2015-02-01 02:05:00
ORDER ONLY

I'm penning this to sound the alarm. I was sleeping at Bedford, until about three patronuses from Sherwood converged right over my head, screaming that an entire bloody host of Inferi is moving in on their position. First reported by the button tender in a nearby camp who saw them going by. Then by a warning patronus sent in from an outlying Zulu bivouac--but nothing's been heard from those scouts since. Merlin, they may be already overrun. SHERWOOD may be already overrun.

Bloody hell, scramble EVERYONE. Alice! Alice, are you awake?

I'll take my journal with me, but I don't know how much chance I'll get to write. About to Apparate with Lee to Davidson's headquarters.

alt_kingsley

alt_terry at 2015-02-01 08:06:29
(no subject)

Grabbing my wand. On my way.

alt_evelyn at 2015-02-01 08:50:45
Private Message to Terry

Watch your back.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-01 08:12:28
(no subject)

We're in the main camp with about half of them. I was staying at Sherwood tonight....

The Inferi are just everywhere. EVERYWHERE. They're blanketing the area. We're working on setting off enough flares to see what we're fighting but not so many that our people are visible to whoever's controlling them. (If anyone is!)
There are emergency supply tents on the east, north and south edges of main camp and another on the east edge of campsite 3B. That's where people are gathering.

I have to go but anyone who can help, it's pretty bad. Most of the people here are muggles and their weapons really don't do much against Inferi.

alt_frank at 2015-02-01 08:15:58
(no subject)

tell them to go for the heads.

on our way.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 08:13:50
(no subject)

Here.

Headed to HQ.

Frank and Colin are going out to join you.

alt_evelyn at 2015-02-01 08:47:19
(no subject)

I'm coming, mum. So's Cedric.
anyone coming out for back up
remember your training
keep your calm

destroy the head. blunt instrument, throw with great force, or firm reducto to upper mass. avoid arms and teeth. avoid swarming.

use fire if you manage to trap them in a dead end, but take care to not let it spread.

cedric, get as many people up in the air as you can.

We're en route, as well.
2015-02-01 06:17:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Bring yours.

Ipswich 146. Evan will meet you.

Brief yrs re. OL's new troops. Avoid them.
Tend not to be discerning re. Friend v. Foe.

Blanketed in low clouds. Have had snow over night, but stopping now.
Low visibility until day burns this off.

Re. burning. Several fires underway. Bring yr Healer trainee. Enough wrk to keep her busy.

Keep alert for traitors using incendiary weapons. Muggle weapons.
Hybrid innovations. You'll find it fascinating. Mind you don't take a bullet, though.

Come as soon as you can. Plenty of wrk here for field expedition.
Have woken Gryff contingent. HM put out over being excluded.

Five minutes. Yr office.
ORDER ONLY

Lee.

Aldrich.

They've been doing what they can with buttons but it's obvious they've lost some

Go. Make sure they keep updating. Make sure everyone knows which towns were affected.

Feeding them updates as fast as I can. Tell me anything that has priority and I'll pass it right along.

Town names affected are being repeated every couple of minutes, other stuff in between.

Couple of people here working on whatever supplies can go out, so they're ready.

Bugger bugger bugger.

Thoresby has been utterly obliterated. Nothing but ash and rubble. And corpses.

Falling back further, to Elkesley. Be aware, we can feel the effect of the ward line here, just barely, but it's there.
mum, dad, I'm alive. So is Kingsley, although he's bloody and singed. And bit up pretty bad. I've had to transform over a dozen times so I could dart away through inferi feet.

Lee, Jeremy, Bill, Cedric, Fred, George, Hermione, Draco, anyone appearing quickly to help with the side-along retreat, BE CAREFUL OF YOUR FIRE if you're trying to gather up stragglers! They've brought Hogwart students here to help with the fight, including ours. I saw Ron, silhouetted against a fire. And I think Justin.

Hogwarts people, if you can read this, beware rifle fire to the west.

we've lost so many.

oh bugger, there's a dementor

transforming again

Ron's here?

bloody hell

Justin, Hydra + Sa

We'll assume it's all of you, son. We'll do our damnedest not to run into you.
Fuck.

Having more trouble finding people to apparate away. Discipline has held, and Merlin knows they've drilled evacuation procedures enough, but those inferi are so fearsome that some of the muggles have gone and bolted rather than face them. Straight into the fire.

Davidson's alive, too, and at least half of his Lieutenant-Colonels have checked in, so they're alive, as of an hour ago. Report I heard from one of my passengers is Settlement 4 is COMPLETELY gone. Burned over and swarming with inferi. About a quarter of the residents were able to retreat to the fidelius zone.

We ran out of the last of the Lickedy Split laces to distribute about two hours ago. But that saved some people.

We're taking heavy casualties here in Settlement 3, but the real problem is the fog. By the time we can tell friend from foe, the inferi are practically on us.

The fire-breaks aren't holding well, either.

Oh, I see Sarah - I'm going over to see where else we can help.
I get up a little late to feed the chickens, glance at my journal, and WHAT DO I FIND? Oh Merlin.

The twins and Bill's hands on the clock keep bouncing between 'travelling' and 'Mortal Peril.'

Ron's is bouncing between 'Working' and 'Mortal Peril.'

Alice, should I come out into the field, too? To help with side alongs?

Mum, no! There's too much confusion, and you'd never forgive yourself if you hit one of us. Or Ron could hit you!

There have been evacuations, and many people are hurt. Can you help with triage?

Alice, I'm coming to Moddey Dhoo, and someone there can direct me to wherever they're taking the wounded. I'll bring all the medical supplies I have on hand.
Professors,

The open area nearest the west train yard is completely overrun. The enemy have been issuing significant heavy arms fire but with very little effect on the inferi, as anticipated.

The Headmaster and I are rounding up the handful who have managed to make the tracks and we'll be bringing them back to the main rendezvous point in a moment. He's received word of our next position and requests you send someone here to monitor this escape route; it's little more than cleanup at this point.

Professor Desai, there's a curious rune stone near the postern gate to the meadow, which Professor Dolohov thinks you might find edifying. He's asked you to have a look when you've a moment.

-F-F

---

@alt_lana at 2015-02-01 14:56:06
(no subject)

On my way.

@alt_lana at 2015-02-01 15:13:51
(no subject)

Update.

Desai and Weasley here, too, but going on to investigate rune markers, pointing various directions. Said to tell you they skirmished with Muggle-armed rebels E-SE of here. Killed half a dozen and the rest fled in direction of Fidelius zone.

Happy hunting!
alt justin at 2015-02-01 15:25:41
(no subject)

Cheers, Professor.

-F-F
Sounds like the whole countryside's burning. And running loose with those things.

Cor. I mean, I grew up in a small village like that.

And it sounds

I mean, from what I can read

it sounds right awful.

What? What's going on?

I was sleeping cuz that flash wanker was rustling about all night. Did you hear him? Must have had insomnia or something.

Nah, man. I slept like the

Well. Slept rather soundly.

Come on down to the common room.

Bloody hell.

Are you hearing this?
alt_zacharias at 2015-02-01 18:51:54  
(no subject)  
Yeah.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 18:58:42  
(no subject)  
s'where my dad is.

alt_zacharias at 2015-02-01 19:03:58  
(no subject)  
Wot? You're not from there--

Oh. You mean. Wait. Wot?

alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 19:09:28  
(no subject)  
We're Scottish, you eedjit.

I meant he's a Healer, and I talked to Perks, and she said he was there. Helping MLE. Heal people.

And I just found out it was Ollerton where they were based. The hospital.

So he's there. Right now.

alt_zacharias at 2015-02-01 19:26:09  
(no subject)  
Oh. Yeah.

But not... I mean, he's not one of--he's not helping. Not like Frenchie.
I don't know, mate.

I honestly don't know.

Perks sounded right shaken.

I mean, he took an Oath.

But I get the feeling MLE doesn't take 'I've taken an Oath' as an excuse if they need an extra hand.

Wouldn't be volunteering for it, though.

He could've killed you, just now.

When you punched him.

Yeah, I guess.

I dunno what I was thinking!

Yeah. Well.

He's a right git. But it's a good thing he didn't add one more to the body count, hey?
Because he could've.

And I don't know if he would've got in any trouble for it at all, either.
Order Only

I've seen Cedric, Lee and Jeremy in last hour, coming in to pick up people. Unhurt but covered with soot, and Lee's broom is juddering, so he can't fly it much longer. Twigs are pretty crisped.

There's a report that MLE has snipers on the path picking off those trying to retreat to the Fidelius zone.

Saw Frank. Alice, and he's all right. Saw a dementor closing in on him, and his patronus was barely there, but I added mine, and he was able to get away.

Shite, blood all over my journal. Not serious, but scalp wounds bleed like crazy, and those inferi teeth are sharp

ADDED: WORD FROM DAVIDSON: DOOMSDAY FULL RETREAT. ALL RETREAT, INCLUDING ALL FIGHTERS, TO BETA SETTLEMENTS. REPEAT, THIS EVACUATION PLAN DOOMSDAY. GRAB ANY WOUNDED OR STRAGGLERS YOU CAN AND RETREAT! WHEN YOU ASSEMBLE IN NEW POSITIONS, MAJORS TAKE A COUNT AND SEND IT BACK TO DAVIDSON ON BUTTON NETWORK. THEN IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS SECURITY AND DEAL WITH THE WOUNDED.

All of you, helping with side-alongs: We're going to have to scramble again. Take some ginger if you're starting to get apparition-fatigued, and for Merlin's sake, don't splinch yourself. Sherwood is spreading out all around the Protectorate now.

On it.

Picking up everyone we can with brooms but bugger, it's not easy in this fog.
Understood.

Anyone at HQ

Button network *vital*

Packing up root and branch and moving to Bedford

Get people out

Leave everything else

I'm told all equipment related to the network is out, Alice. And census and support network documentation, and medical supplies.

Everything else is just being left.

I'm falling back to Bedford for coordination purposes.

The bike's holding up but that last flight nearly melted the tyres. I had to reinforce the cooling charms.
Anyone get a bead on Bellatrix? I don't think it's good strategy to give her a third chance at me. I'm taking one more passenger to the nearest retreat zone. Thorsby, I think; Budby's overrun in the north. Let me know which direction to head after that.

**alt_ron** at **2015-02-01 16:06:15**  
(no subject)

I'm with Desai in Rainworth. Have been in Warsop, Meden Vale, Cuckney, Mansfield, Shirebrook, Pleasley Vale. I'm forgetting one or two. Lots of short hopping.

All have rune markers outside village. Collecting evidence of collusion b/w villages and Sherwood. Reckon there'll be reports in news about it. Desai's got photographs. And now we've got prisoners making confessions.

Loads of dead and wounded. MLE, too. Some of them look as bad.

Signs it was Inferi.

They burned all the wooded places. MLE did. Reckon you know.

More if I can.

Am fine.

---

**alt_kingsley** at **2015-02-01 16:28:03**  
(no subject)

Damn, damn, damn.

Understood. There are a few other villages you haven't mentioned; we'll spread word on the button network to remove any stones MLE haven't found if we can.

---

**alt_sirius** at **2015-02-01 16:34:10**  
(no subject)

Elkesley was safe enough. Actually found an abandoned house where my passenger will be all right for now.
Where to next? Back to central to help with those still on foot? It'll take 30 minutes.
2015-02-01 09:18:00
Private Message to Auror Crouch

Desai says to tell you we've followed runic waymarks out from W train. N and NE, first. Little to no resistance there. Mopped up what we encountered.

Now SW. Have found prisoners to question at SW village 2, so here for now. Strong case for collusion. Collecting evidence.

Advise if needed elsewhere.

alt_ron

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-01 16:07:56
(no subject)

Trust Desai to know what's useful.

It's a rout here, anyway.

Done but for mop up. Consider your task part of that.
Is there anyone who's free to meet me at the Hogsmeade Safehouse?

Dolohov's gone, so -- I could just carry Peter over.

I know this isn't a terribly good time. But that's precisely why Dolohov isn't here.

If you can't, I'll make sure he doesn't escape. And we'll use the box, whenever you're ready for him.

I can come over to Gryffindor and give you a hand, Harry.

I was going to take him to the safehouse under my cloak.

I wouldn't mind some company to the edge of the grounds, though.

(If anyone can meet us.)

All right.
Private message to Pansy

How are you holding up?

Someone here in Gryffindor has the wireless tuned to Aldrich. So I've been listening to that.

Harry, I'm on my way.

Probably in about 2 hours, if I can boost my speed and stay warm enough.

Okay. I'll be waiting.
Attention to Our Lord's loyal forces attacking the traitors near Sherwood

The muggles have guns that operate at long range. If you are hit with one of the metal projectiles they fire, please take it seriously, even if the wound does not initially seem dangerous. If you carry dittany, use it. Also, if a metal projectile lodges inside you, do not under any circumstances try to remove it yourself, because you can make the wound a lot worse. Just come to the Healers as quickly as possible and we will remove it properly and staunch the bleeding. (We don't use a summoning charm for it, there's a healing charm that works much better for this purpose.)

(Instructions posted at the request of Healer Spottiswood.)

Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

Professor Desai almost bled to death before she got here. But we've given her enough blood-replenishing potions to revive a hippogriff, I think, so she'll be fine.

Order Only

They've seen Sirius's motorbike. Orders have gone out to everyone to bring it down at any cost. I'm pretty sure they came from Bellatrix. She knows it's you, Sirius.

Right.

NOT back to Sherwood, then.

Alice, I think I'll head north.
If you can come to the Hogsmeade safehouse, I can give you Peter.

Is my dad there with the Healers?

Healer Macmillan?

Oh yeah, he's here. I've been working with him, actually. I thought he was probably your dad but I wasn't sure.

I like him. He's a good Healer.

Oh.

Right. Figured he might be there.

We're in a safe spot, don't worry. Well out of the way of anyone with a gun.
I was going to say.

Sounds right savage.

Yeah, some of the injuries we've seen are just astonishing. Though Professor Desai wouldn't have been nearly so badly injured if she'd just left the bullet (that's the term for the little piece of metal) in the hole instead of using 'accio' to get it out. (Rule #1: don't get injured. Rule #2: If you do get injured, go to a Healer. Rule #3: If you're not going to go to a Healer right away, don't MESS with the injury! You are not qualified! Leave it alone!)

The prisoners coming in are also all really badly injured. That's who I've been working on mostly, and your dad, too. We've been losing a lot of them, which isn't terribly surprising given the fires and the inferi and all the rest. I think just smoke inhalation did for a lot of them -- too much lung damage to pull them through.

Right. The Muggles and Mudbloods from the woods.

Cor. To think they were hiding there, all this time. Sounds like there was an awful lot of them, too.

Yeah, there were lots, I guess. I don't know exactly how many.

Apparently they think some of the villages on the edges were colluding, because some of our prisoners are
proper wizards and witches. (Well, I guess they weren't 'proper' if they were traitors, but hopefully you know what I mean.)

@alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 17:37:21
Re: Private Message to Perks

Yeah.

I do.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-01 17:38:27
Re: Private Message to Perks

I heard someone talking about the Prophet so I think this might be in the paper tomorrow. I guess we'll see?

@alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 17:41:13
Re: Private Message to Perks

We've been trying to follow things here.

Through the journals, obviously.

I suppose the Prophet'll fill us in the rest of the way, though.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-01 17:45:30
Re: Private Message to Perks

Oh, yeah.

I'm sure the Prophet will have pictures, though. You don't get those in the journals.

@alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 17:53:36
Re: Private Message to Perks

Don't suppose that'll be particularly pleasant, ey?

...sorry. You've got it in person.
Are you
Where are you? The Hospital you've set up, I mean?

Is it Oll

Ollerton

Ah.
I see.

Our Lord has decided to make an example of the traitors who lived in this village. Because they are believed to have colluded with the muggles and mudbloods of Sherwood.

There will be pictures in the Prophet.

It is an honour to be here to see it in person. Your father sends his love and assures you that he's well and was glad to be here today.
Word has spread that Professor Dolohov isn't in the castle.

There's a wireless in a corner of the Ravenclaw common room. There's a muffliato sphere around it in case any of the prefects get too near, and the people nearby are pretending to be revising. But it's tuned to the Aldrich town radio station.

Mary Twycross was crying quietly while listening. So I sat down next to her to lend her my handkerchief, and she whispered to me, 'I can't believe Our Lord would have loosed monsters like that on helpless people.'
Private Message to Seamus

Are you coming back to the main assembly point? Professor Glozeman says we're all but done over here, but there's some sort of debrief.

Honestly, I don't think it was that bad. Do you? I mean, it smells bad, with all the fires, but otherwise...really, it was the sort of thing I envisioned we'd be doing. Suppressing enemy insurgents and things like that.

Where were you embedded?

---

I was with Mr Rosier, on the southern end. There was a big fire so I feel a little crispy, despite having plenty of protection charms. No serious casualties. We're also on our way back to the main assembly point, although we keep stopping because someone thinks they saw something and we don't want to leave a survivor where we could take a prisoner, you know? (So far, though, it's been nothing and more nothing every time. Once maybe it was a squirrel.)
What's left of Clipstone has been evacuated. Terrible duels. More MLE than elsewhere. One of Davidson's snipers was taking shots. I saw one go down off a broom from roof height and I think she got some sort of leader in the square in the last moments. She wouldn't leave. They blew up the church she was in right after. Requiescat in pace.
I'm at the new site for Settlement Six. The original census for this Settlement was eighty-six. We only have about thirty-five people here now, and another ten who came in from surrounding villages. Major Rand, the officer in charge of this Settlement, is confirmed dead, as well as one of the company captains. Oh, Jason Crenshaw is here, one of the men we saved from Strangeweale's group.

So many wounds: terrible bites and burns and...and worse. Everyone is hurt somehow. About four are in desperate shape, and we don't know if we can save them. The muggle healers do such strange things: one man had a forearm torn off, and they simply tightened a belt around his elbow until the bleeding stopped! They called it a turn-i-quit and they managed to save him before a wizard healer with dittany could reach him to close the wound on the stump. Of the rest, half are seriously hurt, and the other half are banged up, but their wounds are minor, so they're hale enough to get up, start securing the boundaries and pulling together a meal. There is a lot of shock and tears but grim determination, too. Two men are transcribing messages coming in on the button network as fast as they can and handing them off to the surviving captains.

Please, those of you in the Order out in the field, on both sides...could you report in, and let us know you're all right?
Oh, Justin.

Thank you for letting me know.

Private message to Bill, Fred and George Weasley

Please check in with me. Please.

Safe, Mum. Busy helping at the new Settlement Two.

Oh, thank heavens.

Have you seen the twins?

I just saw Hydra's journal.

Ron and Justin and Hydra...oh no.

Oh no, surely they won't be expected to help with

Oh please no
We're all right, Mum.
You lot getting on all right?

I'm huddled round the radio with my journal wide open, well, as 'huddled' as I can get, and Evs is having a tea party with Bea in the corner.

I think she's rather frustrated to be packed off to babysit Bea and me.

I can sympathise.

No baby yet, though.

Sirius, sounds like it got a bit dicey for you back there. Did you get to the safehouse?

Sorry. I figure everyone is very, very busy. Hope you're all in good shape. Wish I was there to lend a hand.

I had to come in from the field about two hours ago to make my shift on time. I'm fine, just tired and a bit sad I couldn't help save more people, don't worry about me.

I'm glad there's someone sitting there with you, though.
2015-02-01 12:00:00
Order Only

Only a moment.

We've gathered at Ollerton and all the villagers have been ordered into the streets. Everyone is going to be executed with AK. First they'll all be arranged in tableaux. We're meant to make it look good - sensational. This is what happens when you aid the enemy and defy the protectorate. The whole village will be preserved in warning to everyone else.

Lee tell everyone.

--

@alt_frank at 2015-02-01 18:22:19
(no subject)

right.

doubling back.

may not be able to stop it but we'll help spread the word.

@alt_kingsley at 2015-02-01 18:25:08
(no subject)

Frank, look for me. We'll meet up.

Bloody hell. Our two wands can't stop this.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-01 18:28:33
(no subject)

There are not enough wands in England to stop this.

Draco, do you have your omnioculars? They can take photos, can't they?
Yes, they can record full scenes, too. I'm a significant distance away but the capture should still be decent quality. You can definitely recognise Bellatrix, Barty, Mulciber, and everyone else.

Ron, Hydra, Justin, I'll try to keep you out of the capture.

Good, then we'll take the captures to Aldrich and maybe have them print out a special pamphlet.

Passing it along.

Well, you'd ALSO better pass along that they're dying bravely. Defiantly.

Fuck Voldemort anyway.
(Transcribing as we go. We're on a small rise, well hidden, but with a view of Ollerton.

It's relatively untouched. You can see the smoke from all the surrounding villages and the forest, though.

They've already started.

There's several people just

Well, they're frozen in place. As if they've been arranged. You can see they aren't moving. There's others being walked down streets at wand point. Sometimes they march them right past the ones who're already frozen, and you can see the villagers flinching as they walk past.

There's a family. A man, a woman, and a child. Must be around eight. A girl. They're in front of a small brick house with a garden. Two MLE are with them. They've

They've killed the girl. AK.

The woman has been forced to hold the child in her arms. She's crying now, I can see her screaming. They're making her kneel. And now they've killed her too. They're propping her up, so she's kneeling upright, holding her child. They made the man help them prop her up before they froze her in place.

They've made the man take off his clothes.

They've

They're making him kneel.

He's been killed as well.

When they posed him, they put his arms up, as if he were pleading for mercy.

Merlin.
Merlin help us.)

---

**alt_terr**y at 2015-02-01 18:45:58  
(no subject)

**FUCK VOLDEMORT ANYWAY!**

---

**alt_fred** at 2015-02-01 18:56:44  
*Private message to Terry*

Terry. Meet us at the new Settlement Four, and take some time as the Professor.

You don't need to be reading this.

---

**alt_terr**y at 2015-02-01 18:59:31  
*Re: Private message to Terry*

Do they get to just turn it off, Fred? I don't think so.

If they have to bear dying, I will bear witnessing it.

They fed us. They clothed us. They *supported* us. I'm not about to turn squeamish when they're dying for us now.

---

**alt_terr**y at 2015-02-01 19:01:19  
*Re: Private message to Terry*

ESPECIALLY WHEN JUSTIN AND RON AND HYDRA ARE HELPING.

---

**alt_fred** at 2015-02-01 19:03:31  
*Re: Private message to Terry*

Bloody hell.

Terry. You know they can't help it.
You know they have to do this to keep their cover with the Order.

@alt_terry at 2015-02-01 19:05:28
Re: Private message to Terry

Yeah? Well, fuck them then! What are they doing for the Order today? I only see them helping the Protectorate!

@alt_fred at 2015-02-01 19:08:55
Re: Private message to Terry

Terry...

Please. You don't know what else they've done today. They could have helped some get away.

@alt_terry at 2015-02-01 19:12:06
Re: Private message to Terry

Like Hydra helped Neville get away?

Like that?!

@alt_terry at 2015-02-01 19:14:21
Re: Private message to Terry

He's your brother. Ron is.

I hope you can help him live with what he's done today.

Because I can't.

Just like I couldn't help mine.
(I can see a group of men being lined up in the front of a pub.

I think they're singing. Or chanting.

One of them tossed up a V sign.)

(There's a village school.

There's a young woman in front of it. I think that she might be the teacher. They've hung her in front of the doorway. Her arms are spread wide, pinned to the door frame.)

(It's all so quiet.

We're far enough away so we can't hear any of it.

And every time I look somewhere else, there's another frozen group that wasn't there before.

There's a rather large number of people being led from the town hall. Some have blood on their clothes. I think they were volunteering at the Hospital, as none seem injured.)

Yes.

They were.
They separated us out. The Healers from St M's, and me. And took away the people from Ollerton who'd been helping with bringing water and so on.

(They've been taken in groups. I think they're planning to place them around the town centre.)

I had to flee the scene. Bellatrix saw the light glinting off my omnioculars, I think, because she was directing people to the clutch of trees I'd parked myself in. Still got some good footage. And by good I mean damning. I made sure to get Patil and Finnigan in the captures, too.

(They're almost finished.)

Mr L figures at the very least, we'll make sure everyone knows what happened here today.

I'll bet those are pictures the Prophet'll never print. But we will.)

(It's done.

It's finished.

There's some people milling about, looking at those who've been frozen, but everyone who is still moving is doing so freely.)
You both should come over to Bedford and get yourselves looked after.

There's plenty to do once you've been patched up.
**2015-02-01 13:27:00**  
*Order Only: Private message to Frank and Alice*

Terry's here in New Settlement Four now. Just so you know, he had a minor splinch getting here on his upper arm--he's right furious about Ollerton, which we think is why it happened--but we got some dittany on it right away, and he'll be all right.

We saw Jeremy Stretton a little while ago, helping with set up of some of the perimeter security charms, so we know he's safe, too.

---

👤 alt_alice at 2015-02-01 19:38:53  
*no subject*

Good.

Good.

Thank you.

---

👤 alt_fred at 2015-02-01 19:42:34  
*Private message to Alice*

Specifically, he's even more furious about Ron and Hydra and Justin.

I'm sorry, but you need to know that.

---

👤 alt_alice at 2015-02-01 19:44:31  
*Re: Private message to Alice*

Right.
2015-02-01 13:30:00
ORDER ONLY

We have a volunteer centre at Bedford, where the button network is. If you're unsure as to where you might go, come to Bedford, we'll direct you where you're most needed.

We'll need any people with potions training to get to work on burn salve and blood replenishing, as both will be needed in massive quantities. If you have an OWL or higher in potions, go straight to Aldrich's hospital and ask for Mr Shah.

If anyone has had direct contact in a wandfight with Bellatrix Lestrange, go immediately to Saltash, or have someone help you get there.

There are still several people in the wind, and many civilian villagers we've take in to the safe zones for safety who are anxiously waiting word on family. Tim, please start a list.

