

Is there an immediate need we can help them with?

There's the obvious -- seeing if we can interfere with the Healers' work -- but I'm afraid it wouldn't end with them.

There are quite a few individuals at Smythstone who would like wolfsbane.

However, it's a complicated issue. Wolfsbane has not been tested on muggles who were turned into werewolves; Severus was not absolutely certain, when we discussed it before, whether it would work the same way, and you can imagine how enthusiastic anyone at the enclave is about being a test subject. Second, not everyone does want it, and it has also not been tested in situations where some of the wolves are under its influence and some are not, but one concern is that the wolves who were not might instinctively turn on those who were. (I think that is quite unlikely, but it's a question that was raised that I couldn't conclusively answer.)

Finally, there's the question of making it in the necessary quantities. I'm not sure whether we can.

Beyond that -- they would appreciate a visit from a Healer who was not planning to experiment on them. It doesn't have to be this week. But sometime.

I'm quite willing to go, though I think we might wish to out it off until we've made appropriate disposition of the people in my care here. On the chance that someone at the enclave sees fit to call MLE on the fugitive paying them a visit.
I suppose I could use Polyjuice as I'll do again when I return to the Vale, though if it's not necessary at Smythstone, I'd prefer to save the dose.
I don't particularly care for what Cavanaugh has done with the greenhouses. They're all fussy now. I know she's the expert on 'ornamental' gardening, but she likes to pretend growing plants isn't dirty or something. And she's always rearranging things. So they look better, I guess. Which means it's hard to find anything. Next time we go in there, I'll bet you a knut there'll be a topiary. Or she'll have put ribbons on something.

And when she ripped up all of Longbottom's

Good thing she hasn't rearranged our NEWT beds, ey, Zach?

Finch-Fletchley is still pretending like everything's normal. I think he's well gotten the message by now, but he is rather good at being excessively polite. At least we only have to put up with him for a few more months. Then he can bally well share a flat with Weasley, which will no doubt be heaven, as they can both sit up nights sorting out even better ways to kill things.

I dunno, Ern. I mean, I only really continued Herbology because of Sprout, you know? Yeah, Cavanaugh's got them all fancified and everything but so long as we can carry on through N.E.W.T.s I try not to look at how she's rearranged things.

As for F-F, Summers tried to convince me that we're overreacting. Way he sees it, that wizard was an Irish traitor, after all, and would have done for Effers if he hadn't killed him first, and besides, he was told it was to the death. I told him, he doesn't get it at all. We know he had to do it, we're not complete idiots. It's not that he did what had to be done, right. It's that he looked so--he didn't even hesitate. And that bloke might have been an Irish traitor but he was still a wizard--a pureblood, like us. I bet Effers might even have enjoyed getting to kill a pureblood. So yeah, I don't care if he's not planning to slit our throats--I mean, I don't even think he really would do, you know--but I'm not giving him a reason to consider it.
Anyway, seems like we're not the only ones who find him unsettling. Did you get a load of Professor Glozeman today? There's no way he could have thought F-F knew the answer to that question! I checked and it's not even in the chapter we're covering. It's not even in the textbook! Seems like he was dead steamed when Effers came up with it. Did it look like that to you?

alt_ernie at 2015-01-13 19:12:37
(no subject)

That was what got me, yeah. The indifference. Like he was combing his hair instead of killing someone. Makes me think all that joviality is a bit of a front, yeah?

And I get not making him angry. But I'm not going to pretend like we're all friendly or something when we're not. That's his thing. Not mine.

Glozeman is creepy, no mistaking. Figures he'd pick F-F out of a lineup. And yeah. He does seem more than a little invested. I mean, it's clear F-F lives in Dolohov's pocket, so maybe he's annoyed about that?

alt_megan at 2015-01-13 22:56:23
(no subject)

F-F is scary. So is Weasley. I never thought I would say that about Weasley but it is true, he is scary.

Do you suppose they are going to make us kill people things in class now? All of us, I mean?

alt_ernie at 2015-01-14 02:06:40
(no subject)

Yeah. Well. That Harry Marvolo isn't necessarily not scary. If you know what I mean.

Unpredictable, that fellow.

And you saw Professor Desai asking for volunteers. I figure those that want to will get plenty of opportunity.
And it's just different.

Like it doesn't even smell the same in there.

I dunno. Yeah, I stuck with it because of Sprout too, and it's like this was her place, and it's just weird to see it changed up like that.

It just feels disrespectful is all.

It's not like she has to keep it like a museum or something.

But it's only been a few weeks, really.

Yeah. Makes me wonder what she did to her office.

Although...she was a traitor. Supposedly. I dunno, I almost find that harder to believe than the idea that she's gone. I guess it makes a certain amount of sense, though. The way she was with everyone, regardless of who their parents were, or if they were fostered or whatever.

So maybe we're not supposed to feel like Cavanaugh's changes are a violation.

That's just I don't know

Being a Hufflepuff, innit?

She was giving help to terrorists. Apparently. The sort of people that blow stuff up. And yeah, they don't care who your parents were either, but that's a bit of a leap.
I wonder if she took the fall for someone.

Or was set up or something.

She might've been taken advantage of, because she trusted people. Or she didn't know what she was getting into.

alt_megan at 2015-01-13 22:51:45
(no subject)

That's what I was thinking too! Because it is too easy sometimes to end up being taken advantage of when people turn out to be not good people at all. And you wind up trusting them and then later you find out you shouldn't have but it is too late.

Honestly sometimes I think that if they just put all the untrustworthy and horrible people in one House it would be simpler for everyone. Because we could just herd them into their common room and then hex it off completely.

But anyway one cannot tell. I mean, Umbridge was a Hufflepuff and look how awful she turned out to be. I am just glad the Headmaster did not bring in another professor like her for Herbology or anything else. So yes, you might be quite right about Professor Sprout having been led astray and never meaning to actually do anything awful.
2015-01-13 18:28:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Grimmauld

Right.

As everyone now knows, the portrait has the memory of a goldfish. 🏍️ alt_nymphadora

Training does not work on the portrait. In the least. And while it's monumentally satisfying to break china in front of it, therapeutic even, it does not appear to work unless it's really constant.

I've very nearly finished work on a lovely little glass box we will install around the portrait. It has curtains, and soundproofing. It'll look like a window. A window with particularly lovely curtains, if I do say so myself.

Remus, love, care to give us a hand testing out the spellwork?

Also, I think I managed to convince Frank to stop by for tea on Thursdays for the near future. Just so's everyone's aware. I'm not sure he's up for too much by way of socialising, but there's no need to tiptoe around him either, so feel free to say hallo.

---

alt_nymphadora at 2015-01-14 02:39:23
Private Message to Hermione

I know everyone's said as much, but it was good to get an update about your mum.

How've you been, then?

Mums can be tricky business, if you'd rather not poke at it, that's fine on my end.

---

alt_hermione at 2015-01-14 04:01:56
Re: Private Message to Hermione

She's not my mum, not really anymore. I mean, she made that choice a long time ago.

I'm more worried about the Sleepers, really. It's so
frustrating when I'm sure we're close. But I had an idea about changing the sequence of ingredients for the potion. Also I think boiling the murtlap leaves on their own before adding them to the rest of the slurry might make a difference.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-01-14 05:38:15
Re: Private Message to Hermione

I'd imagine being really, really close is a tonne more frustrating in its own way.

I don't know anyone else better suited to cracking this thing than you, though. Seems to me that brains is certainly an important part of all of it, but dogged persistence is another, and you've got both in large amounts.

alt_lupin at 2015-01-14 02:55:52
(no subject)

I'd be delighted.

You really think this'll work?

alt_nymphadora at 2015-01-14 05:26:04
(no subject)

Now the key is that it's supposed to soundproof on both sides, so the portrait doesn't hear things, and so we can't hear it. And to test it, we may have to cut a hole in a closet door somewhere or something. Only temporarily, mind.
How are you, my dear. You've been on my mind.

I'd like to pop by to see you if I have a morning here ever that doesn't flare up into drama for one or another of my charges.

Do tell me how you're faring?

Whale-like. I sorted out how to shift things around a little last time so my back doesn't really hurt, so there's that.

I'm mostly just restless.

More than a little.

It's been good spending all this catch-up time with Miss Bea, though. She's becoming a proper person and everything, and it's been fun talking with her, and playing 'guess who.' My Snape nose never fails to make her laugh, and she can do a decent Hermione herself. Mind, it's mostly just frizzing up her hair really big and shaking her finger, but it's still fairly funny.

I'm sure it's delightful! Mind you, Severus might think it less so.

And that makes me wonder what one might do to caricature me if one were a metamorphmagus. Ahem.

I'm glad that you are not aching too terribly. Your sense of balance has stabilised, too, I hope.

Are you finding sleep difficult? Beyond the frequent need for the
It's not too bad. I do get dreadfully warm during the night sometimes, but that's easily enough fixed. And Bap has been enjoying his late night constitutionals, but I only really notice when I'm trying to fall back asleep again.

I will let you know if I'm able to make a quick visit one day soon. I hope so. It would be very good to see you and Miss Albia. Perhaps she'd show me some of her impressions! I could use the laughter, to be sure.

Oh, please do! We'll make a show of it.

Remus told me about Meg. How she's afraid of magic and the like. It sounds like there's no easy fixes with any of this, is there?

I'm hoping I can visit or something. When I can get out and about again.
I'm afraid she has good reason to fear a wand after the ordeal she suffered while in custody. Her injuries were extensive, and she was left to heal without treatment of any kind. In that terrible place.

It's a miracle, really, that she's here at all. And a testament to her strength.

I hope you will visit her when you're able to travel again. A friendly face might do as much good as anything I can offer her now. I'm hopeful we'll find her a pleasant place to convalesce.

I'm so glad she's got you, Poppy.

And yes. Of course. Anything is worth trying, isn't it?
2015-01-14 21:59:00
_Private Message to D Greengrass_

Enjoyed our time together Monday evening. Very much.

Expect it will be Monday before I'm able to come for supper at the castle again. Sunday, perhaps.

Quite a good recording of Handel's Orlando, by the way. Thank you. Have it playing now, in fact.

Have not yet tried the whiskey. Work, of course. Will let you know when I do. In any case, thank you for it.

Trust your week is going well?

---

_@alt_daphne_ at 2015-01-15 04:29:05_
_(no subject)_

I enjoyed it, too. Very much. And really, one or two nights a week is probably all my schedule will allow, anyway. Sundays and/or Mondays are particularly nice because students are too busy digging into homework to cause much trouble.

You know, when it debuted _Orlando_ was only performed a handful of times, yet today it's regarded as Handel's premiere artistic masterpiece. Isn't it odd how perspectives can vary so widely at different points throughout history? It makes me wish I could hear Anna Maria Strada perform live today, so I could decide for myself if her voice is as divine as history claims.

She sounds quite lovely on the recording, though (note that history also claims that she had the face of a pig).

The whiskey is from a new distillery that Rich Vaisey told me about, located in Shoreditch, of all places. Apparently Shoreditch is the new up and coming area of New London. Tell me how you like it (the whiskey, not Shoreditch), when you get a chance.

Or, you could save it for the next time you invite me over for a drink.
The week is going well enough. Moving more slowly than I would like, stubborn thing.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-01-15 05:15:05
(no subject)

Agree completely. Time is a stubborn thing. Have found that staying busy helps create the illusion that it is moving more quickly. And looming deadlines. (Looming danger and much-anticipated meetings have the opposite effect.)

Strada's voice is quite fine, but it's the castrato that really impresses.

Have just the place to take you in Shoreditch next time you're home, by the way. Malatesta. Written up in Londinarium last issue and deserves the favourable review. Understand it's difficult to get a table now, though I can't attest to that personally. Somehow a table is always found if I call. A perk of the position, I suppose.

@alt_daphne at 2015-01-15 05:30:48
(no subject)

One never hears a castrato anymore, so yes, it's quite striking.

I thoroughly believe that it's far more than your position that allows you to get what you want, when you want it. And that isn't just flattery - it's fact.

I would love to try Malatesta with you. Easter, maybe? Quite a stubborn stretch of time between now and then. I'll have to make sure that I stay busy.

The papers are going to keep writing about us at this rate, you know. Do you mind it?
Not particularly fussed, no. Just another fact of my position (or person, if that's what you were implying). Actually, it's sometimes amusing to lay trails of baubles and breadcrumbs to see if the nifflers and birds of the gossip pages will follow them. A bit of misdirection that leads to wildly implausible stories is a way of turning the tables occasionally. And they never seem to mind, so long as they sell copy.

Do you mind? There's no need to put you in a position where you'd feel uncomfortable.

It's all about the bottom galleon, isn't it?

I don't mind, no. It's entertaining, mostly. Do you know that one of the pieces - well, the author actually remembered the roses you sent me, back in third year, and suggested that you "marked me" as yours on that day. And then another recalled that I portrayed you in that silly play, and said that I'd had designs on you ever since. While it's true that we might not be where we are now if those two things hadn't happened, the authors attached far more weight to those events than they are deserving of. Writing that we began talking after running into each other at the same parties would be far too ordinary to put to press.

They simply want to build some grand story out of everything, and I suppose I can't fault them that.
**2015-01-15 18:49:00**
*Order Only: Thanks to everybody*

who sent me things for my birthday. And cards and notes, too.

It was nice. They always sing happy birthday at dinner at the Sanctuary for whoever's birthday it is, and Victor served pudding after supper.

---

**alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:02:33**
*Private message to Mum and Dad*

I know If I

I stayed the whole day at Terry instead of the Professor. That's progress, isn't it?

I'll stay up for awhile, if you want to talk when you get back from your walk along the beach. But if you--well. I won't assume. I won't be alone; it's okay if you just want to be private the rest of the evening. I think Ian and Franklin and Freddie will be in the mood to keep me company and celebrate for awhile yet.

Thanks for the gifts. I'll be able to do some really projects with those whittling tools, Dad, and Mum, I love the scarf. Evelyn's embroidery makes it even better.

---

**alt_frank at 2015-01-16 01:32:20**
*Re: Private message to Mum and Dad*

many happy returns, kiddo.

kev'll be wanting story time tonight.

expect he'll want the full company to help with the voices.

getting spoiled, that one.

we'll be back in an hour or so.
alt_frank at 2015-01-16 01:35:47
Re: Private message to Mum and Dad

and it was good to see you walking around on two legs.

then again, it was good just to see you.

doesn't matter how many legs you've got.

alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:04:26
Private message to Colin Creevey

When I saw the paw prints you had Evelyn embroider on the bottom of those socks, I think that's the hardest I've laughed for months. Thank you.

alt_luna at 2015-01-16 01:05:42
(no subject)

My package arrived in time, I hope?

alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:06:53
(no subject)

It did! You haven't taken up whittling yourself, have you? That's quite a nice little raven.

alt_luna at 2015-01-16 01:08:38
(no subject)

No, I found it in a little shop in New London. If you tell you what time you want to wake up, it'll peck your ear until you do--it's an alarm clock. I remember you telling me how hard it was to wake up for sentry duty sometimes.

And I wanted to get you something sort of House-related.
Oh, I see! Yes, that will come in very useful.

Thanks, Luna!

Hey, happy birthday, Professor! Feel free to share the contents of the basket we sent--it's from Pansy, too. And if you happen to take some notes on what the various sweets do when eaten, we'd be much obliged!

We wanted to send fireworks, too, but Pansy convinced us it probably wasn't a good idea for a sanctuary we're trying to hide from the Protectorate.

Never mind; I'm sure you'll blow some up for me the next time we get together. Particularly if Fu Lee is anywhere nearby.

And thanks. For the note. And for your friendship. For the lock, that made start believing in myself, for everything.

You're still doing what the Healer is telling you to do, yeah?

Is it getting any easier?
alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:18:50
Re: Private message to Terry

Not... exactly.
But I'm finally convinced I'm in the right place. With the right people, and that they're really my family.
So that's something.

alt_fred at 2015-01-16 01:20:05
Re: Private message to Terry

Hold on to that. I've lost a brother, too, remember. Not for the same reasons, or the same way.
The first birthday afterward is hard.

alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:22:00
Private message to Evelyn

The embroidery is beautiful. Thank you.
I've become quite fond of the Orion constellation, because it has the Sirius Dog star in it.
It's perfect.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-16 01:42:18
Re: Private message to Evelyn

I'm glad you liked it.
And I really think it'd be worth your while to talk to Professor Siz. She loves teaching so much, and you're so sharp about everything.
alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:22:55
Private message to Terry Boot Longbottom

... 

alt_terry at 2015-01-16 01:28:14
Re: Private message to Neville Longbottom

It was hard.

Mum and Dad were trying so hard, it almost hurt to watch. Which made it the best birthday I've ever had, because it's the only one I remember having with my own family. But it was so hard because you weren't there with us.

I haven't forgotten, and I never will. I'll find you, I swear I'll find you, Neville. Or if I can't, I'll do whatever I can to make sure someone in the Order does. And we'll bring you home, and...and we'll take care of you. As long as you need us.
private message to Ernie

Are you around? Can you

I just had a very very bad dream. It was awful. I can't stop shaking.

I cannot sleep because every time I try it is the dream again. The same dream. And Madam Umbr

I do not know why I am dreaming about her. I must be very stupid, because she is not here, and everything will be fine. (Everything will be fine, won't it?) Only I can't stop dreaming about it and now I am afraid to go back to sleep at all.

Ernie?

Please answer, Ernie. Please be there.

Because in the dream she

You are all right, aren't you?

All right I am going to write it down. Because my guardian told me when I came to her that if I told my nightmares out loud then I would see how stupid they were and they would not trouble me any more. So she had me do so, and it is not pleasant to admit to someone the foolish fancies of one's overwrought imagination but she was right and they did eventually go away. Only I don't want to say it out loud here so I will write it down and hope it works the same way.
In the dream Madam Umbridge was back. And she was helping Professor Dolohov with the Headmaster's duties because he was busy teaching us the Killing Curse. And they had us doing it on firsties.

And the Professors Carrow were back only they were those Inferi things like we saw in the parade and in the duels. Only Umbridge told us they were Professors again. And Hannah was there.

And then Umbridge told Professor Dolohov I had not been being a good citizen of the Protectorate and he smiled and said she knew what to do about that and then she made me cast the killing curse on you.

Please be OK. It was just a dream, right?

i am afraid to get out from under the bedcovers, i have lumos going in here and fang is here with me and i am not coming out until you answer me or maybe never.

---

@alt_ernie at 2015-01-16 06:04:55
(no subject)

Cor, Megs. I was revising.

Didn't hear the notification. Must've been because of Summers snoring or something.

I'm here.

And she isn't. Neither are the other two, either.

Want to meet in the common room for some cocoa or something?

---

@alt_megan at 2015-01-16 06:10:03
(no subject)

All right but it will be a few minutes because I have to cast a charm because my eyes are all red and I don't want anybody looking at me and knowing I was crying. Because it was really awful. And so real.
Cocoa will help. Seeing you are OK will help.

Try not to mind awfully if I cry again. I mean I will try not to. But I am a watering-pot just now (like they say in the books my guardian has me read to her). I am sorry.

Hey. You can water me, alright? I won't spoil, and I won't mind. Promise.

And you're so good, Megs.

Always have been.

It's just like you to be worried about something you haven't even done.

But there is so much that I did do. Things Umbridge told me to.

I didn't ever tell you but I told on F-F for sneaking out and got him in trouble. (Did I tell you that? I can't remember. My head is still full of those awful dead things walking around.)

You were just doing what you were told. By the Headmistress.

That's not your fault. It wasn't wrong. He was sneaking.
Morag and me

we told her a bunch of them were meeting once. When Cedric got
hurt, that one time. He was in the bunch, I guess, and she stuck
him and Harry in her office and

She told us to keep an eye.

It wasn't

It was what we were supposed to do.

But different people say we are supposed to do things and they do not always agree and it is very hard to know.

I talked with Marvolo about it some. And even he thinks it is complicated. He said

He said sometimes people get angry no matter what you do. Even if you are trying to do everything perfectly.

I was the person who got Sarah in trouble. And it was what I was supposed to do. According to Umbridge. Only it can't have been right for such terrible things to happen to her when she was only trying to help me because I was cursed.

It was Umbridge who cursed me in the first place.

And I am so sorry about

At least Sarah was not one of the dead things in the dream because I don't think I could

I think Umbridge was evil. OK there I said it.
Bloody Mar

Well. He would know, wouldn't he.

...yeah.

She was.

I've got that cocoa ready, if you're up for getting out from under those covers.

alt_megan at 2015-01-16 06:44:56
(no subject)

For you and cocoa, I will get out from under these covers right now.

You are the best boyfriend ever.
2015-01-16 12:54:00
Private message to Igraine Archer

Professor Glozeman has assigned me to give you some extra tutoring in Transfiguration.

I'm happy to help you. I used to do a lot of tutoring back when Amycus Carrow was teaching us. I'll tell you all about Carrow when we meet; he was really something. Anyway, I've seen enough of your work to know you're bright and you'll catch on just fine.

You can stop worrying about failing. I'll make sure that you don't.
O'Leary,

I say, Professor Glozeman mentioned you're having a spot of trouble with Transfiguration. He's asked me to offer assistance. I'm jolly well happy to help, though I can't promise to be the best tutor one could wish for, what.

Why don't we meet up in the library tomorrow morning after breakfast, and you can show me some of your recent work. I'm sure we can get you back in fine shape in time for your O.W.L.s.

Do let me know if tomorrow's agreeable. If not, we'll figure out another time to begin.

-Finch-Fletchley
Well done, Justin and Sally-Anne. I think both of you showed well today. And I'll never forget Ridgeway's Theory of Animagus Transformation. I'm sure everyone else in class would agree!

It must've been galling to pretend not to know that last one. He did make quite a lot out of you not knowing it. I think he was just frustrated you didn't trip up until then.

Made a bloody meal of it, didn't he?
What a git.

Yeah.

When he had me and Justin stay after, he told us it's our responsibility to see that two fifth year students pass some test they're all taking next week. Igraine Archer and Lucas O'Leary. They're both half-bloods, and do you remember who Igraine is? She's cousin to Gareth and Aurelia, but she's the daughter of the brother who betrayed Gareth's father. He did it to get his children out of the camps. That was Igraine and her brother.

Anyway I guess they've been having trouble in his class. He didn't say what he was going to do if they failed anyway.
That's not good. At all.
Umbridge all over again.

We should get ready for whatever comes next, yeah?

He reminds me of Carrow. More than Umbridge.

Do you think he's going to kill them, then, if they don't pass? or if they give him some other excuse?

Or send them to the camps?

No, not THAT much like Carrow.

Only -- that thing in class today. He wanted me to fail in front of everyone. It bothered him a lot that I didn't. Carrow was like that, in Transfiguration class. He loved to see people fail, and if you had trouble with the subject he'd try to make it worse.

So really, I guess it's a little unfair I'm comparing him to Carrow because he did assign me to help Igraine.
Erm... You don't think he's betting she'll still fail, and when she does, that will let him blame you? He couldn't break you down, but he thinks she's weaker, and when she breaks, he'll have two birds with one stone?

You might be right.

If I can just get Igraine to take a deep breath and calm down I think she'll be fine. I suppose it would be unethical to slip a calming potion into her breakfast tea, which is a shame.

Anyway he didn't say what he'd do if they didn't pass. He just said it was our responsibility to see that they did.

Sally-Anne, Has Igraine replied to you? I've not heard from Lucas. I'm not well keen to go chasing after him, what.

-Justin

Yeah.

It didn't go well. She's so rattled she can barely turn a match into a needle. I talked to Astoria Greengrass and she says Igraine's not sleeping and has been making stupid mistakes in her other classes, too. Even Charms, which is supposed to be her best subject.
I think it's anxiety. Remember Capper, after what happened to his brother? She's lived in the camps. I mean, until she was nine. Not that she wants anyone remembering that. And no one ever brings it up and everyone pretends they don't know, usually.

I think she would rather die than go back.

I wish I could tell her...
Yeah. Ridgeway's a loon. No way an animagus can turn into any animal after learning the transformation. Either he's not one or he had some angle, publishing that. I bet if someone checked, they'd find out he faked his results.

Pansy,

Cheers.