Mrs L -
Radio's doing frequent updates.

Suggestion to read lists over the radio of people who are safe. Possible? Or too much risk?

(Could use another couple of people with journals who can't do anything active, to help gather info and comments, if you have them.)

Too much risk.
Focus on confirmed dead.

I'll keep information coming your way.
Good work, Lee.

@alt_alice at 2015-02-01 23:22:53
(no subject)

We might work in some coded messages.

Later.

@alt_severus at 2015-02-01 23:46:04
(no subject)

At this point we will take anyone at the hospital who is capable of following directions. Shah and I have set up an assembly line of people preparing ingredients: if you have any knife skills at all, come.

@alt_poppy at 2015-02-02 00:01:43
(no subject)

Yes, please.

In addition to brewing capabilities, we could use anyone with a willingness to change dressings, distribute blankets, sit with patients, and lend a listening ear.

@alt_luna at 2015-02-02 00:28:18
(no subject)

I wish I could come. So much.

At least I can tell you that at Hogwarts, the word has spread, and it's not the Protectorate's version of the story that's being listened to; it's Aldrich Town's. When Padma Patil came into the Common Room, they switched off the wireless, and people just stared at her. Everyone just froze and looked at her, as if she had sprouted another head, but no one said anything. Padma went up to her room and Morag came downstairs about five minutes later. She said that Padma wasn't talking at all, but was just sitting on her bed staring at an open book on her lap without turning any pages.
We've received word that the lecture for tonight has been cancelled.

👤 alt_sinistra at 2015-02-02 00:14:16
(no subject)

Knife skills, I can manage.

Be there shortly. Been helping sort materials, but we're nearly done with this lot.
We commandeered a Floo, since we were all too tired to risk Apparating to Hogsmeade. And Professor Desai was badly injured. So we're all back and dispersed from the Headmaster's office. Sally-Anne came back with us, as well, and is assisting her to the Hospital Wing.

Well, I should say everyone's back except Hydra, what. We were about to leave and Bellatrix Lestrange told her she had to stay and help with interrogation. I say, I hope she'll be able to misdirect MLE to some extent.

I...I say, I know I speak for her and for Ron when I can tell you that today was one of our most difficult tasks. Knowing that we had to choose among every person running from the fires and those monsters, whether to let them get away, to risk injuring them and allowing their capture, or to simply kill them so they could not give anything to the enemy. It was especially hard when one could tell they'd just survived a harrowing ordeal with the Inferi, and were fighting to get back to the base camp, what, though that doesn't mean it was any less horrible when they were merely running for their lives.

The last--two hours or so.... I can't even begin to describe how many times one had to suppress every urge to protest. I'm sure it's going to be a long time before any of us get a proper night's sleep.

I'm sorry. For Major Davidson, for everyone at Sherwood, for the citizens of Ollerton.... There's nothing else to say, what. I'm so dashed sorry we had to participate in that charade.

I'm bally well sure some of you may not understand or may want to talk to us about what happened. Mrs Longbottom, we'll try to put together our brief soon, but...please, I beg of you, give us a little time to--recover.

-Finch-Fletchley
Zacharias Smith just punched me. In the Common Room.

I'm so jolly well tired, I don't know how you're holding on. Can you get an invigouration potion?

I've just come back to the dormitory and...my trunk is here. Ready to go. All I needed was to add in my personals this morning, what, and a few things I had to leave out for appearances.

We could still do it, you know. Tomorrow. If you wish it.

-Justin

Are you alright? I mean, of course you are. A punch is nothing. Another hit to your reputation, though.

I don't know how long I'll have to stay - I think I may have good reason to finally ask Mummy about Black's Curse, though. So if I can see a way to do it, I will.

I still want to leave.

But if we do, then who will interrogate prisoners the next time something like this happens?

Yes, I'm fine. I had to laugh, what, it was so absurd. And jolly good form, too.

Well, asking her about the curse would be helpful. If you think you can manage it without raising her suspicions.

And yes, that's just it, isn't it. We can't leave the Order in the lurch when we're finally making some form of progress. Only one has to
wonder what we're losing and whether the benefits are worth the costs.

I don't know, love. I'm tired and I'm bally well sick of this cruelty and I don't want to have to spend another night not with you. And yet, we can't be selfish, can we. It keeps coming down to that.

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-01 20:38:19
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I'll say I saw her using it to take people down instead of AK - which is true - and then tell her there'd be more people to question if I'd known the curse, too.

I know what she'll probably say. That if I want to know a curse like Black's Curse, then I should invent it myself, just like she did. So I have to think of a way to respond to that before I bring it up with her.

We could be selfish. People would forgive us. The people who aren't us, anyway.

Maybe you should sleep.

alt_alice at 2015-02-01 23:47:17
(no subject)

Understood, Justin.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-02 00:46:50
(no subject)

Ron, Justin, Hydra:

I've instructed the other prefects that the other students aren't to disturb you this evening. If anyone needs anything just write to me and I'll see that it gets to you.
2015-02-01 14:04:00
private message to Ernie

How can he just walk in here like that after what he has been doing?

Zach is mad to hit him

but I am glad he did.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-01 20:16:36
(no subject)

Don't cross him, Megs.

I've already told Zach well off, told him he could've been killed.

alt_megan at 2015-02-01 20:30:24
(no subject)

Don't worry, I have no intention of saying anything to him at all let alone hitting him.

But. What they have been doing, what the radio says they have done. Ugh. It is enough to give anyone nightmares. Even without one of them sharing our common room. Ugh.

Which reminds me that I have been thinking perhaps I should talk with someone about that dream I had. You remember. I was looking at it more critically only I am utterly pants at Divination so I was thinking I might ask Lavender Brown. Only I hope she doesn't laugh at me.
Headmaster Dolohov brought me along today. Healer Spottiswood had organised a little field hospital in Ollerton. When I arrived, Haruman Patil was there and also Ernie Macmillan's father, Iain Macmillan. And two others, Healer O'Meara and Healer Pettworth.

Mostly when Death Eaters or MLE came in with injuries it was Pettworth and O'Meara who treated them, although when I saw Ron arrive with Desai I went over to them right away and so I wound up being the one who stopped Desai's bleeding. But mostly I was seeing to prisoners, along with Macmillan and Patil.

And the thing is, I realised right off that anyone we saved was going to be killed. Only they'd be interrogated first. I mean some of that was actually happening while we were working on people. Not RIGHT by the hospital but close enough we could hear and sometimes even see.

Anyway

If I thought I could get away with a prisoner dying, I made sure they died painlessly. I don't think that was exactly in line with the Healer's Oath but at least I haven't taken it officially yet. Healer Macmillan saw what I was doing and whispered in my ear that smoke inhalation was known to be extremely deadly to muggles so that's what we said, for loads of them.

There was one man who begged me to save him, so I did. But MLE took him right after.

I think Healer Patil was doing it, too, but I'm not sure. He saved more people than Healer Macmillan and I did, but not, you know, a whole lot more.

Every time I started to think, 'oh god, what am I even doing' I told myself that this was one fewer person they could make Hydra torture. or make Ron or Justin kill.

Late morning, or maybe around noon, they told us to just stop treating
the prisoners because it didn't matter whether they lived or died and that was also when MLE came and took away the Ollerton residents who'd come to help at the field hospital. There wasn't any way to hide them or anything we could do. I'd thought, earlier, that they were safe, I mean, they were being cooperative and helpful as much as they could and if they'd tried to run there'd have been dementors and inferi and all the rest. MLE had apparition wards set up and they'd shut down all the floos so people would have had to flee on foot, although there were spots that the wards weren't in effect, so. Hopefully a few did run. Hopefully.

No one sent us away so we were there. When they killed everyone in Ollerton.

Haruman looked

I don't even

Padma was one of the people doing the murdering, and Haruman is her brother. He looked like someone who was trying as hard as he could not to think too hard about anything. Like if he could have fed his own soul to a dementor to keep from ever having to think about what he was seeing, I think he'd have done it.

Padma actually threw up at one point. When they put the floos back in service we were all together going back to Hogwarts and she was -- her hands were shaking, and she kept saying she was really tired, and trying to use a normal voice? But I was pretty certain that if Hydra had been there she'd have heard her thinking, 'all I really wanted was to be Head Girl. Not any of this.'

---

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-01 21:13:30
Private message to Madam Pomfrey

There's a spell that's controversial because it might be in violation of the Healer's Oath, that's meant for times when you know someone's going to die in horrible pain. It's to stop all pain and then stop the person's heart. I read a whole book about it a while ago, called 'Last Egress,' it explained all the components of the spell and how to cast it properly so you could be sure you weren't causing any pain and then there were essays debating the ethics and talking about exactly how sure you had to be and
anyway

that's what we used. Macmillan, too.

what would you have done, if you were the one who was there?

I couldn't exactly ask what people wanted me to do, because they might have given me away when they were interrogated afterward. I did tell people what was probably going to happen to them later and some of them said 'please just let me die' so then I knew. But there were other people who didn't answer at all, because they were too badly hurt to really talk, it wasn't like they brought us the prisoners who were only a little bit wounded, and

I don't know what I should have

I don't know what else I could have done.

alt_poppy at 2015-02-01 23:24:13
Re: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

I'm very sorry you faced this.

And I don't know what I would have done if I had been in your position today. I wasn't there and have never been in precisely such a spot.

You did what you thought the circumstances demanded, and you did what you knew, to the best of your ability.

I hope we have an opportunity soon to speak in person, but in the meantime, please be kind to yourself--as merciful to yourself as you tried to be for those in your care.
For years, the Order had no Slytherins who were members. Or almost none.

And I think back, and realise what this cost us. I really think we might have won the first time, if more of us had recognised the value of virtues beyond raw bravery.

Thank you for your service today, Sally-Anne. You did well for us. I'm grateful you were there.

Thank you, Sally-Anne.

I am glad you had an ally or two with you.

You did the best possible thing under the circumstances.
you don't have to answer this anytime soon

but if you need anything, other than time, I will do what I can to help

even if it doesn't help enough, I just thought you should know

I won't--I won't

you're my son and I'm your mum

I haven't seen your brothers or your sister so I can't speak for them
but I hope they'll say the same
I can't get away yet
but as soon as I can
I want to see you and not think about any of this at all. Okay?

Just picked up my book again.
But I don't want to read any of it. Don't want to answer Mum, for sure.

Where are you now?

In my bed. With the curtains drawn so I don't have to talk to anybody, even Pansy.
I can come meet you.

Yeah. Do.
By the lake. Unless you can't stand any more cold today.
And when you don't want to talk anymore, I'll change and we can go back to your room together and close the curtains again.
Yeah okay I'll be right there.
**Order Only: Private message to Rachel**

I'd give anything if I could see you, and lose myself in bed with you. But I can't possibly get away tonight; there are simply too many wounded, and they need every available hand, for tending them and for potion brewing.

But I need to know from someone who's walked this path: is there anything that can be done to help Ron?

He undoubtedly won't turn to me; I've bungled things too badly between us in too many ways, to my everlasting grief. Probably not Mum either. He may turn to the twins, or Charlie, or more likely Sally-Anne.

But if you could tell me anything, I'll...I'll try to pass it on.

Even if you tell me to just keep my mouth shut, I'll listen to that and obey it, too.

---

**alt_rachel at 2015-02-01 21:57:23**

*(no subject)*

Listen to Justin. He said they needed time. Give them time. They know where to find the rest of you. (Not just Ron, but all of the Order members who had to participate in the atrocities today.)

There are in fact potions that salve the emotional responses. I don't use them and I don't recommend them. If they're offered, let them be offered by the other side, not ours.

---

**alt_bill at 2015-02-01 23:10:59**

*(no subject)*

Thank you.
alt_rachel at 2015-02-01 23:13:53
(no subject)
Are you at Aldrich?
I've managed to extract myself from what I was working on and no one's likely to come looking for me on a Sunday evening.
And, I got an O on my Potions NEWT.

alt_bill at 2015-02-01 23:18:45
(no subject)
I'm at Aldrich, yes.
Come on over, and bring that Potions NEWT O with you.

alt_rachel at 2015-02-01 22:10:12
(no subject)
We've all had to find a way to come to terms with whatever it is we've had to do. Even people like your mother, who make far fewer ethical compromises than some of us.
I mean -- if you live underground, you don't have to. But we can't all live underground, and those who do have to acknowledge that their lives are only possible because of those of us making unpleasant compromises on the outside.
The only solution is to win this.

alt_bill at 2015-02-01 23:09:22
(no subject)
Agreed.
So let's win it. And just hope to hell we won't lose everything important along the way.
My name is Remus Lupin

I am a member of the Order of the Phoenix.

Today, after sending an army of Inferi against the muggles and muggleborns who'd been sheltering in Sherwood Forest, a group of Death Eaters lined up every man, woman, and child who lived in the village of Ollerton, arranged them artfully into tableaux, then murdered them in cold blood. I saw it happen, but was powerless to intervene.

This was done on the Lord Protector's orders, on the specious grounds that if they were close to Sherwood, they were doubtless in league with the outlaws.

This could have happened to any one of you. To your families. People you love. No one is safe from 'Our Lord.'

NO ONE.

Where are you? Did Harry give you Peter?

Yeah. He had to get back as soon as we realised things were wrapping up and Dolohov would be back soon.

Peter and I have been having a chat. Well, a rather one-sided chat; I'm not letting him out just now.

But before that, Harry and I talked a little more. He's still utterly lost for a way to bring about Voldemort's actual, physical death. We talked about the Horcruxes and all that, but when it comes to it, how is Harry mean to kill him?
I suggested drowning him in a butt of malmsey. He didn't seem to think that was very realistic. Funny, that.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 22:11:35
Re: Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

I've been brewing potions.

Which is really not one of my talents, if you've ever wondered.

alt_sirius at 2015-02-01 22:13:58
Re: Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Er, all right. I seem to remember you asking us to shoot you with a silver bullet if you ever had a job where you had to brew regularly.

It's not the sort of potion that's spiked with Old Ogden's and has a dollop of whipping cream on the top, is it? Because I could use that sort of potion, quite honestly.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 22:20:51
Re: Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Yeah, fortunately this is more 'exceptional circumstances' rather than 'regularly.'

But yes, that is exactly the sort of potion I'm in the mood for, although I'm not supposed to mix it with wolfsbane and despite everything, Hermione turned up with a steaming fresh mug of the stuff about five minutes ago.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-01 22:22:29
Re: Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

I'd actually thought earlier, 'well, of all the months to miss my dose, this is definitely the one I'd pick,' you know?

But there she was with it, so. I couldn't very well say 'no thank you, decided to go without this month,' not at that point.
You're a gentleman and a scholar.

Anyway. I'm waiting for dark to head back, but it should only be...oh, three or four hours after that. I'll want one of those potions, if only to unfreeze my hands and feet after flying that long in this miserable weather.

Oh, and we'll have Peter to entertain us! I've been looking forward to this reunion.

I'd been thinking I could apparate to you. But they really are shorthanded enough to want me making potions, and Peter can wait.

So back to Peter. He's still in the cage? So still a rat.

I just

I want to hear him say it. Those things he said to Harry. I want him to admit to us what he did. Even though I know it won't change anything.

Good on you. You've no idea how much I wish I could make a similar declaration. Except I'd probably use more words.

I'm going to show my father the footage I captured on my omnioculars. He won't be shocked by what unfolded, but I do think he'll believe it's a shockingly stupid public relations move, on Voldemort's part. Who knows, it might make a difference.
I saw my father tonight. To make him feel comfortable about opening up to me, I've had to reveal more about the Order than some of you may prefer. Hydra, Ron, Justin - he knows you three are with us, and that you're each training with your very own Death Eater. I'm sorry I had to do that to you lot without your permission, but I do think it held some weight with him, if that matters.

I also told him about our search for the Horcruxes: which ones we've found, and which ones we've destroyed.

In turn, he suggested that Voldemort would have chosen other artefacts linked to the Hogwarts' founders. He also said he was certain there would be eight of them, for the ouroboros.

And he was also certain that one of them would be stashed in Bellatrix's Gringott's vault. Apparently Voldemort gave her something immensely important to protect, some years ago, and that's where she hid it.

So, he's helping us for now. Or helping me, rather. I think that's how he'd prefer to see it.

---

**alt_daphne** at **2015-02-02 04:00:35**
(no subject)

Eight again? Like the octobori? That almost seems too convenient.

**alt_draco** at **2015-02-02 04:02:50**
(no subject)

Hermione felt similarly, but I don't know. I think that's one of his biggest weaknesses. He can't do anything and not etch all kinds of symbolism all over it. Nothing plain and ordinary for he who wanted to be known as *Lord Voldemort* at one point in his life.
I see what you mean.

What a shame he didn't just go into the arts, like everyone else with a flair for drama and a thirst for attention.

He did go into the arts (and the Arts), only all of Britain's his stage. Just think about the grisly set piece he created today.

Right.

Draco, that footage... well, when they've made the propaganda pamphlet or whatever, will you send me one, please?

Sure. We'll make certain everyone sees it, somehow.

However he sees it, it's something we will certainly make use of.

Thank you.
And Draco, you made a calculation, and it paid off. Nicely done.
I'm at Settlement Five, finishing up. Had to check over security after a bit of a scare. Just shadows and imagination. No blame; everyone's

Was going to write "on edge" but truth is, everyone's more than a quaffle-throw past the edge.

What I meant to write about is I have a mate who's working with his uncle as a rubbish-hauler. Told him I had an idea for doing a good turn and making a small bit of coin at the same time. Discussed delivering goods to them as needed, under cover of the regular rounds, the goods being food on the cheap for people the Protectorate isn't protecting quite well enough. (His words, those.) Extra food -- scraps from the jam operation and similar places -- at a cheap price would go a fair way towards winning trust. Pansy, this may fit in with some of what you're doing as well, if having rubbish haulers willing to discreetly haul away not-exactly-rubbish proves useful. We could start small, but we'd be setting up more contacts for that additional distribution network we talked about, getting it ready for the day things change.

That day can't come soon enough. I didn't see anything near the worst of it today, but looking in the eyes of the people who did -- Merlin. This has to end.

I like it. Yes.

I think we can hook them up rather nicely with Stebs and his crew at the docks -- there'd be some not-exactly-rubbish they can look into carefully skimming besides my own shipments. And there's Mrs Weasley's barter network. I know she isn't as directly tied in as she used to be, but it's a start. Not to mention the farm-to-table group I've been sniffing around thanks to Mrs Sinistra.

I think to make this work, the profit margins would have to be fairly
low, and the food would have to be 'donated,' or practically so, but I can see some potential there.

And I might be able to set up a charity or something. Seeing as how I'm getting into the food business and all, it isn't that far afield, and could help cover for some of it. But that last bit might have to hold off until summer.

alt_pansy at 2015-02-02 06:24:55
(no subject)

We're also making business connections with area farms for sugar beets and barley.

Once those connections get a little firmer, we might see what they'd be up for. After all, produce gets damaged or discarded all the time. I'd bet if we paid them for a fraction of cost for goods they'd just throw away, it'd be a fair deal all round.

alt_alice at 2015-02-02 05:37:29
(no subject)

Yes. It does.

And when it does, you're quite right, Jeremy. We'll need people like both of you to keep things from falling apart, and keep people fed.

Thank you.
Batya?

Report on Desai? The rest of yours? Yourself? That nest of rebels had to be eliminated. The message sent couldn't have been clearer or more forceful.

A protracted struggle would have been more costly in lives, resources, and public distraction.

---

@alt_antonin at 2015-02-02 03:48:35 (no subject)

The children are ... I can't say 'well', but 'uninjured' covers it, I suppose. And the healers did well enough for Savitha. She's still a bit rattled -- well, as she should be; we'd both thought most of the projectile weapons left in-country had been destroyed -- but the remaining physical effects will be healed sooner or later. A good night's sleep should shake the last of them.

Emotionally is a different story; it isn't that any of them are weak, of course, but one's first cleanup operation is far different than the heat of battle. It's the sort of thing that can leave anyone their age shaken. Still, I am giving them a bit of room to process their reactions. Enough time and they should come around to the realisation that an example must be set.

I do wish we had been able to spare the children, though. Well. You
know me and my scruples. I can't help feeling it's a waste to hold children to account for the treachery of their parents; better to take them in and raise them to their potential instead.

The shambling little horrors did well enough in their first field test, though, don't you think?

Of course. No one begins life battle-worthy.

Remember myself as more driven by commitment to Our Lord, however. Belief in the cause is a tonic to minimise the shocks. Yours lack that?

It's different now. Harder to find that zeal. Or point new ones to its source.

TSLH exceeded expectation.

It is getting harder, isn't it? Auri and Lucius and I have had many conversations about the difference between birthing a society and raising it to adulthood, so to speak, and I suppose this is part of it. It's easy, when you are the underdog fighting against the current régime, to instill that zeal in your new recruits, who are likely to come to you because they believe in your cause. When you are the current régime, that idealism is harder to summon, and you must supplement it with a clear vision and with evidences of your success that you can point to as a necessity for your actions.

And if I am having a bit of trouble wholeheartedly embracing this particular necessity, I cannot blame them for feeling the same. It is not that they lack belief, I don't think -- just that the reality of what must be done can run headfirst into the teenager's belief that life should be fair, however they decide fairness. Being able to see the nuances takes experience they do not yet have.
Missed L at many points today.

His absence makes things more difficult.

Yes, it's all getting harder.

No matter how little I want to agree.

I wish I did not have to say it for you to agree with.

I suppose it's the nature of all grand dreams, that they eventually bog down in the minutiae of implementation and turn into something that is barely recognisable as the original vision. When you are dreaming as audaciously large as we were, I suppose the gap between the dream and the reality must be felt that much more keenly.

I imagine the remedy is to provide a new vision of the future -- one that can capture their imaginations just as firmly as ours did for us. The question, of course, being what that vision ought to be.

I miss Lyoushka as well. So much. And I cannot help wondering where they have him stashed, and what they are planning on using him for.
2015-02-01 21:19:00
Private message to Barty Crouch Jr.

I saw your message to the Headmaster. I've only heard a bit about what went on out there today, but I hope that whatever it was, you've emerged triumphant - and as unharmed as possible.

alt_daphne

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-02 04:46:17
(no subject)

Thank you. Yes. I'm fine. Order prevailed, and the rule of law. The Protectorate is more secure tonight than last.

Regret having missed supper there tonight. Perhaps Tuesday.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-02 04:52:36
(no subject)

I completely trust that it is.

I'd say I regret it, too, but your service to our Lord and Protectorate is far more important than any supper.

That said, I hope to see you Tuesday.

There's nothing I'd like more than to thank you for your service in person.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-02 05:13:01
(no subject)

And... just so you know:

I realise that you're accustomed to being called a hero and being told that what you're doing is important. Perhaps you even grow ill of it, at times. I wouldn't know, myself.

But probably not enough people acknowledge that what you do is difficult, and requires a lot of sacrifice. I'm already seeing how it
affects Hydra in such a way. I wish she were able to live the life of a more ordinary girl, but her gifts are required by all of us.

So what I mean is that I don't really want to thank you for your service. I'd just like to see you.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-02 05:21:23

(no subject)

Would prefer that. Truly. It was a duty I owe. Not the sort of thing that requires thanks. Or ought to receive them.

And, yes, it was more pressing, but that doesn't mean I wouldn't have preferred to be there. With you.

Was yours a pleasant day, at least?

---

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-02 05:33:07

(no subject)

Owe, rather than give freely? Or... because you're on the council, is that what you mean?

Oh, and dinner -I have to admit that I would have preferred you there, as well.

My day was pleasant enough. I was able to delegate most of the work to the prefects so that I could catch up on my homework for once. Though I suppose that by the end of this year I'll be glad that my career path doesn't require exceptional NEWT scores.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-02 05:57:16

(no subject)

Have given a vow of life and allegiance. Gave it freely. Perhaps you're too young to know the strength of duty or the bonds of life commitments.

That sounds- never mind. Beware anyone who spews sage pronouncements at you.
Do you know that you've a tendency to sell yourself short?

When I see you, I'll remind you of your attributes and talents. Those begin with intelligence. In my opinion. Expect you'll earn NEWTs in excess of anything you choose to pursue.

I'm glad it was a pleasant enough day. That puts other things in perspective. (Should say goodnight before I lapse back into gnomic mutterings. Mine's been more than a day and long in more than hours.)

alt_daphne at 2015-02-02 06:19:04
(no subject)

I admit that I have yet to make a single life commitment - none that I can name at the moment, at least. Except to abstract things like beauty and passion and living an interesting life.

I won't keep you from sleep, then - goodnight, and if all goes well, I'll see you Tuesday.
It sounds like it got dire out there. Here to listen, if you need me to. And I'm sorry you had to go through all that.

I saw Mum wrote to you. I hope she's not giving you any grief, but if she is, let me know, I can sit on her for you. Or distract her with talk about the baby. (Any day now, we're hoping. Tonks is really, really ready to not be pregnant anymore.)
I noticed that both Molly and Charlie wrote to Ron - presumably to express their concern.

I didn't want either of you to feel left out in that department, even if you lack the sort of overly zealous family full of protective older brothers that Ron is either blessed or cursed with, depending on the day.

I hope if you feel the need to talk -- later, when you're ready -- you know you can come to me, or Sirius, or any other Order member you feel comfortable with.

And I hope if you decide that this sort of thing is too much, you know that you can come to us.

---

Mr Lupin,

Thank you. I think we've decided we can cope for now.

-F-F

Dux,

New plan, right?

I'll sign us up tomorrow after Noble Arts. I'll go to that, at least. Perhaps not the others, what.

Sweet dreams, dearest.

-Justin
Alright, then.

I'm going to skip everything. I feel like I could sleep for a week.

Goodnight (again). See you soon.

Yes, what Justin said.