It was rather an invigourating test of one's knowledge, what. Perhaps if Professor Brutka had challenged us more frequently, there would have been more than myself and Sally-Anne vying for first place.

-Justin
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric Diggory and Colin Creevey

(I've got Mr L's schedule worked out for the next week. Want me to bring it by? See what all you'll be able to join us for?

And I was going to get myself a cuppa and biscuit, want me to bring you up one while I'm at it? Jeremy's been by with a basket, so Victor's made the kind with jam in the middle. Can't turn down a jam biscuit myself.

It's been really great having you along. It's loads easier to demonstrate some of the more complicated drills when you're giving a hand. Anyways. I know you've been really working hard, which is great, of course, just, you know, don't push it too hard, yeah? between you and Mr L, you'll run yourselves into. Anyways. I know you could probably do with a spot of rest. If you're too done in and would rather leave off til tomorrow, that's fine.)

Sure bring it by. I'm reading some of Davidson's older reports, he's very organized and has lots of good ideas about how to incorporate muggles into our tactics. Not sure the reverse is as true, he obviously doesn't have the same instinctual understanding of our abilities to integrate us into his tactics. In particular, I think we may need to push a bit harder on including flying. I think he keeps lumping us in with his aero-planes and we're very different. Much more personal.

(To be fair, we haven't had a lot of brooms round until recently, really. Mrs L has a decent seat, but Mr L isn't really a flier, and we only had the one ratty one around until Draco's caper. I'd only been up in the air one once or twice myself until this summer.

I'll bring everything up, then. Blackberry or kiwi-strawberry?)
Speaking of flying, do we know what happened to Firebolt's factory after Freed's arrest? Is it abandoned and raidable or still some sort of going concern? If it's not, we have ways to get more. I know most of the clubhouses of the professional teams across the country now and as much as it pains me, unless they've changed them, the security protocols to almost everything at the Cannons' pitch.

(I say, that's a thought. Between you and Draco, I'm sure we'd be able to get enough of us off the ground and in fighting shape, as it were, so it might be worth our while to pick some up.)
I hate nights.

I'll just end up sitting and thinking, and I can't get away from it no matter how hard I try.

I'd go down and start on the laundry just to get out of my own head for awhile, only I'm too bloody tired.

Why are they keeping him so hidden?

What on earth could they be doing to him?

Is it spite? A trap? Some previously unknown and awful thing? These are the monsters who thought up a machine that drained the magic of newly born babies. They turned Moody into an abomination and made him march down the street in a parade. They kept the bloody King of England hidden away until they needed his heart ripped out of him. They thrive on unspeakable cruelty and horror, and there are no limits to their capabilities.

And they have my son.

I spend every night sitting in bed, fervently wishing and praying that my son has died.

I should have brought them with us to Moddey. I could have had years with him. I could have been there for him and been his mum, really, truly, in every way that counted, and could have kept him safe. This is my fault. I abandoned him.

I'm sorry.

I'm just

We haven't heard a damn thing, and it's coming up on a month, and

It's been a long day.

I might invite myself over for tea tomorrow.
I hope you're on your way over, Alice.

Oh, love.

Yes.

I'll be there in an hour or so.

Thank you.

I still can't believe I just up and dozed off like that.

I needed it. Needed you both. Quite a lot.

Thank you.
Hey, are you free? I ran Lucas O'Leary to ground for you. After a fashion, anyway. Igraine Archer and I are in the library, and he's with us, if you want to turn up suddenly and not be the monster he's somehow convinced himself you are.

---

Sally-Anne,

Jolly good you've found him! I waited in the library for him half the day, Saturday. I say, I tried catching him in the Great Hall at least three times yesterday and he avoided me every time. If I didn't know better I'd have said he could apparate away at the sight of me, what.

I'm not certain I can break free, however. I'm bally well knee-deep in the Headmaster's report for the Board of Governors. (This is why I jolly well wanted to meet with O'Leary at the weekend, not now when we've deadlines and correspondence and notes to transcribe for the professors' lesson plans for the lower years, what!)

I don't think I can manage to get there before their curfew. I say, do you think you could convince him to meet me tomorrow evening? I'll be free after seven.

-Justin

I can try, but the exam Glozeman is setting for them is Wednesday. They're almost out of time.

Igraine's convinced him I'm helpful. I'll just work with both of them for now and if I can talk him into showing up tomorrow you can turn up then, okay?
Oh, I say, that's dashed good of you, Sally-Anne, but I couldn't possibly ask you to assume responsibility for him. I do want him to succeed, of course, but it's my assignment to assist him, what, not yours.

Perhaps if Antonin has no other revisions after this draft of the report, I could get to the library within an hour.

-Justin

Honestly it might be better if you didn't? Lucas is saying everyone knows you're terrifying and homicidal and how could anyone think you'd be a good tutor.

I'd tell him he was an idiot but I spent the first hour tonight trying to convince him he's NOT an idiot just because he's having trouble with transfiguration.

I've been trying to tell him he's 'gravely misinformed' but he's insisting he got his information from Astoria Greengrass and she ought to know.

Astoria--Oh, for Merlin's sake.

Well, if you're willing to try, I suppose the important part is making sure he can pass his exam on Wednesday.

I do appreciate it, what. I say, I shall have to return the favour sometime.

-Justin
Honestly I think Glozeman is trying to set up both Igraine and Lucas to fail, and giving Lucas a tutor who frightens him was precisely what he was after.

Naturally. That much was clear, but one would hope O'Leary's instinct for self-preservation would override his fear. Dash it all, the bloke's meant to be a Gryffindor!

It's dashed inconvenient to both cultivate a fearsome reputation and simultaneously maintain one's standards as a gentleman.

Anyway. Thank you for working with him. Perhaps next time we can conspire more effectively to work with them--or whomever else Professor Glozeman insists on assigning us--together.

-Justin
2015-01-19 21:13:00  
*Private Message to Barty Crouch*

Lunch, soon? I feel just about ready to face the world again so we needn't meet at Cottesmore if you are craving daylight, or I can arrange to have it delivered there if you still need rest.

I promise to tell you all about a visit I had from Ursula Avery, if you promise to tell me all about the clearly fascinating Hogwarts Head Girl. Really, dear, it's none too subtle.

Or are you still cross with me for ignoring you at Christmastime?

---

**@alt_crouch_jr** at 2015-01-20 03:27:15  
(no subject)

Cross? Merely busy. Still digging out from backlog of work. And other business.

I'm fine. Entirely.

Yes to lunch. Where?

You had an interesting visit from Ursula? Surely not interesting enough to be fair trade for my intriguingly unsubtle dealings with this season's ingenue?

---

**@alt_narcissa** at 2015-01-20 03:38:59  
(no subject)

Oh, if we're going to attract reporters - which you know we will do, both of us in public so blatantly - we might as well cause a stir. Let's book a private room at the Rookery.

Not cross, then - let us say put out enough to cast your eye on the ingenue in question. And I thought you just might be different from other men, but it seems you all do look for the young ones once you reach a certain point in life.

And yes, I believe Ursula's visit was interesting. At least, there's something about it that puzzles me enough to need to talk it
through with someone more sensitive to the current configurations and divisions within the Court.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-01-20 04:03:57
(no subject)

Consider it done. Does Wednesday suit?
(Wednesday is not often one of the days Our Lord chooses for His field assignments.)

I consider myself an equal-opportunist. Remains to be seen how long youth can hold the attention. The novelty is appealing. That may be all there is to it. I don't see any reason to look too closely at its reasons or merits.

No reason for you to feel put out. Now that you've noticed.

But Ursula--it's something to do with Lucius, then?

@alt_narcissa at 2015-01-20 04:31:48
(no subject)

Wednesday suits perfectly.

Novelty lacks experience - unless you think in this case there's reason to think she knows or is willing to do anything to please. I should think the appeal of training her to your tastes might be outweighed by the tedium of doing so. But it's useless to tell you not to have your fun, so enjoy it.

Yes, she made it sound like she was there, when Our Lord received that message from Lucius' kidnappers. (Was she? It might be useful to confirm that.) She feigned concern that they would only offer to give him up if he had already cooperated with them, which of course is quite impossible to conceive, let alone credit. I said as much, that Lucius has always been one of Our Lord's most capable servants, as anyone could tell from the way things have been declining since he was sent to await Our Lord's pleasure. One need only look at a Prophet or listen to the wireless to realise how cannily Lucius kept the line between public affairs and private ones well-drawn.

She asked whether I was suggesting that Our Lord had
miscalculated by sending Lucius to Azkaban in the first place. Well, you can imagine the trap I thought she was laying for me, so I said, Our Lord could do as He thought necessary, but that I had fervently hoped Lucius' past service spoke for itself, and that to keep His secrets secret, He would do better to move heaven and earth to restore Lucius to his rightful place at Our Lord's side.

Something about her manner seemed - I don't know, a little off, after that, as if she were hoping I would reassure her that Lucius would die before he would tell that nest of traitors anything remotely useful. Honestly, as I said, it's utterly unthinkable he would do anything else. As much as I detest thinking of them torturing him or mistreating him for information, I know he can withstand anything they might dole out.

But it was more than just worry for the Protectorate. It was as if she worried Lucius might know something to threaten her position, specifically. Which he may but I can't see how it would matter to the traitors in the slightest. I can't put my finger on why she seemed so anxious, though.

She was present, yes.

It's difficult to tell with Ursula. Particularly since Julius' idiocy. Don't suppose she wishes L particularly well. It was more than that?

No, you're right: I'm sure she would hardly weep if Black and his associates murdered Lucius in some travesty of imaginary justice. I wouldn't have been surprised if she were trying to winkle out a confirmation that Our Lord was displeased with Lucius for defending himself against her son, or anything that suggested I might be less than perfectly loyal. That's just where I thought she was going, at first. This was ... something else.
You don't think it's that she's actually a traitor, herself, do you? That would be too much to hope!

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-01-20 05:48:27 (no subject)

Queerer things have proved true. Ursula has kept herself to herself with respect to alliances. Obviously she distanced herself from Gaude long since. There was a time I'd have speculated she and Yaxley were allied, but she plays her hand well. And she must have been clear of any damning link when Y fell.

Really, it's an interesting proposition. I did wonder about her reaction when Julius threw himself away against Lucius. I expected she might have demanded some satisfaction, but L indicated she wouldn't. Seemed certain of that. And so far as I'm aware she did nothing.

That doesn't prove L had something to hold over her, and it doesn't prove she's a traitor, but it also doesn't eliminate either possibility.

@alt_narcissa at 2015-01-20 05:57:22 (no subject)

It's a fair point about not seeking retribution. I simply thought Our Lord made it clear He had had enough of His followers taking their politicking to the level of duels to the death. At least, at that time.

Still, now that you mention it her reaction was much more what one might have expected had it been Gaude, and not Julius, who had duelled Lucius and lost.

Well, what do you recommend? How should I string her along to find out what she thinks I might know?
That's it exactly about her reaction.

Recommend that you do nothing to string her along. If she believes she's stalking you for prey, you'll catch her by staying aloof and letting her take the initiative. Perhaps she'll give herself away in the process. The trick is to give yourself no chance of doing the same. (Not that you're a traitor, yourself, but if she means to twist any hint into the appearance of treachery, then you should not give her any more opportunities than strictly necessary.)

Of course.

You'll make an operative of me yet. One does get so terribly bored, is all.

Until Wednesday, then?

Wednesday.

Sleep well.
2015-01-20 19:36:00  
*Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Sally-Anne,

I say, did you make loads of progress with O'Leary last night? I've been round all the tables in the library twice since supper and don't see him. I've set myself up at a table with a quite decent view of the entrance, what, so if he does arrive I should be able to catch him and make sure he's ready for tomorrow's test.

-Justin

---

**2015-01-21 01:44:47**  
*alt_sally_anne* at 2015-01-21 01:44:47  
*(no subject)*

Some, but not enough. He was supposed to turn up in the library after supper but I haven't seen him, either.

Maybe have Ron or Ginny hunt him down for you? Or send him to me again, Igraine and I are using the empty third floor classroom by the painting of the dancing nymphs.

---

**2015-01-21 01:45:38**  
*alt_sally_anne* at 2015-01-21 01:45:38  
*(no subject)*

(Ron or Ginny, because what do you want to bet he's hiding in his House? He knows you can't get to him in Gryffindor.)

---

**2015-01-21 01:48:41**  
*alt_justin* at 2015-01-21 01:48:41  
*(no subject)*

If he's hiding in his House and revising, that wouldn't be so dashed frustrating.

On the other hand, if he's so jolly well afraid of me, do you think he'll find Ron any less frightening?

Well, I say, it's worth a try, at least. I've enough of my own work to keep me here for a while in case he does decide to take what's on offer.
That's a good point about Ron. Maybe you could send Harry after him. He's still sleeping in Gryffindor.
...apparently, the journal no longer classifies me as a 'current Gryffindor.'

Which feels odd.

But it's not entirely unexpected, I suppose.

It must be a devilishly difficult bit of spellwork, really, to get the whole business up and running, and have it be adaptable enough to make adjustments like that.

Anyways.

I don't suppose this is about Lucas? You and Sally-Anne have been rather furiously writing back and forth lately.

I'm not surprised he's been stumbling a bit in Transfiguration with Glozeman. He sounds rather intimidating. Lucas was absolutely petrified of Carrow during our first year. Truly. He'd freeze up during class and Carrow would call him out on it, and I don't think he successfully demonstrated a single spell properly the entire year. At least not in front of Carrow. Who kept chalking it up to the fact Lucas was half-blooded, of course.

He's sweet on Paula Ross, if that helps. She came round to the last galleon meeting before hols, so she's trustworthy and would be willing to lend a hand, or at least would do what Harry asked.

Evelyn,

Yes, it's about Lucas. Unfortunately, he's proved bally well reluctant to let me help him. Sally-Anne worked with him last night but he simply hid in Gryffindor Tower this evening. I was hoping one of our members who can get into the Tower could track him down, what, and at least get him to work on his revision, if they couldn't get him to come down to the library for my tutelage.
At this point, it's almost too late to do anything, what. If he's got the help he needs, he'll be all right; if not, he'll suffer the consequences, the poor chap.

-Justin

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-21 04:34:20
(no subject)

I'm sorry to hear it.

At the very least, I suppose he'll know that he's got at several people looking out for him, which is something.

It can't be easy to have people going out of their way to avoid you like that.

I suppose it's part of the territory now, but still.
Order Only: Private Message to current Gryffindors

Ron, Ginny, Harry, Katrina,

By any chance, is Lucas O'Leary up in Gryffindor Tower? If so, is he revising his Transfiguration? I've been trying to pin him down for tutoring before his exam tomorrow and he's avoided me all week.

Sally-Anne was good enough to work with him last night but she says she doesn't think he's quite ready. I say, if one of you see him, if you could try to convince him to go to the library, I'm working in here tonight to try to catch him. If he refuses, Ron, perhaps you'd be so good as to go over the material with him, old man? I can't think of anyone better. Unless of course he's got some equally odd fear of you, what.

It's dashed inconvenient, all this unnecessary agitation.

-Justin

alt_harry at 2015-01-21 02:50:11
(no subject)

Right, I found him. He says he doesn't feel well and wants to go to bed early and also that he revised on his own earlier.

alt_ginny at 2015-01-21 02:52:35
(no subject)

That's no good. He needs someone tutoring him, Romilda Vane told me he's probably going to fail his exam. Justin, do you want me to try dragging him down to the library?
Ginny,

This is dashed ridiculous. I agree, someone ought to tutor him, but it bally well can't be me if he's going to hide in the Tower all evening.

I say, is Ron there? Or perhaps Harry, you could check on his progress? If I were you, old man, I'd make the point that this is precisely what Professor Glozeman likely wants to have happen.

-Justin

I think Ron's off snoggin

Ginny and I spent the evening with him, revising. That seemed easier than trying to convince him to come let you do it.

Oh, I say, well that's something, at least. Was he making any progress?

Evelyn's just mentioned that Paula Ross might be able to impress upon him the importance of accepting help when it's offered. Though I suppose it's too late to do any more now, what.

-Justin
Ginny cast something on him that improved his confidence temporarily and he could do it just fine.

Then it wore off and he couldn't do it anymore. And insisted this was because Ginny's spell had actually made his magic better. Which it didn't. It was all him, all she did was make him feel like he could do it instead of thinking he couldn't.

It was so utterly ridiculous.

Anyway I'll try Paula. Thanks.

No, thank you both for making the attempt.

-Justin

I think he's got it now! He transfigured his teacup three times. (Without Ginny's spell, I mean.) So if he can manage it in class, he should pass the test.

We're letting him go to bed.

I'm going to talk to Dolohov tomorrow about arranging for tutors again. Because clearly O'Leary needs one.
Oi! Sorry. I was with Desai and then, yeah, with Sally Anne this evening.

Ginny's told me off for not being where I was needed, so.

No idea if O'Leary would've let me help him, either, though. May have been as well I wasn't here.

Sally Anne says Igraine's come along well and should be ace at it tomorrow if she doesn't freeze up, and, really, there's not much to be done about that unless someone slips them both some liquid confidence in their pumpkin juice in the morning.

Anywiz, sorry I wasn't around when you needed me.
Bill and I have made about a dozen trips now to the Protector's Collection. Cultivating as much of an interest as we think we can, without attracting suspicion.

On two visits, I went in my animagus form, in Bill's pocket, since there are elements of dark magic one can perceive in animal form, as a smell or taste.

Neither of us has been able to touch it, since it's kept inside a case, but just from nosing up against the glass, I think we can both confirm emphatically that the sceptre is imbued with strong dark magic, and it's distinct from the other Dark objects in the Collection.

It also stands out in the collection for being a muggle artifact.

I'll admit I'm not an expert on pre-Protectorate wizard-muggle relations, but it strikes me as unlikely in the extreme that a cursed object would have been used in the royal crown jewels without a wizard intervening at some point.

I think Harry's right.

As for destroying it -- it occurs to me that possibly we could make a replica, and swap them. Especially if the Goblins were interested in helping us out. Re-creating the diamond is going to be trickiest; it's large and rather distinctive in cut. That's if we think Voldemort isn't checking on it regularly.

Well, if we can make a replica, that's certainly a step forward. What sorts of spells would one have to get round to swap it, though?
I made a list of what we spotted, but I'm sure there's more we didn't.

We'd have to be very careful when negotiating regarding ownership, but yes. That's certainly a thought.

Well, as long as they were willing to let us leave the decoy in for as long as it was needed, I certainly don't mind saying the decoy will be returned to the Goblins immediately after.

If they were copying a human-made artifact, would they even want it, though? Or would they consider it to be inferior to their usual work?

I'm not so worried in the goblins' interest in the decoy.

I'm more worried about what their interest may be in the actual sceptre itself, if we enlist their help to liberate it. I mean, yes, it's muggle-made. But Voldemort has taken ownership of it.

At the very least, that'll draw their curiosity. Besides, this sceptre holds the BIGGEST CLEAR CUT DIAMOND IN THE WORLD, so it's very likely they might want to examine it as part of the bargain to help with the swap. Who knows what mischief that could cause, considering we think the thing's a horcrux? Some of us have
already discovered that having a horcrux in one's possession can make decisions....unpredictable.

@alt_alice at 2015-01-21 21:22:01
(no subject)

Yes. That's what I was a bit more concerned with. More that somehow, they'd interpret the exchange as possibly their having ownership of the original. I think if we make the contract as iron clad as possible to begin with, that will help.

@alt_rachel at 2015-01-21 21:45:31
(no subject)

Well, we could also steal the rest of the collection, so no one would know the horcrux was the real target, and allow a couple of the other items to turn up on the black market, so no one will realise the goal was to destroy the horcrux itself.

Swapping them is risky, anyway; it might not work.

@alt_hermione at 2015-01-21 21:57:15
(no subject)

Can goblins visit the Protector's Collection on their own? Because if they can do, maybe they can make observations of it without anyone realising it, and they might be able to make other copies of other items, too.

@alt_rachel at 2015-01-21 22:15:53
(no subject)

They're not allowed to visit.

I think occasionally they've been called in for their expertise on something or other.
I've finally finished testing the co-location boxes I've been working on. One of them is the last surviving original that Harry had, and the other is a copy of the original that I made myself, with some input from Hermione and Sarah. It was a long process and not something I really want to do again, so we'll have to be especially careful with both of these. They've both been made expandable to the size of a steamer trunk, definitely big enough for a person to walk through, though I myself had to duck so Ron and Justin, you'll both probably need to do the same.

And yes, they will transport living creatures - weep for the pigeons of New London. I tested them myself, too, and I came out in one piece, if a bit dizzy.

I've already placed one of the boxes in the Hogsmeade safehouse. The other will need to be placed in the Secret Room at Hogwarts. I can either send it to one of you via an ordinary Hogsmeade owl, or we can wait until the next Hogsmeade weekend to pass it off. Whatever you lot think is best.

Once both boxes are in position, they will provide an escape route out of the castle directly into the safehouse, as well as a secure way into the castle, should it be needed. Though apparently Dolohov has ways of seeing who's lurking around the castle at any given time so none of us will be dropping by for tea, unfortunately.

---

Hey,

I've been meaning to write to you for a while - ever since what happened to Neville, really, but between one thing and another (magical stasis, in particular) I've only got to it just now.

When I realised what had been done to Neville, and what he'd done for us, I immediately wished that I had apologised to him for being such a div all through most of our time at Hogwarts together. I never
got the chance to tell him that I respected him, even though the way he saw and did things was, in most cases, different from my own perspective. Different perspectives are good though. Crucial, really. I didn't get that as a kid, but I definitely get it now.

I don't know why I never did apologise to him. It never seemed like the right time, or maybe it was just my pride getting in the way. Still working on that.

The reason I'm telling you is because I owe you an apology, too. I know I rubbished you about and was, in general, a complete pillock most of the time. I'm sorry for how I acted and I won't insult you by making excuses for it. It was wrong, and to be honest a lot of it was driven by sheer jealousy and possessiveness. Not to mention that creeping feeling that you were a better person than I am.

I hope we can put that all behind us once and for all, but I know that it's not my call to make.

Er.

Yeah, alright. If it's time to wipe the pillock slate clean, I've got some apologizing to do, too.

I can't even remember what it was about most of the times I was rude to you. Or about you. But I know I was.

And I'm the one that was jealous--and spent a load of time trying to make myself look better and you look worse, even when we were working for the same thing. I reckon the biggest thing I was wrong about was not trusting you even when I should've known better.

I was an idiot. Well, maybe we both were, but, yeah. I'm sorry for it.

The thing about Nev is that he'd have understood, and I think he'd've told you it wasn't completely your fault because you couldn't've known how he really was. He worked so hard at keeping his secrets that he didn't let anyone really know him. I mean, that goes for me, too. Even though we lived together all this time. He sort of had a way of making himself invisible. Anywiz, he'd've liked
that we're saying sorry.

So there's that.

And, yeah. The past is past.

Let me know if there's anything you need that I can help with. Seriously.

---

*alt_draco* at 2015-01-22 04:49:28

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

Alright.

So. No need to moan on about it more than that, yeah? Glad we can start over, though. Truly.

Actually, there is one thing - not something I need help with, but something that's been bothering me. Is *anyone* talking to Daphs about what's going on with her and Crouch? Because they've been writing to each other for a while now but moreso than usual, lately, and if what the papers are writing is true -

I'd feel like an arse for interfering, after what I put her through last year, but it's troubling, isn't it? Or am I the only one troubled?

---

*alt_ron* at 2015-01-22 05:06:00

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

I don't know if there's anything to it.

I mean, he's been here at the castle for supper a couple of times, but he's done that sometimes ever since Dolohov started teaching, yeah? I did see her talking to him after supper once about a week ago. She looked... well, like she was taking it seriously. The conversation. And you could tell she liked that he was paying attention. I couldn't tell anything about him, though. I mean, no idea what he's thinking.