Thank you for thinking of us, though.
Just so you know -- earlier this evening Ron borrowed Harry's cloak and I sneaked into Gryffindor and now I'm in his dorm and we've got the curtains closed and I'm just going to stay here until morning.

I didn't want you to worry.

Dolohov sent me some Dreamless Sleep potion (Ron, too) but I don't feel like going to sleep yet, anyway. And he excused us from our classes tomorrow, if we don't want to go. I might go to Potions anyway. I haven't decided about Charms. I'm not going to Dark Arts.

All right.

You do what you need to do, Sally-Anne. You and Ron. And know that I love you both. Very much.

I'll make copies of my notes for whatever you miss.

Thank you.

I'm sorry you got left behind today to worry because I know how awful that is.

But I'm glad you weren't there to see what happened.

We were listening in that little dungeon down the hall from the common room. Donovan, Archer, Warringon, and Stein were all there. Nguyen and Pummel came by as well. There were a few others.
who drifted in and out. I don't think they wanted to show too much interest.

—at_sally_anne at 2015-02-02 05:11:47
(no subject)

Yeah I think Hufflepuff just had our wireless station on in the common room and maybe Ravenclaw, too.

Macmillan's father was there today, too. We both
My dear students, I regret to tell you that I will be cancelling my Defence classes tomorrow. I expect to be well enough to teach by Tuesday. Please use the time wisely by reading about a defence topic of your choice using texts either from the library, or borrowed from one of your Housemates.

---

Your students acquitted themselves well today. You should be proud of them.

I begin to see the advantages of having a skilled Healer who's one of ours. I rather think that idiot Pettworth would have let me bleed out waiting for his pleasure. Or possibly to chastise me for my imprudence at not coming to him more quickly. Either one is not acceptable.

---

I've rarely found it a bad idea to secure the services of skilled specialists in advance, particularly when it is something so critical as healing. Have I told you the story of the farce that played out with St M's my first year back? It left me convinced that we needed a Healer of our own, particularly with Fletcher so close to retirement. And with Miss Perks interested in the profession, yet lacking the status to embark upon training without a patron's assistance -- well. One does like to carpe occasionem, as it were.

I'm glad you're feeling better. I'd thought we'd destroyed all of those damn things.
Yes, it was Miss Perks who noticed I was in distress and shouldn't be left to wait, in fact. Apparently she took a course in Emergency Healing techniques over the holidays? That was well-timed.

As for the guns, well. Alas. Vermin can be quite resourceful. Perhaps they built new ones? They were lurking in Sherwood for long enough.

From what I remember, they aren't the sort of thing that's easy to piece together from scrounged supplies. I wonder if they'd managed to improvise some sort of manufacturing capability? Something for the cleanup team to look out for, at least.

And in that case I am particularly glad I thought to ask Miss Perks to accompany us. Yes, I arranged for St M's to do the emergency responder certification course over the Hogwarts hols so she would have a chance to attend -- given the recent landscape, I felt it might be of use. (And then, of course, we lost Pomfrey and have been saddled with a stream of semi-useless replacements; having another qualified responder on site may yet prove useful in the future.) If she was the one to notice you needed attention more quickly than the others would have provided it to you, then the effort I have expended on arranging her training so far has already been paid back, with interest. Let us most fervently hope it will not be required again.

Is there anything you need, in your recuperation? I have a collection of useful potions. And a collection of rather nice brandies, if that would be more useful.
alt_savitha at 2015-02-02 15:40:14
Re: Private message to Antosha

Pettworth seemed to be under the impression that experimenting with additional potions on my own might lead to trouble with the blood-replenishing potions he gave me yesterday. I'm not sure how seriously I ought to take that warning. At the very least, I can't imagine some nice brandy would be a problem.

Anything of interest from Barty since last night?

alt_savitha at 2015-02-02 05:21:11
Private message to Ron Weasley

You acquitted yourself admirably today.

I hope you're recovering from the strain on your physical and magical resources. Do use the potion Antosha sent you (he told me he was sending you Dreamless Sleep) -- a good night's sleep is an essential remedy for most ills.

You'll be entering the Auror programme with a great deal more experience than most of the other trainees. I expect you to shine, Mr Weasley. I expect you to do me credit. And I have no fear that I will be disappointed.

alt_ron at 2015-02-02 06:06:17
Re: Private message to Ron Weasley

Thank you, Professor.

I want you to make you proud.

alt_savitha at 2015-02-02 05:23:51
Private message to Padma Patil

My dear, I hope you're starting to feel recovered in body and spirit. I imagine today was different from what you expected. For tonight, use the Dreamless Sleep potion and rest easily. If you wish to talk, please come see me tomorrow. I've been released from the Hospital Wing, and you may come visit me in my personal quarters.
Thank you. It wasn't entirely different...I mean, just the end parts of it were more difficult than I expected.

I did take the Dreamless Sleep, almost as soon as I got back from the Headmaster's office last night. I...I only just woke up, so I suppose it's a good thing Professor Dolohov excused us from lessons.

If you're awake, I would very much like to come and see you.

I also just woke up a little while ago, my dear. Please feel free to come straight over.

Glad to see you're well enough to write. If not yet fit for the classroom.

Wish you a quick and thorough return to health.

Thank you, my dear. I am already much recovered.
2015-02-02 09:04:00
Private Message to B Lestrange and R Lestrange

Have debriefed Sherwood units. Surge occurred between 7:45 and 7:50. Extremely powerful. Toppled ruins and downed scorched trees. Knocked Braithewaite to knees. Others.

All proceeding on assumption terrain is booby trapped.

R. May call for consult if any devices found. So far nothing.

Any preliminaries on those runic markers? Anything beyond obvious use as waymarks?

Audience at Buckingham shortly. Will follow w a visit to Gus. If he's not already at B.

---

alt_rodolphus at 2015-02-02 17:24:00
(no subject)

Still scratching my head. I've suggested to the Missus that Nordgren be called in to assist with marker analysis.

Are the trap's casualties still at zero? If so, that's cause for further scratching. A trap is useless if it catches nothing. And what tripped it, besides.

---

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-02 17:32:59
(no subject)

So far, yes. Powerful jolt of magic, but no obvious sinister effects.

Stealthy malice or mere random discharge of something benign.
2015-02-02 09:14:00
Private message to Charlie Weasley

Charlie,

Mum's better, but I would be relieved if you could get a few days off. Things are rather too hot right now, what with this bust-up in Sherwood, for me to take personal time, and Fred and George are neck-deep in their spring catalogue roll-out. I hope your supervisors will allow you at least two or three days to help with chores (the goats; always the damned goats) and to stay with Mum.

Bill
...And now, apparently, it's Cecelia's turn.

Poppy, her water broke around 7:45 this morning. The message took a while to get to me, otherwise I would've let you know a touch sooner. I'm here with her now, and things are progressing rather well. Scott Brownmiller is here too, of course.

No doubt Charlie will have more to say later, but Tonks' baby arrived a few hours ago. He wanted to make the announcement but he's been a bit distracted.

Poppy's sleeping. We made her up a bed once the birth was over. I rather hate to I'll go wake her and send her to Bedford.

Oh! Oh, that's so good to hear.

And thank you.

Please tell her I wish I could be there.

Of course, Sally-Anne.
Order Only

Tonks and I would like to introduce you all to our son Adam Theodore Arthur Tonks, born at 7:45 this morning, just after sunrise. Eight pounds, two ounces, and very indignant that he's been kicked out of his nice warm cosy nest and into this big bright noisy madhouse. He has a full head of red hair, ten absolutely perfect adorable fingers and toes, and a remarkably tolerant nature to put up with all the people who were fussing over him this morning. He and Tonks are both resting up after the exhausting night they had.

(I can't get over how beautiful he is. And how tiny. And how perfect.)

The current plan is to give Tonks and Adam a few days to recover a bit, then anybody who wants to come meet Adam can! Ron, Ginny, I can try to find somebody to do a sketch for you if you want. Or you can come meet your new nephew over Easter hols. Mum's already here to help out, and she's going to be staying a few days, so if you need her, that's where she is.

None of the things you told us to look for happened when he was born, really. There was half a second when anyone in the house felt like up was down and down was left and everything was topsy-turvy, but it went away quickly and didn't come back.

Congratulations, all of you!

I say, jolly good show.

-Justin
Congratulations, again.

Bea's told me three times already how excited she is to be a big sister.

You've been absolutely wonderful with her lately. Thank you so much!

Congratulations!

I'm so happy for all of you. Can't wait to meet him.

Brilliant! A new nephew AND future customer!

Outstanding news. We're dead chuffed to be uncles.

Congratulations to you both, love.
hear hear.
nicely done.

It was brilliant.
I'm going to see whether Madame P needs me to come with, and if not, I think I'll kip here for a few before heading to Bedford.

I'm so glad you could be here last night, you were such a big help. I hope you get a chance to get some sleep!

He's so innocent. I had to fight back tears when I first took him into my arms.

Oh, Alice. It's my dearest wish that someday he'll be able to buy a wand and attend a free Hogwarts without fear...because we will have won this war.

We will, Molly love.

Eleven years and a few months from now, he'll get on that train, and we'll crack open a bottle of bubbly to celebrate.
alt_luna at 2015-02-02 18:37:48
(no subject)

I'm so happy for you all. I hope I'll get to see him over Easter.

alt_molly at 2015-02-02 18:39:10
(no subject)

He's utterly beautiful!

alt_charlie at 2015-02-03 03:50:15

Private message to Mum

Oh, Mum, I can't get over how perfect he is. And how much I fell in love with him, the minute I saw him. It was just -- this click, like all of a sudden the whole world rearranged itself and there was this tiny person looking up at me and expecting me to take care of him.

I'm so glad you can be here. And to keep reminding me to breathe.

I feel like I'm going to burst. How do you handle it when they look up at you like that? With all that trust, like you're their entire world?

alt_terry at 2015-02-02 18:47:05
(no subject)

Born on Imbolc, the turning of winter into spring. I'd say that's a very hopeful sign.

Congratulations.

alt_sirius at 2015-02-02 20:50:53
(no subject)

Hey, Papa, put the sprog down for a few minutes and come have some sandwiches. I understand it's important to eat when you get the chance.
I can eat one handed and hold the baby with the other!

I've only got three days before I have to be back at work. I'm storing up baby time.

Congratulations!
Right.

So.

This is rather inconvenient and everything, but my water just broke.

Remus and Sirius are rather knackered, but they're here. As is Evs. But Poppy, Charlie, if you want to join the party, you're more than welcome.

Oh, Merlin. GOOD FUCKING TIMING, KIDDO.

Right. Right, we can do this. I'll be there as soon as I can shake loose.

Relax, Charlie. Get here quick as you can, but it'll probably be a few hours yet before it's critical.

She's in good hands.

No, I'm not worried, I'm just -- well, you know. Holy shit, we're having a baby!

(...right. Um, for those who didn't know, I'm the father! I don't remember if I told everyone, or just the family.)

I'll be Apparating, but if you need me to bring anything, tell me, I'll be on my way in about five.
It's all right! You've got every right to be nervous. But Remus has done this before and - well, yeah, honestly, there was a bit of excitement there and now I think we've a lot of waiting round.

Which of course you want to be here to share!

Right, I've got everything sorted on this end, I'm on my way now!

Seeing this after a whole night of potion brewing. Mum's been at it too, and is still asleep. Hope everything's gone well, and best of luck to everybody! Of course you'll let us know when kiddo's safely here, yeah?

Breathe, Charlie. I understand breathing's important to the whole process.

Bill, why didn't you wake me up immediately?!

Tonks, dear, I'm on my way. How exciting!

Mum, I'm staying the duration.
@alt_frank at 2015-02-02 06:18:56
(no subject)
good to hear. glad you're there.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-02 06:14:12
(no subject)
Oh, goodness!
Draco and I are still at Aldrich with Mr Snape. Should we come back?

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-02 06:16:45
(no subject)
That's up to each of you, I guess.

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-02 06:17:29
Private Message to Hermione
Thanks, by the way, for getting Moony his potion. He says he's got no idea how you managed it with everything else going on today.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-02 06:19:55
Re: Private Message to Hermione
Oh! Well, I figured, just in case she did have the baby, he wouldn't want to miss it, well, neither of you would....

And I've been working on isolating parts of the brewing process that can be done ahead of time and reach a steady state. So that the whole thing doesn't take nearly as long. So far it's going well. But don't tell him I've been experimenting with it, so long as the effects are just the same.

Though, if you do notice any change in its efficacy, you will tell
me? I've been asking him every month just to make sure it's still all right but not telling him why.

stay the course, Tonks.
keep breathing.
you'll be brilliant.

Gracious.
On my way.

I most sincerely hope it will not be necessary, but if there is difficulty, I will be awake and brewing throughout most of the night; if there is an emergency and you need any potions you do not have on hand, simply send word.
I am very pleased to announce the birth of Nicole Helene Brownmiller, who entered the world at 1:45 PM, attended by Poppy, Evelyn, and myself. She's six pounds six ounces, and unlike her counterpart, is without a single hair on her rather sweet little head. She's perfectly healthy, and both mother and father are relieved and quite happy. Rory Brownmiller is quite excited, and is very much looking forward to holding Nicole with an assist from mum and dad.

Mr Dumbledore, just for the record, the disorientation happened here too. And it was almost exactly the same.

...Actually kipping now. I'll be back at Bedford by early evening to lend a hand with the night shift.

Oh, I wish I could see her.

Your mum says she looks just like you did when you were first born.
Private message to Alice

Well, why don't we send her one of the magical sketches we give the parents in sanctuary? It would be safe enough if it's charmed so that only she can see it, which is what we always do anyway. That way she could see her sister as she grows. And we should give one to Charlie, too. I know it's going to be very difficult to tear himself from Adam.

Sally-Anne,

Congratulations on becoming a big sister!

-Justin

Thank you!

I always wanted a little sister or brother.

I always did, too. Congratulations, Sally-Anne.

Congratulations all round!
Thank you so much for your advice this afternoon. I really appreciate it.

In fact, I'm already putting it into practice, as Morwenna Mullet will be able to attest.

She was disrespectful of Our Lord and of our work at Ollerton, so I Cruciated her very briefly, with a promise that I could have been much more severe with her had I seen fit.

I think her mates will probably take her to the Hospital Wing, even though I really only held the spell on her for about three seconds. But I know the Headmaster wanted us to report disciplinary actions, so I am reporting it to you.

If you have any questions about what happened, or if the Headmaster would like a more complete report, I'll be happy to provide it.

Thank you again. Your years of experience as a Councilwitch really are the best guide I could ask for.

-Padma

I'm glad to hear you felt empowered to use your privileges as a Councilwitch, Padma. She should consider herself lucky.

I hope that resolves any issues you might have had, but if not, you should certainly feel free to deal out another lesson.
What in Merlin's name are your goons playing around with near Sherwood?

The whole ward system shook again a little over an hour ago. More oscillations, more reverberations than the one this morning. The traces from this morning's event were strongest at the Isle of Skye. The arithmatic calculations were pointing all over the country including straight at Eton. With the added information from this afternoon (strongest at Walsingham) they now conclusively point to a location near your operation. In the hills between Matlock and Cramford.

Any additional information about what's being done magically in that vicinity is vital to the Protectorates security.

Noticed that, yes.

Told you this morning that we're investigating.

Surge Origination: 1:42PM
Have tracked source to 10'x10' Fidelius zone.
Coordinates: 53.119124, -1.581294
Elevation: 220m

Will repeat invitation to send someone or come yourself. Before it happens again.

Pulling together the ward team and one or two from those trying to poke holes in Saltash. We'll be along shortly.
Good.

Apparate to Staging site 1. Braithewaite will meet you.
**2015-02-02 15:11:00**  
*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

Are you going to come to dinner?

You have to eat sometime.

**alt_ginny**

---

**alt_ron** at **2015-02-02 23:11:17**  
(no subject)

I don't have to, no.

---

**alt_ginny** at **2015-02-03 00:07:06**  
(no subject)

Ronald, you'll make yourself sick if you don't eat. What good will that do?

---

**alt_ron** at **2015-02-03 00:17:29**  
(no subject)

If I needed someone to play Mum with me, I'd just answer her bloody pm.

---

**alt_ginny** at **2015-02-03 00:20:03**  
(no subject)

I'm not trying to play like I'm Mum. I'm just trying to make sure you at least eat and sleep a bit.
2015-02-02 15:32:00
Private Message to T Rowle and C Pale

R. Thought you were sending Fabregas? Send Towle if F unavailable. Or come yourself. (P. Information below FYI)

Second event. Tracked surge to Fidelius hole
Time: 1:42 PM
Fzone: 10'x10'
Coordinates: 53.119124, -1.581294
Elevation: 220m

Obv no idea what's in there. Except that it's powerful. And obv able to act beyond the Fidelius.

Rookwood reports it was felt along the ley wards. Mentions Skye and Walsingham specifically.
Zach,

Word's gotten 'round that it was you who left F-F walking around with a black eye. As much as I can't condone physical violence against your house-mate, I can understand how yesterday's events may have left you feeling both confused and overwhelmed with unexpected emotions. However, your actions have had the two-fold effect of both 1) making your attitude toward F-F abundantly clear, not just to F-F himself, but to everyone else in the school and 2) drawing the romantic interest of my cousin Marjoram. At this point, I fear that the second effect will over-ride the potential lesson of the first effect.

Speaking less formally: the next time you feel so impassioned, won't you please discuss it with someone who shares your frustrations and might be able discuss more practical approaches with you? I know that probably sounds off-putting to someone as blokey as you, but there are other blokey sorts out there who you could seek out. Maybe some of the other quidditchers, like Donovan or Ed Bones. Or Harry, for that matter.

Also, this is by no means some kind of order or punishment. Just a suggestion from someone who's doing her best to look out for all of the students.

Wot?

Well, 'strue that Marjie's quite a corker. But that's between her and me, innit? Don't worry, I'm not planning to work my way through every witch in your extended family.

Anyway, you try living with someone like F-F and not look over your shoulder. You know he sort of laughed at me when I did it? And he muttered, 'Quite right, too' and just went on to the dormitories. So he might well have the last laugh yet. I noticed he's started keeping all his things packed away in his trunk, too. And he's warding
everything--you'd better believe I'll be doing the same every night! Just in case he gets any ideas.

I don't want anyone to think I'm not loyal. That's not the case at all. It's got nothing to do with being confused or overwhelmed, Daphs, it's got everything to do with living with someone who can blithely kill so many other wizards and still be all, "Cheerio, chaps, jolly good, what" and all that. It's just not natural.

But what you've just described is confusion, Zach. You're confused about how someone can blithely kill and still be cheerful and polite. Well, you remember Professor Raz's disposition, don't you? He was a council wizard, and just about as cheerful and friendly as one could be. It's paradoxical to you, perhaps, but it's not a paradox you're entirely unfamiliar with.

What did you hope that punching him would prove? Honest question.

And - I realise you will have difficulty believing this, but I am certain that F-F really poses no threat to you. Just go about your business and you'll be fine.

No, Daphs, I'm not confused about it. I just don't like living three feet away from it. Your d--I mean, Professor Raz had similar qualities, sure, but none of us had to room with him. And anyway, he was a Slytherin, and a Lestrange, it's different for families like theirs.

No offence, of course. But Hufflepuffs just aren't so callous, usually.

It's not like we've been worried all year that he's going to slit our throats in our sleep. Clearly he's only a real danger to enemies of the Protectorate, or Ern and I would have been warding our things long before now. And he's not on the Council yet so I know I don't have to worry about the Cruciatuus or anything. I just wonder if
he's not--waiting for the right time. But there's nothing to do about, anyway.

Oh, and to answer your question: I wanted to let him know that I'm not just going to stand aside for him. And he knows it now. So there's that.

And you've already mentioned Marjie. That wasn't part of my plan, but it's a pretty decent benefit, eh?

alt_daphne at 2015-02-03 02:56:00
(no subject)

No offence taken.

There are a lot of enemies of the Protectorate these days, Zach. Haven't you noticed? It's altogether disturbing, really.

"He knows it now." So, you feel you've impressed that upon him? And given no thought to what you might have impressed upon others?

Clearly, Marjoram has distracted you from whatever further contemplation you might be capable.

Well enjoy it, I suppose. Being in the moment appears to be your way of things.
private message to Ernie

There are rumours that Patil was cruciating people this afternoon and someone said this was the beginning of a new programme where the prefects are being encouraged to practise the cardinal curses regularly on younger students at random. I don't know what to believe.

You haven't been told to do that, have you? Please say that you haven't.

It's like my dream

alt_ernie at 2015-02-03 00:26:13 (no subject)

No. No we haven't. Course we haven't.

You know Marvolo would throw a fit if we did. He's already in a strop about crucio.

But Patil is a councilwizard. That's different.
private message to Lavender Brown

Might I possibly speak to you on a matter of scholarly import as Moon calls it? I hate to trouble you. Only everyone says you are absolutely snitch at Divination and I am not. At all. And I need to talk with someone who is.

Please?
Morrwnna,

I'm so sorry to hear of what took place in the lavatory this afternoon. While I lack perfect understanding of what took place in both Professor Glozeman's class and in the lavatory altercation, that matters little as I am sure that it's shocking and demeaning to be Cruciated for any reason, be it deserved or undeserved.

That said, you must know that Patil is a council witch and is privy to all the rights and respect that come with that role. I hope you will be very careful not to give her cause to doubt you in the future.

I know how socially insular the Ravenclaws can be, what with their special corners and lofty towers. May I suggest that you broaden your circle a bit and make friends with some students outside your house? Susan and Caroline Bones in Hufflepuff are both very pleasant and friendly, for example. You also might find that Slytherins would have much to teach you about how to best dodge Patil's temper. Pansy Parkinson and Sally-Anne Perks have scuffled with her off and on over the years, and may be able to advise you in the matter.
Order Only: Private message to Justin and Harry

I'm worried about Ron. Justin, I'm sorry to bother you but you at least were at dinner tonight. I tried to find Ron earlier and I couldn't, and he hasn't been at any meals, and

I know they made him do horrible things. And you, too.

Ron never -- I mean, he almost never loses his appetite. Even after our Dad died he was still eating. Not much and not like he was enjoying the food but there was food around (because people brought it) and he was eating it.

I mean maybe he's just getting sandwiches from the elves or something but could you check? He told me if he wanted someone to act like Mum he'd just answer her message. I'm TRYING not to hover. I'm trying to give him space. I'm just really worried.

Ginny,

I did say to leave Of course, you're worried. I'm sure he's not ignoring his own needs, what, but I don't doubt he is not in the mood for any fussing.

Have you asked Sally-Anne? They were both invited to the Headmaster's supper last night and neither of them arrived, so I assumed they were together.

I say, I don't wish to sound indelicate but it could be that he'd rather his girlfriend than his sister be the one to take care of him.

-Justin
Oh, were they? You might be right. I haven't seen her.

Maybe I should have written to her, instead of you. Only, I guess, if he feels like anyone saying 'please, you should try to eat' is acting like Mum getting it from Sally-Anne would be worse rather than better. I mean you know she knits presents at Christmas for everyone she knows (really, everyone) EXCEPT Ron and when I asked her about that once she laughed and said I should think that one through and patted my sleeves (I was wearing one of the sweaters Mum made) and anyway, yeah, I guess that's why I didn't talk to her.

Anyway I'm not sure Sally-Anne is eating either.

Well.... I doubt very much he'll like me or Harry telling him to eat, especially when I was the one asking everyone to give us some breathing room, what.

Harry, is he in the dormitory? Where did you last see him, Ginny?

He was out by the lake most of the day and I don't know where he is now. He might still be out there. He didn't come to dinner.
Right.

Harry, fancy a walk, old chap?

-Justin

Yeah, sure. Meet you by the Great Hall?

-Justin

I've been trying to leave all of you alone. Sally-Anne, too. Because that's what you asked for.

Maybe I should check on Ron? Sally-Anne slept over in the room last night. I loaned her my cloak to sneak in.

If I'm correct, he'll want company, but not conversation. A few times this summer, it was the same, what. When his training was particularly unpleasant.

How good are you at sitting and not saying anything?

-Justin
I grew up with the Lord Protector.

I'm very good at it.
**2015-02-02 19:29:00**

Announcement

To quash any rumours before they fan and flame across the school:

No, there is no new programme in place that encourages prefects to practise the Cruciatus curse on younger students.

The rules regarding the use of Cruciatus amongst the student body have not changed in any way since the beginning of the term.

If the rules *do* change in the future, be assured that you will first be notified by the Headmaster.

Thank you!

---

**alt_harry** at **2015-02-03 02:39:05**

(no subject)

Thank you, Daphne. We are lucky to have you as Head Girl.

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**alt_harry** at **2015-02-03 02:40:21**

Order Only

...instead of Patil.

---

**alt_pansy** at **2015-02-03 03:02:16**

Re: Order Only

Merlin. You can say that again.
Naturally!

Only, I should tell the rest of you that I've been trying to forge connections between us, the galleon-holders, and some of the other students. I've advised Morwenna that she make some friends outside her house, and suggested she consider the Bones sisters, or Pansy and Sally Anne (for advice on how to skirt around Padma, in particular!).

I also tried to talk with Zach, but my is he thick. Unable to contemplate anything beyond his immediate needs and impulses. He's almost... prehistoric, or something? It's quite impressive, in its own way.

He believes you callous, Justin - particularly for a Hufflepuff. And he believes he's made it clear to you that he won't "stand aside for you now," whatever that means. I suppose he simply doesn't respect you, and for that I'm sorry.

Well done, Daphne.

I appreciate your calm hand at the till far more than I can say.

And I've noticed your positioning with regards to Mr Crouch, as well. Please know that I completely trust your instincts and judgement in regards to him, as well as your work at Hogwarts.

If you ever want to talk about either, I'm here.
and he is exceedingly difficult to read - even for me, and that's saying something.

alt_alice at 2015-02-03 05:00:36  
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Daphne

It would take a rather remarkable blend of empathy and social skills to be able to sort that particular puzzle out. Even partially.

You're one of a handful, I'd imagine, who've managed to get this far. You're a perceptive and canny witch, Daphne.

Yes, please do let us know if you learn anything. Let us know if things ever become unmanageable for you, as well.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-03 05:06:21  
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Daphne

You know, there is one thing...

When I wrote to him last night, there was a note of sheer exhaustion in his tone. And something tells me it wasn't there because of his long hours in the field. I would never go so far as to say that he's in any way disenchanted with the Protectorate, as I've not got that impression at all, but even so...there's something world-weary there, I'm sure.

I'll be looking for signs of what that's about.

Oh, and thank you for your kind words. It's really just from years of thinking about characters - how they tick and what motivates them, what their desires are, and so on.

alt_alice at 2015-02-03 06:05:09  
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Daphne

Please do.

It's taken a great deal of time for me, longer than it should have, to understand that nearly all people are capable of love in some way.
Barty Crouch does appear on all accounts to be quite devoted to Dolohov, and Dolohov to him in return.

This weariness you mention is likewise unexpected, but certainly not impossible, and worth exploring further.

See? Nothing to worry about.

Relatively speaking, that is.
2015-02-02 20:21:00
Order Only: Private message to Sirius Black

Sirius,

I know this is a helluva time to raise this. I should be raising it with Alice and Remus. But Alice is up to her neck with assisting the distribution of people and resources with the scattering of Sherwood. Plus, I know she and Frank are grieving over Neville. I know Remus is distracted over Tonks and Adam, and besides, it's just about full moon.

But I've been assisting Davidson and his surviving Lieutenant-Colonels with the military debriefing, tabulating all the eye witness accounts and the button network reports, and the Order leadership needs to know this. I guess I want to break this to Remus in a day or two, if he and Alice aren't told by Davidson by then.

What's becoming clear is that in one day between the three of them, Ron and Justin and Hydra targeted and killed more people--ordinary civilians--than all the number of babies we've managed to save since the Sanctuary began.

I'll admit I'm not as detached as I should be. I've lost the last of my closest mates, the Players, in the last year, and I lost dozens--hundreds--of friends and acquaintances in the last two days.

I'll also freely admit that I'm a killer myself, Merlin knows, so I'm not turning my nose up at them for ending lives when I have plenty of blood on my own hands. And that includes collateral damage. But I aim my wand at the Deatheaters, MLE, and Enforcers who are running this regime.

I understand why Hydra did what she had to do with Neville. As much as it guts them, even Alice and Frank understood that.

But this...this was targeting the innocent at the Protectorate's orders. That's stepping into Rachel Brodie's territory. I understand her usefulness to us, and I understand she has to maintain her cover. But to have three more of us join her in this type of undercover work--and the youngest among us, too, which makes it even worse--well. It's making the innocent bodies pile up a little faster than I can stomach. Is the benefit really worth so high a cost?
Maybe you think it isn't fair to bring this up before Justin and Hydra and Ron are ready to debrief themselves. But I think the point needs to be raised: what the hell are we doing?

Do you want to tell Remus, or do you want me to do it, if Davidson doesn't formally report it (or the three of them admit it) first?

---

**alt_sirius** at **2015-02-03 03:54:17**  
(no subject)

You've left out Sally-Anne - or, maybe you didn't know it. She and some of the Healers were mercy-killing prisoners before MLE could question them. But even with those additional numbers, they were far from the only ones killing people Sunday, and if they hadn't been in the field, even more of our friends would not have made it away cleanly, too.

I'm not sure what you're asking me to do, Kingsley. What do you want? Do you want to pull them all out and hide them at Moddey Dhoo? I'd love to. Are you frustrated because they're not bringing us enough positive payoff yet? They're still young and they're not in their best positions yet to have more control over what they're hoping to do. Yes, it's frustrating but you should know how the long game is played.

And that's the point: They're young, they can be brought into the fold precisely because their mentors think they're raising a new generation of killers. We can't insinuate anyone older into the inner circle - they'd be discovered and then we'd be even worse off.

But they're not children, either. They can make their own decisions about whether they are up to the task. We can't ask them to serve in the types of roles they've chosen, but we can't prevent them from burrowing deep into the networks that will have them - and as painful as it is, we shouldn't prevent it. They are still our best chance at fighting the rot from inside.

As for 'admitting' anything - what haven't they admitted? Justin told us exactly what happened. Hydra warned us about Ollerton - not in time to stop it but certainly in time for Lee to report on it, for Draco to record what happened and for us to take those recordings to Aldrich for a broadside.
And in terms of Ollerton, itself, what were they supposed to do? Refuse, blow their covers? Those people would still be just as dead, Kingsley.

Do you think we don't need as many undercover operatives? But if we pull one, or all of them, where do we stop? And then how else do we penetrate the Protectorate machine?

---

@alt_kingsley at 2015-02-03 04:33:16
(no subject)

No, I didn't know about Sally-Anne.

When I used the word 'admitted' I was referring specifically to the exact number of the body count. It was more than what we witnessed at Ollerton. I'm not saying they tried to hide anything from us, but I don't think they've yet told Alice and Remus that it reached somewhere between seventy and ninety people.

Not detached enough, hell. I'm sorry, my friend, but look, I haven't slept in over forty hours, and that included twelve hours of flat-out battle against the Protectorate's worst horrors. I'm probably still a bit Dementor-sick, too, and there isn't any chocolate here, that's for sure. I've been around people--the most professional people I know, mind you--who've been reeling with grief all day. I probably should have waited before trying to write this. Or at least until the stink of blood and smoke in my nostrils had faded a bit more for me.

Maybe tomorrow or the day after I'll have enough brainpower to figure out exactly what I want, but I can't articulate it now.

Even if I do, I probably haven't any chance of getting it.

Forgive me, my friend. I'll try again to sleep now.

---

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-03 05:44:10
(no subject)

Tired, I know about. We were all day in the field, I flew to Scotland and back to Aldrich, and then just when we'd got home, Dora went into labor. Today it's been all about the sprog.
Look, if we could have stopped them going down this path in the first place, I would have done it. But it seems disingenuous now to make them feel worse by making them keep a count of every one of their transgressions as if they owe it to us. If they weren't horrified by what they had to do, I'd be more inclined to say they've got to reverse course. But that's why they asked for time to heal their own wounds. Not to avoid the smack on the wrist you seem to want to give them. Or maybe you think you're being helpfully concerned on their behalf, but it didn't sound like it.

So maybe we all need some sleep and clearer heads.

---

@alt_kingsley at 2015-02-03 14:35:24
(no subject)

Slept a little. Didn't help much.

It sounds to me as if you think I'm being needlessly obtuse about the need to act a certain way when undercover. Not to mention absurdly squeamish. You say I want to give them 'slap on the wrist?' Now you're being damned condescending. My purpose isn't to make them feel worse about themselves so the rest of us can feel superior to them. When I asked, 'What the hell are we doing?' I meant not 'what are we doing by "letting these kids do this"?' because yes, I know they choose to do this and I know they're not kids. I'm asking 'what are we, as the Order doing, by pursuing this strategy?' Merlin, Sirius, you're the one who is always saying in the Grim Truths 'don't cooperate with the regime.' I had hoped when this war was done the Order would be integral in helping to rebuild Great Britain, but I see that chance, that hope, slipping away, the more our members are involved in atrocities.

To be fair, there's another part in my reaction you don't know about. I lost a blanket mate this weekend. It was casual, and it had been going on for about a year, but...anyway, it was just finally confirmed this morning.

She wasn't killed by Ron or Hydra or Justin, though, or even anyone in MLE. An inferi tore her apart.

Why did I want to talk to Remus? I wanted to let Remus and Alice know the body count in advance of the Order debriefing so that when Justin and Ron and Hydra tell them, they wouldn't react
with horror during the debriefing and *make* them feel worse.

If you don't think Remus would react that way anyway, then fine. Forget I said anything.

You know, I think I've figured what else I want, and I was right. It is hopeless.

I want to change the past. I don't have a timeturner. Do you?
Dear Adam,

I don't know if you're ever going to be able to read this -- the Order lock might be long retired by the time you get a journal, and even if it isn't, you wouldn't exactly be added to it immediately. And if we haven't won by then, you might never get a journal in the first place. Still, I'm adding everybody who's going to have a hand in raising you, so that if anything ever happens to me or your mum, somebody will be able to sit down with you someday and show you this entry when you're old enough.

Because we're doing dangerous things. You were born right at the tail end of a very fierce battle, and it wasn't the only one we've had this year. I'm afraid we brought you into a pretty scary world. We're trying really hard to make it better, though, and the minute I saw you, I realised I'd just been given the biggest reason possible to keep on fighting to fix things.

I'm going to do everything I can possibly do to make it so the world you grow up in is better than the one it is today. And if anything ever happens to me, I want you to know that I love you. I loved you the minute I laid eyes on you, and I'm going to love you even more as we get to know each other, and nothing's ever going to make me stop.

Your mum and I have talked a lot about how we want to raise you, and I hope you've been hearing this from us the whole way. But in case we haven't been around to tell you, here's what I've learned in life, and here's my best advice and my best words of wisdom: love is the most powerful thing we've got going for us, all of us, and it's what separates us from them. Be kind to people. Look for reasons to treat them well. Be true to yourself, and always stick up for what you know is right. Do that, and you'll turn out all right in the end. I believe in you, and I always will.

(Also, never eat or drink anything your uncles Fred and George give you unless you're willing to lose the rest of your afternoon to being a canary or something. But that's a different story, and you've probably figured that one out by yourself by now.)
Welcome to the world, kiddo. Your mum and I have been waiting to meet you for quite a bit.

Love,
Your father
Order Only Private message to Bill

Wait until you meet him, Bill. I mean, I'm horribly biased, I know I am, but he's perfect. I can't stop staring at his toes. And he looks so much like a Weasley it isn't even funny -- I don't know how we would have explained it if Tonks and Remus were still running Laszlo's, I really don't.

Merlin, I haven't slept in a day and a half and I'm so giddy I swear I could keep going for another week if I had to.

Anyway. I'm not just writing to you to be ridiculously soppy at you, that's just a side benefit. I've been thinking all day about things I have to set up and arrange for, and one of the things that I realised is I have to redo all my paperwork -- get everything in order so if anything happens to me before Adam's grown, things will be all squared away. Will you sit down with me sometime in the next few weeks? I can't name Adam and Tonks as my beneficiaries, but if you'd be willing, I'd like to name you as my executor and sole beneficiary -- I think I have it down as Mum right now, but you'd probably be in better position to take care of things after, and I know I can trust you to make sure everything gets to Tonks and Adam somehow without getting spotted.

I'm sorry I haven't had a moment until now to reply-- as you can imagine, what happened this weekend at Sherwood means just about the entire Division is going mad.

Again, I can't wait to meet him, and you're showing commendable parental maturity to consider his future. Just In Case. Of course I'd be happy to sit down with to consider how to protect him and his mum. We probably should give some thought to naming a secondary beneficiary/executor, too. I might not survive this war, either. But we can discuss all that when we meet to discuss all the arrangements.

How is Tonka doing? And Bea?

And Mum? (I'm sure she's enjoying being a grand mum and all. But she's still sick at heart about Ron. The contrast in feeling, I think,
might cause some wild swings of emotion, if I know her.)

Tell Tonka I said to pass along 'Brilliant work' to her. That goes for you, too.

You said Adam looks like a Weasley. But do you see any features that also remind you of Tonks?
Thanks.
For not talking.
Being out there.

For the brandy, too. Only reason we're not frozen, I guess.

Yeah, the brandy was good.
That was Justin's. I don't know where he got it.

Ron,
I remember many a night this summer when it was far easier not to talk than to talk, what.

-Justin

Y'know.
I kept thinking those people had just been Petrified. I mean AK. Was just like it stopped them. In a blink.
And I kept thinking 'Finite'. How could they be completely dead? Just instantaneously like that.

I keep thinking it.
Yes. I kept wondering why we were taking the trouble to pose them, when they’d simply die and fall. Only, that's not how it happened at all, what.

Mr Lupin wrote to me and Hydra, mostly because he didn't want us to think you were being smothered with attention and we were being ignored. He made certain to say that we could still pull out, what, whenever we wanted, and come to Grimmauld and stay there, and no one would think we were shirking.

The funny thing is, Saturday, we'd planned to do just that. Sunday, after breakfast. We were going to leave.

-Justin

You and Hydra?

Yes.

Sorry, old man.

-J

Think what the papers would've said!
'French immigrant disappears. And we're not going to mention the involvement of anyone with the last name Lestrange because our articles have bylines and Bellatrix terrifies us.'

I was thinking about the tabloids. "Protector's son jilted by fiancée. Cheated by Lying Frenchman."

Reasonable point about their not daring to call Auror Lestrange's attention, though.

You and Hydra?

To go where?

Yes. To Grimmauld, in point of fact.

You remember she did finally come to the salle to meet me? She said she didn't want to do this anymore. Be her mother's protégé and be hated and feared at school.

So we were going to chuck it in, what.

And we'd just decided we couldn't do that to the Order when we got back to our dormitories and saw Mr Lupin's note. How's that for irony, old chap?

-J
Justin.

You can.

So can you, Ron. I don't

I mean

We're becoming what we hate. All of us.

We can't just all hide and expect anything to change.

I know.

But I'm supposed to be the one with the power to destroy him. If it's fate, maybe -- I don't know.

I don't think we can just sit around and wait for that prophecy to play out. I mean, what if it's your fate to do it when you're 80 years old? Or when six other things fall into place that the prophecy didn't actually mention, but which have to happen first?

I mean, I think we have to do what we can, and then when your fate moment comes, you'll be ready and do it.

But if we just wait for it, things could get loads worse. And
maybe we can make a difference between now and when you get your chance.

That's what I think, anywiz.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-03 06:02:09
(no subject)

Voldemort tried to make me like he is. He wanted me to learn how to kill, and torture, and all the rest.

And -- mostly I didn't. Or at least I tried not to.

But it's one thing to refuse when it's Voldemort who wants me to do something and it's another thing when it's the Order.

I didn't expect it to be like this.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-03 06:03:49
(no subject)

It's not the Order that's making us do any of it, though.

I mean-

That's too twisty to think out after a third of a bottle of brandy. Sorry.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-03 06:06:27
(no subject)

No, I know.

Only, you wouldn't have kissed up to the Aurors if it weren't for the Order. You wouldn't have been in that position, if it weren't for the Order.
Well. I'm doing it because I think if I get on the inside, I can make a difference. Get a message out at the right moment to change some outcome or give everyone else a better shot at winning.

Only-

I admit I thought I'd be able to stand up and say I wouldn't hurt people for no reason. That I'd be better than that.

I think I was totally wrong about that part.

It wouldn't have mattered to the people who died. Someone else would have killed them.

It would have mattered to you.

But then you wouldn't have been able to be an Auror. And we'd have lost that.

That's the thing.

I can't be an Auror who doesn't train and doesn't follow protocol and doesn't... do the off-book things they all do. If I want to be inside, I have to actually be that.

I guess, the thing is, I really think it's important to do it. Whatever it means I have to do. Because if we can win, then it can stop. We can change the laws and purge MLE and put people in front of the Wizengamot for what they've done. Including me, maybe. But we can change it all. And Charlie's kid won't have to live-
Sorry. That's-
Y'know?

@alt_harry at 2015-02-03 06:33:44
(no subject)

Yeah, I know.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-03 06:34:21
(no subject)

I'll be damned if you're ever in front of the Wizengamot for any reason other than receiving the Order of Merlin, though.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-03 06:41:24
Private Message to Harry

. . .

Thanks.

@alt_justin at 2015-02-03 06:09:48
(no subject)

Exactly, Ron. They're not asking us to do it, but what alternatives are there?

I did think of something that might help us all to cope, though. I suggested it to Hydra, that we meet regularly to chat and stay up to date on each other's--well, each other's progress, if you follow me.

Muggles have programmes for addicts, where they sit round and confess things to one another. Ways they've strayed off their path, or desires they have to behave poorly. They encourage each other to stay the course, and remind one another of their goals to keep away from drugs or stealing or whatever it is that plagues them.
We could arrange something of that sort, what. Where we talk to one another, in person, once a week or so. Without judging one another, but to remind each other of the people we want to be, and not the people we're becoming.

-Justin

@alt_harry at 2015-02-03 06:12:10
(no subject)

Are you thinking just you, Ron, and Hydra? Or a larger group?

@alt_justin at 2015-02-03 06:15:04
(no subject)

All the Order Juniors here at Hogwarts. All of us who are still under cover, as it were.

-Justin

@alt_ron at 2015-02-03 06:15:02
(no subject)

Well it's not as if we'll be giving up doing anything.

Really, they sit around and confess stuff to each other?

@alt_justin at 2015-02-03 06:16:38
(no subject)

There's rather more to it than that, I think, but it's not as if I've been to anything like it. I've seen a few films with depictions, what.
Well, sure, we could do that. If you think it would help you, and Hydra, especially.

We could meet in the Secret Room.

What did he try to teach you to do?

He wanted me to murder Ridley. I'm pretty sure now he wanted me to create a horcrux.

And he wanted me to crucio Hermione, to punish her that time she called me 'Harry' in the journals. Except he just forgot about that, completely. But I spent weeks trying to learn on animals. It was horrible. I didn't want to hurt Hermione but I knew if I refused, or failed, it would be even worse. For her, or for Draco, or for both of them.

That was always the threat. That my friends would be hurt, or would be hurt worse.

So we turn that around by agreeing we're willing to get hurt as long and as much as it takes.

Don't ever not do something because you think I'm going to get hurt. I'm serious. No ransom. Not for me.

Did he teach you to use AK? Or just expect you'd be able to do it the first time he wanted you to?
I couldn't. Not the first time.

_@alt_harry_ at _2015-02-03 06:24:08_
(no subject)

He had Raz teach it to me, using animals.

Same as with cruciatus.

_@alt_justin_ at _2015-02-03 06:31:03_
(no subject)

Hear, hear.

What happens to us doesn't matter, so long as we're trying every way we can do to resist the regime, what. And to resist allowing ourselves to change.

I know we did irreparable harm Sunday. But I have to think that when people hear about Ollerton they'll be as horrified as we are, and it will change the conversation.

Smith gave me a black eye, for goodness' sake! He was angry and upset enough to do that. I'll gladly be punched a thousand times if it means more people like him are bally well disturbed and shaken into action.

-J

_@alt_ron_ at _2015-02-03 06:38:26_
(no subject)

Not allowing ourselves to change

Thing is-

I mean, you're right, if it was horrible enough that everyone else finally thinks about what's happening and decides it's got to stop, then those things--those people dying--at least then it means something.
That can't make it right, though.

And we can't go back, either. I can't see how we ever can

Ron,

I think.... I believe that we're not making these sacrifices--not creating this world that we want--for ourselves. I mean to say, t would be bally well nice to be able to enjoy it, what, but it's more important that Adam and Nicole and everyone like them be able to reap the benefits of the work we're doing.

So yes, if we must burn our own souls to dust, so be it. No, we'll never go back. But we'll know why we chose as we did.

-J

Yeah. That.

I hope Adam and Nicole don't even remember Voldemort, when they grow up.

I hope the Protectorate is something that bores them in History class.
I say, jolly good form.


Oh, dash it.

-J
2015-02-03 09:49:00
Private message to Auror Crouch

I'm not sure if you'll make it to the castle tonight. If you don't, I'm still set for training. Justin Finch-Fletchley and I have agreed to book the salle one or two evenings a week. You've seen what he's capable of, so I'm sure there are things I can learn from him, and vice versa.

I hope everything's going smoothly out there.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-04 03:38:33
(no subject)

Am at Hogwarts, in fact, though you missed me at supper. Were you doing homework or sparring with Monsieur Finch-Fletchley? Will not mention same to your mother. Who is, by the way, not impressed with the obvious inadequacies of your diet and the effect on your stamina.

If you are not otherwise entangled, meet me at the salle, and we'll assert precedence if it's occupied. You're slipping. Not a testament to your (ex?) paramour's supposed excellence.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-04 03:46:30
(no subject)

I've been revising at supper, lately. But I always eat some biscuits or something during. I guess that's not enough.

I'm sorry, I know I am. I can't explain why, I feel like I'm putting in more effort than ever. I'll be not-entangled in fifteen minutes, though, and we can get to work.

Justin and I used to date, yes, but I can safely say that there's no chance of us ever dating again in the future. So no worries there.
Heard (at some length, relative to the source) that your balance is off and you're easily winded. Also that you're squeamish about things you've never shown scruples about, and she's convinced you've gone to daydreaming.

Would be easier if you just performed to expectation.

Relative to the source. I see.

When was the last time you heard my mother say something nice about me, though? Right, thought so.

Okay, so I'll do just that. See you in a bit.

Mind you, I do understand that communication with parents is not always accomplished by acquiescing.

Can't think of a time when I did.

Would help if I knew what sort of statement you were trying to make. She's not always receptive/perceptive where you're concerned. (Not a surprise, I'm certain.) For a brilliant witch, she has a significant blind spot.

(Would tell her that myself if necessary.)
i don't know.

Sometimes I think I'd rather be adequate and only partially-motivated in the face of her critique, rather than try my very best and end up hearing the same things.

Quel surprise.

Expect you've explored the limits of that strategy. Will not offer advice on that front.

You're funny, you know. I'd never noticed before.

Are you going to stay after to see Daphne?

And you're cheeky. I'd been warned, but hadn't noticed that before.

What do you think?

Cheeky seems like a polite substitute for what you actually heard.

Well, for her sake, I hope you are, because I think she fancies you quite a lot.
And I hope that if you don't fancy her back the same way you won't string her along until something new catches your eye, because she definitely deserves a good deal more than that.

So do you, actually.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-04 04:26:24
(no subject)

Sounds like a studied opinion. Didn't realise you gave so much thought to my arrangements.

Good. You ought to be measuring and assessing your sparring partner's distractions.

Also. Pleased to know you think that much of her. Your opinion carries more weight than most.

And I'll take the suggestion under advisement.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-04 04:34:11
(no subject)

The Protectorate in general gives a lot of thought to your arrangements. And yes, I think I'm learning more about your distractions all the time.

I do think a lot of her, and not just because she's turned out to be my cousin. She's thoughtful and sensitive in rather unique ways. Just don't ask Padma Patil for her opinion of Daphne. Or her opinion of me, for that matter.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-04 04:45:24
(no subject)

Indeed.

As I said, your opinion carries more weight than most. Decidedly more than that useless quantity.
Well, good.

Alright, I've finished stalling. Ready to perform to expectation.

Waiting your leisure.
How are you settling in at Moddey? I was just there, but I left your book with Maureen. Sorry to not return it to you in person, it just seems like it would be tempting fate to do so, given what happened last time.

What I mean is, we really do need to spend some time apart, and the fact that we fell into bed together just a few days after breaking up makes that all the more clear to me. When we got together we sort of skipped the whole friendship and getting-to-know-you phase, I think. I don't know, maybe war encourages that sort of thing.

I know you're more upset than you're letting on, and I'm truly sorry for that. I hope the time and space will help, but I fully recognise that it's going to hurt before it helps (and I'm not doing so brilliantly myself, to tell the truth).

Take care and I'll be in touch soon, alright?

-D
I've made a decision, and I want to let all of you know about it.

I...I wrote to Ron, even after Justin asked us to let the three of them alone. I told him he didn't need to answer, and I told him all that I wanted him to know was that I would give him any help he needed, above and beyond time. I told him that he was my son and I was his Mum. And that was all I said.

He hasn't replied.

I have been thinking and thinking while holding Adam. I believe I know why Ron hasn't answered, and so I told Remus this morning, when he does debrief the three of them, to pass along this to Ron. I'm not going to tell him myself because....

I believe that what Ron needs, if he's going to follow this path, is distance from his family, and most of all, distance from me. That's the help I need to give him. He won't rise in the Auror ranks if he's seen as having any ties with his soft-hearted mum. This incident in Sherwood is the perfect excuse to make the break. Particularly with the pamphlet coming out.

Dolohov will love it if he thinks he's broken the tie between me and my son. He'll love it. Savitha, too. Good.

So I'm going to let them think that. I told Remus to tell Ron to do everything he can to encourage that impression, including speaking as disparagingly of me as possible if the subject of his family arises. I think it'll make them believe that Ron is more their creature than mine. Like...Percy, you see.

I won't send him any more baked goods or owls while he remains at Hogwarts. If...if he thinks it would help, I'll understand if he doesn't come to the Burrow at Easter at all. Fred and George, perhaps he could stay with you? Or it might be even better if he stays away altogether that week, if he can make an arrangement somehow. When school is out, if he finds a flat again with Justin, he shouldn't come home for Sunday dinner.
I asked Remus to tell him that I'm doing this because...because besides the fact that it'll make a better impression, it might be easier for him to...to do what he has to do if he doesn't have to see me.

All I ask is that he continue to carry Arthur's coin. Or if he doesn't carry it, to just put it away somewhere and keep it safe.

I'm doing this because I love him. Arthur and I raised him and I trust him. And I'm doing my best to show him that by letting him go. If the war ends, he can come back, and I'll welcome him back with open arms, no matter what. I'll do my very best to do that. No matter what he's done.

If he can.

---

@alt_bill at 2015-02-04 14:48:05
(no subject)

Oh, Mum. That's hard. But you're right, it's probably the best decision.

You surprise me. I didn't think you would have this in you.

@alt_molly at 2015-02-04 14:50:43
Private message to Bill

Well, I don't mind telling you it frightens me to the core, Bill. Especially after Percy. But I don't want my fright getting in the way of what he needs.

And I trust Ron so much more than Percy. He is so brave to take this path. I hope this will make it easier for him.