I should probably ask her about it. If she thinks it's none of my business, I expect she'll tell me.
 alt_ron at 2015-01-22 05:11:18
Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

Should've said, too. I know Sally Anne and Pansy have been trying to decide whether to say anything to her. I don't think they have, though.

alt_ron at 2015-01-22 04:47:33
(no subject)

That's a huge piece of magic you've done there. Shame you're not here to take NEWTs, but if we ever need to use them to get out of here, we'll be dead glad you had the time to make them.

alt_hydra at 2015-01-22 04:55:44
(no subject)

If you think you can send an owl without encountering any trouble, you could send it to me.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-22 05:09:49
(no subject)

Brilliant. It'll be good to know we can get out of the school, if we have to.

alt_harry at 2015-01-22 05:14:41
Private message to Sally-Anne, Justin, and Ginny

Was it today that Lucas and Igraine had to take the test in Transfiguration? How did they do?
Re: Private message to Sally-Anne, Justin, and Ginny

Yeah, today. Igraine says she did really well. Lucas isn't as sure but thinks he passed. So, there's that. Thanks for tutoring Lucas last night. I wish he weren't such an idiot.

Yeah. Thank you, Draco.
Was your note also from Glozeman? He wants me to come to his classroom at the end of his class, is that when he wants you, too?

My best guess is he wants us to keep tutoring Igraine and Lucas. Or tell Lucas to shape up and quit dodging you, but then I don't know what he needs me for.

---

Don't you have Astronomy, anyway? What does he think, you're going to just skive off one class to dance attendance on him?

---

Sally-Anne,

Yes, he says to come to his Transfiguration lesson with the Gryffindors at 11:45. My note says he's already 'spoken to' Professor Donnelly about securing an early release from Astronomy. I say, to get from his lesson to Professor Glozeman's I shall have to practically turn round and leave as soon as I arrive at class.

I've a feeling O'Leary's optimism about his test may have been misplaced, what. I say, do you still carry remedies in one of the bracelets, or have you abandoned them since Bellatrix discovered Hermione's?

We might want to make preparations, what.

-Justin
I still wear my bracelet, I just don't keep anything in there I'd be in serious trouble if anyone found. And I'm an Apprentice Healer, there's no reason I shouldn't have potions on me at all times.

So, yeah. But I've only got two doses of the palliative in there. Do you think I should add two more, just in case?

If you've time between when we finish here and when we've got to report, yes, I think it might be wise.

We may not be given the chance to give it to the others, mind. Professor Glozeman's apt to have all manner of vindictive tricks up his sleeves.

Do you know if O'Leary's ever been Cruciated before? I know Archer has been, unfortunately, what.

-Justin

Yeah. I doubt that was her first time, back in November, given where she grew up, but who knows.

O'Leary -- if he were a 6th or 7th year Gryffindor he'd have been in that room with the rest of you, but since he's a 5th year... hmm. I can't remember ever hearing gossip about him being on the wrong end of cruciatus. I think he tends to just stay out of people's way.
Yes, I rather thought that day hadn't been her first, what, and I'd not be surprised about that.

-J

I say, how are you feeling? I expect Pansy's looking after you, or Ron. Do you think you'll be up to eating supper?

I wonder if Professor Glozeman would have been more thorough if he'd known I had no lessons this afternoon. I took a nap and feel much better for it, what, though one must admit I'd hoped to use this afternoon for other homework.

Did you see what happened to Igraine? By the time I finished speaking with Lucas, she'd disappeared. Is she all right?

-Justin

I'm undecided on supper. Pansy met me after Herbology with tisane and I went back to Slytherin to lie down for a bit.

I had Pansy find Igraine. She was really upset.

I rather think if you can bear sitting through supper, you'd be well served to go. Even if you don't eat much, what. Otherwise Professor Glozeman will take it as a triumph.

As for Igraine, that's understandable. It's odd, isn't it, how seeing
the curse given to others can be twice as bad in some ways as being cursed oneself. I hope she knows no one's cross with her; what happened was in no way her doing.

-Justin

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-22 23:16:03

(no subject)

Oh, good point about supper. You're right. I'll be there.

Apparently Igraine thought I'd hate her. Because she told Lucas I was a good tutor and I guess that's why he came to find us in the library. Unfortunately I think I'm better at being reassuring when I don't have a headache and all the rest, you know? I had Pansy reassure her, I think that helped.

It is worse seeing it done to others. And she had to watch all three of us get it and it's not as if she knew going in that Glozeman wasn't going to turn on her last.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-22 23:17:45

(no subject)

Did Dolohov send you anything?

I mean, I didn't get anything. I don't think he knows.

@alt_justin at 2015-01-22 23:20:32

(no subject)

I've not told him about it and I don't intend to do.

Luckily I never assist him on Thursday afternoons. I shall just make sure to use liberal amounts of lemon in my tea this evening, what.

-Justin
alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-22 23:22:23
(no subject)

Why aren't you going to tell him?

He might tell Glozeman not to do it again.

alt_justin at 2015-01-22 23:33:08
(no subject)

Precisely. You might not mind Antonin shielding you from Professor Glozeman, what, nor does it harm your future path to service, but if I were to expect him to intercede on my behalf, it would send a number of messages I'm not keen to convey.

-Justin
2015-01-22 12:18:00
ORDER ONLY private message to PANSY

gofindigrainetellheryousawmeandiam okayandworriedabouther

thisisn'ttherighttimetorecurher

butmaybeplantseedsforsoon

alt_sally_anne

2015-01-22 18:46:39
(no subject)

I will.

Right away.

alt_pansy

2015-01-22 18:48:11
(no subject)

Can I bring you anything?

After I've found her, of course.

alt_sally_anne

2015-01-22 18:54:06
(no subject)

in class

alt_pansy

2015-01-22 19:11:01
(no subject)

You've only got one hour left. I can meet you right after with whatever you need.
Lemon tisane
Private Message to Lucas O'leary

O'leary,

Know you're feeling jolly well ill but must recommend you go back to class if you can, old chap. Prof S-P will surely take it amiss if you skive off, what.

G Weasley can provide more lemon tisane later should you need it.

No excuses about revising. Meet library Sat afternoon. Must insist, what.

-Finch-Fletchley
I met with Igraine this afternoon. She was quite upset -- upset enough that we set off for the secret room so she could have it out. The room was quite comforting, which helped.

Apparently, Glozeman cruciated O'Leary, but not her. He said something along the lines of, 'I'm sure, Miss Archer, you're willing to do anything -- whatever it takes -- to stay out of the mudblood camps. Perhaps you can give Mr O'Leary some encouragement to do likewise. Before February's in-class exam.'

She felt absolutely wretched because she wasn't cruciated, and was in a panic about the camps, too. She didn't out and out say it, but suggested it a few times. I suppose she's got more reason than most to be afraid of them.

Harry, I reminded her about you, and how you were absolutely committed to making sure that what happened to Capper wouldn't happen to anyone else. If you could give her a friendly word, it'd go a long way. And I made sure to tell her that even though Sally-Anne and Justin had been told by Glozeman to tutor, that they both wanted her and Lucas to do well, very much. Other than that, it was mostly letting her cry it out a bit, and settling her down some.

Is he picking on any of the other halfbloods, or just those two? Igraine is absolutely petrified of going back to the camps. I think she'll need some support, to know she's not alone. And, if need be, that she's got options.

I was also wondering about her mum. Whether we might look into getting Mrs Archer and Igraine's brother out. I think we owe the Archers that much, really, and I bet Mrs Archer'd be useful, seeing as she was trained at Hogwarts. If we're to bring Igraine in, I think it'd make a world of difference to her, too.

Regardless, we ought to think of ways to show our support to both of them.
Igraine's brother is out. He's just not in school yet.
Her mum isn't, though.

She was so vague about it, if I hadn't known she'd been in the camps, I wouldn't have made the connection at all.

I'll write Mr Lupin and Mrs Longbottom.

He did WHAT?

Professor Glozeman ordered Igraine, Sally-Anne and I to come to the Gryffindor lesson this morning. Then he released everyone but Lucas O'Leary and made it known to us all that Lucas had failed his exam--I say, he did come close, what, he was only a few points off--but Professor Glozeman was bally well displeased. He'd also learned that despite having assigned me to tutor Lucas, Lucas had not come to me as requested. So he Cruciated each of us--me for not having completed the assignment to tutor Lucas, Sally-Anne for not having successfully tutored Lucas to a passing mark, what, and Lucas himself for his failure. Then as Pansy said, Professor Glozeman told Igraine that she'd be implicated if Lucas did not pass his next class exam, next month. (Though, Pansy, thank you for reporting that. I admit I wasn't quite able to hear him clearly; I was too busy trying to steady my own pulse at that moment, what.)
He allowed us to leave as soon as we could pick ourselves off the floor. Sally-Anne and I had been afraid of something like it, what, so Sally-Anne had post-Cruciatus remedies for us, which we took once we got outside. I also insisted in rather strong terms, what, that Lucas had best let us work with him before the next exam and not go running for the hills whenever he sees me. (I'm...not entirely certain that made him less afraid, however.) I tried to offer to help him to his next lesson--you remember that the Gryffindors don't get a proper luncheon on Thursdays--but he rushed off as quickly as ever he could do.

But by then, Igraine had gone as well.

I admit all I could really focus on was getting to the sett myself to lie down for a while. Once I got there, I wrote to him again but I've no idea if he took my advice, what.

-Justin

*alt_ron* at 2015-01-23 02:31:26

*Private Message to Harry*

Don't tell the rest of them, yeah?

I've just got back from leaving a pressie for Glozeturd.

Brr. Bloody cold in this castle, y'know?

Anywiz, yeah. Just so y'know. I left a cursed coin under his desk chair. Had to wait for him to leave the office, but when he did, I put it there. It'll take a while, but if he doesn't find it, he should start feeling right awful. Bloody git.

Lucky for him, my snakeself's not as bloody-minded as I am. Otherwise he'd be lying on his office floor with his entrails oozing out. No idea why I didn't do it. S'pose it's a good thing I didn't, but really.

Anywiz, I'm back, and he didn't see me.

You in the salle or somewhere?
I'm going to do some reading, but I'm feeling a bit naff, so I'm up in the dormitory if you need me. If I'm lucky, Finnicky won't come up and bang around.

@alt_ron at 2015-01-23 03:12:24
Private Message to Daphne

Say, you. What's this thing with you and Crouch?

Is it... personal? Or something you're doing for us? And, I mean, is it what you really want to be doing?

@alt_daphne at 2015-01-23 03:58:17
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Thing?

We're seeing each other, I suppose. I don't believe it's particularly serious yet.

It's an opportunity, is how I see it. And I discussed it with Rachel - it's not very different at all from her situation with Lucius Malfoy, except that Barty isn't married with a son.

I don't want to not be doing it. Why do you ask?

@alt_ron at 2015-01-23 04:31:12
Re: Private Message to Daphne

I saw you together after supper when he was here last week, and, I dunno. I hadn't realised you were seeing him.

I mean, I know there's not anyone left at Hogwarts who'd be very interesting to you. But Crouch is...

What do you see in him? He doesn't seem like the sort of bloke it'd be easy to spend time with.
What does anyone see in him? He's been one of the most eligible bachelors going on what... nearly twenty years? And yet he's never short on sweethearts. I suppose it must be down to the good looks, the money, the impressiveness of his position, the intelligence, and the intensity - well, all sorts of things.

But you know, even in addition to his whole murderous council wizard background, he can be quite cold. I wouldn't say that the coldness is pleasant, but there's a sort of flattery one feels when a cold, murderous, and yet otherwise undeniably impressive person deems you worthy of their time and effort.

You must know how that feels, surely?

What, with Desai? It's not as if-- well, I suppose. She's murderous enough, at least.

I think F-F's got a better idea of that with Dolohov, though. If you know what I mean.

I'm not sure that I do know what you mean - unless you're implying that the Headmaster likes much, much younger men? Because he'll have his work cut out for him, if that's the case. Justin's completely unavailable.

Ha. I only really meant that he seems to enjoy being Dolohov's favourite. Pretends it's all only about putting himself in position for spying on him, but he likes it. A lot. Maybe more than he
even knows. I'm not sure. It would be awkward to ask him about that part.

And who even knows what the headmaster likes? Besides the Arts.

**alt_daphne** at 2015-01-23 05:35:50  
*Re: Private Message to Daphne*

Of course he likes it. It's flattering - though I suppose if one thinks about it, it's also equally unflattering.

I imagine that the Headmaster likes people who are useful to him, like Linus and his numbers and analysis. The Headmaster got quite good use out of that (unfortunately for us).

Makes one wonder what he has in mind for Justin, down the road.

**alt_evelyn** at 2015-01-23 04:01:44  
*(no subject)*

How awful.

Katrina Fitzgibbon, Morwenna Mullet, Thalia West, Paula Ross, and Delia Forney are all friends with Igraine. We were all in a Tea together. I'm sure they'd step up if someone approached them. Fitz would be particularly on board with anything you lot would have in mind, she's been a galleon member for a while.

And Paula's got some connections with Lucas too, of course.

Artie, you might have a word with her, perhaps?

Ranjeet is the other halfblooded student in Gryffindor besides Paula and Lucas. He tended to do fairly well in his classes from what I remember. Ranjeet is the roommate Lucas is friendliest with (Brendan can be a bit much sometimes). Maybe Lucas would have an easier time revising if Ranjeet or Paula were part of it too?

I wish
I'm very glad you were there to give her a kind word, Pansy.
2015-01-22 21:18:00
Private Message to Narcissa

Lunch yesterday was a pleasure. Thank you for suggesting it.

Also for the gloves. Ample opportunity today to test their effectiveness in the field. The repellant charm works. Even with the staff in hand, it doesn't do to allow them too close. (Appreciate your concern and care of me. Truly.)

Or did you intend that I wear them when I'm at Hogwarts?

2015-01-23 03:42:09
(no subject)

Oh, but I was assured that there was nothing to threaten at Hogwarts. Or has something happened to change that assessment?

In any case, I could hardly allow you to accept a luncheon invitation on your birthday and then not mark the occasion.

But I'm glad the work as intended. I found a volume in Lucius' library that postulated the creatures would react poorly to a modified spell. And if that failed, then the gloves themselves ought to be thick enough to allow you to Apparate away to a safe distance.

I admit I didn't realise you'd have occasion to test them so quickly, however. Has it been a productive day, at least?

2015-01-23 04:22:56
(no subject)

Long. And, yes, productive. Herding them for transport.

Makes other work seem easy, so one can't complain.

How was your day?
As ever. Awaiting word either that MLE have found a way to retrieve my husband or that his remains have been recovered. Resisting the urge to scream at Bella until they find a way to trace and rescue him. Avoiding reporters and selecting which party invitations to accept.

If there's any good in this situation at all, it's that one can be ever so much more choosy about the last.

Wish I could offer reassurance. If there's any chance of recovering him, you know we'll give ourselves to the task.

If I thought they were serious about trading him, I'd truss Mulciber and deliver him myself, but you know that proposal was a non-starter with Our Lord. And even if He'd entertained the notion of throwing Mulciber to the wolves, I don't believe for a moment they'd have kept their end of a supposed bargain. They'd keep both of them, of course.

At any rate, the most it's done is stir up a lot of useless speculation about the fantasists who follow Black. Runge believes they honestly thought He'd swap Mulciber for Lucius. R thinks their plan would be to drain M of information and then ask for another trade.

Which is why no one looks to R for either analysis or strategy.

Cold comfort, I suppose, but appreciated nonetheless.

What he must be enduring, though. It hardly bears thinking about. Nights can be quite difficult for that reason.
But one must try and sleep sometime.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-01-23 05:15:46
(no subject)

Do try to sleep.
Gupta and Ross tried to persuade me that you were ill today, but as they’ve discovered to their regret, I do not tolerate being lied to.

Healer Callaghan assures me you were not in the Hospital Wing during my lesson, and nor have you been to see him at any time yesterday or today. I expect an explanation for your absence, and I expect that you will deliver it in person tomorrow morning prior to breakfast. I will be in my office, waiting.

You may count on serving detention with me every evening next week.

Do not, even for a moment, consider ignoring this message.
2015-01-22 23:34:00
Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

Last week, Professor Glozeman summoned Sally-Anne and Justin to his office and told them Igraine Archer and Lucas O'Leary were having trouble in Transfiguration class. They were to tutor them, and be held responsible for their performance.

O'Leary was too intimidated by Justin to actually work with him. So Sally-Anne tutored both.

They took a test yesterday, and Archer passed but O'Leary failed. Today Glozeman had all four come to him just before noon, and cruciated O'Leary for failing to learn and Sally-Anne and Justin for failing to teach him adequately. And then he suggested to Archer that she could 'properly' motivate O'Leary by telling him what the mudblood camps are like. Since they are both half-bloods and could be sent there like Thomas Capper if they don't pass enough of their OWLs.

alt_harry at 2015-01-23 05:40:46
(no subject)

You can't possibly think this is a reasonable way to teach anyone Transfiguration.

Or a reasonable way to treat tutors when their students fail.

Sally-Anne has been tutoring people in Transfiguration since she offered to help Neville Longbottom, our first year. She doesn't need to be threatened to persuade her to help people. She certainly doesn't deserve to be cruciated.

alt_harry at 2015-01-23 05:45:39
(no subject)

And everyone at Hogwarts got new professors for Potions and Defence in the fall. All the OWL students also got a new Noble Arts instructor. Then in December we also got new professors for Herbology, Transfiguration, and Astronomy.
Surely, even if you think it's reasonable to snap the wands of half-bloods who don't pass enough OWLs -- even though Capper was brilliant at Arithmancy, the sort of student who comes along once in a generation, according to Professor Vector -- even if you think that's fair, you have to acknowledge that this year, no one should be sent to the camps, no matter how badly they fail.

Because I think that's Glozman's goal, here. Not to help them. If he wanted to help them, he wouldn't have cruciated Sally-Anne, Justin, and Lucas O'Leary in front of Igraine Archer.

---

alt_antonin at 2015-01-24 03:56:15
(no subject)

Thank you for letting me know. As I let you know after breakfast that I intended to do, I've had a few words with Professor Glozman today about appropriate means of student discipline; I am afraid he is still in the mindset from the last time he was teaching.

Do let me know if matters continue; I am well aware that many students prefer not to appear as though they are running to Mummy about issues they are having with their professors, but as many of our new arrivals are probationary appointments while I look for someone to take the position permanently, every bit of information helps.
Discipline and Consequences at Hogwarts Must Be Just

Last week, Professor Glozeman, our new Transfiguration professor, recruited two 7th-year students to provide tutoring to some 5th year students who were struggling. Both of these students have willingly tutored others in the past and were happy to do so again.

However, when one of the 5th years did not immediately show progress, Professor Glozeman called all four into his office and used the Crucius curse to punish both the 5th year who failed and both volunteer tutors.

This sort of treatment should not be acceptable to anyone. But neither should the Crucius curse -- not at Hogwarts. This is a school, not a battlefield. Filled with students, not the enemies of the Protectorate. There are those who claim that the Crucius curse does not permanent damage, but that's a lie -- it merely does no permanent damage that's visible to the eyes.

Any form of punishment will occasionally be applied unjustly. But when the punishment is detention or lost points, the injustice is easily forgotten. Not so when it's Crucius. Any use of Crucius within the school means that inevitably it will be applied unjustly and used on children as young as eleven. This should shock any thinking wizarding adult of good conscience -- the idea that unbearable pain might be inflicted on children so young they aren't even supposed to have a broomstick at school yet, possibly not even because they did something wrong but because they were in the wrong place at the wrong moment. Or got in the wrong person's way.

Even worse as a consequence than Crucius, though, is the fact that half-blood students who fail too many of their OWL exams have their wands snapped and are sent to the camps. This is never acceptable -- Thomas Capper, a few years ago, fell victim to this even though he was the most brilliant Arithmancy student that Professor Vector had ever seen. Had a Pureblood student failed every exam but Arithmancy, he would have been the despair of his teachers but undoubtedly would have been allowed to stay in school the following year just to study Arithmancy, at least if he had the talent that Thomas Capper did. Instead, Thomas Capper died in the camps a few months later.
This year, the fifth-year students started out the year with new professors for Potions, Defence, History of Magic, and Noble Arts. When they returned from Christmas holidays they also had new professors for Herbology, Transfiguration, and Astronomy. All this, in their OWL year. Bad enough to suffer the consequences of such disrupted teaching in your OWL year without the prospect of being sent to the camps hanging over you.

I call on Headmaster Dolohov and the Board of Governors to end all use of Cruciatus at Hogwarts, and to end the practice of sending half-bloods to the camps if they fail their exams. Half-bloods who fail their OWL exams should see the same consequences as Purebloods who fail -- the embarrassment of repeating their fifth year to try again, or the dismal prospects of finding a job with terrible exam results. They should not be expelled from wizarding society. Especially not this year.

---

**alt_harry** at 2015-01-24 21:05:56  
*Order Only: Private message to Pansy*

Thanks for helping me with this. Even though I'm not in your House anymore.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2015-01-24 21:14:13  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Pansy*

I think it turned out rather well.

You need to make any other speeches any time soon, just let me know.

---

**alt_harry** at 2015-01-24 21:15:19  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Pansy*

I will!
So last year I hired tutors to help OWL students. And the year before, except Umbridge made it difficult. Basically ever since Capper got sent away, because I really don't want that happening again.

Only this year, no one's willing to come. Well, almost no one. I found a Charms tutor. But that's practically the only core class where we didn't get a new teacher this year. And an Arithmancy tutor. No one in Transfiguration, Potions, Defence, Dark Arts...

I don't know how many of the 5th years are in danger of failing their OWLs. Are Igraine Archer and Lucas O'Leary struggling in their other classes?

I helped Lucas out now and again with Astronomy, because he didn't have much of a head for it, and I know he'd get nervous in Defence sometimes. Igraine had quite a bit of trouble in Charms during her first year, but had been doing much better in the last few years, at least.

As far as the rest of them, the Ravenclaws are fairly well-off from what I know, for the most part that is. Fitz is a really strong student, as is Burbage. Saunders was rather helpless at Herbology, but he was reasonably good at everything else, at least in the classes we shared. Coolidge is the only one I'd be concerned with. He's really uneven. He's very strong in Runes, Arithmancy, and Divination of all things, and fair in Transfig and Charms, but has quite a time with the rest of it.

Ranjeet has never been very good at Potions, and he was struggling in Noble Arts this past term. He was in the Theoretical with me, and the switch to Practical was difficult. And I think he doesn't get on with Professor Sandoval-Pennifold. But he's otherwise fairly good. Paula is quite solid, of course.

And Thalia...
Well, she's three-quarters, but she's never been a particularly strong student, and at the start of this past term, she said she hoped no-one would make an example of her. She was trying to play it off as a joke, but I think she's been worried about it.

I didn't have classes with everyone for every subject, of course. And with the changeover in instructors, there's bound to be some shifts in how people do. But I hope this helps some.

---

@alt_hermione at 2015-01-25 17:15:39
Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Are you getting any blowback, Harry? I mean, I suppose you might not over the weekend, but have any of the professors tried to speak to you or anything?

Good for you, anyway, but if they are making things difficult for you, maybe the others can help in some way.

---

@alt_harry at 2015-01-26 05:02:02
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

No blowback. No one's said a word.

We'll see if anything happens in classes. I guess what I'm most worried about is that Glozeman will take things out on my friends.
2015-01-25 16:27:00
Private Message to R Lestrange

The analysis I was running when we talked last? It's finally come out positive! And I've re-checked the results by two alternate methods. Solid, definite, positive results!

Finally. You know, I'd begun to think it was never going to happen.

Sorry. The point, of course, is that now I can write it up, and I've managed a start this weekend. Would you be willing to read a draft when I've got something reasonably complete? I really want to get another piece or two accepted this spring, so Tosha knows his confidence in me was well placed.

---

alt_lana at 2015-01-26 00:24:45
(no subject)

- Lana,

Truly, then? What remarkably brilliant news. I knew that good fortune would smile upon *us* you.

I would very much like to see your draft. The sooner the better.

And now that you're in the initial stages of your analysis, there are some other components I feel we might introduce. Slowly and carefully, of course.

---

alt_lana at 2015-01-26 03:33:32
(no subject)

I'm really over the moon about it.

I suppose I've worked seriously to achieve other things before, but I don't remember ever feeling so uncertain and then so truly pleased when things turned out as I hoped!

And, oh, yes! I'm open to whatever you might suggest.
I got an awful lot finished today, so perhaps this week. I don't suppose you have any reasons to come to the castle?

alt_rodolphus at 2015-01-26 03:44:20
(no subject)

I find that your good news is reason enough.