@alt_bill at 2015-02-04 14:52:13
Re: Private message to Bill

He'll still need support, if he's going to have anything left of himself after doing the Cardinal curses. I know that from personal experience.
Yes, but he'll get it from others. Justin, and Hydra. I know you reported to Alice and Charlie every time you did the curses. It would ease my mind if he makes a similar arrangement, but that's his decision to make. He wouldn't ask for it from me, and besides, I think I would only weaken him. It's...it's as if I've been his conscience for so long, and...and he has to put that aside to do this. So he has to put me aside.

And I hope he'll also turn to Rachel. I won't make the mistake of asking her to look after him, though. But I am sure she would anyway.

It helps to know that she's there in that department with him, too.

I'm sure Rachel will look out for him, yeah. Will you be all right, Mum?

I've cried buckets of tears over this, Bill. But I'm absolutely determined to do it.

Holding Adam helps. Holding babies always helps, but he is my very first grandchild, and that makes it even better.

I've looked at what Ginny and Charlie wrote. And they've changed my mind.

Mum...they're right. (Well, except I hope not the bit what Ginny said you're just using the Order as an excuse
because you can't forgive him.) You would have to discuss it with Ron first, and get his permission. That's what respecting him as a full member of the Order means.

And now I'm kicking myself that I didn't see it clearly until now. God, no wonder Ron doesn't talk to me, either, if I don't see things like that immediately.

---

@alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:15:29
Re: Private message to Bill

I thought I was done crying. Apparently I'm not nearly finished.

---

@alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:41:36
Re: Private message to Bill

Apparently we both have a lot to learn.

Alice and Remuas have squashed the plan, and I see now that they're right. They also said not to mention it to him, so please, don't say anything about it to him, either.

(I don't suppose you have any Firewhiskey you can lend me tonight? There are some things I want to drown out).

---

@alt_bill at 2015-02-04 18:49:04
Re: Private message to Bill

Trying to drown yourself in Firewhiskey will only make you feel worse, Mum. Trust me on this. I know.

If you like, I'll come over tonight, and we'll limit ourselves to tea. And you can talk my ear off about Adam. All right?
alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:50:41
Re: Private message to Bill

Thank you, Bill. I would be most grateful.

alt_ginny at 2015-02-04 15:07:18
(no subject)

THIS IS THE WORST IDEA YOU HAVE EVER HAD.

Do NOT send me anything you're not sending to Ron. EVER.

alt_molly at 2015-02-04 15:28:27
(no subject)

Ginny, I'm not doing this because I'm angry at Ron or trying to punish him in any way. I don't want to do it; it goes against every one of my mothering instincts. But I've made my decision, Ginny, and I have good reasons for it. Strategic reasons, for both the Order and for Ron. You'll understand, perhaps, if you ever are a mother someday, that sometimes the best thing a mum can do for a child is to show you trust him enough to let him go. You don't think I haven't noticed that Ron has been talking to me less and less? That's much of what convinced me that this is what he needs. You don't have to agree with this strategy, but it is what I am going to do. In fact, I think Dolohov would think it out of character for me if I gave Ron any public support, and that could make things more dangerous for him.

I will continue to send you packages. You can send them back unopened if you like. Or you can open them and share the contents with him.

In fact, if you want to support him, maybe you can let other people hear you tell him bitterly how horrible your mother is.
Mum, you can perfectly well write to RON under the Order lock without anyone outside the Order seeing. You can ask him what HE thinks. Would it help him if you pretended to cut him off, because this would be a good strategic time to do it. Because maybe you're right? But you didn't even write to him, you just wrote to us, even though WE ARE UNDER THE LOCK so it's not as if Dolohov or any of the rest can even see that you wrote.

So he's going to think this is an excuse. That you're cutting him off because of what he did, and using the Order as an excuse.

Oh, Ginny. I did write to him, Ginny. Under the lock, after the events of Sherwood, even though Justin told us not to.

I disobeyed Justin because I had to tell him that he is my son, and I'm his Mum, no matter what. I told him I was willing to give him what he needs. And yes, I'm conveying the rest of this decision through Alice and Remus, because..I thought that even what I told him was too much, because Justin told us to leave them alone, and I've been trying to respect that ever since.

I think Ron can't come right out and tell me that what he needs is for me to be gone. And yes, maybe I made a mistake not to ask him, to get his permission. Maybe I'm guilty of trying to mind read again. But he isn't talking with me, and he hasn't for a long, long time, so I made the best decision I could, on my own.

If Ron convinces himself that I'm lying when I asked Remus to tell him again I love him and trust him, I can't help that. And if he's angry at me for not asking him directly, well, he wouldn't answer me when I told him I'd give him whatever he needed, and in his latest message, he tells me, quite angrily, that he's FINE.

Maybe the anger will be perfectly gauged to help him maintain the illusion we're trying to maintain.
Or maybe you're right and I've made a mistake, despite everything I've done to TRY to do the right thing, and that anger will sending him spinning off into darkness. I don't know, and if it does, I'll have that on my conscience. I've lived through that once already with Percy. If I have to, I'll live through it again.

Or maybe he'll hate me. For a long time. Or forever. If that happens, I'll have lost another son.

And if YOU don't forgive me, maybe a daughter, too.

That'll be the price I'll pay for my part in this war.

---

@alt_ginny at 2015-02-04 16:46:07
(no subject)

You wrote to him three days ago and now you're going to cut him off because he hasn't answered you? LISTEN TO YOURSELF MUM.

---

@alt_charlie at 2015-02-04 16:52:39
(no subject)

I think Ginny's right, Mum. If you think back about all the times Ron's been most at odds with the rest of us, it's been when somebody's made decisions that affect him without talking to him about it first. I think that no matter what message you send through other people, it'll feel like something else somebody decided for him without him having any say in things, and that'll just be one more thing he has to deal with in the middle of all of this.

We can talk to each other without anybody else knowing about it. That's the strength of the Order lock. This isn't the sort of tactic that needs to get decided right this very instant, why don't you wait a few days and then talk to him about it? See if he wants to play it that way or not.
**alt_molly** at 2015-02-04 17:31:04  
(no subject)

Fine. As I told Ginny, I'm willing to rethink this. I'm willing to discuss this with Ron directly. As in, discuss, and listen, and accept a 'no' if this isn't what he wants. I'm simply waiting to hear from Remus and Alice now.

---

**alt_molly** at 2015-02-04 18:37:27  
(no subject)

As I said to Ginny below, Remus and Alice have vetoed the idea.

They told me not to even mention it to him, so I'll ask for the same forbearance from you. Please?

---

**alt_ginny** at 2015-02-04 16:46:49  
(no subject)

Do you think Dad would have done this? What do you think he'd say, if he were here?

---

**alt_molly** at 2015-02-04 17:20:20  
(no subject)

**YOUR FATHER ISN'T HERE. YOUR FATHER IS DEAD!** Merlin! Don't you think I know that down to my bones, down to the depths of my heart, every day of my life?! Don't you know that I feel perfectly inadequate, trying to be both parents?

Look. I'm doing the best I can. Without Arthur I will make mistakes and I have made mistakes! All right? If you haven't figured that out in the years since he's been gone, well figure it out now!

So maybe you are right, and this is a terrible, horrible, rotten mistake because I'm the most inept mother in the Protectorate. In the world. I don't have Arthur to guide me, and it's rather difficult to know what's the right thing to do and emotions DO
get involved when your son is pursuing a dangerous path that causes him to do terrible things, and you hope it will all be for the good. And every time I try to talk with him he snarls at me.

Fine. If it is a mistake, it isn't too late to undo it. So I've asked Remus and Alice for their advice. If they think it's best for me to discuss this with Ron--not tell him, but discuss it--I'll do so. He may bite my nose off, and he probably will, but we'll have that conversation. And we'll see what he says. I'll give him the chance to say 'No.' I'll give him the chance to say I'm an idiot.

That's fine. I already know I am one.

[@alt_ginny] at 2015-02-04 17:28:52
(no subject)

You're not cutting off Ron because you think that's what HE needs, you're cutting him off because it's what YOU need. Because you think when he comes home, you'll look at him and see the people he killed.

Because you can't forgive him. And you know you're supposed to accept this for the good of the Order and you can't.

So you're going to cut Ron off. Because that's easier than living with what he's done.

[@alt_molly] at 2015-02-04 17:43:48
(no subject)

No. That is absolutely not true, Ginny.

Your father killed innocent people, too, you know. Bureaucratically, and not at the end of a wand, but they were just as dead. And you KNOW I loved and supported him, and I never turned away from him.

I even loved Percy until the end, Ginny, even though he did terrible things and would have betrayed us all.

Ron has chosen to do this to work for the Order, and the Order holds my loyalty, too. I honestly thought this would be
best for his cover, and I thought he couldn't talk to me because he thought it would be best, too.

Again, if Alice and Remus tell me to do so, I will give him the chance to tell him I'm wrong. It certainly won't be the first time.

**alt_ginny** at 2015-02-04 17:56:19  
(no subject)

You may have loved Percy but you stopped talking to him and told him not to come to the Burrow.

What's Ron supposed to make of it if you stop talking to him and tell him it's best if he doesn't come home for Easter?

**alt_ginny** at 2015-02-04 17:29:36  
(no subject)

Ron might not want to talk to you.

But he needs you to be THERE.

Because you are his MOTHER.

**alt_molly** at 2015-02-04 17:44:18  
(no subject)

I have already assured him of that.

**alt_ginny** at 2015-02-04 17:57:37  
(no subject)

'I'm here but oh I think it's best if we stop talking to each other even under the lock and also I'm going to send your sister parcels but not you anymore and maybe it would be best if you don't come home for hols.'

That's sure to make him feel supported and loved, yeah.
Yes, well, well done, you.

Remus and Alice also apparently think it's an awful idea, so I'm not going to do it.

They have asked me not to even mention that I had the idea to Ron. Please, may I ask the same promise of you, that you won't tell him, either?

Look for an owl for each of you tomorrow. With shortbread.

(And now I'm off to hold Adam again. And to cry some more.)

He will never hear a WORD about it from me. I will take it to the GRAVE.

And Mum.

I love you.

And so does Ron. Even if he doesn't say it very often.

Ron is welcome to stay with us at Easter if he wants. But we'll wait to tell him that until after Alice and Remus talk to him.

In fact, it might even be a good idea if he could look over our merchandise and give us ideas how it could be weaponised against the regime.
alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:45:37
(no subject)

I think a visit to you during the holidays for that purpose is an excellent idea. But as I've explained to Ginny and Charlie and Bill, I'm not going to do this. And Alice and Remus don't want him told it was even considered. So will you please promise to keep it to yourself?

I'm serious about this, boys. You can't tell him. No joking remarks, I mean it.

alt_gredforge at 2015-02-04 18:46:48
(no subject)

We'll consider silence on the subject a command from our commanding officers. We promise.
Thanks for coming with me to the Hospital Wing last night. I'm feeling much better.

I do wish we could have one Healer again, though, it's so hard to go already but it's worse when you don't know who you're going to get. But anyway, the Healer gave me a week's supply of Dreamless Sleep in case I need it. I'm to try not to use it too much, though.

It's just...there was a boy. Sanji's age. I mean, Sanji's age when he died, you know. And I keep seeing Sanji instead. And I realised I've thought of him more this week than in five years. That's terrible, isn't it.

I dunno. I'm sure it'll go away.

Anyway. I've got the potion now, so I shouldn't have to wake us all up with my whinging.
2015-02-04 08:00:00
Order Only: Private Message to Mum

I'M FINE!

Alright?
2015-02-04 09:04:00
Order Only Private message to Juniors

I'm sorry for my outburst the other day.

I don't really care if people have secrets. It's completely normal, and it's never bothered me before. And sometimes it's absolutely necessary, of course.

I suppose the pressure of everything was just getting to me, but I'm feeling so much better now, and I won't take my foul mood out on any of you again if I can help it.

Also, I generally try not to read people's minds, especially those of my friends, but sometimes it's incredibly difficult not to. For you, it would be the same as trying not to look at someone, or to tune out the sound of their voice. Just for comparison.

alt_ron at 2015-02-04 16:21:19
Private Message to Hydra

No worries, yeah? I mean, you've had one or two reasons to be 'a bit out of sorts', innit?

Not that other people understand that.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-04 16:30:26
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I made Sally Anne cross.

Though it was really Justin I was unhappy with. Well not him, specifically. The situation, more like.

I think other people understand as much as they can. But you can't really, truly understand something unless you've been in the same position.
Sals is fine. Got over it before you finished. I promise.

I mean, just don't beat yourself bloody over it? You had reasons. Whatever exactly they all are. And we don't have to know. And you don't have to do more than say it was a thing, y'know?

You really okay now?

I'm not beating myself over it. I'm fine, really. Apologising was just the right thing to do.

Oh, yes. Mostly.

Are you okay?

I don't know how to answer that, really.

I've been thinking about it all day. I mean, even before you asked. And then you did, and I've been trying to think what to say.

I told my Mum I'm fine. This morning. Because she wrote a private message to everyone else in the family, and obviously she's worrying and wants to know what I've told them, but I haven't actually told any of them anything.

She wrote me. Sunday. But she said she didn't expect I'd answer and I didn't have to if I couldn't. But I mean, I know I should've answered, anyhow. Only, I really don't know what I could tell her. What I could tell her that she'd understand or that I could explain. Especially to her. Because she's my Mum. And because, y'know, I don't want her to know some of it because then it'd
always be there whenever we're together. She'd be thinking about it. And I would, for sure. I just want her to always be Mum. And home to be where the food's excellent, and the twins are mad, and the goats are stubborn, and there's pie, and in the morning there're toast soldiers and eggs, and for Sunday supper there's a roast, maybe, or chicken, or sausage and mash.

Sorry.

Argh. No, I really am sorry. I know it's different for you, and you don't need me to go on and on at you.

I dunno.

I got myself hurt today right at the start of Defence so I wouldn't have to stay. I'm up at the Hospital Wing now, waiting for Healer Spenser to get around to me. Which, it's been, uh, an hour and a quarter and hasn't happened yet. It's not really bad, the boils. Keeping me grounded, I think.

Anywiz. You didn't really want to know all that.

So I'll shut up now.

Cheers.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-04 22:27:39
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I think you have the sort of family who talks all the time and is always wrapped up in everyone's business and that probably feels normal and when things can't be that way, all chatty, everything feels wrong. Well, to your mother, anyway.

It's hard for you to give me any advice, because yes, it is different for me. My mother isn't chatty with me, and neither is Daddy anymore, and neither is Aunt Narcissa. Also I don't even know what toast soldiers and eggs are?

But maybe you don't want advice.

You can tell me whatever you want, though.
alt_ron at 2015-02-05 00:11:31
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I don't think we can probably give each other advice.

But thanks for listening.

alt_draco at 2015-02-04 16:42:02
(no subject)

You call that an outburst?

Please go back in the journals and read one of mine to see how it's done properly.

alt_ron at 2015-02-04 16:44:45
(no subject)

Ha!

Funniest thing I've heard today. Maybe ever.

Sorry. Had to say.

alt_draco at 2015-02-04 16:47:02
(no subject)

You're not wrong.

Thing is, there's something really satisfying about having a good, proper outburst (not some wimpy thing like Hydra's). That's what people don't understand.

Well, you might.

alt_ron at 2015-02-04 16:49:30
(no subject)

Ha.

Yeah. Too right.
What you said.

And Hydra, I'm sure no one was holding a grudge, but it's kind of you to apologise - even if I'm not one of the people your outburst was directed at.

Speaking of... I realise that out of all of us here at the school, my position is probably the easiest. I'm entirely above suspicion (so far, anyway), have been developing connections with our enemies, and yet haven't been required to get my hands dirty, be Cruciated, or anything of that sort.

I'm not sure how that makes the rest of you feel, but I hope it isn't fostering any resentment. The truth is, I would be useless if I had to do what you did. What I'm doing now is what I do best.

Oh, Daphs. Honestly, I feel that way sometimes too. Especially after this weekend.

I'm glad you're doing what you have been, and you're right, it is what you do best.

Yes, I thought you might identify. And perhaps Susan and Luna, as well.

Dirty hands? You've snogged Crouch, so I reckon that evens things out.
@alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 00:44:18
Private message to Draco

That's uncalled for. Particularly if you won't even have the decency to put it behind a PM.

I'm not sure if you're being prudish, jealous, or are simply being guided by your irrational hatred of the man.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-05 00:49:39
Re: Private message to Draco

Irrational hatred, is it. He's a Death Eater, and one of the worst of the lot. I only hope you're not forgetting that.

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 00:52:25
Re: Private message to Draco

You don't hate him because he's a Death Eater, you hate him because he slept with your mother.

I'm sorry that happened and that it hurt you. But I'm not your mother, or your girlfriend, so I don't see what business it is of yours. I do know what I'm doing, believe it or not.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-05 00:57:22
Re: Private message to Draco

Look -

I'm sorry, this is coming out wrong because yes, I associate him with unpleasant memories.

Who you entangle yourself with is your choice, and I'm not prudish, but it worries me that it's Crouch.

Couldn't you seduce Dolohov instead?
The Headmaster?! He's old enough to be my grandfather, I'm sure! And he's very... I don't know. Either homosexual or asexual or simply not of the sexual world (that might be what asexual is, now that I think on it).

The situation with Barty presented itself organically. I didn't seduce him.

"Barty."

Are you 100% certain of that? That it was "organic?"

Seeing as it's my life and I was there for it, yes, I'm 100% certain.

Alright then. I'll drop it.

Small mercies.
@alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 01:29:26
Private Message to Daphne

You're snogging Crouch now?

Isn't that a bit like snogging a vipertooth?

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 01:37:06
Re: Private Message to Daphne

What? No. No it's not like a vipertooth, I mean.

Well, figuratively perhaps.

You're not going to suggest that I seduce Dolohov instead, I hope, because Draco already beat you to it.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 01:40:24
Re: Private Message to Daphne

No, I meant literally. Gross.

And Dolohov would be even grosser!

I mean...I'm sorry, I've obviously not been paying a lot of attention lately. Loads going on here, and my work with Mr Snape, and Mr Lupin's potion, and of course Sherwood.

But, you're not.... It's not like it was with Barney Bole, is it?

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 01:45:50
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Who told you about Barney? Holda, does everyone in Britain know about that?

It's not gross. It's very rather nice, in fact. He is attractive, despite his lack of morality, and Rachel told me she was attracted to Lucius, so it's not as if I'm peculiar or anything.
He isn't like Barney at all, though I can see why you might expect that.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 01:52:34
Re: Private Message to Daphne

We may not have been on speaking terms then, but it's not as if I didn't also live in Slytherin. And it's not as if I don't have experience in that sort of thing, either. Remember Letchley?

Anyway, sorry Draco's also been a pillock to you.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 01:56:39
Re: Private Message to Daphne

I didn't know other people in Slytherin were talking about it, at the time. Naive of me.

It's alright. He apologised himself. I was surprised at his crassness, though, since I was under the impression he had developed some tact and empathy.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 02:04:24
Re: Private Message to Daphne

I didn't say anyone was talking about it. But it wasn't my place, then, to say anything to you, either.

Well, I'm glad he apologised. But you know, he tries to act like his family mean nothing to him anymore, and it's just not ever going to be true. I think navigating relationships--his or anyone else's--is always going to be a little difficult for him.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-04 17:00:52
(no subject)

It's okay, Hydra. Sorry I got cross and shouty back at you.

(Oh and I think Draco's right. It was very satisfying to
yell back. I never used to, because I was too terrified people would stop being my friends. I'll try not to make a habit of it, though.)

Don't worry about it. It's not as if I thought you would stay cross or stop being my friend.

I've hardly ever yelled in my life, but I can see what you mean, yes.

Well, good.

Because you're quite right, you know.

Would you like to meet for tea some time?

Not the entire Teatime of the Strange group, if you didn't feel comfortable with us all. But some of us?

Well most people, including some of the people in the Teatime group, will probably believe I'm there to monitor your activities.

Which might be for the best, I'm not sure.

But yes, I would like to have tea.
Private Message to Hydra

Hydra,

So you do feel better, then? I say, other husbands might think perhaps it's Auror Crouch who's put the spring back into your step, what. Luckily for you I'm not the jealous type.

But seriously, love, is training with him going all right?

-Justin

Re: Private Message to Hydra

No, I felt better before I trained with him last night. We did have a particularly good session, though.

I think he feels affection for me, in his own way. He's my mentor but there's also something there that's...big-brotherly? Which, can you imagine him being that way with anyone? I can't fathom what I've done to inspire that.

I suppose that means it's going well.

Oh. I did tell him that you and I are booking the salle together.

You--er, why, exactly? Just to test whether he'd tell your mother or the Headmaster?

-J

Re: Private Message to Hydra

He won't tell them, I think.

But it was because he'd find out anyway. We're meant to be acting like mates again, right? So why
would we hide something like booking the salle together. It looks strange to be covert.

He did call you my "(ex?) paramour." I told him that yes, we had once dated, but there was no chance of us ever dating again.

alt_justin at 2015-02-05 01:48:20  
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I don't think of it as covert so much as...not anyone's business but our own, what. But you know better than I what he considers his business.

Well, at least if I do hear about it from Professor Dolohov, I'll know how to respond. I'm not sure about never dating again, what, or is it considered entirely bourgeois to date one's own wife?

Speaking of that, though.... Valentine's is a Hogsmeade Day. Perhaps if Daphne tempts him away, he won't wish to monopolise you?

-J

alt_hydra at 2015-02-05 01:53:03  
Re: Private Message to Hydra

We can go out on dates, but doesn't "dating" suggest something more temporary than "married?"

I have a feeling Daphne will be hoping to be with him on Valentine's Day, yes, but I'd feel odd asking her to tempt him away. Let's hope she does it on her own?

alt_justin at 2015-02-05 01:58:59  
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Well, naturally, one wouldn't--I mean to say, it would be bally well impertinent to suggest--confound it, that's not at all what I meant about Daphne!
I only meant that...it's Valentine's Day. There's only one man I want you spending it with.

-J

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-05 02:02:13
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Let's hope for the best, then. We'll steal a moment somewhere, at the very least.

@alt_pansy at 2015-02-04 21:06:56
Private Message to Terry and Hermione

While we're clearing the air, so to speak,

I wanted to make sure you knew

This business I'm running. It's meant that I'm bringing in Muggle and Muggleborn people to do the labour.

I own them.

There's five people right now. There will be a lot more, if this is to go the way it ought.

And I can tell myself all I want that I'll treat them fairly, and that they'll have it better with me than elsewhere, and that I'll eventually let them in on things, but still.

I wanted you both to know. From me, instead of from someone else. And I'm not looking for reassurances that I'm doing the right thing, or that I'm really a good person, because that's rather silly. But I do think it's important that you know, and perhaps when the time comes for me to tell people, you could help me, so I can do as right by them as I can under the circumstances.
@alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 01:31:05
Re: Private Message to Terry and Hermione

Well, that makes sense. I mean, Mr Lupin and Tonks did the same thing when they took in Ellie.

Tim's family were like that, too. I mean, not his real family, but the couple who 'owned' him before they died at the Cup.

Did you think we'd be upset with you?

@alt_pansy at 2015-02-05 02:02:22
Re: Private Message to Terry and Hermione

I honestly didn't know either way, but I figured it'd be best to be open about it.

@alt_pansy at 2015-02-05 02:09:37
Private Message to Hermione

...Terry, yes, to be blunt. I know my timing isn't ideal, but I figure better he know now than think I'd been keeping it from him.

@alt_terry at 2015-02-05 03:49:52
Re: Private Message to Terry and Hermione

I agree with Hermione. Thanks for saying something, though, so there's be no reason to be taken by surprise. And sure, I'd like very much to be there when you tell them.
Order Only: Private message to Alice and Remus

I talked with Remus this morning, and you can see that I've written to all my children except Ron.

The gist of what I told Remus and what I told the children was that I'm going to be deliberately stepping back from Ron, using Sherwood as an excuse. If Ron is going to rise in the Auror ranks, I believe he needs to be seen as breaking with me. It will make Antonin Dolohov and Savitha Desai happy, and more inclined to trust Ron.

Alice, I'm sure that Remus will fill you in on all the details of our conversation.

Private message to Alice

We talked over tea this morning but I wasn't really able to summon up enough coherent thought to suggest this was a bad idea.

Not to make Dolohov and Desai think she's cutting Ron off: that might be clever (I'm not sure, actually) but the way she's going about it. When we were talking this morning, I assumed she and Ron had talked about it, but I don't think that's the case.

Molly, I was coming off my transformation this morning and thus not really up to a real conversation about it. So -- let me just clarify something. Have you discussed this with Ron at all?
I have not.

Ginny has just scolded rounded me about that. I thought it would be best if I didn't, you see, that if it was conveyed secondhand, it would let him off the hook, that he wouldn't have to tell me that he wants me out of his life. Because he hasn't been talking to me, not just before Sherwood, but for months, ever since he started this Auror internship, so I had become convinced that it would be what would help him the most.

But I will tell him myself--no, discuss it with him, if you and Alice think it best.

Oh, Merlin, I've totally lost any sense of how to approach him anymore. But again, if you think it's the best thing for him, I will...I will present it as an idea. Not a fiat. And I'll give him the opportunity to veto it. If he wants.

Molly, don't take this the wrong way -- I still have a headache but, did your other sons never quit talking to you? Other than Percy. I mean -- Bill, Charlie, the Twins? When they were seventeen?

I didn't have much to say to my parents around that time in my life and we got on rather well, all things considered. Admittedly, we weren't all in a secret organisation that was requiring me to do horrifying things.

I'm sorry I dumped this in your lap right after your transformation.

Well, yes, they didn't have much to say to me, but they did still talk with Arthur, you see.
Which is probably why I'm all at sea with Ron, and making every kind of mistake possible. Arthur was always so much better with the boys.

@alt_alice at 2015-02-04 18:13:14
(no subject)

I can see how this has been a truly difficult time for you, Molly.