Perhaps I'll take the opportunity to see how Hydra and Daphne are doing, as well.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday, which would you prefer?

alt_lana at 2015-01-26 04:09:23
(no subject)

Tuesday has fewer lessons packed in, so I'll have more energy left that evening than the next.

Daphne seems to be managing well, balancing her studies and responsibilities here with the attention that's followed her new status. If it's turning her head, I haven't seen much sign of it.

alt_rodolphus at 2015-01-26 04:25:45
(no subject)

Tuesday, then. I look forward to it.

There's very little of Daphne to find fault with, except of course that there's so very little to find fault with. It does remind me of my brother, though I knew him long and well enough to see the cracks that others didn't. My niece remains largely a mystery.

If what I hear is true, then Barty seems to be learning much about her, though I suspect it's not the sort of thing an Uncle ought to know.

I can't say I disapprove of the match, despite the age difference. Such matters are trivial, wouldn't you say? Though its longevity and legitimacy remain to be seen.
Oh, I think people can be drawn to one another so strongly that age is immaterial.

Do you think Crouch is serious about it, then? He's seemed committed to playing the field, so it's odd to think he might have settled his interest.

Yes, I think the same.

A man as singular as Barty is committed to very little: the Lord Protector and Tosha. Perhaps one or two others, perhaps not. It would take a very special someone to capture his interest for the long term. For now his head is turned- if the heart follows, I would hope to hear about it from him and not just the gossip rags.
2015-01-25 21:20:00

Order Only

Maghnus Derrick has been at Saltash these last few weeks, in the same secure building as Lucius Malfoy. I was there today and he asked to speak with me.

He says he wants to throw his lot in with us and do what he can to help us defeat Voldemort. If are willing to trust him and put him at liberty, he will take an Unbreakable Vow -- phrased however we'd like -- to support us and not betray us.

Thoughts on this?

alt_poppy at 2015-01-26 03:36:45

I suppose we'd have to move him before taking the Vow?

alt_lupin at 2015-01-26 05:19:28

Yes. There's no way to create an Unbreakable Vow in Saltash.

In fact, it's possible that someone who broke their Vow while at Saltash would not suffer the consequences until they left.

alt_alice at 2015-01-26 03:37:07

We would have to choose our wording very carefully.

He knows little enough of our numbers and capabilities to be a massive security risk.

I'm inclined to put him to use.
Given that it's the sort of outcome we're hoping Malfoy to embrace, I say yes. Perhaps giving him proof that we did work with one of his former comrades will help convince him it's in his interest to work with us as well. (Not that we'd grant him freedom, even with an Unbreakable Vow. But it might take on the form of an act of good faith, perhaps.)

So, Mr Malfoy hasn't had any change, then? I keep trying to find a good time to talk to Draco about going to see him. I think he worked so hard to finish up those colocation boxes mostly to have an excuse not to go, you know? But he said that his father looked really pleased when Draco told him he'd try to visit, so maybe Mr Malfoy's waiting for that before sharing anything important. But it must be really frustrating that he's not talking, I mean, by now he should be over the effects of the Dementors and I thought he'd see the logic in helping us.

No. I think he'd very much like to see Draco, and if anyone's got a chance at persuading him to throw his lot in with us like Maghnus wants to do, it's Draco.

He did read it; from the length of time he was holding it, I'd even say he read it all the way through. Then he crumpled it up and threw it into the fire. When I spoke with him later, before heading back to 12GP, he didn't mention it. But he seemed -- well. It didn't put him in a good mood.
I can't imagine it would.

I tried to make an argument for his helping us.

I hope it'll make a difference after he's had a chance to think about it.

Thank you.
So. I know we haven't actually seen much of each other, these last few days. Between your working on the boxes and my work with Mr Snape on the Sleeper research, it's really surprising how time goes. Are you going to spend much time at Grimmauld in the next day or two? I was thinking of giving Bea one more tea party before Tonks has her baby, just to take a bit of a break from it all.

I was also thinking...you told your father you'd visit. And you haven't yet. It's not the most pleasant way to spend time, I know, but...if you wanted me to go with you, and wait on the ground floor or something, I'd make time for that.

Unless you'd rather go with Sarah. Or maybe you were lying, I mean, just telling him that to keep him complacent, and you don't want to see him at all. Which makes sense, if it's too painful. I mean, I don't ever want to see

But if you wanted someone to go with you, for moral support, I could do that.

I'll join you for the tea party so long as I don't have to wear ladies gloves, per Bea's preference. Not that I'm opposed to ladies gloves, but they're always too small for my hands and make the tea cups too difficult to handle, besides.

As for my father, well...thanks for the offer, truly - but it's not as if I'm afraid of going, or anything. It isn't even that it's unpleasant. It's not so terrible. It's so not so terrible that I don't really know what to do next. I expected him to hate me and he didn't, so what now?

If I did go, I'm not sure Sarah should come along. Or would, even. She's being funny about the whole thing, but funny in that way where she's clearly not saying what she's thinking, not even when I ask. It's not as if I expect her to like my father or want to get to know him, after all.
alt_hermione at 2015-01-27 01:20:50
(no subject)

I think we could convince Bea that gloves are not strictly necessary. Maybe we could have an *informal* tea party or something. Or tell her Hydra never wears gloves, that'd probably change her mind really quickly.

I don't know if this will help or hurt, but Mr Lupin seems to think that you've got a better chance of convincing your father to help than anyone else. That's why I suggested that I stay out of sight, if I did go. I can't imagine he'd be happy seeing Sarah, either, considering.

I mean, not that you ought to be seeking his approval anymore, because obviously that doesn't matter in the slightest. Only that if you go to try to talk him into supporting the Order, like Derrick's doing, then it doesn't make sense to deliberately antagonise him, either.

I'm sure Sarah doesn't want to make his acquaintance because she's sure he'll just treat her horribly. And I mean, no one can blame her for that.

alt_draco at 2015-01-27 01:40:53
(no subject)

It's true Hydra never wears gloves. Not fancy lady ones, anyway. Funny that, because I've a feeling she'd like to.

I don't think he will help unless he believes we've actually got a chance, and right now, he believes we're doomed. His plan is the only plan, remember? But maybe if I gave him more details about the horcruxes, and describe how we've already found and destroyed three of them, and are pretty certain we've tracked down a fourth. Or if I told him about our work disabling the Octobori, or about Sherwood, Aldrich, and Bedford. You know - things that will demonstrate to him that we're making progress that none of the other resistance groups can hold a candle to.

Only, how will everyone feel about me giving him so much information about us?
Oh, and yeah, I understand exactly why Sarah wouldn't want to know him, but I don't think she'd be a good person to have come along and wait on the ground floor, either.

@alt_hermione at 2015-01-27 01:51:26
(no subject)
Well, you can ask Mr Lupin but I think we're taking the right precautions so that he can't really hurt us with any information he's given. I mean, he's not going to contact Voldemort through his Mark--he couldn't do that in Saltash even if he tried. And he's not going to get a journal and start writing to people (which also won't work in Saltash). And do you think if you told him about the horcruxes and he did escape somehow, he'd go and tell Voldemort about his vulnerability? After he told you that he'd already sort of helped Selwyn?

@alt_draco at 2015-01-27 02:02:29
(no subject)
No, I don't really think he'd use the information against us, but other people could be of that mindset. But whatever, you can't make everyone happy, no matter what you do.

@alt_hermione at 2015-01-27 02:12:15
(no subject)
Then I think you're better off risking by telling him too much, in the hopes he has something useful to add, rather than telling him too little, and never getting him to ever see that we can succeed.

@alt_draco at 2015-01-27 02:13:08
(no subject)
Yeah, I agree.

You sure you really want to come along? I can manage on my own, if you'd rather not.
alt_hermione at 2015-01-27 02:14:17
(no subject)

I don't mind. If you want me to come, that is.

alt_draco at 2015-01-27 02:23:14
(no subject)

Sure I do.

I really do wish he could meet you properly, you know, not just as Harry's former servant. And that he would see what I see - what everyone else in the Order sees, too, that is. But he just wouldn't.
Die Wörter, sie sind komplett, Professor.

Kann wir sehan? Mit tee?

When you're free, of course.

A good start.

Make that fifteen, I have ink to scrub off my hands.
So, if I show up tomorrow afternoon to rub your feet, will you be happy to see me or will I get you cursing me forever for getting you into this mess?

Seriously, though: I was going to have Friday off like usual, but Robert wanted to rearrange his shifts this week and I agreed. Would you like the company? I can only barely imagine how miserable you're feeling by this point. I can give the kiddo a stern talking-to about hurrying the fuck up.

Company would be lovely. And feet rubbing would be lovely. And telling this baby to get the bloody hell out of me already would be lovely, too, goddammit.

Sounds like a plan. I'll be there as soon as I've won free.

Also -- Mum wrote me earlier tonight to see if you would like her to come and stay at Grimmauld for a few days to give you a hand, once the Bap has made his appearance. (She wanted to run it by me to get a sense of whether the offer would be welcome or not first.) Should I tell her sure, go ahead and ask you, or that I think you'd prefer to recover a bit first? I mean, I remember you saying that the first few days after Bea was born were the kind of thing you could've used another twelve hands for, but on the other hand, Mum.
Mmm. I'm starting to remember how absolutely marvy it was to do things like not sleep. And try to keep on top of housekeeping. And eating. And actually washing up.

Kreacher is more of a help lately. Loads. And Remus and Sirius are certainly old hands at nappies and taking over shifts. But with Miss Bea in the mix too (and I have a feeling she'll be in need of tonnes of extra attention, by the way,) yes, let's just say for now, more the merrier, and if I get a bad case of 'had enough,' I'll be sure to let you know, yeah?

Right then -- I'll let her know she should ask you. I'll be there too, as long as I can be. Bill's already plotted with the Twins to come up with a convincing 'family emergency' for me to get off work for a few days, and I've been building up as much goodwill as I can so people won't mind covering for me.

And yeah, I'm worried about Bea feeling left out when the Bap shows up, but at least with the four of us running around, there'll always be somebody to take her aside and do something special with her. I'll make sure to do that when I'm there today, actually, I learned some new storytelling illusion spells in barracks last week.

(Speaking of this afternoon, I should be free around two or so, maybe a bit earlier. I'll just pop 'round once I am.)
did you manage to catch gimlet, ron?

it's not bad now that everything's back in place and I've had something for the pain. I have to write very slowly so I don't jog anything. annoying. katrina's better now that her arm is properly set too. she's okay, evs. can't write yet, but she wanted to pass on that she's okay.

glozeman is the worst.

least I had a good morning, yeah? love my book, s-a. and very sweet earrings, george. work very well. might see if rachel wants a pair.

before I forget. stebs, this next shipment needs to 'go bad', yeah? all of it. should be in tomorrow.

dinner will be interesting. especially if it's soup.

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-28 00:46:27
(no subject)

What?

Kitty broke her arm? In Transfiguration?

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-28 00:47:14
(no subject)

And what happened to you, Pansy? What do you mean, 'back in place'?

alt_george at 2015-01-28 01:04:03
(no subject)

Yeah, I'd like to know what 'back in place' means, too. Bugger Glozeman, anyway.

Glad you received my owl, at least, and I'm glad what I sent started the day out all right.
alt_george at 2015-01-28 01:17:27
Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

Happy birthday, luv. Fred's been teasing me that all the mush that card included would probably ooze out all over the Great Hall floor, but I meant every word.

Watch your back. At least the earrings should help keep anyone from sneaking up on you.

alt_george at 2015-01-28 01:17:37
Re: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

And I miss you like mad. As much as I love the berk, cozying up to Fred on the sofa at the end of a long work day definitely ain't the same.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-28 01:22:12
Re: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

miss you too, you giant bowl of mush. tonnes.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-28 01:24:29
(no subject)

dislocated a shoulder, sprained a knee.

I'll mend.

alt_justin at 2015-01-28 01:04:04
(no subject)

Evelyn,

It might be more accurate to say she had it broken for her.

Professor Glozeman's lesson today was on transfiguring humans into animals. Not the Animagus transformation itself, what, but forcibly turning other people into animals.
He targeted Kitty and then allowed—I say, bally well *ordered*—us to take it in turns to try to either turn her into something else or change her back to a human again.

Patil managed to change her to from a beaver (Professor Glozeman’s choice) to an ostrich, though one must say it looked as if she had some trouble completely visualising the bone structure. So something might have already begun to go wrong there. Daphne tried to change her back to human and couldn't quite manage, though she came close. Then Crabbe attempted to make her into a toad—but failed. Rather miserably, what.

I was able to transform her back, but Professor Glozeman has a strict policy against leaving his lessons without permission. He did not grant her permission to go straight to the Hospital Wing, as one might expect.

Then he wanted Ron to volunteer next but Pansy insisted it be her. I say, jolly good job, if painful.

-Justin

.ribbon-block {margin-top: 17px; margin-bottom: 17px;}

*alt_pansy* at 2015-01-28 01:08:35
(no subject)

thought it'd foul things up otherwise.

felt bloody weird. still does, a bit.

*alt_justin* at 2015-01-28 01:16:34
(no subject)

It might have done. I don't know how aware you were during your ordeal. When Corner had tried his spell, Professor Glozeman launched a lecture on the responses of true Animagi to forcible transmutations. Ron might have defaulted to his real form, for example, or a number of other outcomes which no one wanted.

I'm bally well glad you thought to take his place, what. I was just about to volunteer, myself, but I'm sure Professor Glozeman was more than happy to allow you to undertake it, the sadist.
-Justin

alt_evelyn at 2015-01-28 01:41:46
(no subject)

How awful.

I'm glad Sally-Anne is there.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-28 03:34:07
(no subject)

Glozeman made me try to transfigure Pansy. And said he'd have Crabbe go next if I didn't.

So I tried only I was just as bad worse than Crabbe.

alt_justin at 2015-01-28 00:55:47
(no subject)

Pansy,

I say, it was good of you to stand in for Ron, but what a horrid way to mark your birthday.

-Justin

alt_ron at 2015-01-28 00:56:34
(no subject)

Yeah, caught him. He was annoyed at first, but I gave him a kind of careful summary of what happened, and now I think he's annoyed with Glozeman.

You still in the Hospital Wing? Healer Garrick finally stirred himself to actually do something for you? Bloody useless git.

Tell Kat I got her things, and I'll have them up there soon as I can. Have to stop by Desai's first, though.

Garrick is going to let you stay tonight, right?
thanks.

we're to expect some disorientation apparently. so yeah.

hope he'll give me time on thursday.

bugger.

and I've got miles of things that need going over before the weekend, too.

Pansy,

What sorts of things? Perhaps we can help.

-Justin

Any of that I could do for you? Or go over with you? I'd probably do well to study with you, anyway.

Point is, I owe you.

Not sure what would've happened if he'd tried transforming me into something random. But I think it wouldn't have gone well.

I say, if it happens again, someone jump in and turn me to a snake as the first change. Then if no one can turn me into anything else, it might pass off as a failure in the spells, maybe in that first one that gets me 'stuck', y'know? I don't know. I guess it depends whether he really believes that nonsense of Ridgeway's or not.
hm.

I'm behind in revising for charms and NA, and desperately need to go to the salle.

but probably not the salle until thursday or friday.

that'll get me caught up enough so I can focus on potions and random businessy things.

thank you. both of you.

I can certainly help you revise in either Charms or NA. When you're ready we can book the salle, too.

-Justin

NA and a run in the salle would be brill.

I'll snag Ron for charms and another salle run to keep me honest.

Absolutely. If you like, I could have a word with Headmaster Dolohov on your behalf, and yours as well, Kitty, to explain why your coordination will be off for the next lesson or so.

-Justin
Private Message to Pansy

I'm keeping up in Dolohov's, so if you want to see any of that, well, you should still probably get the notes from Sally Anne or Justin unless you've got a good handwriting parser. I need to catch up with Charms, though, so if you want to look that over together, I'm your bloke.

And any time you want to go to the Salle, I'll let you call whatever handicap you want. If you want to hex me black and blue, I reckon you've a right.

But, um. Are you really all right? You seemed really rattled. Are there some after-effects?

Re: Private Message to Pansy

it's just

I feel a bit out of sorts in my own skin, yeah?

and I keep misjudging how far to reach for things. and my eyes have trouble focusing, so it's giving me a bit of a headache.

and during, everything just felt really really wrong, just, like, I don't really know how to explain it, and it's like it still feels like that a little.

Re: Private Message to Pansy

It's not like that for me, when I transform, but--when I think about what it would be like, turning into anything else, I think it would be just like that--really really wrong. All the proportions, the way the eyes work, the way everything would taste and feel and move.

But, y'know... when I transform, I'm the one that's doing it. It's not a spell forcing me. And it's not bloody Goyle casting it!
I tried to talk Professor Dumbledore into doing that for me, actually, when I was trying to learn the transformation and wasn't having any success. He wouldn't do it. He said it wouldn't help and that it would probably make it harder for me to do it because I wouldn't want to feel that again. I reckon he knew what he was talking about, yeah?

@alt_pansy at 2015-01-28 04:50:30
Re: Private Message to Pansy

I'd do it again, you know.

if it keeps your secret, it's worth it.

and you're utterly brill, you know? you and terry both. you should be properly proud of yourself for sorting it out like that.

glozeman would be gobsmacked if he knew.

make sure sally-anne knows it isn't her fault, will you? I keep telling her but she doesn't believe me.

@alt_ron at 2015-01-28 05:01:56
Re: Private Message to Pansy

Yeah, I'm trying.

She can be really bloody stubborn when she decides to feel awful about something.

@alt_pansy at 2015-01-28 06:12:00
Re: Private Message to Pansy

I suppose that just means we'll have to keep on showing her we love her no matter what, then, hey?
I can volunteer to transform you. Except, I'm not sure Glozeman would be fooled.

It might be better to have you practice being transformed, and see if you can resist the temptation to turn into your snake form. If Justin thinks he could do it. (He definitely did the best today in class, out of our lot.)

Yeah, well. If anyone does that to me, I think Pansy ought to have the first shot at it. Y'know?

And Sally Anne, if I could talk her into trying. Just so she knows she can do it. She's really... having her spell slip with Pansy has really got her shaken up.

Yeah, it does feel disorienting (the git used to do this to me--the time that Fred and George adopted me wasn't the only time he turned me into an animal for punishment).

Can you get your hands on some fennel seeds? Maybe in Potions class? Because they have something in them that will help with the wooziness. That's something I picked up from one of the more obscure books in the git's library. Have never tried it myself, since I never could get my hands on any, but if you can, it might help.
(And I'm really sorry. You get rid of the git, and then you have a decent professor for a few years, and you get the chance to really learn something about Transfiguration--and now this. It just really stinks.)

Crabbe couldn't have done any worse for you than I did. And Glozeman wouldn't have been trying.

it wasn't right, him making you try those spells without any chance to work on it beforehand.

he made katrina sit there.

just

he's awful. and if you spoke up about it, he would've used it against you somehow.
Well apparently Dolohov told him that he's not to use cruciation as a first alternative when disciplining students.

If I'd refused, he might have had Crabbe do it, but he might have just changed you back and had them have a go at me next. Which - - at least I wouldn't have been the one hurting you.

it's not your fault he's a shite teacher.

as it was, we kept it limited, and it was something we could handle. it could've been a tonne worse.

I know. if it'd been me doing it to you instead

I know.

Yeah.
Thanks for the birthday good wishes, everyone.

Pansy, I'd like to help celebrate our mutual natal day by dropping by Hogwarts and wiping the floor with your Transfiguration professor, but I'm afraid that would be tipping our hand a little too early. Be careful, all of you.

---

Thanks much for the invite, my friends, and I'm sure Victor's pudding for the occasion would be champion, but Lee's making sure my birthday's being properly celebrated here in Bedford, never fear!

you take care, mate.

see you thursday, when I hit up sherwood, yeah?

happy returns, old man.

I'll see you in a day or so, Kingsley.

I hope the beanie fit properly.

Many happy returns, love. And Merlin willing, many, many more to come.
Private message to Lee Jordan

Thanks for juggling the schedule so I could take the day off. Having a good time here at Moddey, and Frank and Alice are making a proper fuss over me, not to mention the kids.

And if there are a few faces missing, well

Happy birthday, Kingsley, dear!
I stopped by to visit Tonks this weekend, and my goodness, she looks about ready to pop!

I know she has plenty of help, and she's already an experienced Mum, but I'm dying to ask whether I might come stay with her and Remus and Sirius and Bea, after the baby comes. Not right away, of course, and not for long. Do think if I ask the idea would be welcome or unwelcome? Or is it the sort of thing where she would say 'Yes' while gritting her teeth, waiting for me to leave her in peace?

It might help a little, if only to help keep Miss Bea's nose from going out of joint. I don't want to intrude, but oh, it IS my first grandchild!

What is your advice? Should I ask? Or would you be more comfortable asking her for me? It might be less embarrassing for her to tell me through you, if she wants to say 'No.'

---

I think that would be a lovely thing for you to ask her, actually. I'm going to try to be there as long as I can -- Bill and the Twins are concocting a 'family emergency' illness that I'll be needed to help out with -- but I'm reliably informed that the more hands in that first few days or so, the merrier. (Not that I need to tell you that.)

She's so ready for this baby to come! Big as houses and so ready for this to be over. I'm going down this afternoon to give him a little father/son talking-to about hurrying up already.

(...Merlin. I think that's the first time I've actually said something like that. It's normal to be totally floored at the idea of parenthood right about now, right?)

Also. We're not telling people the first name we've decided on yet, if you do that you get everybody poking their wand in and having Opinions, but I did want to tell you one part of it so you aren't broadsided out of nowhere when we announce it. Tonks and I decided a while back, we're going to give him 'Theodore Arthur' as
middle names. (It works better in that order with the first name we've chosen.) Because both of us are who we are at least partially because of our fathers, and we wanted his name to reflect that a little.

Good then, I'll have tea with her and ask her.

Oh, goodness yes, I remember that stage so well, when you're willing to go through ANYTHING, just as long as the pregnancy would be over. Particularly when I was brimming with the twins! And yes, that feeling of being floored by parenthood is perfectly normal! I imagine it'll be a little easier for the two of you since she's been through this before.

Oh, Charlie...I'm so touched that 'Arthur' will be one of his names. And 'Theodore,' too. That's just perfect.

I'm relieved that you think Tonks won't feel crowded if I'm there to help. Please, dear, DO tell me if I misstep or get on either of your nerves a little, or if you want me to do something differently. I want to help, not be annoying!

I'm so excited. I can't wait to meet him.

Merlin's balls beard, it's no wonder she's ready to get this baby out into the world: she's even more huge than she was last week, even. From what I remember, she's even bigger than you were when you were pregnant with Ron! And he's kicking up a storm. I put my ear on the bump so I could listen for him, and he kicked me in the side of the head.

I have to say, I'm counting on the fact that Tonks has been through this before. Because I'll be honest with you, Mum, I'm kind of terrified. I mean, we made a person. And that person's going to be totally dependent on us for at least the next few years. I think it didn't really feel real until the first time I felt him kick me, and it's been getting realer and realer ever since.
And, you know. I've been looking for a way to ask this for a while, and I haven't quite come up with a good one, so ... I guess I'll just ask it. Back when you were pregnant with Bill, and I guess again with me. Did you ever talk about what you should do with your work for the Order, and with how dangerous it could be? I mean, Tonks already thought it through back when she and Remus were having Bea, the part about "can I bring a child into this world and not feel guilty", and we talked about what will happen if one of us gets hurt or killed as part of all this -- that's part of the reason why I'm so glad that we have Sirius and Remus and you and Bill and, hell, Alice and Frank. Somebody will be able to take care of him, no matter what. And the work with the Order is important enough that it's worth doing, no matter the price -- that's not what I'm worried about.

But I've been thinking a lot about my job, and how dangerous it is, and how it will mean I don't get to spend anywhere near as much time with him as I'm sure I'll want to, when he's born, and ... I don't know. I don't want to quit my job -- the Order needs the money, and what little access to dragon's blood and dragon scales and the occasional dragon heartstring and the like that I can turn up. But I don't want my kid to grow up without me because I got hurt on the job, or grow up with me being the bloke that comes in once or twice a week, and I'm not sure I can reconcile the two. And I'd talk to Alice or Frank about how they decided to leave Neville and Evelyn with Augusta, but that's kind of a sore subject right now.