You know what my boggart was. There is so very much to be conflicted and worried over.

I've been staying up nights thinking about the people we've asked to do the hardest work of all of us, and how we might best support them.

I believe that cutting off all communication -- public and private -- would be a grave mistake. I believe that it would send a message to Ron that you do not intend. And that now, more than ever, these three young people especially need to know that what they are doing is for a purpose, a greater purpose that is worth the terrible sacrifices they are making, and that they are loved unconditionally. They are doing this for so many reasons -- for a larger moral purpose, yes, but also for the people they love.

I can see what you're trying to do, Molly. It comes from a good place. But he needs you, dearest. Remus is right -- teenagers have a way of pushing against one under the very best of circumstances, and now is not the time to pull back. You must be the adult, here, and not take his very real anger and distress personally.

Justin had a point -- he said it was all very raw, and that they needed time to process what happened. I don't think it is fair to weigh Ron's lack of response as having some greater meaning, other than the fact that he is hurting, and sad, and struggling mightily with what he has been ordered to do. Imagine, Molly. He believes with every fibre of his being that what he's done is an abomination.

He needs your steadiness, he needs your love, and he needs to know that you love him. Often.
And you need to trust his instincts, as well.

I would ask you to not write Ron to tell him you are considering cutting him off. Not so soon after he's been put in such a state. He has so many voices on the other side of things praising him. I would not have them trying to fill the rather enormous void you would have left in your wake with a false, seductive love that would make his life even more difficult, and would make him conflicted for all the wrong reasons.

alt_alice at 2015-02-04 18:18:30
(no subject)

Terry went through a rough patch when Neville was taken from us.

And all I wanted, more than anything, was to hold the children I had left to me close. I needed him. Like I needed air.

But he needed space, he needed distance, and I couldn't be selfish. What he needed was important, and necessary for his own well-being. And it took time, but when he was ready, he knew he was welcome.

alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:23:25
(no subject)

Very well, Alice. And Remus. I thought it for the best, but since the Order leadership and my family have assured me it's not, I will abandon the plan and not say anything to Ron about it.

I'm sorry.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-04 18:25:44
(no subject)

Molly, this must be so hard for you.

Do you want to come round again later? I promise I'm more awake now than I was this morning.
Sirius views Justin as -- not quite a son. But you know, he's the one who got him into all this. And there are days that haunts him.

alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:27:58  
(no subject)  
I feel like a total fool now.  

Yes, I would like to come around again later.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-04 18:26:25  
(no subject)  
In addition to tea and sympathy (and firewhiskey), we've got a baby.

alt_molly at 2015-02-04 18:28:23  
(no subject)  
I do need to hold him, as long as Tonks can spare him.

alt_alice at 2015-02-04 18:29:05  
(no subject)  
I think that would be a lovely idea.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-04 18:32:39  
(no subject)  
Babies are so easy. Mind you, I didn't feel that way when we were up all night with Bea. But babies, you can hold them, and feed them, and tell them how much you love them, and that's all very simple, in its own way.  

We rather have some teenagers now -- technically Hermione and Draco are adults and not ours, but some days that's a
rather thin technicality -- to go with our babies and give us perspective.

Think about this, Molly: if we can turn things around, Adam could grow up in a world where Voldemort is a dim memory and he can't remember Death Eaters ever being the object of respect and fear instead of contempt and sorrow.

That's the world we're trying to make. All of us.

---

**alt_alice** at 2015-02-04 18:27:19  
*(no subject)*

And I know you're questioning everything right now. There have been so many times I've mis-stepped as a parent. So many things I wish I'd said.

The best we can do is recognise that we're human, ask for forgiveness, and keep trying. But love is so deeply important. It's the most powerful weapon we have. Don't hold it back. Even as a public gesture.

Give it some time. Once things are a little less raw, ask him what he needs most from you, and listen to him.

---

**alt_molly** at 2015-02-04 18:29:49  
*Private message to Alice*

Ginny's right.

I probably wouldn't have talked myself into thinking it was necessary if I still had Arthur here to advise me.

Please...at least do you understand my reasons? I didn't conceive of this plan because I'm rejecting Ron, or because I can't forgive him. Do you believe me?
I know, love.

Of course you can forgive him.

This is undoubtedly the hardest thing he has been asked to do, and most likely ranks right up there for you as well, simply having to sit by and watch it. It is messy, it is horrible, and there are no clear solutions or choices. I can see why you'd be grasping at straws to find something, anything you could do.

Just not this, dearest.

I need to talk to you today about the message Sirius got from Kingsley a few nights ago. He's having quite a bit of trouble with what Justin, Ron and Hydra are being asked to do.

I'm not sure if this is ultimately coming from the same visceral place but I do think it's the very last thing Ron needs.

Frankly I think it might be best to invoke our authority as leaders of the Order, and tell Molly to drop this idea. Completely. Don't even discuss it with Ron, just drop it.

But it's the morning after, it was an extremely rough night, and I may not be thinking clearly.

Merlin above.

Fully agreed. Yes. I'll see what I can do.
I have documented magical reasons for losing my mind during the Full Moon, so I'm not sure what everyone else's excuse is. For Merlin's SAKE, Molly. What's next?
2015-02-04 14:57:00
Order Only - Private message to Juniors

We've finished up the broadside that has my footage of the events at Ollerton. I've just dropped a big stack of them in the colocation box at the Hogsmeade safehouse.

Harry, if you grab them and distribute them while wearing your cloak, I reckon everyone should have seen the broadside - or at least heard about it - by the time supper's over.

Ron, sorry mate, but one of the images shows about half of you in profile, if only for a split second. We tried to edit it out but it would have buggered up the shot of Desai and those two kids. The brother and sister.

alt_draco at 2015-02-04 23:18:11
Private message to Harry

I should mention that I've got the safehouse all kitted out. Cleaned up some of the furnishings, added some cozy touches, or whatever you want to call them. And there's a kettle and the one cabinet has some decent biscuits and tea. Plus the requisite bottle of firewhiskey. So if you and the lads ever want to meet up some night, we could do.

I've ended things with Sarah, so I've got more free time now than I did.
alt_harry at 2015-02-04 23:51:53
Re: Private message to Harry

That would be brilliant. To see you, I mean, not that you've ended things with Sarah. (Sorry.)

I don't know if we can get away without Dolohov knowing. Except, we've a Hogsmeade weekend coming up. I could meet you there instead of going to the Three Broomsticks.

alt_ron at 2015-02-04 22:12:29
Private Message to Draco

I don't remember which kids you mean.

That's-

Mordred.

alt_draco at 2015-02-04 22:54:18
Re: Private Message to Draco

Do you mean you don't remember seeing them, or you've blocked it out?

Or that there were just a lot of kids?

alt_ron at 2015-02-04 23:00:48
Re: Private Message to Draco

There were. A lot of them.

And I thought I'd remember all of it forever. I dream about it. I see bits of it

Nevermind.

But you said it like I should know, and I don't.
Expect I will when I see the pamphlet.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-04 23:14:53
Re: Private Message to Draco

Yeah, I suppose there were a lot of them.

I've viewed the footage several times, so it only makes sense that I'm remembering everything differently than you are. I was far away, too. The omniocular lense, they create a barrier, of sorts. It didn't feel like what I was seeing was quite real. Still doesn't.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-04 23:23:54
Re: Private Message to Draco

Didn't feel real up close, either. It just-

AK, it's just... done. One moment, they're alive and the next, they're not. Like petrificus, y'know, but without the jerking of freezing up. I mean, then they posed them or posed them first, so that was part of it, but not what I mean. It's just. You don't see them die, even. Not really. Not like if someone's bleeding out or screaming in pain and then they stop. Or unconscious and breathing and it slows and then stops. With this it's just Alive/Not. And-

It just felt like it should be easy to turn it back, but

you can't

@alt_draco at 2015-02-04 23:40:30
Re: Private Message to Draco

Yeah, it's seriously fucked. Who's the mad Ravenclaw who invented that one? And did they think they were coming up with some merciful way to kill people, instead of something that would become standard use by today's MLE?

When I killed Teddy I used one of Snape's spells. His body just
split open and the life bled right out of him. Which is what he deserved.

You did kill those people. They're gone and there's no way around it. But we're all going to end up in the same boat when this is all said and done, and that boat's called the madhouse. But hey, at least the company will be alright?

Sorry.

You're probably in a bad space. I've been there. For different reasons, but yeah.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-02-05 00:14:07
Re: Private Message to Draco

Yeah.

We'll all just be dormitory mates in some madhouse. But maybe by then we won't mind.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-02-04 22:13:21
(no subject)

S'okay.

---

@alt_harry at 2015-02-04 23:49:30
(no subject)

I left them in every House, everywhere I could think of. (That I could get to.)

People are reading. I saw people looking at them on my way out of Hufflepuff.
They're all over Ravenclaw Tower--don't worry, I took care not to be seen, but Artie and I made sure they could be found in both the boys' and the girls' areas. And I made sure there are a good number scattered here and there throughout the library. I tucked some in the assigned books for this term for Noble Arts. I also put one right in the middle of the table where Ravenclaw Corner usually meets, when no one was there.

Daphne, what about making sure some are put in the Prefects' bathroom?

And I think they're very effective. The pamphlets. Draco, thank you for taking the pictures, even if it must have been difficult, and thank whoever designed the layout, too.

They're being distributed in other places than Hogwarts, aren't they?

I'm sorry, but I can't risk being seen with those - unless I'm collecting them to be binned. If someone else wants to see that they get into the Prefects' bathroom that's fine.

Of course. I didn't mean that you should do it, because you're right. But I just wondered whether it might be an effective place to put them? Because I can imagine that all of the prefects will make a point of burning them or binning them, where they can be seen by other students. But if they have an opportunity for privacy in the
Prefects' bathroom, might one or two take the opportunity to read it? Or if they don't feel safe to do it there, they might slip it into a book bag or their robe to peruse later?

@alt_luna at 2015-02-05 02:03:29
(no subject)

Anyway, I hope one of the Prefects tries. If you think it might help.

@alt_ginny at 2015-02-05 04:49:55
(no subject)

I'll do it.

@alt_ginny at 2015-02-05 04:50:40
(no subject)

Plus I'm going to show one to Moon. Just so he knows what to look for, of course.

@alt_frank at 2015-02-05 03:56:34
(no subject)

(I say, Draco, well done. We've been dropping them off in various locations all day. I blanketed my designated area of New London with them, and I know at least a dozen other people who are doing the same all over.)
2015-02-04 15:45:00
Order Only: Private message to Molly Weasley

Congratulations on your first grandchild, Molly.

I haven't been over to meet the sprog yet, but I'm hoping I'll be able to get over with Bill sometime this week or next.

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alt_molly at 2015-02-05 01:21:37
(no subject)

I've spent a good part of the afternoon rocking him (or jealously watching Tonks as she feeds him and rocks him), and I'm proud enough of him to bust. I can't wait to show him off to everyone. Charlie has taken to caring for him like an old pro, which makes me even prouder.

You know that Charlie said he looks like a Weasley, right? I was thinking today his knees just like Bill's when he was a baby. There's a wee dimple on the same spot, on each knee.

Perhaps if we're all over there at the same time, I can pull out one of my old photograph albums to prove it. (Of course, Bill would rather die than have you see some of those pictures--some of which include dire events involving things like nappies. Or messy bowls of food being dumped over one's head. I can just hear the twins in my head saying, 'What an ideal blackmail opportunity!')

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alt_rachel at 2015-02-05 02:49:13
(no subject)

I love looking at people's pictures from when they were babies. It's always fascinating to see the pieces of them you can recognise all those years ago. The smile, or the hair, or the expression.
Well, I could pull out some of the least embarrassing for you to see. And I can describe the more embarrassing ones to you, if you want to tease him a little!

It's strange. All my children are of age, except Ginny, and she's close. But the years seem to have flown by in a mere finger snap. I have to keep reminding myself that they're grown, and ready to make their own decisions.

Honestly, I'm really not very good at that. Sometimes that's when I miss Arthur the most. He was always mindful that they needed to prepare themselves for a larger world, while I was often too eager to tie them to my apron strings, and he was very good at coaxing me to lessen my grip when needed. Without him at my side, I've been at times terribly clumsy, I'm afraid, at getting the balance right.

Are there many pictures of you as a little girl?

Unfortunately, my Mum has just a few from before I was ten. When my parents were killed, the house was set on fire, and everything in it was lost. (Fortunately, I wasn't there at the time; they sent me to stay with my aunt and uncle after the incident with Dolohov.)

There's a rather rare charm I know, and I taught it to Arthur. If you read back on the old journal entries about collecting the babies for Moddey Doo, Arthur described using a variation of the spell for Agram's parents. They had lost their two little girls to an epidemic, and he took muggle photograph that they had and advanced it twenty years so they could see what the girls would
Anyway, the charm can be run in reverse. You would take a photograph of you now, and apply the opposite variation, and it would show you what you looked like as a little girl, or even a baby. It's not permanent; it lasts only ten minutes or so. But I would be very happy to teach it to you, if you were curious.

And I'm so sorry, of course, that you lost your parents, and your home. I certainly wouldn't want to give you pain with my suggestion. My hope was rather that it might help fill in missing pieces from your past.

If that would help?

Oh, how interesting. I've seen the age-advancing charm in action a few times but I'd never realised there was a reverse variation. Yes, thank you, I would find that quite interesting.

As for my home...I'm just grateful to have had two sets of parents who loved me. It could have been a great deal worse.

You're right, you were lucky in that respect. (I think of Luna Lovegood, for example, whom Arthur and very much wanted to adopt, but we were not allowed to. The dear girl doesn't complain, but her present family I wouldn't call loving at all.)

Very well, I'll be happy to show you both variations of the charm the next time I see you.
2015-02-04 16:15:00
Private Message to B Lestrange

Just out of a meeting with PDef (Rowle, Wreston, and Towle) and DoM (Rookwood and Myres).

Know all we're going to for now about that F-zone.

Dammit.

Did have an encouraging session with Hydra last evening. Doing rather better than you'd led me to expect with your description of Sunday's mediocre showing.

Put her through more than her usual paces.

alt_bellatrix at 2015-02-04 23:33:46
(no subject)

Nothing new, truly? An unappealing prospect.

As for Hydra, perhaps my assessment - which was accurate - prompted you to lower your expectations more than would be typical.

Another possibility is that she has enchanted you with whatever charms she has wrought on her father, her aunt, her grandmother, and all others who feel compelled to indulge her in taking the easiest, rosiest path in life. I should have thought you immune to such things.

Or, if she has truly earned your encouragement, perhaps I should visit the school myself and see what's changed since Sunday.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-05 03:22:52
(no subject)

Apologies.

Expect you know by now what has pulled me away
Rowle and Mulciber came to wandspoint in the corridor outside. Rowle left our meeting to find the Ministry littered with Ollerton leaflets.

Have you seen this masterwork?

Damn.

Mulciber, again.

Yes, they've already been brought to my attention. Suppose it's too much to hope that Rowle left Mulciber dead.

No, both still alive. The corridor is full of rubble and the north lift has been blasted out of its housing.

Attempting to ignore their nonsense.

Travers reports leaflets at St Mungo's and in the parks.

I've just spoken with Mafalda to put notice out that anyone seen distributing leaflets be arrested for questioning.

Assembling patrols to make rounds in New London, concentrating on the most populated boroughs.
Private message to Padma Patil and Antonin Dolohov

Sir, a little while ago one of my house mates brought me a pamphlet that had been left behind in the Gryffindor boys' bathroom. It's full of pictures. From Sunday. Ollerton. Your face is in it, mine, Padma's, Auror Crouch and Auror Lestrange, Professor Desai and Professor Glozeman. Weasley's in it too, but from the side.

I don't know how this is even possible

I don't think this is the only copy.

If you see one just burn it, okay? Don't go looking for your picture.

Okay.

Why, do I look awful?

I mean, oh Rama. What a horrible thing to say.

So, is there a picture of you, too? Or--never mind. I guess I don't want to know.
No, it's not that. We're both in there, along with a lot of pictures from Ollerton.

You don't look awful, you look -- fierce, I guess. Just, looking at the pictures is pretty gruesome. On Sunday, I was just rather focused on getting the work done so I could get back to the school and take a nap. Seeing the pictures -- well.

Of course, the week did lack only that.

Confiscate what you can, and bring me a copy or two so I can turn it over to Barty -- there may be something in the angles of the photographs that can lead to information about the source.
THOSE PAMPHLETS ARE REAL, AREN'T THEY?
Yes. The village was Ollerton. They even killed the children.
Private message to Hogwarts prefects and Head Boy and Head Girl

Apparently there is a pamphlet circulating around the school. Confiscate what copies you can find, please, and bring them to me for destruction.

Of course, sir.

Yes, sir.
2015-02-04 21:45:00
Private message to Linus Moon

Those pamphlets we're supposed to be confiscating, have you seen one?

alt_ginny

2015-02-05 03:52:56
(no subject)

I have not. Either there aren't very many of them, or people are amusing themselves by hiding them from me.

Have you? If so, I would appreciate it if you could show me one, as searching for something whose particulars I do not know is rather... frustrating, to say the least.

alt_linus

2015-02-05 04:42:36
(no subject)

Oh, sure. I just found another one, would you like me to show it to you before I give it to the Headmaster, so you'll know what to look for?

It's pictures from a little village named Ollerton. A lot of people were killed there on Sunday.

alt_linus

2015-02-05 04:56:16
(no subject)

Ollerton. Ah. As it happens, I was monitoring the radio broadcasts Sunday -- strictly to be prepared in case any of the younger students were frightened by whatever tales were being put about, of course.

Yes, do show me before you turn it in. I'm on rounds, and I'm in the corridor near the Prefects' bathroom at present. Could you bring it to me?
I'll just give it to you and you can bring it to Dolohov with any others you find, does that sound reasonable?

And good thought on the wireless broadcasts. I know the younger students in Gryffindor were thoroughly worried.

(It looks as if they've done their best to confiscate all the wireless sets, but I imagine that with the next crisis we'll find out there's another dozen of them stashed around the school. Or people will rumour-monger with the journals. Really, things like this always get out one way or another.)
2015-02-04 22:06:00
Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

I was just thinking a little more about your business and all.

I will say that Sirius and Mr Lupin and Tonks made certain of Ellie before they told her. Because there's the strong possibility that the muggles or muggleborn that they've sent you to work for you have been promised things if they turn in anyone who's not behaving properly. Properly for the Protectorate, that is.

So before you make any announcements, be sure that they haven't been planted by someone in the camps or the Ministry.

Sirius hung around Ellie as a dog and got a sense of her that way. Maybe Terry could do the same?

---

alt_pansy at 2015-02-05 05:06:46
(no subject)

Yes. That's a good idea.

It's tricky trying to pull this off from a distance. Having someone else keep an eye on things would be very useful.

I've been thinking of asking Mrs L to just bring Sloper and Towler in, so communication will be easier. I can send things through Pig, of course, but it's still an enormous risk.
2015-02-04 22:07:00
Order Only: Private Message to Draco

We should talk to the goblin at Moddey. What's his name? Ragnok. Ragnik.

About the bank, I mean.

alt_hermione

alt_draco at 2015-02-05 04:13:02
(no subject)

Yeah, alright. Isn't he like a kid or something, by goblin standards? Despite having that ancient, wizened face.

Do you reckon they'll give us Bellatrix's hair for this, though?

alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 04:22:48
(no subject)

He's young but we have to start somewhere. Maybe he can get us an introduction to an uncle or something.

And as for the hair.... I don't know what else we'd use it for. I can't think of anything more important, except maybe to save it until we're ready to kill Voldemort himself. But we've got enough people who can get to him, if it comes to that. Or we should be able to draw him out if we need to. I don't know. Anyway, it depends on who has it at present. I think Rachel may have already given it to Mrs Longbottom, I can't imagine she's walking round with it in her briefcase or anything like that. But I'm sure we could talk to her or Mr Lupin and explain why we need it.

alt_draco at 2015-02-05 04:26:27
(no subject)

Okay, using it for polyjuice is one thing, but who in the Order is actually capable of impersonating Bellatrix Lestrange? Hydra, possibly.

Or me.
Well, you could. But we only have to fool goblins. And whomever's in the bank at the time. It's not like we'd be going to the Ministry.

But we do need to find out which vault is hers, and maybe get her key. Unless the goblins can help us with that.

Could ask Hydra about the vault?

Anyway, when do you want to talk to Ragnik? I could do as soon as tomorrow, but I don't know whether you have plans with Tim or not.

I don't know if we can just go up to him and start asking questions. Goblins are extraordinarily touchy, I think. But we could start going to Moddey tomorrow and find ways to...be in the same place as he is, so he can get used to us.

I don't have plans. I mean, Tim's there, so I'll see him, I'm sure, if we go. But, he's been working hard right now.

Be in the same place? So he can get used to the smell of us on the air? Bloody nightshade, goblins. Well, alright.

Tomorrow, then.

By the way, what'd you talk about with Daphs in the PMs?
@alt_hermione at 2015-02-05 05:11:28
(no subject)

How we agree you're a pillock and a nosy-parker.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-05 05:13:13
(no subject)

Yes, but I'm also very good looking. So what's your point?

Whatever. She'd just better not fall for him, for her own sake.
Dear Mum --
We got your parcels at breakfast. Thanks for the biscuits and note! Classes and everything are going fine.
love, Ginny

And thank you especially for the picture of my new nephew, he is BEAUTIFUL.

Looks just like me!
Means he's going to be brilliant.

He does, actually! Just like. I hope Tonks isn't too put out that the Sorting Hat's already decided Adam's a Gryffindor.

I brought my photo album over when I was visiting Tonks and Adam. And just as I turned to one particular picture of Ron, Adam made exactly the same face, a thunderous frown with the lower lip sticking out. It sent us into gales of laughter; we laughed so hard that Tonks almost choked on her tea and Sirius came up to see what all the noise was about.

But usually, he's much happier! He is simply adorable, and I can't wait for you both to meet him.
Wish were home. Then we could meet him, and come to the meeting on Saturday.

And you could stuff us full of pie, and life would be good!

Of course he is. Just like you.

It's my standard security charm dear, of course, so only you can see the sketch. So you needn't worry about keeping it, perhaps laying casually on the corner of your desk.

Isn't he, though? Charlie is just about bursting with pride.

And Ginny? Thank you. For yesterday.

Sometimes grief makes the strangest things--even terrible things--seem to make sense.

I'm sorry.

Yeah, thanks, Mum!

Both my favourites!
It was really nice of you.

@alt_molly at 2015-02-06 02:10:55
(no subject)

Well, you know I love to cook. *Especially* for my own children. And I know you have had a particularly difficult week..

@alt_molly at 2015-02-06 02:15:31
Private message to Ron

Mercy, I write that, and it seems like the most ridiculously understated observation I could make.

I dreamed last night that you were flying around the quidditch pitch. Just doing laps like you used to do over the orchard at home. I always thought that you found it calming, somehow.

The dream made me hopeful, that you'll keep your equilibrium, despite everything. I hope you have something that can give you the same kind of peace now.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-06 04:47:49
Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks, Mum.

Yeah. I wish they hadn't cancelled Quidditch, or that we were even allowed to practise. I expect it's time to see if anyone wants to go out and fly around the grounds. Maybe tomorrow afternoon. Shame the weather's been so crap.

It'll be alright, Mum. Really.

Especially if you keep sending biscuits.
2015-02-05 12:59:00
Private Message to D Greengrass

Have been thinking about you.

alt_crouch_jr

---

alt_daphne at 2015-02-05 21:17:08
(no subject)

Good things, I hope. Or if not that, bad things that are good.

Thank you for the scarf. It's lovely. Highly thoughtful, too.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-06 05:08:04
(no subject)

Bad and good are so overused, they scarcely signify anymore.

Let's say instead savoury things that are also sweet.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-06 05:13:22
(no subject)

I see the parallel and I agree with it.

I hope you know that I'll have to send you a gift, now. It's a unwavering trait of mine that I respond to gifts with more gifts instead of just thank you notes. (This creates an un-ending cycle at times, depending on who the gift comes from).

But I won't send it right away. I'll wait to surprise you.
alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-06 05:21:44
(no subject)

I'll take that under advisement.
And respond to it as a challenge.

I like you, Daphne Greengrass.
Rather a lot.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-06 05:33:01
(no subject)

I wondered if you would to respond to it as a challenge, and I look forward to seeing how that plays out.

Do you like many people? I expect you may not. Do you tell them, when you do?

I'm inclined to write something in response that uses more words than is necessary, as I'm prone to, but maybe it's better to say that I do like you, as well, and also rather a lot. (Barty Crouch Jr.)

I meant what I said on Tuesday night. You must have believed me.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-06 05:41:44
(no subject)

That you want to broaden your experience?

Suppose we'll see if there's really nothing you won't try...

But not all at once. Would like you to continue enjoying yourself, for one thing.

Do I like many people? Hm. Not in this way, no. Though you read the papers, so you know there've been no shortage of experiments to test that proposition.
Hyperbole - I am prone to it. At some moments more than others.

I suppose it's as I told you: knowing something in theory is simply no substitute for knowing something in person. The same holds true for any other form of training, does it not?

Ha, yes, I do know. That's but a small part of what makes you a worthy tutor.

More than one challenge there.

I'll take up the task of seeing if we can't find some experience for which there's no hyperbole possible.

And in the meantime, we'll aim for the things that earn that particular gasp of yours.

To not have to resort to hyperbole for once? Well, that would be something else.

To the meantime, then.

Goodnight, Barty.
Mm. Yes.

To vivid dreams.
How many nights in a row is it okay to take Dreamless Sleep? We have a different Healer every day and they're all really generous with the sleeping potions. I've been trying not to take it but last night I dreamed I was back in Ollerton and one of the prisoners was Charlie Weasley. (I think it was Charlie rather than anyone else because of course I've been thinking about Adam and Nicole. Isn't it funny that Ron got a nephew and I got a sister on the same day? Anyway in the dream I wanted to try to take a message from Charlie back to Tonks only he couldn't. It was a really awful dream.)