Sorry. I know this isn't the kind of thing that writing in the journals is good for. We can talk on Sunday, maybe.

---

@alt_molly @ 2015-01-30 03:29:38  
(no subject)

There's so much I would want to say about this, but the question just floods me with memories. I'm afraid this is a too large a subject for me to write about very coherently. Ordinarily, yes, I would advise you to speak to Alice and Frank about their experience, and yes, obviously that's impossible right now.

The only thing I can pluck out of all my swirling thoughts is that the Protectorate is dealing out death, but having babies is a
defiant vote for life instead. Even if a parent dies, the children go on. YOU are going on, even though Arthur is gone. Do I wish that I hadn't had you, and your brothers and sister, because he is dead? Of course not! We lost Percy, but every single one of the rest of you are furthering his work.

I know your work with the dragons is dangerous, trust me, I know. And I know Bill's in danger and Ron's in danger, and the twins are in danger with every single experiment they try with that mad Fu Lee. And it's no picnic for Ginny, either, stuck in Hogwarts with Ron and dealing with terrible professors. But we're doing it, love. We're so much further along at figuring out how to break the Protectorate than we were when your father died, and he would have been so proud of you. Of all of us.

Lastly, I have no doubt that you will be the most wonderful father. How could you help but be so, with Arthur Weasley as your example?

I love you, son. Yes, we'll talk further Sunday.
Glozeman's 'cold.'

He's NOT sick, is he? You slipped that cursed coin I made into his office.

---

*alt_ron* at 2015-01-28 03:46:02
(no subject)

Do you really want to know the answer to that?

---

*alt_sally_anne* at 2015-01-28 03:48:17
(no subject)

Maybe if he hadn't been in a horrible mood today he wouldn't have

I guess not. Except I know, anyway.

I keep thinking about attempting the Transfiguration. How it ALMOST worked and I thought

And then it didn't.

---

*alt_ron* at 2015-01-28 04:21:10
(no subject)

Y'know, maybe if he'd taught us how to do the spell before he made people cast it on other people, maybe we'd've done better, y'know? It wasn't just you. I mean, we all know it's different casting a transfiguration spell on a person than on a hedgehog or a mouse, and we all know somebody who's been hexed with wings or a beak that wouldn't go back to normal without a trip to Madam Pomfrey, and we all know that sort of thing hurts like mad. So what was he thinking?

Yeah. That's what.
He's a menace. And we're really lucky Kat's not hurt worse than she was. Or anyone else. But it's not your fault you didn't manage that spell perfectly the first time. You know that, right?

I can't decide if it would make me feel better if Pansy were at least properly cross at me.

You're just feeling guilty. But you shouldn't be. You should both be furious at Glozeman.

I know but it's just

I know this is exactly what he wanted. He wanted for me to hurt Pansy and then to feel terrible. And I came so close to NOT doing that. But then I mucked it up and gave him exactly what he wanted.

Okay, so you mucked it up the first time. Do what you'd do in any other subject for any other teacher--read everything you can get your hands on about it and meet me in the secret room to practise casting it until you can do it perfectly every time. Then he'll have to find some other spell we can't do yet, but he'll never be able to use that one against you again.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-28 04:53:26
(no subject)

I dislocated Pansy's arm. What if I hurt you even worse?

alt_ron at 2015-01-28 04:57:31
(no subject)

I'm willing to take that risk. And I'm not an idiot. It's pretty good odds, y'know? I can't think of many times that you got worse the second time you tried something. Particularly something you're serious about learning.

N'yah.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-28 04:06:02
(no subject)

And, I'm thinking about Harry's suggestion that you practice. Maybe check with Sirius about whether it might screw up your ability to actually transform properly? Because that wouldn't be good.

Also, I'd never even heard of that spell Corner tried on Pansy. The one that turns a transformed animagus back into human form. I wonder if that's also something you ought to practice? We could go up to the secret room and you could transform and I could turn you back, so you could see how it felt. If it's really disorienting.

alt_ron at 2015-01-28 04:22:51
(no subject)

Yeah, I think that's a good idea, actually.

Well, both things are good ideas. I should write Sirius. And Rachel.

I'll maybe do that now.
Rachel thinks we should practise it, too.

So that decides it. We'll go up to the room, and you can turn me into every animal you can think of that's not a snake, and then you can try that spell out and see if it only works when I'm snakewise or for any animal at all.

How's that?

Well, I think we should start by having you transform normally and have me try to turn you back, so you can see how that feels before I accidentally dislocate all your joints trying to turn you into a cat or a hedgehog or whatever.

But you're right you ought to find out what happens, before Glozeman pulls you up in front of class again. So okay. I'll try. I really think you might be better off with Justin, though. He did fine with Kitty.

Yes, well. That means Justin's not the one who needs more practise, doesn't it?

Keep trying.
So today in Transfiguration, Glozeman had us transfiguring other students into animals. Complete transformations, not just a beak here and some feathers or scales or claws there, y'know?

We hadn't done anything to prep for it at all. I mean, if you don't count turning porcupines into pincushions, which obviously doesn't begin to count.

It was just as horrible as you'd expect. And people got hurt. And he's probably going to make us do it again because he likes making us hurt each other. Right bastard, yeah?

Anywiz, two things. One is that I need to know what would happen if someone tried to transform me into something other than a snake. Could they do it? Could I hold the form if they managed it? Or would I just instinctively transform snakewise and give myself away? And is there any use trying to practise being transformed into, say, a horse to see if I can learn to hold that shape? Or would something really wonky happen?

Um. And the second thing is that somebody knew a spell none of us had ever heard of before. Seemed as if it was meant to turn an animagus back to his proper form. D'you know about that spell? It didn't do anything to the student who'd been transformed, so we don't know if it just wasn't cast right or if it didn't work because the student it was cast on isn't an animagus. Does it only work on animagi? Would it give me away if someone cast it on me? Or does it really work just fine on someone who's been spelled into a lizard and only failed because Corner couldn't cast it properly? I mean, with Corner, it could just be that.

I'd ask what you were supposed to learn from that exercise, but if he's a right bastard, I'm guessing the lesson was something like 'don't cross me.'
If someone tries to transform you into something other than a snake, they can probably do it, yeah. It stands to reason you'd instinctively transform to your own form, but you might be able to resist the instinct, at least for a while.

It's just a guess, though. I've never been transformed other than under my own power.

About that spell -- I hadn't thought about it in a while, but yeah, I've heard of it. Never that that cast on me, either. Could you test it out in private just to see what happens?

---

@alt_ron at 2015-01-28 05:14:45
(no subject)

Yeah, I think testing it out is a good idea. Testing both things--if I can hold another form and what that spell really does.

Sirius makes it sound like another form would be a trap. Not liking the sound of that.

---

@alt_sirius at 2015-01-28 04:54:52
(no subject)

Oh, yes, the forced reformation spell. Haven't thought about that in years. James and I learnt it as a precaution back when we were working on becoming Animagi. It works on any Animagus but only if they're in their natural form. James also wasn't certain it could work if the spell's object had not also achieved that form under his own power - I mean to say, if I forcibly transformed you into a snake, even though it's your natural form, the forced reformation would not actually work to get you out of it. It's meant only to aid an Animagus who's become stuck, you see. So we learned it but I think we only had to cast it once. Was it on Peter or James? Merlin, I can't remember.

To answer your other question ... I don't know for sure. You might be able to resist transfiguring yourself, actually, because a forced animal transfiguration isn't actually the same as an Animagus transformation at all, though they have some of the same roots. If a wizard changes you to an animal, as I understand it, you don't retain your own mind entirely, or at least, even less so than we do in our Animagus forms. I don't know how it is for you as a snake, but for
me, I can sort of ... pick and choose which aspects of my dog form I want to focus on. I mean to say, certain things are sharper, anyway, and others are harder, but for the most part, if I really want to concentrate on thinking like a human, I can do it. If you're turned into an animal by someone else, though, that part of your brain doesn't often transfer with you. It's as if it gets shoved to one side and the animalistic brain takes over. Which is another reason it's so unnerving for so many people. So you might be able to assert yourself enough to change, or you might not. Then again, you might simply do it by sheer instinct. I suppose it would also depend on what sort of animal you got turned into, too. If you were a mongoose, you might like being that far less than you would, say, a lizard.

Speaking of the discomfort of it - I'm sorry you lot have to put up with that bastard.

✉️ alt_rachel at 2015-01-28 05:02:53
(no subject)

I'm pretty sure if you forcibly transformed Ron into a snake, or me into a hedghog, or you into a dog, our minds would catch up with the form in a moment or two. I mean, we've all spent a fair amount of time in our animal forms, we know how it feels and we're accustomed to that bit of our brain that definitely goes with the body -- you know?

Now I'm really curious.

✉️ alt_sirius at 2015-01-28 05:13:39
(no subject)

Oh, yes, I agree. What I'm saying is that if I transformed you into an anteater, or you turned me into a chipmunk, we'd be at a similar disadvantage to any other non-Animagus who's been transformed into an animal. We might be able to withstand it, but on the other hand, the feeling that we're simply in the WRONG form might be the only thing we can latch onto, if you see what I'm saying.

If I turned Remus into a regular timber wolf at any time other than the full moon, he might have some advantages but on the whole, he'd be closer to any other wizard who got forcibly transformed into a wolf, as far as thinking wolf-thoughts. (Actually, Remus had a book on that, if you're interested. I'm sure he'd be willing to
discuss it. There were some experiments in the late 1960's with - as far as we could tell - willing participants.)

Oh! Remus knows the spell, too. We taught it to him, just in case.

@alt_rachel at 2015-01-28 05:17:36
(no subject)

Yeah, the 'this is wrong, need to fix it' aspect of the forcible transformation is why that one author whose name I can't remember was convinced that any animagus transformed into some other form would involuntarily transform into their animagus form (and from there they could go back to human, if they wanted).

If anyone's actually tested that one, though, I haven't seen the book.

That's fascinating about werewolves. Was there some point to the research or was someone just curious and friends with enough werewolves to get some volunteers?

@alt_sirius at 2015-01-28 05:28:06
(no subject)

There was a point to it. There was a point to all the research they did back then, though some of it was kinder to the werewolves than other experiments. If I recall right, mostly they were either about ways to cure the curse altogether or to mitigate the effects of transformation. This was all long before Wolfsbane Potion, of course. So they tried all sorts of things like, oh, 'If we transform someone to a werewolf in the middle of a sunny afternoon, what happens when he transforms naturally later in the month?' and 'If we've practised transforming a werewolf back into a human on sunny afternoons, can we successfully do it during the lunar cycle itself?' (You can imagine the answers were ... not what they were looking for.)

I do think it's likely that an Animagus could override a forced transformation to get into his or her own natural form. What I'm not sure about is whether that's easier or harder depending on how different the forced form is compared to the natural one.
Hm, it's an interesting thought, though. I mean to say, Ron's a snake. Would it be easier for him to transition from another animal into a snake if he'd been turned into, say, a newt. Or a fire crab? Or would it actually be harder because those forms are closer to how he expects to feel, compared to a horse or a thestral or an ocelot or a red-breasted robin?

Maybe this does bear a little experimentation.

alt_rachel at 2015-01-28 05:32:38
(no subject)

Well, I could drop by 12GP this weekend and we could try this out on each other.

I think we're rather less likely to have someone forcibly transform us than Ron is. It might not be a bad idea to give that return-to-human-form spell a test run, though.

alt_sirius at 2015-01-28 05:35:35
(no subject)

One of the strangest invitations for a date I've ever had, but you're on.

alt_rachel at 2015-01-28 05:38:32
(no subject)

Maybe we should arrange for Molly or Poppy to stop by to put us back together afterward?

alt_sirius at 2015-01-28 05:42:46
(no subject)

I think Poppy's coming to give Dora one final checkup before doomsday. So if you timed it right she might already be here. We could check their schedule just to make sure,
**alt_ron** at 2015-01-28 05:17:54  
(no subject)


Should I add him to the PM? (Not sure if that works, but I could try.)

---

**alt_sirius** at 2015-01-28 05:40:24  
(no subject)

Nah, I don't think it works. Anyway. It's not important. I was just remembering.

---

**alt_ron** at 2015-01-28 05:11:31  
(no subject)

Wouldn't be Hogwarts if we went a whole year without someone trying to kill or something trying to eat us or suck our souls out or summat. Can't really think why parents send their kids here, at all, really.

So... if someone casts a transformation spell on me, I'd be trapped in whatever form?

Nice.

Expect I'll have nightmares about that, thanks.

---

**alt_rachel** at 2015-01-28 05:13:26  
(no subject)

I think we're pretty sure we don't know, actually.

If you run any experiments, be sure to give us a full report! You can think of it as your contribution to the body of knowledge about animagi. Which is a rather unresearched field, in fact, since animagi are rare, and also frequently secretive, no matter what the laws about it say.
It never used to be like that. Well, at least, the people trying to kill each other were just students behaving like baboons, anyway. I'm no exception!

Rachel's right, though: We have no idea. You might be trapped. You might default to your snake form. You might feel mild discomfort compared to your classmates. Honestly, could be anything.

I realise we're being extraordinarily helpful, here, sorry.

Wait. So why did Corner know the spell, when you hadn't heard of it and you've been learning from Albus?

No idea, really.

I mean, about why Corner would've known it. About Dumbledore, well. Must not've thought it would be helpful to mention it. Probably didn't want me worrying about getting stuck until I'd done it successfully and then once I could do it, I didn't get stuck. Or, actually, I did rather get stuck the first time out, but that day was a bit chaotic, and no one had a chance to cast anything to help me, and eventually I got myself sorted.
Who's Corner? Not one of ours? Which House?

Not one of us, no. He's got a galleon, though. He's a Ravenclaw.

And used

That might be worth finding out. Is he reasonably matey or is he one of the gits?

In any case, if he's working on the spell, you've got a good reason to ask him about it. You'll get to the source faster than we could get it to you. Since I don't imagine you fancy wasting part of your next Hogsmeade trip meeting up?

Michael Corner's got a galleon but he's not in the Order because he doesn't fancy taking a lot of risks.

He's a Ravenclaw.

He's not one of my mates, no.

But Sally Anne can ask him.
And he's also my ex-boyfriend, so if someone asks him about the spell maybe it shouldn't be me, or Ron? I mean it's not that we're not friendly. It just might be better to have someone else ask him about it. Harry, maybe.

WAIT. I remember Glozeman. He was teaching Charms for part of the time I was in school.

He was dreadful! I'm sorry. Really made me appreciate Acton.

You had him for Charms?

So you know what a--

He's not quite like Carrow, either of them, but he's dangerous. Seriously dangerous.

Yeah. He knew who I was. I was not one of his favourite students.

He never told anyone else who I was. Just let me spend a lot of time thinking he was about to. Because that's the sort of thing he finds very, very amusing.
Yeah.

He hasn't changed much.

You mean he knew you were an animagus?

Or knew your other name?

Oh, not that I was an animagus.

He knew I was Rachel Brodie before I was Rachel Lamont. It's never *exactly* been a secret. But the other students didn't know.

And you wanted it kept secret?

I mean, your parents weren't traitors, were they? I heard something about that.

Sorry. You don't have to tell me. Anything, really. None of my business.

After my parents were murdered, I was adopted by my aunt and uncle, and they had me take their last name -- Lamont, rather than Brodie.

I did rather want it kept secret. It wasn't that my parents were 'traitors' -- given when they died, they were holdouts from the
old regime, but officially there's a classification for people who were misguided and thus tragic but unavoidable casualties rather than enemies of the state.

I mean, put the shoe on the other foot for a minute. Let's say we won the war next week. Obviously there are people in MLE who are criminals, who we'd put on trial or even execute, if we could catch them. But then you've got people like -- well, think of the people you've met at your internships who are hardworking and sensible and really in it to catch criminals. Some days they might be arresting people who haven't done anything wrong, but they're still in a very different category from Barty Crouch. We might not keep them in MLE (though, frankly, we'd have to; imagine trying to run MLE with just the Longbottoms and Kingsley and the two of us, we'd go spare in two days) but we wouldn't send them off to Azkaban, either.

When Voldemort's lackeys won the war, there were people who continued to oppose them, like the Longbottoms and Kingsley, but there were people who'd been opposing them who just immediately switched sides, like Scrimgeour. My father -- well, everyone who knew him was certain that if he'd survived, he'd have gone on the run with the Longbottoms and Kingsley and the rest. But just as we'd probably turn a blind eye to quite a bit from the lower level Enforcers, in the hopes of keeping some sort of order after the revolution, no one was inclined to dig too deeply into what my parents would have done. So officially, they were never traitors.

Still, 'officially not a traitor' and 'what my mates at school would have thought' were two different things. And I had a bit of an object lesson in what my life could be like, if people thought I came from a family of traitors, because of Tonks, and how she was treated. And I was a bit of a coward. Unlike Tonks. So I wanted everyone to think of me as Rachel Lamont. Rachel Brodie could stay buried with her parents.

MLE knows, obviously. If my parents had survived to go on the run, or if my father had refused to swear loyalty to the new regime and submit to legitimency and veritaserum and all the rest, it's very unlikely I'd have been allowed to join. As it was, the business with Clarkson probably nearly kept me out. It probably helped that the records were sketchy and the only one who really remembered what had happened that day was Dolohov, and he was out of the Protectorate at the time.
Also, this is something you might think about paying a bit of attention to, when you're working, especially if there are Enforcers with you. Who should we fire for being a miserable brute, no matter what they say about their loyalties, when we win? Who should we keep, because they were conscientious and no rougher than they had to be? Keep track. We'll need to know that. You're in a better position than most of us to see that sort of thing.
...Did you have bad dreams last night?

Like, really really bad?

I woke up Sally-Anne. I guess I was screaming or something.

Anyways.

I hope tonight's better.
Hey, mate. Hope you've got your book and hear the notificio.

Need your help in the secret room. ASAP.

Can you get here? We've got a bit of a situation.

Should I bring anyone else?

No, just come.

Okay I'm on my way.
2015-01-28 21:08:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne, Justin, Ron, and Harry

WHAT?

I mean, seriously.

Seriously.

A man. In our room. For years. Who just happened to be old school chums with Harry's dad and Sirius and Mr Lupin.

If Sally-Anne didn't look so white-faced, I would've thought April Fools came early. Because it's completely and utterly ridiculous.

And weird.

---

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 05:18:45
(no subject)

If you think it's weird HEARING about it, imagine how it felt to be talking about that spell that turns animagi back to their human form, and I said, 'animals aren't supposed to even notice it when you cast them on it, see?' and a second later there is this NAKED MAN with really greasy hair crawling away from us in an utter panic.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-29 05:20:59
(no subject)

Aaaah

Oh, that's just

No.

I mean, it's just so not right, and I am SO glad I was not there.
...and now I'm imagining our room with a big naked greasy man just sort of hanging round on our beds and honestly, I don't know whether to vom or laugh or both at once.

Ugh.

Ugh  ugh  ugh.

Probably best to just pretend he really was a rat. And that business with the greasy man is some sort of joke. And he's gone off to live with Ron for a while because of Pyewacket, like we're telling people.

Though

Seriously, Pyewacket's a Kneazle and Kneazles are really smart and now I'm trying to think about whether he HAS ever done anything and the only thing is, he did watch Sebastian a lot more than he ever watches Milli's cat.

True.

And they did seem to, you know, get on better than either ever did with Fergus.

Pye got a little off last year, for obvious reasons, and there have been people who spooked him, but he never seemed to be weird or anything around Sebastian. Peter. Whoever.
Who hasn't Pye liked? I'm trying to think, now.
He hated Umbridge. Sensibly enough. And he loathed Letchley. Also sensible.

And Professor Lockhart! Remember, we thought it was so odd when he'd get hissy around him.
I didn't let him anywhere near the Carrows unless I could help it, of course.
He certainly doesn't mind the Headmaster.

If we told Milli (which obviously we won't) I bet she'd say that she always knew there was something fishy about my stupid rat.

Then again, Milli's likely to think anything is fishy.
I blame Fergus's diet.

We might take a hint from her, though. Be a bit more suspicious of things. After all, we lived with an ANIMAGUS RAT MAN LITERALLY UNDER OUR NOSES FOR YEARS, Sally-Anne.

YEARS.
I know. It's serious. I'll treat it seriously.

Yeah but seriously you are seriously right.

How were we ever Sorted into Slytherin House? We are supposed to be WARY and CRAFTY and CLEVER.

But nope we had a man (A GRYFFINDOR incidentally) living IN OUR ROOM LITERALLY UNDER OUR NOSES SINCE SECOND YEAR.

It's Carrow's fault. If he hadn't escaped from Carrow I'd have felt less sorry for him and might have thought twice about making him my pet. Except probably not, because I really did want a pet.

Well. He did look really odd, like a giant hairless rat.

Tail-less, too.

Let's just say no one's going to ask to put his picture in one of those witches' nudey magazines!

So, yeah. If you take away the fact that it was bleedin terrifying when he was there all of a sudden... parts of it were fairly hilarious.
So deeply glad I was not there.

Fervently, even.

And you had better be keeping a close eye on him, Ron.

I mean, honestly.

Don't worry. He's not getting loose.

Good.

I'm sorry. I'd be a great deal less giggly if I had been there. And hadn't had such a monumentally awful day yesterday.

How are you tonight?
Much better. Sally-Anne got me some fennel seed after what Terry wrote, and that helped.

And while you lot were uncovering a spy ring of one, I made some good progress in Potions, which was sorely needed.

I think I'll be ready for the salle tomorrow.

We'll see what happens when I try to sleep tonight, but I think it'll be better than it was. I really, really hope so, at least.

Not so good last night, I guess?

Bad dreams.

Woke up screaming.

Sally-Anne slept over after that, though. Like we used to. Which was good.

Because I don't know whether he's telling the truth about most of what he told us, but I absolutely believe he thinks he's in mortal danger if anyone finds out. And, y'know, if you're that afraid for your skin, you're not going to let a bunch of kids make the decision whether to turn you over to the people you're afraid of.

If I were Pettigrew and I got a chance, I'd run, and if I couldn't run,
but I got the next best chance, I'd try to kill the people who knew my secret.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-29 05:53:06
(no subject)

Right.
Point.

He also knows we're not just a bunch of kids, either. He's not likely to underestimate us.

And he's been to pretty much everywhere secret, hasn't he? Just carried in a pocket.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 05:59:48
(no subject)

I'm trying to think. He's been to Sherwood with me. He's been to 12GP. Not Moddey, unless I'm forgetting something. Not Saltash -- oh, of course he didn't go along when I went to Saltash, he knew perfectly well the null field would turn him back into a human. He hasn't been to the house outside Hogsmeade because I haven't been there yet, though I have the secret so I could get there if I needed to.

He always came along to Tea Appreciation, I figured it was because he had lots of opportunities to steal biscuits. And he came along to the QWC, even though I'd meant to leave him behind.

alt_ron at 2015-01-29 06:01:01
(no subject)

Ugh. That's something to consider.

I mean, he thinks--he says he thinks that Sirius would kill him first chance he got--but what if Pettigrew's thinking he should strike first. He may be able to get into Grimmauld, yeah? I mean, since he's been there.
He has been, hasn't he?

Has he been to Moddey?

Does it matter that the secret wasn't shared directly with him?

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 06:03:17  
(no subject)

It means he can't share it with anyone else, at least.

@alt_pansy at 2015-01-29 06:06:31  
(no subject)

He doesn't know Moddey's precise location if he's never been there. Which is something, I guess.

You're absolutely sure he's never been?

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 06:18:19  
(no subject)

Yeah. I haven't been there very many times. I'm - - well, at least I'm pretty sure he never stowed away.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 06:01:51  
(no subject)

Well, given how quickly he offered to Vow not to betray us, I really don't think he wants to?

In all these years I don't think he's ever transformed into a human when we weren't around.

I think his very first choice would just to go back to being someone's pet rat.

Can you imagine doing that? I mean being a snake basically FOREVER.
No.

Well. If I could be your snake, maybe.