I don't know if Ron and Justin and Hydra have been asking for it. I do know Padma left with a week's worth the other night, though.

Ah, my dear.

You know that the answer to that question is not the one you wish. You should not take it more than two nights in a row, nor more than three nights in seven, nor more than six in thirty.

It is not only habit forming, but inclines one to waking hallucinations. Waking dreams.

Are the Healers offering you no alternatives? If not, then I'm afraid I must counsel you to face down your nighttime dreams, perhaps with the help of Professor Dolohov's meditation techniques. This circumstance is one in which those skills may prove their use.
Last night's Healer suggested firewhiskey instead. I think that was a joke, though. Sort of.

Anyway. I know you're right. I'll try meditating, that's a good idea.

I've only just had a thought.

I could, perhaps, send you one of the easing draughts via Mr Malfoy's colocation boxes. If you wish, I could make the trip to Hogsmeade tonight.

Do you have access to the paired box?

Oh, yeah, it's in the secret room. I could go up there. Can you send enough for the others, too? I know Ron has been having trouble sleeping. He hasn't been taking potions at all but he might use this, maybe?

Yes.

Is there anything else you're needing?

We're out of all sorts of things in the Hospital Wing, but if I suddenly have a supply that would be extremely suspicious, so people will just have to get by without until St Mungo's sends more.
A wise thought.

I do happen to have a generous stock of medicinal chocolate on hand, however, that I will include for you. That you can pretend Miss Parkinson has ordered in, perhaps.

Oh, yes. THAT won't be suspicious in the least.

Sleep-Easy's out everywhere, I think there was a shortage all over the Protectorate that started -- you know, I think it was probably after the Triumph. So St Mungo's has someone brewing it, but I think there's something off with some of the ingredients because I did try it one night and I felt horribly sick to my stomach the next morning, and other people have complained about the same thing.

Mind's Ease is a little easier to get, but that just means they're getting SOME in that's not complete rubbish. And, they don't have very much, and I've been telling our rotating Healers that they need to just set it all aside for the students with severe anxiety. I gave them a list of names of people who should get it -- it's those two firsties in Gryffindor plus some OWL students. They don't actually need it every day but when they DO need it, it really has to be there. And they've needed it a lot this past week, anyway!

They have Rest Easy on the shelf but it doesn't work very well for me, I don't know why. (And they're out of that too most nights, anyway.)

There's loads of Dreamless Sleep because that one's easier to
brew. I've been trying to track who's taking it, but they gave Padma Patil an entire week's worth the other evening. I know Ron's not using it and I don't think Hydra or Justin is, either.

Anyway, if you have Sleep Easy or Mind's Ease or even just Small Mercies (which no one from St M's has ever heard of -- I thought about trying to brew it myself but I haven't had time. You know, I should ask Pansy to make it this weekend, she could do it, she just needs the instructions. Unless it calls for anything unusual but it's just native herbs, isn't it?)

Small Mercies uses native herbs, yes.

I'll include the instructions in my parcel for you and those ingredients I have to hand.

There. You may retrieve your parcel whenever it's convenient.

I had a thought when I arrived here in Hogsmeade. You've a Saturday in the village coming up, do you not? We could meet here in the safehouse if you wished.

I should like to see you for myself, and if it would help, I'd be pleased to discuss whatever matters are weighing on you.

I do realise it will be your Valentine's celebration, and I would certainly not wish to cause any awkwardness.
Oh, I haven't even thought that far ahead.

I'll think about it. I wish I could come to the meeting this weekend.
With recent revelations and events, it's necessary that we get together as many people as possible for a meeting this Sunday at Grimmauld. We'll be discussing Peter Pettigrew, the latest Horcrux intelligence, the current state of our allies, Sherwood moving forward, and will be laying out a more detailed version of the plan we hope to launch in September, among other things.

There's one person that we'll want feedback on before the meeting -- Maghnus Derrick. Remus and I are both inclined to swear him in as a full member, and have him come along to the meeting to meet everyone. There are some of you who have quite a lot more to lose -- those of you who are living publicly, and especially those in sensitive positions, may have greater (and valid!) concerns about bringing him into the fold. He has taken a Vow and passed muster with Severus, but if you would prefer he function as a second-tier agent without access to the Order lock nor knowledge of its members beyond what he already knows, please speak up so that we can either address your concerns, or modify our planned approach.

If anyone has anything else to add to the agenda, please speak up.

It is unfortunate that those of you at Hogwarts will be unable to attend -- we will of course take into account anything you think needs discussing, provide an accounting of the meeting, and will ask you for further input if needed after we're finished. I'm hoping we'll get the chance to meet as an entire group over Easter, but there are so many things that simply cannot wait until then.

---

Naturally, our 'informal conversation' beforehand that needn't be reflected in the minutes. But I am hoping that Draco particularly will be able to provide a good perspective to things. Do you think you'll get the chance to talk to him beforehand? (I have no doubt that he and Hermione will pass things along, but if handled appropriately, it shouldn't be a concern.)
I might try to bend Kingsley's ear a bit on Saturday, too.

alt_lupin at 2015-02-06 04:55:06
Re: Private Message to Remus

We could invite Kingsley a little earlier.

alt_alice at 2015-02-06 05:25:45
Re: Private Message to Remus

Yes. I think a united front would help.

Just talking over the journals with Molly wore me clean through.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-06 03:47:04
(no subject)

I think if Maghnus is going to be a full member, he shouldn't be any different from Mr Snape or Mr Macnair, or any other Councilwizard who has joined us. But, I think most people don't know him yet, at all, since he's been at Saltash almost since we took him from Azkaban, and even people who knew him at school might not recognise him anymore. I guess on the whole I'd be more inclined to keep him on the second tier, on a trial of sorts, and gradually introduce him to the Order members. But if he's sworn a Vow then it seems distrustful not to bring him in all the way. So I could see it either way.

alt_poppy at 2015-02-06 04:19:12
(no subject)

Regarding Mr Derrick.

Do we have reason to think his judgement any better than it was whilst he was in school?
@alt_lupin at 2015-02-06 04:53:50
(no subject)

Well, he did help kill Voldemort. (Though the bastard didn't stay dead.) That's evidence for some judgment, at any rate.

@alt_cedric at 2015-02-06 04:52:09
(no subject)

I'd like to discuss acquiring more brooms. They were very useful at Sherwood for moving people around, particularly once visibility was limited and short range apparition became problematic.

I see problems with purchasing them legitimately. Cost and paper trail mostly.

Do we know what happened to Firebolt's factory after Freed's arrest? Did one of the other companies take it over or is it abandoned? We might be able to scavenge a number there if it hasn't been too picked over yet.

Alternately, I know the basic security procedures at every pitch in the country. A fair number of Quidditch brooms could be quickly burgled from a few different teams. After the first few get reported though it would get much harder as people change things.

Susan, and the other Cannons fans here, please forgive me for suggesting this, but there some serious security flaws at the practice pitch and a few of us could entirely clean out their broom cabinets. Their procedures for making sure the brooms haven't been tampered with are excellent, but those procedures wouldn't prevent us from getting in and taking them. If we don't go this route, Susan, I'd be happy to talk with you about what I've realized, if you want to point your father in their direction.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-06 05:13:25
(no subject)

Draco could use the cloak again.
There's no way the Firebolt factory hasn't been scraped clean of anything but a few spare twigs.

Snatching them from the pro teams is an idea to think about, though. Mind, they wouldn't be top quality, just your basic practice brooms. I can't fathom any pro worth a knut keeping his Firebolt at the pitch.

Yes. These would all be the practice brooms, but often that means they were the team's brooms a few years ago. So they're still top of the line, just well used and slightly older.

If we do go after the Cannons's brooms, it's going to be relatively obvious that it was someone connected with the team. We can get more there but that's means using passchars that only an employee or recently former employee would know. These aren't the ones changed regularly, which is why we could only have gotten to the team's brooms right before a match and immediately after I fled. These are the ones that are changed annually, at best.

That it's an inside job would mean we should discuss security concerns for my cover story and make sure that we time it for when Martin has a solid alibi. Or choose the safer route and leave them totally off the list.

I don't have too much of an issue with Derrick. He did some monumentally stupid things while he was in school, from what I can remember, but that means I think taking him fully in would work better than
having him out on his own. I think he could use the support.

Speaking of, though, I'd like to raise the possibility of inducting Towler and Sloper. They've done an excellent job keeping their mouths shut, and are fully on board with the idea of passing along tonnes of food to people who need it, even if they have no idea who the people are (not that they don't have suspicions, they just know not to ask).
Hullo,

What are you doing? Are you working on something for Dolohov? Or doing homework? And do you know if you'll be done soon?

I think we should meet somewhere. Because honestly, I can't think of a single person in the castle who would dare report us. We'd have to be caught by Dolohov himself, or one of the other professors, for it to matter.

So. When will you be finished, then?

---

Hydra,

I say, are you sure? I should be down within fifteen minutes, what, but...we'll need to fully ward any place we use and--and Professor Dolohov does have ways to see where people are. If he should happen to look, we wouldn't need to be caught in person.

And I mean to say, it's not you whom your mother will murder.

-Justin

---

So we'll go the salle? We'd have no reason not to be there together.

No one's going to murder you. I promise.

Oh, and could you please take a shower first. And shave.
alt_justin at 2015-02-06 04:54:46
(no subject)

No reason but curfew, what.

I say, what's this about showering? This is going to be risky enough without going back to the set and then sneaking out again. I could run a quick shaving charm--you've never said my stubble bothered you, love. I say, too scratchy? I ought to have asked before trying to grow it in.

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-06 04:57:22
(no subject)

Well, at least do the shaving charm. Normally I don't mind the scruff but I'd prefer it gone at least for tonight.

Sorry, would you rather not? You didn't seem opposed to the idea the other night when I was too tired and stroppy.

alt_justin at 2015-02-06 05:02:36
(no subject)

No, I don't mind--obviously, I'd like nothing better, but--well, I suppose I'm just surprised. When I said we should give up trying to appear less than friendly, I didn't think you were going to throw caution to the wind, what!

All right, I can go straight there from the Headmaster's Office and make sure no one else is using the room. No one ought to be there this time of night, anyway, but if it's occupied, I'll let you know.

Or have you already decided to wait for me?

-J
We can still be cautious. We'll set wards, like you said.

I'll wait to hear from you.

Oh, and don't forget to shave!

Hullo,

The coast is clear. At least you can move about freely, since everyone will assume either you're on a prefect round or simply prowling round as a Councilwitch.

Shaving, as Madam requests.

-J

Perfect.

Be there in a tick!
**2015-02-05 23:14:00**
Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Madam Pomfrey is sending over something like a very gentle sleeping draught, since the Hospital Wing has had a run on sleeping potions, and also a load of medicinal-grade chocolate, since we can always pretend that came from Pansy.

Meet me in the secret room to eat chocolate?

---

**2015-02-06 05:23:12**
(no subject)

Yes please!

---

**2015-02-06 05:34:16**
(no subject)

On my way!

Still having trouble with sleeping, then?

Sorry. Should've asked you this morning.

---

**2015-02-06 05:35:06**
(no subject)

Yeah, I tried to go without the potion last night and had nightmares.

How about you?
Yeah, well...

Just not sleeping all that much. It's better to be awake.

I just...

those potions make me sick.

Well, if the Healer gave you Sleep-Easy and it made you sick, that's because they're brewing it themselves with substandard ingredients, it does that to everyone. (At least, it did that to me.)

They're offering Dreamless Sleep to everyone but I've been taking it for longer than I should already, that's why I asked Madam Pomfrey. The one she's sending over isn't really a sleeping draught, it's supposed to just relax you and make the sleep you get more restorative. (It doesn't put you to sleep, or keep you asleep, like Dreamless Sleep does.)

Whatever I had the one time, it was like:

it knocked me out just like that and I didn't even know anything.

It was awful.
That was probably Dreamless Sleep.

The Small Mercies syrup is absolutely nothing like that. It's like -- you know those nights when you lie down and go right to sleep because you're tired and not worried about anything and your bed feels really comfortable? That's how it's supposed to make you feel.
**2015-02-06 09:41:00**

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

Hullo,

If the Order are meeting on Sunday, I expect they'll want our report on Sherwood and Ollerton.

I'll write it up for us if you like, but we ought to meet among ourselves, what, to make sure I'm including only the details they need. We needn't be too specific, I shouldn't think.

Should we get together in the secret room after lessons?

If you'd rather write to Mrs Longbottom or Mr Lupin individually, privately, what, that's perfectly understandable.

-Justin

---

**2015-02-06 16:46:06**

(No subject)

Alright.

Only I keep thinking, what is there to say? They know what happened.

---

**2015-02-06 19:11:42**

(No subject)

Hydra,

They don't know from our perspective, however. If we don't submit something, what, I'm sure some of the Order might think we're avoiding the opportunity to share anything we learned of use.

Which was precious little, in this case, but nonetheless protocol is protocol.

-Justin
Private Message to Hydra

How do you feel today? I've been trying not to go round with a soppy grin, what.

And ought I to stay clean-shaven for the time being? Just so one can plan one's routine. Whatever madam wishes, of course.

-Justin

Re: Private Message to Hydra

I feel just fine, though quite tired. I suppose sneaking out into the wee hours isn't the most brilliant of ideas when I've been more fatigued than usual.

Hm, I'm really not sure. I like how you look with stubble, but lately I don't fancy the feel of it.

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Jolly good. Luckily the spell isn't difficult and doesn't take long. So the next time you want to sneak off for a late night of connubial bliss, I shall simply spruce myself up, what!

-J

(no subject)

I already did, to Mrs Longbottom, Mr Lupin, and Madam Pomfrey, but I guess a report from all of us makes sense if you don't mind writing it.
Sally-Anne,

I think it's the best way to avoid unnecessary questions, what. If you think your personal report is already comprehensive, there's no need for you to include your part in things twice.

-Justin
Order Only: Private message to Molly Weasley

Fool! You stupid fool. You had everything exactly wrong.

alt_molly at 2015-02-06 18:07:51
Private message to Arthur Weasley

Oh, Arthur, I need you so to advise me. I'm doing everything wrong.

I miss you terribly.

Happy birthday, dear man.
Thanks to all for your well-wishes and visits. It's been a whirlwind, to be sure, but Adam is a delightfully easy-going baby (just like his da, that one), and hasn't given us a spot of worry yet. We're still all settling in to the new pace of things, but I'm very much looking forward to stretching my legs a bit tomorrow and seeing as many of you as can make it on Sunday, and making introductions.

Alice, any suggestions in mind for where my Saturday afternoon can be used best? As long as it involves a bit of out of doors in it, and some walking around (not too much, mind!), I have a feeling I'll be in heaven. (I do want to stop by and see Cecelia, regardless.)

We're working with several former Sherwood residents who'll be settling round in various villages, and need to be able to pass. Perhaps you could come by Bedford and test some of them? See if any slip?

It could certainly be out of doors.

Ta very much. Sounds like something I can certainly do.

Hallo, cousin!

I'm hoping you'll get a chance to meet Adam over Easter. Although he's rather the star attraction as of
late, I'm hoping we can visit as well. Tea without Laszlo's isn't quite the same, but we can still brew a good cuppa here at Grimmauld.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-07 02:23:17
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I would like that.

How is Bea doing with all the changes? When I'm next in Hogsmeade I'll look for a little something for her, so that she can feel special.

Oh, and congratulations to both of you. I don't think I'd said it officially, yet.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 02:35:04
Re: Private Message to Hydra

She's been switching rapidly between being extra-affectionate with me, and huffing off to demand endless attention from Remus and Sirius. We've all been trying to convince her that being a 'big girl' is so much more fun than being a baby, but she remains unconvinced. I think she also would like a Gran of her very own as well.

So yes, I've a feeling she very much would like to feel a bit more special at the moment, and it'll be thoroughly appreciated.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 02:03:09
Private Message to Frank

I'm coming to you next Thursday, just because I can.

Merlin, it'll be nice to pop out whenever I want. Besides the horrible inconvenience of having a delightful newborn around to cuddle, that is. They do tend to monopolise one, don't they?
alt_frank at 2015-02-08 04:16:02
Re: Private Message to Frank

good.

bout time you came over.

and yeah, they're sort of made for that. part of the packaging, as it were.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 02:04:55
Private Message to Molly

You have been an absolute life saver these last few days. Thank you so very much.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 02:06:58
Private Message to Charlie

You are an absolute wonder, you know that?

World's greatest da. Hands down.

Told you you'd be brill.

alt_charlie at 2015-02-07 02:55:03
Re: Private Message to Charlie

Still can't get over it. I mean, I cared about him before he was born, I guess in an abstract kind of way, but looking at him real and in person and it's like my heart just explodes, you know?

We made a person! And he's tiny and perfect and I feel like I would BURN THE WHOLE WORLD DOWN to keep him safe if I had to.

And you're pretty brilliant at the mum thing, too. Can't think of anybody I would rather do this with.
alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 03:45:31
Re: Private Message to Charlie

It is rather heady, isn't it? Whenever he falls asleep on my shoulder, it's like I've accomplished something miraculous. And it's so simple to keep him happy right now -- just a pat on the back, a dry nappy, and a full belly.

I can't wait for the rest of it, though. When he sorts out what his favourite colour is, or what foods he absolutely detests, or which toy is the one that scares away boggarts.

alt_charlie at 2015-02-07 05:50:38
Re: Private Message to Charlie

I'm looking forward to teaching him how to read, oddly enough. Every time I'm in a shop these days I find myself looking over at all the children's books and trying to figure out which ones (if any) send the right messages.

You know, I haven't asked. Are you disappointed that he's not a metamorph? (Or if he is, that he hasn't shown it yet.) I mean, I don't think you would be, but we haven't talked about it.

And is it just me being a proud doting papa, or is he really focusing on things far better than a newborn should be? Only I think he's figured out doors -- when you left the room earlier, he turned his head around to look at the wall where you would have been walking on the other side. And it might have been coincidence, but it didn't seem like it. That's early for that sort of thing, isn't it?

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 06:11:26
Re: Private Message to Charlie

Frankly, I'm just delighted he seems like a perfectly, wonderfully, delightfully ordinary baby, and that he didn't come out green or glowy. I hope he won't feel too terribly left out, having to keep the same boring face all the time, but you, Remus, and Sirius do tend to provide some balance to things, and there are
hair dying charms in a pinch.

Although now you've got me questioning the ordinary part. Yes, it's too early. His eyes won't be good enough for focusing properly for another few months.

Part of me thinks it's proud doting papa. But we shall have to wait and see, shan't we? And love him to bits regardless.

---

alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-07 05:50:33
Private Message to Remus

I can't wait to feel the grass between my toes again.

You lot must be well sick of me rattling around Grimmauld by now.

But I did want to mention while I'm in such a good mood that it really is truly lovely to be a part of this funny little family we've cobbled together, and I'm so very glad things've turned out the way they have. I'm so very lucky. I get to raise my kids with my three best friends helping every step of the way. And I owe a great deal of it to you, my darling Mr Ponds, so thank you.
Don't let me forget: I have something for you. I felt the need for some simple, uncomplicated puttering tonight, and unpacked some of the bottom layers of the book-trunk that I haven't been at for quite some time; down among the detritus I found several things copied from the Conclave's library that I'd forgot I had. I don't remember the contents well enough to say if any of them will be useful for you -- I think at least one of them might be, though I may be mistaken -- but you may enjoy going through them even if they aren't. You'll have to hand-copy anything you find relevant, since they're all powerful enough to resist duplication, but I don't mind lending them to you long enough for you to do so; they have lived in my trunk for thirty years or so without being disturbed, after all.

(I would simply send them by elf, but they are lineage-bound; I will need to introduce you to them.)

Oh! Thank you. That would be wonderful.

I've done riding herd on the Gryffindors for now, though I plan to make spot checks on them as the evening progresses. Honestly, they are such a disappointment academically. And it's ridiculous because most of them have potential if they would simply apply themselves. Even some of the halfbloods could perform if only they'd the inclination.

I plan to be in my workshop until half-seven, and then after making the rounds of Gryffindor and the library, I believe I'll retire to my rooms, but I could come by for these wonderful books whenever it's convenient.

I wouldn't mind running my latest hypothesis by you, anyway. I think it's ready for that.

And I've got something else I've wanted to share, as well, though that can wait if you've got other commitments tonight.
Ah, well, if you figure out the knack of getting teenagers (who are not Ravenclaws) to apply themselves to their studies, you'll be ahead of most of us. Rest assured I am not holding teenage recalcitrance against you; you've been doing a fine job with them. Their studies have been so disrupted this year that I'm not at all surprised some of them are struggling. Have any of the other teachers said anything to you about particular poor performers? We can set up some remedial lessons if necessary.

I'm still up, and free of other obligations, if you want to stop by in a bit. I have some baked goods to share in addition to the reading material.

I'll be there after I pay another visit to the Tower.

I'm of half a mind to confiscate their journals in the evenings so they aren't so distracted by them. Chattering with their mates across the castle. Keeping up with their favourite bands. Reading ridiculous advice columns and inane comedians' blather. I found a firstie looking at lewd pictures. Honestly.

Baked goods, you say?

I'm certain that's excellent food for analytical thinking.

One must allow a certain leeway for children to be children, my dear. The ones who are worth the effort put into them will realise soon enough when it's time to put the distractions away; the others will at least have a few years of carefree enjoyment before the world imposes its harsh lessons upon them. Leave them enough rope to hang themselves, has always been my way of thinking.
(And thus you see Ravenclaw and Slytherin, perfectly embodied.)

As for the baked goods: lace cookies and marzipan from the New London café Auri introduced me to of which I am inordinately fond, and as Mardi Gras season is upon us, I've sweet-talked the elves into frying up a batch of beignets. (If you have never had them, they are quite the treat, no matter that they make me nostalgic for New Orleans. I am negotiating for a king cake, if I can turn up the recipe; that was part of the reason for trunk-diving this weekend.) I have the remainder of the beignets under a warming charm so you can experience them as they are meant to be eaten: fresh out of the fryer.

You've no need for enhancements to your analytical thinking ability, but they will certainly make the atmosphere more convivial.

alt_lana at 2015-02-09 04:32:24
(no subject)

Perhaps you're right about giving them rope enough. I'm not entirely ready to allow them all to go hang. It's simply embarrassing to have the House in one's charge show so poorly. I believe I'll give it a fair trial what chivvying and chastising can do.

You'll have to tell me stories of New Orleans. Papa was there on business long ago--there and other places in the Americas--before Abueloberto asked him to come here and head the family interests in the Protectorate (actually, it was before the war).

Papa has such interesting stories of his travels, though he tells them less now that we're grown, so I've no idea, really, whether they were strictly true or simply tales to amuse children. He told us of parades and wild festivities in New Orleans. And he told us there were many kinds of magic in that city, and many odd practitioners of exotic craft. Is that true?
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry Potter

Harry, I've made the rounds I don't know how many times, and had several people make inquiries, and Dudley is nowhere to be found.

He hasn't been seen since the initial attack. The last sighting placed him fighting Inferi in the woods alongside Finbar, a close friend of his, who is likewise missing. Neither had a button on them, and Finbar is not responding to messages in his journal.

No-one I've spoken to has been able to definitively confirm Dudley's capture or death, and we have over two dozen other people from Sherwood who are missing without any way of contacting them. All we can do now is wait to see if he turns up, and hope. Lindy Foster came wandering into a rendezvous point just this morning after missing since the attack on Sherwood, and she was none the worse for wear except for being quite hungry and footsore.

We'll do our best to keep our eyes open for him.

I see.

Thank you for telling me.
I have been thinking that I want to make a public journal entry, as Mum suggested, like Remus did, and I wanted to run the idea past you first so I'm sure I'm seeing all the implications. As far as I know, Hermione and I are the only Muggleborns who have journals. And if we want to make a choice about which one of us should REALLY hack off MLE by making an entry, it might be good for me to draw the fire since Hermione is out there at times hunting for horcruxes. Besides, I played REALLY stupid a lot more than Hermione did, so I think if I posted, it would make a stronger impact, that muggleborns (even the ones that just say 'Yes, master' and 'No, master') have a lot more going on in their thinking than purebloods may suspect.

I've no intention of admitting that I'm an animagus, of course, and I'm wary of saying much about my connection to the Longbottoms. But I think it might really open the eyes of some of the kids at Hogwarts. They KNEW me--the older ones, anyway. But they knew me as boot and I think I hid my true self pretty well. I think it's time to make it clear to them that they were directing all the slurs and kicks and snubs at somebody who was quite a bit like them. It might challenge some of their thinking if I tell that that the Sorting Hat saw me as a real wizard and put me into Ravenclaw--which I could easily do without implicating anyone else, since people knew I was often alone in the Headmistress' office.

What do you think? The thing I worry about the most is whether it might create any trouble for Fred and George, because people know they were fond of me. Would they get into trouble for, I dunno, leading me onto radical ideas or anything? They certainly couldn't be accused of having anything to do with my escape from the git.

It might be that no one will dare to ask me questions, but at least it will get them thinking. Besides, it would be loads of fun to tell Padma Patil and Lana Sandoval-Pennifold that I'm in the same House they are.
Oh! Oh, that last bit--I just fell over giggling at the thought of the look on Padma's face when she reads that.

I think you should do it.

(I say, Professor, sounds good to me. And I think you can leave Fred and George well enough out of it if you're worried. You need me to look over any drafts of anything, just say the word.

I wish I could. But I'd be worried about my dad, for one, and I'd have to leave so much out it's difficult to know what I'd put in, hey? Besides which, don't have a journal of my own to write in. Mr L is very generous with his, of course, and you lot know it's me well enough. So I suppose it's about as good as it's going to get.