But, seriously, no. Then again, I don't have the same sort of reason to consider it.

He could just have been trying to put us off our guard, though. And he wasn't offering to Vow to the whole Order, was he? He meant just us, I'm pretty sure. So maybe he was wagering we'd let him take the Vow and then we'd trust him and then sometime we'd be a way for him to get close to Sirius or Mr Lupin or some of the others.

I mean, he's been close to them before, but back then no one knew his secret, so he wasn't at risk.

I don't know. It's hard to guess what he might've been thinking tonight. He was more than a bit mad, wouldn't you say? So I don't expect he has a plan all worked out for what he might want to do.

Yeah, it's true.

Thinking about all the secret places he knows how to get into -- I think we do have to tell the adults. Soon.
And he knows about Hydra. And Rachel. And Harry. And Justin.

I mean. The rest of us too, obviously. But.

They might not believe him, mind, but he certainly knows enough to really foul things up.

What was the vow, exactly?
Order Only: Private Message to Susan

Sue,

Are you in the Sett? I've a rather odd request, what, but I'm with Ron, Harry and Sally-Anne and we were hoping you might help us get something from Professor Grubbly-Plank.

Let me know as soon as ever you can, what, or I'll see you later in the common room.

-Justin
Order Only: Private message to Justin, Ron, and Sally-Anne

Justin -- did you find Susan? Can she get you the cage?

---

alt_justin at 2015-01-29 04:08:44  
(no subject)

Harry,

No, we went to Professor Grubbly-Plank's office but she didn't have anything suitable there.

I didn't want her to get any more curious, what, so I simply told her it wasn't anything urgent.

Good thing you gave me the cloak to get back to you tonight, old man. I'm going out to the shed to get what we need.

I say, did you decide whether to tell Sirius and Mr Lupin, after all?

-Justin

alt_harry at 2015-01-29 04:13:37  
(no subject)

I still think we should wait.

We're not saying we'll never tell them. We're just taking a day or two to think about it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 04:15:00  
(no subject)

He is NOT coming back to Slytherin House.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. Oh my god. All these years he's been sleeping
No. He's coming to Gryffindor. To our room. Even if we have to keep him petrified.

That works. If Justin can bring back the cage. Tell Seamus that Pyewacket was trying to eat him. Pansy's going to have to have a talk with Pyewacket. He's never even BLINKED at Sebastian.

Yeah. She definitely needs to sort out what sort of Kneazle lets an animagus shack up in a girls' dormitory for years. Pyewacket's got a lot to answer for.

Anyway he's still offering to take an Unbreakable Vow. Do you think it'll be enough to have him swear not to betray us? If we're too specific he might be able to find a loophole but if we're too general it might kill him when we don't mean it to. I mean it's true he's overheard everything for years and years and if he WANTED to betray us he could have done it years ago. So there's that.

But I still don't trust him.
Yeah, he didn't want to because it was safer to stay hidden, but now we know about him, he could come to a different conclusion next time he runs the arithmancy on what's in his self-interest.

Look, mate. I don't see that he's all that trustworthy. I mean, he says he was a double agent?

That, right there. Not a good reason to take him at his word and not check facts.

I think we should check facts. But we can start by getting some more of the story, rather than saying, 'oh hey, Sirius and Mr Lupin, Sally-Anne's rat says he's an old mate of yours.' If he's right they'd storm the school to try to kill him.

I mean -- Sirius can be impulsive. I don't want him coming here after Sebastian because he might not get back out.

Ron,

I agree. I mean to say, I can imagine he might well be right that the Order wouldn't accept him back with open arms, what, but I do believe Sirius and Mr Lupin could be convinced to listen to him before they act rashly.

He did seem utterly convinced they'd simply kill him, though.

Another thing, that story.... Well, I say, he was jolly well quick to
tell us all about it. We barely had to ask any questions. I'm not sure if that argues in his favour or against him.

-Justin

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-29 04:22:25
(no subject)

Well, the bit with the locket made sense.

I mean I don't know if it was true, but I certainly don't have any OTHER explanation for how it got into my bag. Pansy swears it wasn't her and I know it wasn't me. And Peeves doesn't muck about in Slytherin House, he's too scared of the Baron.

So other pieces of it might be true, too. It's true he might not have been able to go back because he'd have been followed, and it's true Albus Dumbledore comes up with some really strange plans (did I tell you what my Mum said about the baby?) and it's true he bit Letchley.

Anyway Hydra's a double agent. And you trust her. Right?

@alt_ron at 2015-01-29 04:28:13
(no subject)

I'm just saying that you can't take what he says at face value. Any of it. He could have done the bit with the Locket but for reasons of his own. Like maybe it was working on him and he was afraid of it and wanted you to find out about it. Not because he wanted to help save Pansy.

And I trust Dumbledore not to come barging in here to kill him. So we could just start with telling him. Or with Mr Lupin. We don't actually have to tell Sirius straight off.
I trust Dumbledore not to come barging in here to kill him but I don’t necessarily trust him to tell us the truth (or all of the bits of it we’d consider important, at least).

I've been thinking it might make sense to ask the animagi what sorts of effects it might have if you were transformed for a really long time. Because if he really was a double agent, it might come out in that conversation, right?

I mean he's also right that the adults leave us out of things. And don't always answer us straight, even now. And definitely don't like filling us in on mistakes they've made.

So I think it probably does make sense to take a day or two and at least see what we can find out about what he told us.

Yeah. But.

I don't want us waiting a day or two and letting him do a runner on us while we're here keeping his secret from them. Y'know?

Well the cage should keep him put, right? We'll just make sure we're both there when you feed him.
Yeah, that's a good idea.

Sally-Anne,

If he really had been sent as a double agent,
though, wouldn't at least someone in the Order
have mentioned that at some point?

I've got the cage, at any rate. I'll be back in a few minutes, if I
don't have any trouble.

-Justin

Maybe they'd have mentioned it. But there's
stuff they just forget to tell us.

Besides, maybe they didn't all know. They didn't
have the lock back then and I think most of the people in the
Order didn't really know what was going on at any given time.

Well, that's a reason we should at least ask
Dumbledore or Mr Lupin.

I think Sally Anne's right. We could just ask
them about animagi who stay transformed. Or we could decide
on one of the things he's claiming and just ask them about that
piece of it without saying why we're curious.

I mean, we could ask in a way that doesn't start with us saying,
"We found this bloke Peter Pettigrew, and he's been hiding out as a transformed animagus for years here at Hogwarts, and now he wants us to hide him."

Yeah. Well. I can ask Sirius and Mr Lupin about Peter. Because all three of them were mates with my father. And I can ask them what all happened during the betrayal and pretend I'm just thinking about my friends at Hogwarts and how I can't imagine anyone betraying us so what does he think happened and so on.

And you could ask them about animagi who stay transformed for ages. I mean, are you going to tell them all about what happened before Sally-Anne hit Sebastian with that spell?

Which part?

You know, testing out what happened when Sally-Anne transformed you.

How did that go?

Eh.

It was really queer, being transformed into other things. I think we did a tortoise, a worm, a beetle, a rabbit, a cat, and a thing she'd read about in books called a... I don't remember what it's called, but it's got skin
that's a hard shell, like armour. An armourdello. Something like that. Totally odd. It's got little feet. And it likes to dig. Oh, and the last thing was a pony.

Anywiz, she did fine. She's got the hang of the spell now. And I found out that I can be turned into other things and that it's really, really uncomfortable. I mean, I didn't break anything, but I do feel like I've been run over by a carriage and six horses.

We also found out I can make myself turn from some of those animals into my Animagus form, but I couldn't do it from all of them. I don't know whether it's really because some of them are just harder to get loose from. When I was a worm, I was well and truly stuck. I remember what it felt like, but I don't think I was able to think at all while I was transformed.

I only thought I was going to slip snakewise once, and it didn't happen. That was with the tortoise, and that was the first one. And I couldn't turn back from the beetle or the rabbit, either. But maybe it was more to do with how well she really cast the spell, y'know? Not because of something particular about those creatures or how they relate to my animagus form.

So I reckon I'll be all right if Glozeman makes me 'volunteer' next lesson, and Sally Anne will be fine no matter what he asks her to cast.

Are people okay with it if I tell Pansy?

I mean really I HAVE to tell Pansy. She's going to want to know where Sebastian's gone off to and I'm not going to tell her that her own Kneazle was trying to eat Sebastian.

I'm not sure if Daphne ought t
Start by telling Pans. And then see what happens with Daphne? I mean, maybe she doesn't need to know since it's so completely disgusting.

Yeah, I agree with Ron. Pansy deserves to know.

Daphne also deserves to know but maybe not first thing. Or if she'd really rather not know.

Um. Okay. So I just thought of another thing.

We know Dolohov's got a device that lets him know where people are in the castle. We don't really know how it works, but it belonged to Dumbledore. Before. And I know Dumbledore was worried about it once he found out Dolohov'd got hold of it.

I think that whatever it is, it hasn't told him that Peter Pettigrew's been in the castle all this time. It must hide Animagi. Actually, I know it does. That's why Dumbledore had me going around the castle doing things for him on the sly, because there were places he didn't want Dolohov knowing he'd gone, but I could go and Dolohov wouldn't know it.

But we had Sebastian detransformed for, I don't know, an hour or more. What if Dolohov knows? I mean, I don't think he'd have come down and asked us about it, necessarily. And he couldn't have got into the room, anyway. But if he did see... that makes this whole thing a different kind of game.
Well, the room's sort of special. So maybe he won't know? I don't think he knows everything about everyone all the time, at least.

If he does know Peter Pettigrew was in the castle, that won't tell him he's a rat. So I think he'll assume he sneaked in and then out again for some reason. If a lot of MLE suddenly turn up, I guess we'll know he knows.

Yeah, well. Let's hope they don't turn up wanting to know why you, Justin, me and Sally Anne were all in a room with Pettigrew for an hour on Wednesday evening.

I mean, there's nothing we can really do about it if he did see, but we should know it's possible and be prepared for surprises, I guess.

And it's completely possible the thing just tells him about people he asks it about. It's not too likely he was wanting to know if Peter Pettigrew, who's supposed to be dead, just happened to be hanging about the castle today.
Order Only: Private message to Sirius and Remus

So, we got together yesterday and had Sally-Anne practice changing Ron into various animals to see what would happen. That got us thinking about animagi. There are five in the Order: Sirius, Professor Dumbledore, Terry, Ron, and Rachel. Right?

But there was also Peter Pettigrew once, years ago. Before he betrayed my parents. I mean, he was your best friend, wasn't he? Thinking about animagi got me thinking about him and I was wondering what you can tell me about him. What he was like before he was a traitor.

Did you ever think he'd betray you?

Well, that's a cheery set of memories to revisit. What was he like before. Well, he was very funny. Less of an instigator and more of a tag-along. Sometimes we made him the butt of our jokes because he never seemed to mind.

Was there anything more specific you wanted to know?

Remus says he was more of a tag-along, and he's right, but what he's leaving out is that he was an excellent lookout, and he was very good at providing diversions. Sort of the clown of our little group, you might say.

And no, we never thought he'd betray us. But I think, looking back at it now, that he was actually manipulating us against one another for a long time before the night your parents died. Everyone was so unsure about it all back then, there was no easy way to verify
rumours we'd heard and so on. I think Peter was subtly undermining our friendships for a while. As I said, he could provide very convincing diversions in school. I don't think that changed when we left; he just started providing them to me, James and Remus, and anyone else he thought he needed to tell a story to.

Come to think of it, he used to get girls the same way. Always went for the ones he thought were a little vulnerable. Maybe that ought to have been a clue.

Sorry, that's probably not the sort of thing you were wondering.

---

@alt_harry at 2015-01-31 16:50:17
(no subject)

Vulnerable.

Huh.

Okay. Why did -- I know for a long time the Order didn't trust Mr Lupin. Did they think he was the one who'd betrayed my parents?

@alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 17:47:04
(no subject)

More or less.

Peter had been working for a while to convince us not to trust each other. He'd persuaded James and Sirius not to consider using me as a Secret Keeper -- though I didn't realise at the time that was distrust rather than just a recognition of the fact that I already had a task I was supposed to be focusing on. (Talking to the other werewolves, trying to persuade them that they'd be better off siding with us.)

Anyway, I think they wound up believing I'd guessed Peter was the Secret Keeper rather than Sirius, and lured him somewhere so the Death Eaters could capture him.
Peter had been talking to me rather regularly, at the time. Far more than the rest of the Order. There was this place we'd meet... Peter had been telling me, he didn't think James and Lily were safe. He thought Dumbledore was planning to use them as bait, somehow, and

When they died, when he was right that they weren't safe, that rather

I honestly didn't

I didn't go to the Order the way Sirius did, after your parents died. I didn't try to clear my name. Because I didn't trust any of them, anymore. Even Sirius. And I got a note warning me that they thought it was my fault, which seemed so utterly mad to me given that they'd kept me from knowing any of the plans to protect James and Lily. You know? They'd kept me out, out of distrust, and then blamed me anyway, and

I guess I decided they could all go hang themselves. They'd let James die, they'd let Lily die, and they'd decided somehow it was my fault because I was a werewolf. I was supposed to be trying to persuade the other werewolves that we were better off under the status quo than we would be under Voldemort, and I couldn't do that. Because I wasn't sure I still believed it myself.

You can imagine, Harry, that Remus and I have been over this ourselves a few times since working out the truth. Peter had been turning me, in particular, against Remus, as well, for a long time before we learned that Voldemort was coming after your parents.

I can't even be certain now whether making Peter their Secret Keeper was really my own idea or one that Peter actually planted through hints and other signals.
And when he disappeared ... I let my worst assumptions guide me, I suppose.

This is rather a morbid discussion, though, Harry. Why ask about Peter, out of all of us?

@alt_harry at 2015-01-31 18:59:50
(no subject)

I was thinking the other day about how vulnerable we are.

The Lock didn't exist when Peter betrayed my parents. Did he know anyone else who was in the Order? I mean -- was the organisation at all secret back then?

@alt_sirius at 2015-01-31 19:07:41
(no subject)

Hm, well, you've got that photo of us, haven't you? We're not all in it - and there were still some secret members none of us knew, like Snape - but we were also smaller than we are now, as well.

We were secret in the sense that neither the Ministry nor the Death Eaters could confirm we existed, and we had to keep our identities just as protected from them as we do now. Is that what you mean?

@alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 19:13:37
(no subject)

And of course it was the Death Eaters who were the outlaws at the time. Things were still a bit secretive, because the Death Eaters had infiltrated MLE and so many other places -- I think when we joined it was less an organisation with oaths and a name and more a matter of, 'I know I can trust you, you, and you.'

Peter might have known more about the more secretive people than I did. I don't know.
Also, that story he told Mr Lupin about Dumbledore using them as bait.

How sure are you that he wouldn't have done that?

I'm not sure it's beyond

You've seen enough of how Albus does things to know that he could have done that but the point is that he didn't do it. He wanted them to hide and use the Fidelius as protection. And he had no idea until afterward that I wasn't the Secret Keeper.

Besides, there was no discussion - ever - of laying a trap for Voldemort at Godric's Hollow. He never contacted me in the days leading up to the attack .... No, I don't believe it was ever part of Albus's plan.

For all that Dumbledore's come up with some rather odd plans over the years -- if he intended to use someone as bait, there'd be a trap set up somewhere.
Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

You're sure you're okay?

Because I'm noticing an interesting number of private conversations going on under the Order lock.

Need any particular help with a spot of mayhem? Or is there anything else I can do?

Bugger, I wish I were there with you.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-29 19:14:37
(no subject)

I wish you were too.

Yes, there was a spot of mayhem. But it wasn't about me, not really, and none of us are in danger.

I'll be able to tell you everything about it after we sort it out. I promise. I just can't tell you about it right now, because it's still in the sorting-out phase. If that makes sense?

Just

Will you trust me on this?

alt_george at 2015-01-29 19:36:43
(no subject)

One of the best things about the Order (as opposed to the Protectorate) is that we have the right to communicate privately with whomever we choose. If necessary. Remember? That's why we created the locks in the first place.

I trust you, Pans, sure. But as soon as it isn't necessary for me to be outside the conversation, I'd like to know. Because I care about you, and all of the rest of that mushy stuff that happens 'cause I'm your
boyfriend.

Not to mention I'm a little worried. And dead curious.

Okay. It's not that I can't, it's more that it's a rather delicate situation, and some other people should probably be told first, so I think it's best to not tell you right now.

I do promise that you'll know everything, hopefully rather soon, and that we're handling it. And if it ever gets to the point where we can't, we'll let people know who can.

And I know I can be I can keep things to myself sometimes.

But this isn't that.

I can't wait til I'm out of school.

I'm sick and tired of being here when I've got so much work that needs doing. I mean, I've got a far better Potions master willing to train me up once I leave, and no shortage of people who'll keep me sharp in Defence, too. Sometimes, it just feels like I'm still here as a matter of form.

And when I'm out

We can really be partners. Truly. I mean, I can be there, and we can do research, and make glorious messes all over the place, and solve problems together, and sit around until the sun comes up just coming up with ideas, and all the rest of it.
...Mind, I'm looking forward to the part that's just the two of us, too. Just being able to snog you silly whenever I feel like it will be utterly brilliant, and I can't wait.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-30 01:08:55
(no subject)

...and before I forget, I'm sending over a copy of the ledger from my latest venture, if you and Fred could give it a quick going-over, that'd be brilliant.

(And tell him I said hallo too, will you? Chuck him under the chin for me, and call him 'Freddie dearest'.)

I'm covering my arse in about ten different ways, but I really don't want this setting off any red flags.

alt_george at 2015-01-30 03:38:58
(no subject)

Right-o, I'll keep an eye out for the ledger. And I'd be delighted to tweak Fred's nose for you.

You do sound as though you're, er, arse deep. In something. Please don't sink out of sight, all right?

I'm trying to think of what I can do to help you long distance when I don't even know what's bloody going on. Would it useful in any way if I sent Hitty to you?

alt_pansy at 2015-01-30 05:38:27
(no subject)

I won't. Promise.

It's NEWTs and the winery that're just eating into my time.

Helping with the ledger is brilliant. And you can plan on my not having quite as much input on the Whiz Spring line, but I'll be there with a vengeance for summer wedding season.
And next Hogsmeade, I want you to come over and keep me company properly, so I don't feel too badly about sticking my nose in a cauldron for the next few months.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-30 05:41:12  
(no subject)

And it's busy, but it's the good kind of busy for the most part. It's just frustrating when I can't do some of it in person, is all.

alt_pansy at 2015-01-29 19:16:00  
(no subject)

And it's not about Glozeman. Or what happened in class. And I really do feel much better, so that's something too.

alt_george at 2015-01-29 19:32:08  
(no subject)

Good.
Order Only: Private message to Ron, Terry, Sirius, Auror Brodie, and Professor Dumbledore

Ron and I were working together last night to resolve the question of what would happen if Professor Glozeman picked him out in class to have people transform him. (Probably it'll be fine, is what we concluded.) Anyway, this got us thinking about all the things people really just don't know about animagi, or at least, that we haven't run across.

What's the longest any of you have ever spent transformed? Has anyone ever done research into what happens if someone's transformed for a really long time? Would you -- I mean could you eventually just TURN INTO that animal, if you stayed that way for long enough?

alt_terry at 2015-01-29 19:30:49
(no subject)

The longest I was ever transformed forcibly (before I learned I was an animagus) was about a week, the time that Fred and George adopted me. Professor McGonagall un-transformed me. I didn't suffer too many ill effects that I can remember, but I imagine she was an expert at the undoing spell, and I'd had plenty of times where the git had turned me into an animal for a night or two, so I was used to it.

As for turning into an animagus, I think the longest I've stayed was, oh, about three weeks or so. I had no difficulty turning back.

It's never occurred me to stay as an animagus, permanently, I mean. It's too bad I lost access to the git's library right when I became an animagus; it might have been useful for answering a question like this.

Does that help? What are you thinking? That if some of the half-bloods get into real trouble because they're not passing their tests, we can smuggle them out of the castle as transfigured animals rather than letting them be taken to the camps?
No, the question's really what happens to an animagus if he stays in the form for a really long time. Would you just forget you were ever a person and eventually just be an animal? It's hard to imagine staying transformed for too long, but that's mainly because I have things I want to be doing as a wizard, y'know? But if I didn't... I don't know. I mean, if everything went wrong and there was nothing left, maybe I wouldn't mind just turning and staying like that. And I wonder if maybe after a long enough time, I wouldn't even really remember being me.

We hadn't thought about transfiguring people into animals to help them escape, though I guess if we're going to get to be experts at the spell, we could do. Sort of hoping Draco gets us his colocation box before Glozeman does anything dire and we really do have to help someone run. The thing about failing OWLs, though, is those results don't come until summer, so we wouldn't all still be here to help anyone that happened to.

Well, back when I was on the run, I stayed a dog for prolonged periods of time. But I always had opportunities to turn back. I'm trying to think ... I think the longest I've ever been continuously transformed was in the area of weeks or months.

I have wondered, though - I mean to say, Snape kept himself nominally sane (well, as sane as he - nevermind) in Azkaban by using disciplines related to his Occlumency, more or less. And being an Animagus makes one a natural Occlumens as well. So could an Animagus survive Azkaban by spending prolonged time in animal form? I suspect so.

But you're asking what effect that would have. Whether those lengths of time would make me more dog, less wizard. Say I was twelve years in Azkaban and spent about six months at a stretch as Padfoot, how long would I have to not be Padfoot to fully come back to myself? I hope that makes sense.
Based on my experience, I'd have to say it might take a while. Or one might get to a point where being the animal is what feels more comfortable, and a human skin seems wrong. Mordred, I think it'd have to be years and years before one reaches that point, though.

But you'd never be completely animalistic, even in your animal form forever. You might give over to the simpler way of thinking but I think there would always be a mind capable of higher thoughts, and more complex functions. And other animals would always know you're not exactly one of them, I expect.
The Retreat is up and mostly running for our less capable Azkaban rescues who were still in need of a permanent facility, and we are slowly beginning the process of acclimating them to their new home. Clara Mouser deserves our thanks for a generous donation of space and resources, as does Cedric, Jeremy, Colin, Lee, and Wayne for putting in some hard labour to get the building in livable condition. Several of the refugees from Erewash volunteered to provide daily care, and Doctor Williams has sorted out a rotating set of shifts from the nurses in training at Saltash, which is quite needed. I anticipate we'll need continued support for our volunteers and the facility in question as we go, but for the time being, what we have will be a great deal more sustainable than the safehouse. Poppy, you’ve done so much work getting us to this point, I honestly don't know what we would’ve done without you.

Pansy, Stebs, the shipment of potatoes was much appreciated. I am also grateful we over-stocked this past summer, and that we have several functioning greenhouses; seeing as how Sherwood's supply lines have been severely reduced, and we've several hundred more mouths to feed than expected, it'll be a lean winter to put it mildly. Whatever you can continue to shift our way will be used thoroughly.

Locating the Scepter and identifying it as a likely Horcrux has been a bright spot of good news, as has Draco's recent success with the boxes. Have we arranged for a hand-off at Hogwarts yet? The sooner that happens, the better off we'll be. While we're at it, is there any forward movement on where our elusive plate might've gotten itself to?

I understand things have continued to be a challenge at Hogwarts. Between Glozeman, Desai, and Sandoval-Pennifold, I've no doubt it's been far from pleasant for many of you. You all seem to be handling things admirably from what I can see, but please let us know if more direct intervention or possible extraction of a student in danger is needed.

Lastly, I've been talking with Remus about the possibility of having our safely hidden members without family on the outside engaging with the public more directly on the journals -- Tonks, Remus, Kingsley, Mac, Hermione, Terry, Tim, Finbar, Patty, Lisa, Maureen, and
Severus immediately come to mind, and with a few caveats, Evelyn, myself, Frank, and Augusta. Sirius's voice is powerful, and carries a certain degree of weight behind it. But having more people weigh in -- free voices, sane voices, people from a variety of backgrounds speaking truth to power -- I think it could be more than valuable. We have a free radio, but I think it's time we spoke out in other ways too. I don't intend to put undue pressure on any of the people I've listed so you feel as if you're obligated to write openly, only to say that if you do wish to, it's worth considering. And if you need some ideas as to what you might say, there are several people who cannot speak up in this way who might be able to help. At any rate, I thought I'd bring it up to see what you thought about it.

---

@alt_pansy at 2015-01-31 05:47:12
(no subject)

You should be getting a rather large amount of fruit your way by day after tomorrow at the latest, Mrs L. Let me know if you have any trouble with transport, Stebs.

@alt_evelyn at 2015-01-31 05:51:46
Private Message to Mum and Dad

It would be sort of sticky, wouldn't it? With Uncle Algie and Aunt Enid.

And how I left.

And it could make trouble for Kitty and Artie, too. If I started just up and talking.

I think you're both brilliant, though, and the world could stand to get to know you better.

@alt_alice at 2015-01-31 06:02:20
Private Message to Luna

Luna, dear,

Poppy got back from another exploratory trip to the Vale.
Your father is there.

She couldn't investigate too deeply, but the Healers notes she found says that he doesn't speak, and doesn't appear to hear or see other people. He needs help with his daily care, as he can't quite manage on his own.

She managed to see him during one of the rounds she was on, however, and he was playing a game of chess. Truly playing, with the proper moves and everything, which implies he does have a certain degree of awareness. He was a little disheveled, but did not appear to be malnourished or otherwise ill treated.

I realise this is difficult to process, and painful to hear. I am very sorry to be the bearer of such news. But dear heart, I hope you take some comfort in hearing that he is being cared for.

---

**alt_luna** at 2015-01-31 21:36:58

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

Oh, I...

I had the feeling for the longest time that he was alive. I never really believed he was dead, but now that there's confirmation...I don't know quite what to say.

Except--

Oh, if I could only see him. If he saw *me*, maybe that would, I don't know, shock him into--

but maybe not.

Is there a way to get him out of there? So he can be cared for by our people at least?

Thank you for letting me know.
And I'm sorry.

I'm sorry that Madam Pomfrey didn't find Neville there.

I cannot make that promise, Luna.

If a low-risk opportunity comes our way, then yes, I am willing to take advantage and move him to the Retreat.

You're right. Of course you're right, and I wouldn't want you to make any promise which would risk the Order.

It sounds as though they are caring for him, at least. I will try to be content with that.

I could perhaps write something. Let me think about what might be of use.

I'm willing to be a voice wherever needed, Alice. I have been speaking on some of the radio broadcasts, using a pseudonym, like all the rest of us. But I'm wiling to start using my journal for the cause. Let's discuss the next time I'm at Moddey.
You're right: I don't have anyone left for the Protectorate to target in retaliation.

Alice, the two of us are coming by this evening to show you a test batch of some stuff that we've been working on with Fu. Another possible tool in our defensive arsenal.

In Kent tonight. Saw Melchior Culpeper in Dover this morning. He introduced me to the friends he's been cultivating, and I'm pleased to say that I came away with a fat purse and their commitments. Stephanus Grey has a shoe manufactory outside Canterbury with large contracts, including for MLE and a number of camps, but he's keen to supply us as well and sees no reason he can't hide the 'lost' materials and inventory. Gregory Ketch is an oddities collector and repurposer of Muggle artefacts from Deal; he's an excellent source for difficult to find items of almost every sort. And Elspeth Norcross is a regional inspector for the Ministry's division of magical creatures. She believes she can offer us practical, insider information. Remus, you might find her especially helpful if you intend to continue visiting the enclaves. All three of them have been part of Melchior's regular Sunday evening parties where they listen to our broadcasts, and each of them feels ready to begin hosting their own radio evenings for neighbours and friends.

I made the usual stops in Sandwich and Margate, and arrived at Wye in time for supper with my friends, Milton and Frieda Crewe, proprietors of the Steeplechase Inn. They had worrisome news to report. The Watch have been causing trouble here and in nearby villages, and in October, one of the local families was woken in the middle of the night, turned out of doors while the place was searched (ransacked), and then, with no explanation, the husband was taken away, and he's not been heard from since. MLE say they didn't arrest him, but they've also shown no inclination to investigate. He's simply vanished. Inquiries were made with the Watch, but they let it be known it would go better if no one asked too many questions, and people have been afraid to do any more. Apparently, other families
have felt threatened, and Milton tells me that two families here have
Fideliused their properties in order to feel properly secure. Frieda
told me they would do the same, except in their business it's hardly
an option. They've bolstered their wards, though, so much that I can
feel it humming in my bones. Suspect this will not be my best night's
sleep, and I intend to leave first thing so as not to abuse their
hospitality. My presence here is causing them extra worry, despite
which they've made a most generous contribution and passed on two
items addressed to Albus that were left by arrangement.

Tomorrow I'm to have breakfast at Igtham Mote, and then I'll come
directly to Moddey. Expect me by one o'clock. I promise to let you
know if it will be any later.
2015-01-31 12:34:00  
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Snape

this is

it's not easy to admit

didn't want this to be long term. thought I'd have more bloody will power than that. looks like it'll have to be. more than a month, any road.

bloody fucking hell.

managed to keep my head straight even when I lost my magic. figured that'd mean this thing was behind me for good. and by god, I did it. by the skin of my fucking teeth. she was strong enough for the two of us.

right now we're both just trying not to drown

she needs me just as much as I need her, and I can't drag her down with me.

sorted out that I'd been counting down the days til I'd be done with this last round of potions. if I pick up that bottle, and fuck, I want to

I need to

don't think I realised just how much

it'd

I'd rather cut off my hands than cause her any more pain.

you said to tell you by mid month. bit late for that.

figure it'll be a rough go til you get the next round ready.

my own damn fault.
As it happens, I thought it better to prepare for the necessity and not be called upon, rather than be called upon and not be prepared. I have the ingredients; I will begin the brewing tomorrow.

You do not need to justify yourself to me, nor do you need to make excuses. I am not your conscience; I am your potions master. Were I to judge you for weakness I would be more hypocrite than not, and hypocrisy is one vice I attempt to avoid. Do not berate yourself. The Contravinum is not a crutch; it is a tool. There is no shame in undertaking an honest self-assessment of your state, recognising a deficiency, and acting to shore up that deficiency with external support.

I am pleased that I can be of assistance; I am only sorry I cannot be more.

---

right.
that's
right.

thank you.

And if you are in need of someone to listen, as well as someone to dispense potions, I will volunteer. While I cannot pretend I am at all competent at providing emotional support, you can at least be assured that anything you tell me, I will take to the grave.
@alt_frank at 2015-02-01 05:36:51
(no subject)

got my thursday tea with tonks.

she tends to do most of the talking, mind.

still.

might take you up on it sometime.
That story Peter Pettigrew told us about Dumbledore telling him to betray my parents was a lie.

I still want to know why he did it. Because if it was that he was one of them, for real, why did he wind up hiding as a rat? Can you meet me in the secret room? I want to try asking him again. But I want the rest of you there to help me make absolutely sure he doesn't try to make a break for it.

Okay Harry I'll come but why do you think he won't just lie to us again?

I'll be there.

But Sally-Anne has a point.

I can understand why it'd be personal for you, but I think he's far more concerned with staying alive than holding himself accountable for what he's done, or uncovering the truth.

I can promise him that I'll do my best to keep the rest of the Order from killing him.

As long as what he tells us is actually the truth.
Okay.

So we should make it clear that we're not angry with him about whatever he's done, we're angry with him for not being truthful.

And that we'd rather know the truth, no matter what he's done, and we'll keep him as safe as we can if he's absolutely straight with us. Because it might be even worse than what everyone thinks he did, and he might be worried that as soon as we'll find out, we'll be the ones out for his head.

But we still don't have any way to ensure that he's being fully truthful.

We can tell him that the Order is keeping Mr Malfoy safe and alive because he's Draco's father, even though he was responsible for the deaths of loads of innocent people. And Peter was my rat (ergh) for years and years, and I don't want anything happening to him, but first I want to know exactly why he did what he did.

Harry, this might work better if you're not in the room. Or if he at least can't see you there.

If there's something specific you know, Harry, something we can use to test him a bit, that'd be helpful.

And yeah. The part about Mr Malfoy is good.
Yeah, I agree. That's sort of what I was going to say.

Except.

I think Harry should be there at first and then if Pettigrew lies again or seems really anxious, then you should tell Harry he needs to leave, and I'll back you up.

Harry and I could even quarrel about it, but in the end we should make Harry leave and make P feel as if he can trust us to protect him and not tell Harry what he says or to shape it so Harry will understand P's reasons and what he's afraid of now.

That sort of thing is something they use in interrogation all the time. You make one person really threatening, but then his partner disagrees and makes the prisoner feel like the interrogators don't work well together, that they're not a united front. We could do that easily. And let him feel like he can divide and conquer, but really it would be us manipulating him.

Yeah.

Good idea.

I still think he's just going to lie.

I mean, I would, in his position, if I thought it would be less likely to get me killed.
He will. Of course he will.

And it's not like we're prepared to torture him.

But it is personal. For Harry. So. I figure it's worth trying as best as we can to sort out what happened, for his sake.

We're not, but the rest of the Order might be.

So we can sort of play good auror/bad auror even if the bad auror isn't anywhere nearby.

True.

And make it clear that we have a real say in it, that they'd listen to us if we told them not to hurt him.

Also. We should make sure there's clothing, because ugh.

And maybe giving him a chance to clean up a bit might help make him feel a bit more person-like.

Good thought on giving him some robes to put on.

Let's tell the room we need some hot water for
washing up.

If we knew any of the foods he liked as a person, we could have those for him, too. So he'd feel like we were on his side. (And, there are potions that get people's guard down a bit. I don't mean veritaserum, I mean stuff like that sunrise drink Dominic Selwyn gave us that one time.)

---

@alt_justin at 2015-01-31 19:27:53  
(no subject)

Harry,

I can meet you there in about twenty minutes, if that's all right. I'm just finishing up some correspondence for the Headmaster and I can't simply walk out, what, but I shall come as soon as ever I can do.

-Justin

---

@alt_justin at 2015-02-01 00:53:48  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Sorry about Hydra, what. She's feeling bally well strained, I think, by Auror Crouch's and her mother's expectations of her. It's not that she's really very cross with you or any of us for not telling her, personally.

She'll be all right in a day or two, I'm sure.

-Justin
You know, I don't want to pry into their business but something's not adding up.

- Ron wants to know about transfiguring animagi into other animals and what effect that might have, as a precaution in case Glozeman tries transforming him

- He also asked about the forced reformation spell, since someone in their class knew it and they weren't already familiar with it (and why didn't Albus teach it to him? That's a question for another day)

- Private messages among Harry, Ron, Sally-Anne, Justin and Pansy (which could be anything, I admit)

- Harry asks us about Peter because he's been 'thinking about other animagi'?

- Sally-Anne asks me (and the other Animagi) about remaining in animal form for 'a really long time' and whether if one did so for sufficiently long periods, if one would turn into that animal

- And now, after we've been discussing Peter with Harry, he sends them all another Private Message

....

Doesn't Sally-Anne have a pet rat?

---

Yes.

She does have a pet rat.

Or so I've heard. I've never actually seen it, even though apparently it once came along to appreciate tea. Have you ever seen it?
No, I haven't. I wonder if anyone has ever taken her photograph with him in it.

Never seen one of those, either.

Oh, but he can't be ... not all this time? And the Slytherin dormitory is crawling with cats.

Circe! That would mean he's been living in a girls' dormitory for six years. That wretched little pervert.

Oh, he must have LOVED that.

What was it you told Harry?

He always liked the vulnerable girls.

Don't I know I just told him that!

And Peter did, too, remember? The ones who
thought no one would ever notice them and so were pathetically grateful for his attention.

alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 20:03:18
(no subject)

I do remember.

'I play in my own league,' was that what he said?
To James. When James was stuck on Lily, and Peter was trying to persuade him to move on.

Ugh.

alt_sirius at 2015-01-31 20:13:28
(no subject)

Yeah. What was her name? He was so proud of himself. Becky? Becca? Thornbush, right? Year below ours, Hufflepuff. Rather on the chubby side, if it comes to that. Anyway, he was insufferable that whole spring. Never lost a chance to remind James that he'd finally come first in something among the four of us.

Stands to reason he'd latch on to our Sally-Anne just when she needed something to make her feel more secure.

I'm going up there. Tonight. He has to be stopped before he can sell out the next generation, too.

alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 20:15:22
(no subject)

That makes no sense, though. If he'd wanted to sell them out he could've done it years ago. Years! Why hasn't he done it, if that's what he were going to do?
Do you think we have to just sit here and wait for them to realise they ought to tell us?

I was about to ask you the same thing.

Well.

We can't go over there. Not in the middle of the day. It would be suicidal and there'd be no guarantee whatsoever that we'd succeed at getting to Peter, especially as they're probably keeping him somewhere like that room where they have secret meetings, and I'm not sure we could even get in.

So our options are yelling at them, or waiting for now and yelling at them later.

How worried are we that Peter will give them the slip? They do at least know he's an animagus so presumably they're alert to the possibility of him getting away from them as a rat.

BUT -
Dolohov has some means of knowing who's in the castle.

We can't. Not right now. We're going to have to trust the kids to handle it.

As for cats, the whole school's been thick with them for the last year and a half. Thanks to Dolores Umbridge's plate collection!

What the hell use is a cat that won't eat Peter, that's what I'd like to know.

Well. All right, so the proper cats would know he's not a proper rat, which means they'd likely leave him alone. But Pansy's is actually a kneazle - I mean store bought with certifications - and why he didn't ever alert them to the presence of a malignant stub like Peter ....

No, I can't sit here and do nothing. They're in danger.

I want to agree, but -- he's been there for how long? And now they know about him, and surely he's got no wand.

It's not just Harry by himself -- he's got Ron and Justin backing him up. Two of the best fighters of the younger generation.
Sodding bugger all, you're right. As usual.

All right. But if Harry doesn't come to us by Monday, we're asking him what he plans to do.

Agreed?

Oh, agreed.

I think we have to let them handle it. At least for a few more hours.

All those times I could have just ASKED to see that goddamn rat.

Peter's too clever for that, though. I think once he realised that you were at Laszlo's (and certainly if he'd heard I was there), he stayed away.

You know it's going to kill me to wait.
@alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 20:28:14
(no subject)

I'd offer you distraction but in that case we'd better boost the Notificio charm on our journals. Anyone writes to us, I want to be writing back IMMEDIATELY.

@alt_sirius at 2015-01-31 20:33:15
(no subject)

Normally I'd say yes but it might be ... more prudent to tinker. Or get in some target practice or something.

Too bad Dora's put the soundproofing round the painting. I could really use an excuse to break crockery in front of it right now.

@alt_lupin at 2015-01-31 20:45:41
(no subject)

Target practice! Sounds perfect. Maybe we can practice on some ancestral crockery.
While some of you are trying to figure out what to do with Peter Pettigrew you might remember that there are other Order members living in the castle who might be able to help you with that, if you thought to ask them.

---

Hydra,

I say, are you--all right? And who told you anything about Peter Pettigrew?

-Justin

I can tell you who didn't tell me: You.

So no, I'm not all right.

I understand if you're upset we've been skulking about but you couldn't have done anything more to help than we were already doing and--well, I mean to say, under the circumstances, I jolly well feel it was Harry's place to decide what to tell and to whom, and when.

Besides, it's not as if you tell me everything, either.

Come to the salle so we can talk about this?

-Justin
Because I'm on the council, because I'm training with both Barty and my Mother, I already have to remove myself from the people I consider friends. Except for Harry and Daphne, maybe, and even then it's not the same.

Almost everyone at school hates me, and I have to hear them think about how they hate me every time I walk by them.

You're always trying to do whatever you can for Dolohov, whenever you can.

And I keep having dreams about Neville.

And I don't want to go to the salle. I'm tired.

I know. We're both doing what we must, and it's not pleasant. I daresay it's far less pleasant for you than for me.

We don't--I didn't mean to run the course, but it's a private place to talk. Especially if we exercise privilege and chuck everyone else out.

I don't fancy risking your secret stair, what. But I do want to see you, sweetheart. And we can...catch each other up, how's that for a start?

-J
alt_draco at 2015-01-31 23:24:32
(no subject)

I realise I'm not living in the castle, but what's this about Peter Pettigrew? And who's this "some of you" that you're addressing?

alt_hydra at 2015-01-31 23:27:36
(no subject)

Justin, Ron, Sally Anne, Pansy, and Harry. Oh, and Justin.

Peter Pettigrew is in the castle, though I'm not sure how. I've not picked up on that part, yet. Something to do with transfiguration and rats, though.

alt_draco at 2015-01-31 23:31:45
(no subject)

What? I thought he was dead?

Well, nevermind that - clearly dead can mean anything.

Anyway, if it really is Peter Pettigrew then why isn't anyone doing anything? He's the bloke who betrayed Harry's parents.

alt_hydra at 2015-01-31 23:34:55
(no subject)

I think they're trying to decide what to do. Like I said, I'm not sure. Because I haven't actually been told anything about it.

alt_daphne at 2015-01-31 23:33:15
(no subject)

What do you mean, rats?

That is, what about them?
Peter Pettigrew is a rat, I think.

Literally or metaphorically?

Both?

Transformed into a rat?

Or an animagus rat?

It's not been confirmed for me but given that he was friends with Sirius and Remus and Harry's father, who were all animagi, I think he is an animagus rat.

What? What have I done?

Harry's about to tell everyone about it, in any case.
Will you come to the salle after supper? Please.

-Justin

@alt_hydra at 2015-01-31 23:46:36
Re: Private Message to Hydra

You've done nothing and you've not done anything. Do you see the problem? I'm supposed to be your wife and I know we can't show it but you could at least remember, couldn't you?

@alt_justin at 2015-01-31 23:53:30
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Oh, I say!

Do you think it's easy for me to see you every day and not be able to take your hand? You're the mind-reader, can you not tell every time I look at you just what I remember?

This wasn't mine to tell, love. Not yet. Nor was it yours, in point of fact. And this...this tantrum is so unlike you. Have you been under too much pressure from Auror Crouch, is that it? Now that he's been coming to the castle more often?

Perhaps we've been going about this wrong and instead of avoiding each other we should...make it more of a habit to spend time together. No one believes you and Harry are dating, anyway.

Why are we quarrelling? Please talk to me, dearest.

-Justin

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-01 00:20:40
Re: Private Message to Hydra

So because I'm a legilimens people can just pretend I don't exist? But then they get cross with me when I do read their minds. Even accidentally. No one even realises how difficult it
is to turn off. If they really want me to know nothing then they should just occlude all the time.

Except when you need someone to read minds, you'll all want me there then, won't you?

When you say you want me to talk to you I feel like you're saying you want me to not say what I'm saying now.

alt_justin at 2015-02-01 00:31:06
Re: Private Message to Hydra

What? No one's pretending you don't exist--I say, I don't blank you in the corridors, do I?

I know it's difficult for you not to pick up stray thoughts, what, but I thought you never wanted to invade others' minds without having to do so.

You can say anything you need to do, but I want us to say it face to face, that's all. Not row back and forth like this.

I don't want you to--to say something you'll regret to someone other than me, dearest. Oh, dash it, that's come out wrong. I fear if you go on like this you'll...you'll lash out at someone more dangerous than your friends, if you follow me. I don't want you to lose ground because your nerves are frayed.

Come and see me and we'll sit and you can have a cry out if that's what you need, or whatever you want. Be angry, be upset, do whatever you bally well want, but in person.

-J

alt_hydra at 2015-02-01 00:38:17
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I'm not going to lash out at Crouch or something. I'm not stupid. Or nervous.

I don't need to have a cry, either. You're supposed to know that I don't ever cry, and why.
I just want you and everyone else to leave me alone. Okay?

---

alt_justin at 2015-02-01 00:47:15
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I do know that it's difficult for you to allow yourself to cry. And I know why.

And I know you don't mean what you're saying right now, either. But if it's alone you want to be, then fine. I shall leave you alone until you're disposed to talk, and not snarl at everyone about you.

But I'm not going to let you push me away, Dux. I love you. Always, no matter what happens. For better and for worse, what.

Get some rest and I do hope you have sweeter dreams.

Your loving husband,

J

---

alt_hydra at 2015-02-01 01:34:00
Re: Private Message to Hydra

It's very insulting and hurtful when someone tells you that what you are saying is something you don't mean. And then tells you go to bed.

I want to meet at the salle.

---

alt_justin at 2015-02-01 01:46:23
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I'm already there. Just ignore where it says Remy and Warrington were using it; I've told them to clear off.

-Justin
alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-31 23:54:03
(no subject)

My rat Sebastian is Peter Pettigrew.

Harry's going to tell the rest of the Order. He wanted to do it, because Peter's the one who betrayed his parents.

alt_hydra at 2015-01-31 23:57:23
(no subject)

Fine, but it's pretty obvious that more people than just Harry have known about it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-31 23:58:44
(no subject)

Yeah.

Me, Ron, and Justin were there when it happened. We called Harry up because it was Peter Pettigrew and I told Pansy because sometimes, as it happens, I tell Pansy things that I do not tell EVERYONE ELSE IN THE ORDER. Including you.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-01 00:06:06
(no subject)

Good for you and Pansy.

Or should I say: GOOD FOR YOU AND PANSY.

I'm sure you're other dorm-mates appreciate that you felt it was important to share with Pansy that your rat of many years was actually an old man, and not share it with them.
No need for everyone to get shouty.

I can see how you'd take an issue with not immediately telling everyone at Hogwarts, Hydra, but we were planning on telling everyone as soon as possible.

For what it's worth, I didn't tell George.

Well that's between you and George then, isn't it.

You're rat is a MAN???

No! For how long?

I feel a lot worse about not telling you than not telling Hydra because you ACTUALLY LIVED WITH HIM and I was going to try to tell you in person today. But then I couldn't find you, and then I had to go up to ask him questions, and --

yeah.

THE WHOLE TIME, he was a man, Peter Pettigrew. Mates with Sirius and Mr Lupin and Harry's real father, years ago, and he's also the one who betrayed Mr and Mrs Potter to Voldemort.
Hydra's being unusually petty. I'm not sure why. I imagine she must feel very isolated most of the time, though, so perhaps this outburst stems from that.

But more importantly, are you **serious**?! I'll have to soak myself in the prefect's bath for hours tonight! It was bad enough that you had a rat, but it was a pervert man-rat? I think I'll be sick...

You know, I think this is more about Justin than you. See what Hydra wrote to Draco? She mentioned Justin's name twice.

Maybe being secretly married is taking a toll on their marriage?

I imagine it would.

Anyway I'm sure you're right, it's more about Justin than me (or Ron or Harry).

Just be glad you weren't there to see him transform. You remember that spell Corner tried in Transfiguration class, that Glozeman said wouldn't work -- Ron and I went up to the secret room, both so I could practice transformation spells on him and so he could practice being transformed. We tried out the human-form spell too so he'd know how it felt. I wanted to see if it was true a regular animal wouldn't even notice it so I tried it out on Sebastian and one second my rat's watching out the edge of my book bag and the
next second there's this NAKED MAN sitting there.

He's also a really creepy looking unshaven grimy naked man, I don't think he's bathed much in the last sixteen years or so.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-01 03:40:35
Re: Private message to Daphne

UGH!

And he was in our room? He saw us in our nighties, when we were eleven? Holda help us...
I'll have to bathe for a week!

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-01 05:20:58
Re: Private message to Daphne

Twelve.

Doesn't make it much better, does it?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-01-31 23:57:30
(no subject)

And we learned this yesterday afternoon, it's not as if we've been keeping things a secret for weeks and weeks. So when Harry asked if we could please hold off on telling people for ONE DAY I thought that would be okay.

Really, we have to tell you everything immediately because otherwise you'll read it out of our heads and demand answers? Anything else you've read out of my head lately that you want answers about?

alt_justin at 2015-02-01 00:08:41
(no subject)

Well, Thursday night, actually. But no, we've not known it for long. And we spent a bit of time verifying his claims, first.

-Justin
I'm sorry I didn't tell you, Hydra.

I wanted time to think about what to do with him, so I asked everyone else to keep it a secret, too.
We have some news that may be a bit surprising to most of you: we've found Peter Pettigrew. He was hiding as Sally-Anne's pet rat.

We've currently got him confined in a cage that Justin nicked from Professor Grubbly-Plank, which is designed for dangerous magical creatures. I don't think he'll be able to get out of it. He's in the Gryffindor boys' dorm now, not the Slytherin girls' dorm. He had to promise to protect the Order's secrets, to never attempt to return to Voldemort or his followers, and to pledge his loyalty and service to me from this day forward.

Here's what he said about why he betrayed my parents.

It was Antonin Dolohov who recruited him into the Death Eaters. Peter said that Dolohov told him that the Marauders would find their true home there -- that their intelligence and ability to create mischief would be appreciated rather than condemned and squashed and punished. That three Purebloods and a werewolf surely belonged with Dolohov's side, not Albus Dumbledore's. That of course Gryffindors belonged as much as Slytherins, because the Dark Lord appreciated bravery as much as cunning. He promised they'd be together -- Peter, James, Sirius, and Remus.

Peter said he regretted taking the Mark as soon as he'd gone through with it -- well, of course he said that to us. He was the one who listened in to the Prophecy that night, and took it to Voldemort, but he had no idea it meant me. Was going to mean me. He couldn't imagine James and Lily settling down so soon and having a baby when they were still so young.

So -- then my mother got pregnant, but he said he couldn't possibly tell anyone the truth about what he'd done but he did manage to pass to the Order the danger that James and Lily were in. And of course they decided to use the Fidelius Charm, and he thought surely they'd use Sirius as the Secret Keeper and they'd never catch him and everything would be fine. But then Sirius had the idea of using Peter, and making Sirius the bait.

And then all Peter could do was hide and hope no one realised. That
worked for a while, he said. Over a year after I was born, they were
chasing around after Sirius. But then -- it was Dolohov again. Who
worked out that just maybe, it was Peter, and sent him an owl. Peter
said that Dolohov said this could be hard, or this could be easy. Either
was fine with him. Dolohov also said they knew where Sirius was
going to be, but that he didn't think Sirius was actually going to be
able to tell them anything and what a terrible, terrible waste that
would be, and how hard it would be on Regulus to see that happen if
it were all for nothing.

So

He made a deal.

He'd give them my parents. And in exchange, the Death Eaters had to
spare Sirius, and Remus, and not just spare them, but protect them.
And they kept their side, Peter said, because even though Sirius came
out of hiding no one raised their wand against him until he went to the
Wizengamot to get Harry, and he should have known that wouldn't
work anyway, and Remus was called out of the enclave and given a job
at Hogwarts for no reason but to keep that end of Peter's deal.

We asked him -- well, Sally-Anne and Pansy and Ron asked him, I was
under my cloak so he didn't know I was there. Why was he hiding as a
rat. I mean, wasn't the deal to protect his own life, too? And he said,
Voldemort -- the Dark Lord, was how he put it -- didn't keep that one.
And he doesn't know why. But Voldemort gave the order to have Peter
killed and so he ran and never went back.

---

alt_pansy at 2015-02-01 00:27:33
Private Message to George

...and now you know.

It was sort of personal. To Harry. So we decided to
follow his lead on this one and hold off spreading the
word around until Harry could get some answers.
IT'S A GOOD THING I'M NOT IN GRYFFINDOR TOWER RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE I'D PROBABLY TEAR THE BUGGER LIMB FROM LIMB.

SORT OF PERSONAL?

Merlin, Pansy. That SHITE was in there with you, all the time? Sleeping next to you? SLEEPING IN SALLY-ANNE'S BED?!

FUCK!

I just destroyed one of the work tables.

I'm sorry, I'm sorry--it's not your job to calm ME down. But Merlin, Pansy!

Now I understand why Mum sends Howlers.

It's quite a lot to process.

I spent most of yesterday alternating between being thoroughly disgusted and giggling uncontrollably at how weird and gross and ridiculous it all was.

I understand you're angry. I was more gobsmacked than anything.

And it was rather odd to talk to someone who knew me really well like that.
To say the least.

But George, when we did talk today, with Justin and Ron and Harry *right* there, he was desperate, he was frightened, he was pitiful. I don't want to be alone with him, not ever, but I do believe that he was with Sally-Anne because it was safe, not because he was a pervert.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2015-02-01 00:53:36
*Re: Private Message to George*

He spent most of the time talking about what happened to Harry's parents, but he did say well, first of all, Sally-Anne told me that he was the one to take the locket and put it in her bag. Because he was worried about me, and could pick up on what the locket was doing to me.

And he did say that our friendship, mine and Sally-Anne's, reminded him of Sirius and James. Because we're so inseparable. And he sounded wistful and sad when he talked about it.

And really, that's all he said about it. Besides the fact you could tell he'd really rather just sort of go back to being someone's pet rat forever, and not have to answer questions any more.

---

**alt_george** at 2015-02-01 02:23:15
*Re: Private Message to George*

Blimey.

Do you believe that bit, about the locket? I mean, that's one shred of...something...on his side, if it's true. But if he betrayed his best friends, why would he do anything because he was worried over you?

I mean.

I worry over you, yeah. But why would he care? D'ye mean to say--or is he trying to imply--that he's become *fond* of you, living with you as long as he has?
Yngggh.

**alt_pansy** at 2015-02-01 01:22:24  
Re: Private Message to George

...if it helps, he did sleep in her book bag for the most part.

And Pye hated Letchley and McLaggen who *were* perverts, but didn't ever go after Seb Peter.

**alt_george** at 2015-02-01 02:24:44  
Re: Private Message to George

It helps, a little.

But I'd still want to tear him from limb to limb, if I could get hold of him.

Bugger, imagine how *Harry* must feel.

**alt_george** at 2015-02-01 00:28:06  
Private message to Harry

HOW long has this ARSEHOLE been in the Slytherin girl's dorm room? In PANSY'S, SALLY-ANNE's and DAPHNE's dorm room!??

**alt_harry** at 2015-02-01 01:21:33  
Re: Private message to Harry

Since we were all second years.

He was one of Carrow's rats. Remember those experiments he was running, that got ruined when -- wait. Were you the one who let those rats out? Was it you and Fred? I can't remember.
Wasn't us. Believe it or not, not ALL the mayhem in the castle comes from us.

Urgh, since you were second years?!

Wish you could just simply oblivate the stinker, but he probably has information we need.

Yeah, I know.

Obliviation really won't do a damn thing for five years' worth of memories. And he may have seen something helpful to us.

One of Carrow's rats. Figures. The two of them were meant for each other.

Blimey, I do believe this is the first time I've ever wished for Carrow to be alive again. Then we could give the blighter back to him to use in one of his horrible experiments.

(Don't tell Terry I said that.)

WHAT the bloody hell are you going to DO with him, Harry? Other than keep him in a cage?

I mean--he could blow everything sky high, with what he knows!
Well, we are open to ideas.

Are you sure about this, Harry? Are you sure about keeping someone that ANTONIN DOLOHOV recruited within arm's length of you and Ron?

Not to mention in the same room with Seamus Finnigan! What if Seamus gets a whim to take him out of that cage?

Well, I was going to say, we're already within reach of one Death Eater...

Anyway. I don't think Finnigan much cares for rats. But I've also warded the cage.

A very good point about being within reach of a Death Eater. I try not to think of it, so...how stupid of me. I'm sorry.

But oh, Harry, how dreadful. What a shock it must have been to discover him.

Well, I must say that you sound as though all of you have handled the discovery well so far. I mean, getting him out of the girls' dormitory (ugh!) and into a warded cage. AND dragging his story out of him. He could have very easily escaped, once you found out the truth, so good on you for still having a firm grip on the beast. So to speak.
That was mostly Ron, Justin, and Sally-Anne. They're the ones who found him out, and kept him from running.

I wish I could say it's a complete surprise, Harry, but Remus and I figured it out this afternoon. I'm glad you didn't make us wait too much longer before you told us about it.

You probably ought to put that cage in Draco's co-location box and have one of us pick him up at the safehouse in Hogsmeade. Peter promised us loads of things, too, and you see what happened.

Agreed.

Merlin.

I should've figured the little rat would turn up someday.
Well, here's the thing about using the co-location box. I'm not an expert on these magics, and Draco can correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm pretty sure we would need to take him out of the cage or we could completely muck up the works -- it's not an ordinary cage, it's designed to keep in dangerous magical creatures.

In theory if we pop him in one end and some of you are there at the Hogsmeade safehouse to be right there on the other side, everything should be fine. But there are thousands of documented cases of both accidental and deliberate wandless apparition. Usually people do not shift themselves very far, but he wouldn't have to go far to transform into a rat and run. And the most critical requirement for wandless apparition is desperation, which he's got plenty of.

We can't go with him in the box; I'm not sure if it can safely move two living creatures at a time (Draco, did you test that?) but also Dolohov has a magical system for knowing who's in the school, and one of us leaving might attract attention (and maybe it would be fine, if all he knows is that we're out of the building for a few minutes, because we could've just slipped out of the building for some reason? but we're not really sure how specific the information is) and you can't come here to get him because if Sirius Black is in the school that'll bring MLE down on our heads again.

I'm not sure what the best way is to do this.

It's a bit late in the day to be slipping out-of-doors, but perhaps if two of you went on a walk before curfew and made your way to the Whomping Willow, we could do the hand-off there?

Do Dolohov's abilities extend to the grounds?

Your briefly going down the tunnel to the Shack might cause less notice than one of us going through to meet you.
alt_harry at 2015-02-01 02:13:06
(no subject)

I could come out with my cloak. But, yeah, that's the thing. We aren't sure how far Dolohov's information extends. It probably isn't just the building, because if it were, any time a student went out to the grounds during the day they'd look like they'd gone missing. But how far out on the grounds it goes, we don't know.

alt_draco at 2015-02-01 02:15:27
(no subject)

You can pass the empty cage through while someone is carrying it (just as it will allow transfer of someone with any number of magical items in their pockets), but no, if you bring him through while inside the cage there's no telling what will happen to him. He might be just fine, but I haven't tested that specific scenario.

And only one person at a time, but the transfer is instantaneous. The boxes are actually one box, magically divided and set in different locations, so as soon as you set foot in one box, you're also inside the other. So it's not like a floo or apparition where you could end up somewhere that you didn't intend to go.

alt_harry at 2015-02-01 02:25:03
(no subject)

We could maybe stun him and then put him in the box.

If the rest of the Order thinks it's too risky to keep him here overnight that might be the only good option.

I think it would be a bad idea to send a fugitive onto the grounds. And I think it would be a bad idea to send a student off the grounds. And I don't know exactly where the line is.

If we wait a day or two we might be able to make sure Dolohov is busy, and one of us could go through the tunnel. If we need to get
him out of here tonight I think the box is our only option. Unless I'm missing something.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-01 02:28:24
(no subject)

You could just have him get into it and make sure there are others of us waiting at the other side. I can't see what he could really do to escape once inside the box.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-01 03:20:59
(no subject)

Well the box has to be closed on both sides for it to work, yeah? The risk is whether he'd manage a wandless apparition before you opened it.

I'm probably more paranoid about this than I should be because I did it once, when I was little. Not very far and I didn't even mean to do it, but I read about it a bit after I got to school. He wouldn't have to get far, is the thing. And he'd have a second with no one's eyes on him.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-01 03:30:16
(no subject)

Body-bind him and shove him inside, then.

@alt_alice at 2015-02-01 04:47:01
(no subject)

Let's have this done first thing tomorrow.

Let us know when you're ready to proceed, so we can have someone waiting at Hogsmeade. Make sure he's fully unconscious, body bind him, and put him in the box.

In the meantime, for Merlin's sake, Harry, make sure he's secure.
I should have been more specific up above. He took an Unbreakable Vow to protect the Order's secrets and not to return to Voldemort. So if he does try to do either of those, he'll die. We didn't make him vow not to try to run, because he pointed out that he might need to run away from Death Eaters. And I do want him to be able to run, if that comes up.

I have him in a cage designed to hold small but dangerous creatures and I warded it to keep anyone like Seamus from opening it up.

If there's anything else you think I should be doing, I can try.

Did he take a Vow, or merely promise to take it?

He took a Vow. He promised to me, and Sally-Anne was the Bonder. It looked like it worked, anyway. Ron was there, Justin was off getting the cage so we could lock him up properly. We actually did this the first day, before we even let him out of the secret room.

The strangest thing was how he was so absolutely certain that he never had the choice not to betray my parents. Like he was just trapped, the whole time.
@alt_sirius at 2015-02-01 01:56:08
Re: Private message to Sirius

Reductive reasoning, yeah. That's Peter, in a way. Well, and it's also that bastard manipulating him into thinking he only had the one choice. Reg was the same way, every time I came close to convincing him there were options. Funny how they both found their options in the end, though, innit.

Look, I don't want him staying up there any more than you do. But it's true I can't just Apparate up there, much as I'd like to do, and then take him to Saltash, tonight.

When's the next Hogsmeade weekend? I don't want to wait too long, either, but if it's not too far away, maybe we can arrange a handoff then.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-01 02:13:27
Re: Private message to Sirius

Two weeks.

That's too long.

@alt_alice at 2015-02-01 01:17:18
Private Message to Harry Potter

...I can't imagine how difficult that was for you, Harry.

You've bound yourself to him, and while Remus and Sirius certainly have a say in how to handle this, and will have very strong opinions on the matter, you've taken responsibility for his fate in a very real way.

Sirius has a point, as does Molly, and I agree with them -- although you've taken good steps to make sure he's secure for the moment, I think it's important that he be taken out of Hogwarts as soon as possible.

What are your thoughts?
alt_harry at 2015-02-01 01:39:33
Re: Private Message to Harry Potter

I think we sort of promised him we'd try to convince the rest of you not to just kill him outright.

But I'll be a lot happier with him in Saltash. Or anywhere else, really, that isn't here.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 01:50:23
Re: Private Message to Harry Potter

I can respect that, Harry.

Saltash was my first thought as well. And yes, the sooner the better.

alt_luna at 2015-02-01 01:24:25
Private message to Harry

I'm so very sorry you had to meet the person who betrayed your parents, Harry.

I'm glad that you are thinking through his story, and not just acting on the first instinct, which in most people would probably be revenge.

He sounds like a very dangerous person, but at the same time quite pathetic.

Please, do be very careful.

alt_harry at 2015-02-01 01:40:28
Re: Private message to Harry

My first instinct was curiosity.

Maybe I should've been a Ravenclaw.

(Okay. That was a joke.)
**alt_luna** at 2015-02-01 03:06:42

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Well, it made *me* laugh.

I'm sure you could really use a laugh tonight.

---

**alt_terry** at 2015-02-01 05:48:16

*Private message to Harry*

He 'had to promise'...do you mean that the group of you somehow forced him into an Unbreakable Vow?

Because it sounds like that's the only sort of promise he would keep. He's betrayed everyone he could on both sides, just to save his own skin.

Merlin. He sounds like a good argument for the theory that an animagus' form is shaped by the person's character. He really *is* a rat.

---

**alt_harry** at 2015-02-01 05:53:30

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Yes. He offered to, right away. He was terrified we were going to kill him. So not much force was required. Mostly just deciding what to have him swear and hoping we were doing it properly.

I think you're being unfair to rats. They're friendly, curious, and intelligent. They're only sneaky if they think they can't trust you. Dogs are the same way.

Snakes have a bad reputation as well, outside Slytherin House at least. And that's Ron's animagus form.

---

**alt_terry** at 2015-02-01 06:06:54

*Re: Private message to Harry*

I'm willing to believe I'm being unfair to rats, but my experience with them hasn't been with pampered pet rats like the ones at Hogwarts, you understand. I had to feed and clean up after the
ones that Carrow was experimenting with, trying to make them vicious. And my first memories of rats was with the ones we dealt with in the camps, when I was really young. The ones that stole the little food we had. And sometimes bit the babies.

You're right about snakes having a bad reputation that's probably undeserved. (I rather like Ron's form, actually.)
2015-01-31 20:11:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Apologies.

Not able to come for supper tomorrow. Will be otherwise employed.

alt_crouch_jr

alt_antonin at 2015-02-01 02:33:55
(no subject)

Understood.

Call if you need me -- whatever it is.
Weasley brought his girlfriend's rat back to the dormroom a couple of nights ago with some ridiculous story about it having trouble with Parkinson's cat.

It's been staring at me. The rat, I mean.

I'm starting to wonder -- you lot in Transfiguration are working on animal transformations, aren't you? You don't suppose Weasley turned some other student into a rat, as a prank?

I went for a closer look and some mad cat turned up and went after me.

Neither Marvolo nor Weasley even has a cat! We went from having no pets in here, to having a rat AND a cat. Utterly bizarre.

Are you sure they're not just having you on? It's not some sort of prank?
You know, I worried when I said I'd come teach here, that I'd slip in my training and lose some sharpness. I hadn't imagined how generous you and Savitha would be with your time nor how much I'd benefit from your skill in the salle. (And, of course, I never imagined the salle, at all.)

Only, this afternoon I surprised myself with how some of the set pieces we've been training have got in and become instinct for me.

I'm going to have content myself with sparring success for today, though. I've been poking at that analysis we were looking over this evening, and I'm still simply knocking my head against it. I suppose I'll have to wait for Rod to get back to me about the draft; I expect he'll know exactly what I've done to muck up the arithmancy. It's just annoying because I thought I'd got it sorted, but then I'd overlooked an absolutely crucial hole.

Sorry. I was hoping that if I wrote about it, the answer would drop into my head. Instead, it's still flittering just at the corner of my mind's eye, and I can't quite see it.

I think I'll try sleeping on it. When all else fails, sometimes that works.

---

I can't count the number of nights I've spent staring at the insides of my eyelids, convinced the answer was staring me right in the face and that I'd only overlooked it. It's the nature of academic discovery, I suppose. If it's any consolation, I can't spot the flaw either -- although it's equally tip-of-my-tongue.

One of us will sit bolt upright in the middle of the night in a week or two with the answer, I'm certain of it. In the meantime, try going back to first principles and working through step by step again -- you may find that startles something clear. Or, I've had luck in the past by grabbing someone who had never seen the problem before and explaining it to them, from stem to stern -- there's something about putting your thoughts in order to explain it to someone else that
often shakes loose the one piece I'm missing, and I've definitely found that writing it out doesn't have the same eureka moment. I used to dragoon Auri to be my listener.

The Americans call that technique the 'teddy bear at the door' -- apocryphal, from a supervisor who would sit with you for hours and go through your problem with you, but before you could claim his time you had to explain the issue you were having to the teddy bear he kept at the door to his office. Which, of course, usually sufficed to make the solution come clear.

Still, this sort of setback is part and parcel of research. The path to discovery rarely runs smoothly. (One of my more recent endeavors took over a year before we saw any success in it -- and even then, it was an outside agent that moved us along.) Do not think that a lack of immediate progress heralds any personal insufficiency. I'm very pleased with the direction of your work, and the dedication you are bringing to it.
2015-01-31 21:17:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius and Remus

Justin was arguing passionately for Strangeweale's life a little over a year ago. Merlin.

These last few weeks, I've had my fair share of time to reflect on what we've put these young people through. I'm not sure I'll ever fully forgive myself.

We must finish this thing while there's a future left to save.

...not to mention this entire business with Peter. It is numbing and infuriating all at once. I can hardly imagine what it's like for the both of you. I am so glad you have one another, and can face whatever this is together, as you were meant to.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 05:48:25
(no subject)

Harry asked today about Peter, a few hours before he told everyone what was going on. So I've had ample opportunity to reflect today on how extended contact with the enemy can sometimes backfire.

Justin's being mentored extensively by Antonin Dolohov, who sees his unusual talents in duelling and battle magics as something to be treasured and cultivated, not constrained or reigned in.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 06:06:57
(no subject)

And Albus and Severus are no longer there as balancing forces and potential confidantes.

I worry about Ron as well. Especially with Arthur gone, and Bill's mangling of things.

And
Yes. And Hydra as well. Without Justin as an anchor. With the burden of what she's been made to do.

What is there we can do?

I fear whatever we try may only make life more painful for them.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 06:12:36
(no subject)

We can win.

That's what we can do.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 06:16:20
(no subject)

yes.

Yes we can.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 05:49:32
(no subject)

By the way, we're getting conflicting messages about Peter. Harry says Peter took the Unbreakable Vow; Justin says he hasn't. I'm not sure what to make of that.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 05:58:43
(no subject)

Oh, Remus. The sheer amount of things I don't know what to make of is approaching ridiculousness.

I don't think we should take it for granted that the Vow was properly done, though.

I'll ask him for clarification.
Well.

It seems as if Justin wasn't present to verify it had happened.

I'm still not depending on it having worked, by any means.

It's a relatively straightforward bit of spellwork, as these things go. But no, we shouldn't depend on it having worked, I agree.

He's looking for expedient solutions - and I have no doubt, he's trying to appeal to what he thinks we want to do.

I mean, Merlin knows I want to throttle the rat myself.

But yes, it's not lost on me that he used to go to extreme lengths to avoid violence; now it's becoming a default position.

I think of all of us, you're the one he's most likely to talk to.
Order Only: Private Message to Sirius, Mr Lupin, Mrs Longbottom and Ron

Hullo,

Look, there's something I don't think anyone else mentioned before. Pettigrew had a Dark Mark. He mentioned regretting taking it but he admitted he had joined Voldemort. I'm not sure he'll honour his promise. He did offer an Unbreakable but we've never done one before so we told him it would be an Unbreakable soon, what, but I don't trust him not to try to run away before we can make it official.

So, there's one other option we haven't discussed.

I could simply take Pettigrew out onto the grounds somewhere and kill him.

Before you say it's too harsh, I've been thinking about it. It resolves a number of questions. He's confessed to his crimes and it's clear he has nothing of use to offer. We could wait for a chance to smuggle him to the safehouse but there's a risk he'll try to get away, in any case.

If you wanted to handle it that way, Harry needn't know. Ron could get me the cage and I'll simply take care of it. Tonight.

-Justin

Did Hydra turn up?

Is this something the two of you came up with?
Ron,

Yes, she did come, eventually. But no, we've not discussed this.

Don't tell her I said it, old man, but I think the strain of the last few months has been wearing on her terribly. She'll be all right, though.

-Justin

alt_ron at 2015-02-01 04:00:44
Re: Private Message to Justin

Witches. Sometimes you just don't know what'll set them off.

It that time of the moon?

alt_justin at 2015-02-01 04:04:21
Re: Private Message to Justin

Er, no, and it never is, with her--in fact, I made rather the mistake of asking only because it's so out of character for her, what. But she did rather run the gamut of emotion.

Well, you know how it is how people look at us in the corridors. Imagine actually being able to know what people think of us, as well, what. In detail.

And... She's been having dreams, Ron. About having to Cruciate Neville over and over again.

I suppose one can't blame her for flying off the broom handle, what.

-Justin
Ugh.

Yeah. I guess I'm not surprised if she's dreaming. I mean, I know what that's like. The other--hearing what everyone's thinking, and having it be awful--I can only guess at that. I reckon it's hard to shake off?

He does have the Mark, and I see what you're thinking, only- I don't like the idea of doing something permanent without letting Harry know it's going to happen. And that'd mean getting him to agree. Because of what Pettigrew did to his parents, it just seems he should agree he's got all he wanted out of him first, y'know?

I wish the rest of them would say what they think, though. If they want you to go ahead, I'll bring him to you.

Well, there's our answer, I suppose.

Do you think we'll ever win if the Order decides to save everyone whom we capture?

-Justin

I expect there'll be times when we won't be able to. But, y'know, I can't blame them if they want a chance to question him, too. I don't reckon I'd pass up that chance if I were them. He's not just any prisoner, yeah?

But I know what you're saying. If we don't get to the point where we've got too many prisoners to manage them this way, we'll not ever win. Too right.
I wasn't aware that you hadn't gone through with the Unbreakable formally. That could end up mattering quite a lot. And thank you for passing along the information about the Mark.

What you've presented most certainly is an option. We will most certainly have to weigh these sort of decisions in the future as well, I have no doubt.

I'm inclined to say no this time, though.

However. If he makes any attempt to escape when it does come time to pass him off, you must do whatever is necessary to stop him.

Mrs Longbottom,

Naturally. I merely wished to make the offer.

-Justin