It was right something, hearing what I wrote about Ollerton read out over the radio, though. Gave me goose pimples.)

I would love to see you tell off Patil and Sandoval.

The choice is ultimately yours, I think. Things to consider include being added to MLE's current list of at-large fugitives. Being a animagus helps you in that regard, but you'll want to have convincing glamouring skills, as well.

Also, you should brace yourself for a relatively small public reaction
from people like Padma and Sandoval. People like them will talk about it in private, no doubt, but in truth I reckon that most adult wizards and witches know damn well that muggleborns can be just as clever as anyone else - or moreso - they just don't care.

Sorry if that sounds discouraging, but in most cases, one doesn't get to be an adult and still hold on to really idiotic prejudices unless they possess a deep lack of critical thinking skills and empathy.

However, people on the tipping point, or younger people, may certainly be influenced.

alt_pansy at 2015-02-08 03:19:03 (no subject)
The Gemmas especially. The ones who've been raised by Muggleborn nannies.

alt_terry at 2015-02-08 15:24:14 (no subject)
Oh, my, I just thought of something else.

Mr Weasley destroyed my Protectorate file before he died. Is that enough to keep them from retaliating by assigning me a new 'owner'? I mean I could find that all my journal entries suddenly have 'and Antonin Dolohov' appearing at the end. Or 'and Barty Crouch.' Or 'and Bellatrix Lestrange.' Or is that only possible if they have my journal first to put a spell on it some way?

I mean, I could simply ignore it if they do declare I have an owner- -maybe. I use the Order lock, which they can't read. And the Private Message lock is broken, so I'm not limited to just one other person besides my 'master.' But what if they fix it?

Could there be some way they could magically bind me in a way that could be a problem, if there's no Protectorate file on me and they can't get their hands on my journal?
I don't think there's any way to answer that. You'll have to decide if it's worth taking the risk.

All right. It may be a risk, but it may not. But even so, I won't baulk at it.

The rest of the Order, including the Juniors, have taken risks and ARE taking bigger risks than that. Every day.
My name is Terry Boot

I wish to speak in particular to the students of Hogwarts. The older ones will remember me.

I was born to Muggle parents. I was taken away from them when I was so young that I don't even remember them. I was told I was a mudblood and given to Amycus Carrow to be his slave.

Or perhaps you don't remember? I was the quiet boy called 'boot' who sat on the floor in the corner of Transfiguration class, who dodged your kicks and never reacted to your jeers. I spoke of myself in the third person, and tried my best to seem simple-minded, because it was safer that way.

But here's the truth. I am a wizard, and I have always been one. The Sorting Hat itself told me so when I put it on during what should have been my first year at Hogwarts. It didn't hesitate at all to sort me into Ravenclaw House.

I have a wand that works well for me, and I've been studying spells and charms, just like you. I'm best at Transfiguration, Charms, Runes, and Arithmancy.

For those of you who pride yourself on your class standings, remember this: you can never claim to be first in your class, because you've never competed against a good number of your true classmates. Those missing classmates have had to hone the qualities that the Founders sought even more keenly than you. They are incredibly brave, they have bonds of loyalty that will never be broken, no matter what the Protectorate decrees, they have wit beyond measure, and they had learned cunning through painful experience. They may call you 'master' or 'mistress,' and you might think you control them, but you don't. That is because magic is not something you can simply declare doesn't 'belong' to a muggleborn. We didn't steal anyone's magic; we didn't need to, as it bubbles up inside of us, impossible to deny. As truly as it does for those who have a tapestry showing eight generations of pureblood descent.

Voldemort's claim of 'blood superiority' is a lie. We are your equals. Just an accident of birth could have put any one of you in our position. Think what it might have been like for you if you had the same magic
in you that you’ve always had, but someone took you away from your family and made you a slave, just because of who your parents were.

Think of yourself, sitting on the floor, barefoot in winter. Hoeing beets in the field, trying to walk fast enough to stay ahead of the whip. Toiling in a coal mine, in total darkness, while still feeling your magic inside of you like a glowing ember.

Someone who is truly a witch or a wizard can't blow that ember out.

The Protectorate never will, either.

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alt_harry at 2015-02-08 20:44:49  
(no subject)

I remember you.

So you've been learning magic, now?

Do you really think you'll ever be Padma Patil's equal? Or Linus Moon's?

alt_terry at 2015-02-08 22:06:03  
(no subject)

I'm glad you remember me.

I've been their equal since the day I was born.

I've been learning magic for years, for almost as long as you have. Yes, of course, I have been cheated of the education I should have received at Hogwarts, that the Sorting Hat intended I have. But I started by studying on my own whenever I could (from books, and by observation. I had the run of the libraries of Amycus Carrow and Headmistress McGonagall) and I'm learning under other teachers now.

Of course, no one can be exactly someone else's equal in terms of education because some people prefer some subjects to others. Some people are naturally brilliant in one particular area. Like Neville Longbottom was in Herbology, or Thomas Capper was in Arithmancy.

It made take me a little longer, but I'm confident that eventually I'll
be able to match my Hogwarts cohort spell for spell in at least the basic subjects.

I'm already doing NEWT level work in some, like Transfiguration.

I've also had exposure to certain kinds of education which you haven't had at all.

alt_terry at 2015-02-08 22:06:33
Order Only

I hope I don't make things too hot for the Cappers still at Hogwarts by mentioning Thomas. But I wanted to remind people that being brilliant in a subject won't protect them, either.

alt_blaise at 2015-02-08 22:55:36
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass and Hydra Lestrange

What sort of magic would even be useful for someone like that to know?

Maybe he's been taught the spells to polish boots and clean things? Or tote heavy things?

alt_daphne at 2015-02-09 01:08:26
Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass and Hydra Lestrange

Kicks and jeers? I don't recall doing anything of the sort. Who would have dare mucked about with Carrow's property?

I've not idea what magic would be useful for someone like that.

alt_blaise at 2015-02-09 01:47:04
Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass and Hydra Lestrange

I agree. Carrow was the only one I knew touched that one. So far as I ever noticed, anyway. But then, eh.
Anyway, it'd be mad anyone giving that one a wand. Hope whomever it is doesn't make the mistake of trusting it.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-09 01:14:02
Private message to Blaise

I'm writing this just to you, as I don't know how Hydra will feel about my sharing this...

But back when everything happened with Draco, remember how Auror Lestrange called Hydra up to help her with interrogation?

Well, Harry's servant - that girl, she knew how to occlude. How to block out Hydra and even her mother. Isn't that mad to think about?

alt_blaise at 2015-02-09 01:51:16
Re: Private message to Blaise

Just proves they're proper animals, doesn't it? That's why a legilimens can't see anything in its thoughts. It hasn't got any.

I still can't think what drew Draco into such madness.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-09 04:09:25
Re: Private message to Blaise

Draco knew occlumency as well.

Yes, well, we shall forever have to wonder at that.

alt_harry at 2015-02-08 20:45:36
Order Only

I'm hoping if I reply to you it'll make some of the other students feel like they can, too?

Worth a try.
@alt_terry at 2015-02-08 21:37:44
Re: Order Only

It's worth a try, certainly. Thanks, Harry.

@alt_luna at 2015-02-08 21:57:53
Re: Order Only

Well, you're certainly causing a huge ripple in the Ravenclaw common room. People are huddled up in corners in groups of twos and threes, looking at their journals and whispering.
Why do I not see you all studying?

I've just come from the library where I found just two of you. TWO. (I'd say well done to Iskanderian and Lynch, but Madam Pince tells me neither of you could be considered a regular.)

I've been conferring with my colleagues and find that our House is trailing behind the rest in the standings for every year. I realise this could in part be put down to the high proportion of mixed blood in Gryffindor House, but there's no reason to be lagging Hufflepuff if that were the only explanation. All I can conclude is that you deserve your reputation as laggards.

That is going to change. I will not have you shame me at year's end.

I expect to see each and every one of you settled down to work either here in this common room or in the library by half-four, and I want to see you working diligently on your assignments or on exam revision.

Don't make me come and find you.

You will not fancy the punishment.

Madam Pince tells me neither of you have made a start on research for the assignment you owe me this week. How can that possibly be?

I expect you'll be in the library when I arrive there at ten minutes till five, and that you will be prepared with a list of at least five relevant studies, arranged in the order in which you intend to consult them. I will walk you through the process of requesting the first of these, after which, I will assume that you will understand how to ask Madam Pince for the materials you require.

Do not fail to be there and ready when I arrive.
Vivian Harkiss, Dionysus Inderwick, Brutus Johnson and Fianna Tierney

Seriously, not one of you has begun work on your presentation for this week? Madam Pince says she cannot remember the last time she saw any of you.

You will be in the library when I arrive there at ten minutes to five or you will regret it.

Some of us are working in the salle, Professor Sandoval-Pennifield. Or revising in small groups in spare classrooms, because it's quieter and we won't make Madam Pince cross with spellwork.

Just because you can't see us doesn't mean we're not working.

Of course, I needn't worry that you are taking your studies seriously, and I know you share my concern that your peers do well in theirs.

You make a good point here, and tomorrow you will find a sign-out procedure that will let me know where students plan to study if not in the library or the Tower. I intend to continue making rounds to be certain that proper work is happening, wherever that may be.
I know you wanted to wait a bit longer before telling our families. Only, it really was the right time to share it, with Abuelita looking so well. It made her very, very happy. You can't deny that, at least.

But I shouldn't have taken your head off, so I'm sorry.

I'm not sure about next weekend. We'll have to see. I do really have to make enormous progress between now and the end of term, and that includes submitting at least two more papers. I can't afford to have Antosha thinking that I'm not serious about my work. Or that I mean to give any of it up when- after.

I'm counting on your assuring Papa and Mama that it's what you want, as well. When they ask you. You know they will do.
MEETING MINUTES
Order of the Phoenix
Date: 8 February 1998
Location: 12GP

Order Members Present:

Order Members Absent:
Ron Weasley, Justin Finch-Fletchley, Luna Lovegood, Daphne Greengrass, Ginny Weasley, Sally-Anne Perks, Harry Potter, Pansy Parkinson, Artemus Ross, Katrina Bundy, Hydra Lestrange, Arabella Scrim, Sarah Fawcett, Walden Macnair, Neville Longbottom.

Special Guests: William Davidson, Maghnus Derrick, Adam Tonks, Nicole Brownmiller

ORDER BUSINESS

1. Moment of Silence

We observed a moment of silence for the victims of attack on Sherwood and the Ollerton Massacre. We also acknowledged the death of Alastor Moody, whose body is now serving as an Inferi and was seen at Voldemort's Triumph in December.

2. Field Report

Justin Finch-Fletchley submitted a report to Alice and myself on the events of last week from the perspective of himself, Ron Weasley, Hydra Lestrange, and Sally-Anne Perks. We gave a summary to the rest of Order at the meeting. Sirius wanted to make note of the fact that Hydra's warning about Ollerton allowed Draco to get there with omnioculars to record what happened.
3. Status of Sherwood Evacuation / Relocation

Davidson gave us the report on this. They've long expected that Sherwood would eventually become a target, and had planned for what to do if they had to evacuate. Especially given the use of Inferi, they've scattered into smaller units to present a more complicated set of targets. The new units are scattered around in villages and natural areas throughout the Midlands, with plans to move beyond ASAP. A number of older muggleborn are dispersing undercover to villages around rural England with the plan of integrating into local communities and recruit allies.

The use of the pamphlet on what happened to Ollerton could have gone either way, in terms of establishing new locations -- people might have betrayed us as soon as they saw we were there, out of pure unadulterated terror. But in fact, the pamphlets seem to have largely convinced people that cooperating with the state is no guarantee of survival. We've been promising to do our best to evacuate villagers along with our own people, and they've been lending us quiet support.

Sherwood lost about 300 people. The dispersed units include about 150 refugees from the neighboring villages, including a handful that made it out of Ollerton.

4. Supplies: Medicinal and Nutritional

Poppy has been traveling around the northeast, getting in touch with contacts and quiet supporters. Many have formed groups to listen to the wireless station, and are interested in supporting the Order with modest financial contributions and gifts in kind. She has given a full list to Pansy and Jeremy, who are working to set up a network to acquire and distribute surplus food and build networks of trust. Jeremy in particular is looking ahead to prevent a famine after the liberation; he's developing contacts not only in food production but also distribution, rubbish hauling, compost/fertilizer delivery, etc. The latter two might be useful cover for movement of Order-related materials as well. He's also going to coordinate further with Arca Sinistra at Bedford.

Poppy noted that many people were on edge regarding personal safety; in particular, several people asked Poppy to see if Albus would come and cast the Fidelius Charm on their personal properties. In Lincoln, where they had a close-up look at how the spell could work, there was quite a bit of discussion: someone knew a person who'd
tried it and not managed it. Another had a cousin who knew how it's done, but wanted a large sum of money to provide the service. Albus is happy to oblige, around his other projects, which he did not explain further.

5. Communication: The Wireless Station and the Button Network

Lee gave a report on the wireless station and how it's working. Programming during the assault on Sherwood ran continuously, but information was not always current or even correct. We discussed a bit how to sort information so we could get it out for broadcast more quickly, as with Sherwood there was a lot of chaotic trying to skim journal entries. We'd also like to coordinate shared safety lists.

We discussed the button network, as well: it's been increasingly useful and something we've come to rely on, and we'll certainly need it for the September Plot (see below) but John Turner is concerned it may be outgrowing its structure. As we increase the geographic spread, should we set up specialised sub-networks for food distribution, safety, etc.? Or should we have hubs for geographic regions? Both options have advantages and disadvantages.

6. Maghnus Derrick

Maghnus Derrick was Dominic Selwyn's clerk and one of his co-conspirators in their plot to (successfully, though not permanently) kill Voldemort. For reasons that elude him, he was sent to Azkaban afterward instead of being killed. We liberated him during the December breakout and he has been living at Saltash, in the same secure house as Lucius Malfoy.

Maghnus approached us to request that he be allowed to throw his lot in with us and join the Order. He admits that his views and ours do not entirely align: he finds it difficult to think of muggleborns as equals, and he thinks our goal of muggle liberation is of questionable wisdom. However, he strongly agrees that the current situation is untenable and that Voldemort needs to be removed from power, and he says he is willing to treat muggleborns and muggles as equals and partners in order to work with us.

Prior to coming to the meeting, he took an Unbreakable Vow to protect the secrets of the Order of the Phoenix; to work toward the goals of the Order of the Phoenix; and to obey the orders given by the
leaders of the Order of the Phoenix; and to do so until such time as Voldemort is dead, the wards are down, the Sleepers are woken, and a new order has been established. We did not, however, swear him into the Order (sort of a fine distinction, I know -- but if he's officially made a member, he'll be able to read Order Locked journal posts. If someone lends him a journal; they didn't send his along with him to Azkaban.)

Maghnus asked if he could speak. He mostly reiterated what I'd said, that he wants to work with us. And that although he knows that the world he wishes he could have is not what we're working toward, he thinks the world we're working toward is a lot better than what we've got now and he'll take it. Terry told him that he was a muggleborn, and Maghnus shrugged and said that he knew there were muggleborn wizards in the Order. Terry asked if Maghnus was worried about Terry having stolen his magic, and Maghnus looked a bit surprised and said that he didn't think anyone really believed that stupid story about 'stealing' magic. He said we should ask Lucius because he was sure Lucius didn't believe it, and never had.

Rachel asked him what made him decide to throw his lot in with us. Was it because we got him out of Azkaban? He said no, that wasn't it, though he did appreciate being saved from the Dementors. He said he decided to throw his lot in with us when he heard about Arista and Hector.

A vote was taken, and the consensus was to swear him fully in. He had some idea of projects he could contribute to; we will be discussing that in more detail later. He was allowed to stay for the rest of the meeting.

7. The September Plan

Alice wanted to provide an overview of the September Plan.

I: Incite rebellion in Ireland. We believe that passing through the wards is difficult and even deadly; our first step is to incite a rebellion in Ireland to draw personnel and resources out of England and Scotland.

II: Camp Uprisings. Once things are underway in Ireland we'd like to have multiple camps liberate themselves simultaneously. Overthrow the wizards in charge, hunker down, and secure them as much as possible. This may require the Neofidelius; Albus has been working to
train people in the casting.

III: Assault the Ministry. Have a team of people nullify the Ministry, possibly through the use of the neo-F, ideally with some of MLE still inside.

IV: Assassinate Voldemort (and possibly Bellatrix to boot). Even if he's only dead temporarily, this would be very useful, and we've sorted out some possible methods to disrupt the regeneration process. Getting Bellatrix out of the way likewise rids us of a formidable enemy.

V: Final Takeover: We are optimistic that at that point, we will be able to replace various prominent Protectorate officials with Order members. Harry may be able to function as a unifying figure.

Our goal to have all these pieces in places is September. This September. At that point the conversation started to degenerate into a lively discussion of the many obstacles to this plan; Alice encouraged everyone to ponder solutions and then bring them to her or me (or the whole group) via journal, rather than spend the rest of the afternoon arguing debating specifics.

Aurora noted that during the aftermath of Selwyn's plot, it was not immediately evident to most of Voldemort's inner circle that he was not in fact dead but residing in Bellatrix. (Presumably the second time it would go more quickly -- unless Bellatrix were dead or incapacitated, making it unclear where people should look.)

There was a side conversation about recruiting allies and how that's going. The Centaurs are currently extremely hostile toward all humans and should be avoided at least for the next few months.

8. Horcruxes

Harry identified a horcrux in the Protector's Collection; Rachel and Bill scouted out the location and think it may be an achievable target. Ideally, we'd like to obscure the fact that the goal was to destroy the horcrux. Possibilities include switching it out for a duplicate; steal a large number of other valuable objects as camouflage; or destroying the whole collection (that one is certainly not our first choice.)

Lucius Malfoy has also revealed to Draco that there is likely to be an additional horcrux in Bellatrix Lestrange's vault at Gringott's. The Order has in its possession one of Bellatrix Lestrange's hairs;
however, getting in and back out without anyone knowing it wasn't Bellatrix will likely be very tricky. We're going to try to talk to Ragnik, and see if he's willing to give us any advice. Draco and Hermione want to make this attempt. Draco pointed out that he knows more about Black family secrets than anyone who's currently free to do this; Hydra can't afford to fall under suspicion if the breakout becomes clear, and Sirius has been a Black family outcast for much longer than Draco.

Tonks suggested that it might be better to destroy the horcrux in Bellatrix's vault, rather than attempting to remove it; presumably the protective magics of Gringott's are more focused on theft than destruction. The practicalities of this might require the Hogwarts contingent to salvage a basilisk fang, and send it through the colocation box. Charlie had some suggestions for protective gear, which could also be sent through the colocation box.

At this point, the meeting was already running rather long. We toasted Adam and Nicole's births and their proud parents, and there was some baby-passing and admiring among the people who hadn't had a chance to hold them before the meeting got underway, and wanted to.

The Hogwarts students have a Hogsmeade visit coming up this Saturday, the 14th. If anyone needs an in-person meeting with anyone else, let us know; we could meet you at the safehouse or elsewhere.

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@alt_alice at 2015-02-09 02:56:13
Private Message to Remus, Justin, Sally-Anne, Ron, and Hydra

We received your report.

We need a full tactical analysis of where we could improve on our side of things. Weaknesses in weaponry, distribution of personnel, handling of civilians. What were the mistakes you saw us making in both Erewash and Sherwood? I'd very much like your suggestions. You all have considerable tactical skills, and were able to see things from a perspective that most of us were unable to.

Beyond that, from what I could see, all of you did what you could with what you were given. You were able to pass along vital information, and maintained your covers under incredible pressure.

There is very little I can do to make your lives easier at present. I
know the hardest is yet to come. What I can do is use every bit of what you give me to fullest advantage, and make sure that we act as soon as humanly possible to strike a definitive blow so as not to put you in this position for years. It is possible to turn this tide, and it is something I cannot do without you.

alt_ron at 2015-02-09 03:17:45
Re: Private Message to Remus, Justin, Sally-Anne, Ron, and Hydra

Yeah, all right.

We'll talk it over and let you know. I can't really write much just now. Sandoval-Pennifold's probably coming back up here, and she had a bloody fit at us all for having our journals out instead of homework.

No idea what's got up her nose tonight, but she's been on a complete rampage.

alt_alice at 2015-02-09 04:49:12
Re: Private Message to Remus, Justin, Sally-Anne, Ron, and Hydra

I know you're most likely up to your ears, but whatever suggestions or insights you can provide would be a great help. There's no immediate rush.

alt_pansy at 2015-02-09 03:04:01
(no subject)

Brill.

Missus Weasley, I was thinking your bartering group might be good to tap into for this project as well.

Professor Siz, we're definitely poking at the farm-to-table group that your sister works with. I've already approached them to make arrangements for barley in the spring. I'm thinking over Easter I might talk to them further in person to see what they think about selling lightly damaged or otherwise unused goods.

And Stebs, you're in, right? I figure this'd be right up your alley.
Pansy, I've talked things over with Remus and Nick, and we're prepared to give Jack Sloper and Ken an interview. Nick will help set up the meeting.

I'll let you know how it goes.

We've also received the grapes and citrus. Very much appreciated.

Yes, definitely, we can include the bartering network.

The head administrator has been changed again, and I'm extremely pleased with the choice: it's an energetic woman whom I'm very sure is hostile toward the Protectorate (she has lost several family members to enforcers). Her name is Rose Stuben. From a comment or two she's made privately to me, I know she reads the Grim Truths.

Alice, I'd also like to talk with you further about how the Hope Emporium might be of use. Several of the spaces include living quarters (as Fred's and George's do). If there are any of the Sherwood refugees who are artisans or who have the knowledge to run a business, it could be a place for some of them. I hope they would be willing to give at least a portion of any income they earn to the Order.

The space includes a large commercial kitchen, which may prove useful. And if Davidson and his officers ever need a safe space for drop offs, Fred and George can accommodate them. I'd offer their space for meetings at night, but I'm sure Davidson would prefer to hold his meetings in fideliusused places.

I can go after the basilisk fang. Anyone know if there's anything special you need to do before
transporting it? I mean, to keep it from losing its venom and ending up useless or whatever might happen?

---

**alt_albus** at 2015-02-09 15:19:06  
(no subject)

The fang is best transported in a box of stone or metal. Barring that, a hardwood box lined with same or an equivalent charm cast on the interior.

It should be thoroughly locked. I would suggest a blood lock, but that would limit our ability to open it in a timely manner.

The venom will remain quite potent with any additional assistance.

---

**alt_charlie** at 2015-02-09 03:16:13  
Private message to Cecilia Perks and Tonks

Congratulations again, Cecilia. Nicole's the second most perfect baby in the world!

I didn't get a chance to corner you after the meeting -- Tonks might have -- but we're keeping an eye out for anything strange with Adam, especially after that wave of magic when he was born. I'll write you as well as Professor Dumbledore if anything odd happens, and you do the same? Four pairs of eyes are better than two, and all.

---

**alt_charlie** at 2015-02-09 03:18:40  
(no subject)

Destroying the Horcrux in the Lestrange vault should probably be the last resort just like destroying the whole Protector's Collection is the last resort for that one. The goblins would probably take that as a declaration of war, no matter how many ties we've built with them.

Let me talk to Griphook before we decide anything there. I've got pretty good at having plausibly deniable conversations with him, and I'm pretty sure he's way more on our side than on the Protectorate's, but I'll have to approach it gingerly.
I did not think of this in the heat of the moment, however: has anyone taken a census of those from Sherwood who had buttons issued to them? How likely is it that our enemy has obtained one?

We'll get on that right away. Tim, love, I know you're still wading through data, could you add this to the stack?
2015-02-09 22:42:00
Private message to Padma Patil

If you're having trouble sleeping, I have a potion that will help you and won't make you see things that aren't there.

Dreamless Sleep causes waking hallucinations if taken repeatedly, I'm not sure if the St Mungo's Healer of the Day warned you about that.

It's called 'Small Mercies,' Pansy brewed it, and I can tell you exactly what's in it if you're concerned. It will help you relax your mind and fall asleep, and it will make your sleep more restorative. It won't stop you from dreaming, but you'll find it much easier to put the bad dreams out of your mind when they wake you.

I can send a bottle of it over with one of the elves, if you'd like.

alt_padma at 2015-02-10 04:53:00
(no subject)

Who says I saw anything? Balastiel ought to know better than to sneak up on people like that.

My brother's a Healer. I know better than to take Dreamless Sleep too much. I've been taking half-doses and--and trying not to take it every night. I did ask the one...the Healer who was here last Thursday, if they didn't have anything else, though.

Hoarding it for your mates, are you? Well, yes, if you can spare some. That would be...very nice of you.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-10 05:12:04
(no subject)

Obviously you saw something. The spell you used on Balastiel was that battlefield spell for slowing down inferi if they got too close, I recognised the effects. Not what you'd cast on a student just because he startled you.

Halving the dose won't solve the problem. You can't take it more
than two nights in a row, more than three nights in seven, or more than six nights in thirty.

I've sent over a bottle of the Small Mercies and some soothing tisane. Brew the tisane and add a drop or two of the Small Mercies.

If it doesn't help enough and you still need a sleeping potion, tell the Healer on duty you'd like both Sleep-Easy and two doses of Tummy Tonic. Take one dose when you take the Sleep-Easy, and use the second when you wake up in the morning. You can take Sleep-Easy quite a bit longer, and it won't make you hallucinate.

---

@alt_padma at 2015-02-10 05:17:58
(no subject)

He did startle me. I mean, out of the corner of my eye, I saw.... And I thought for a moment that he was one.

It's just that when I sleep, I keep seeing a whole village and every single kid is Sanji and those things are ripping

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-10 05:29:07
(no subject)

The hallucinations caused by Dreamless Sleep frequently take the form of movement in the peripheral vision, and mistaking things that are really there for things you might see in dreams or memories. So: seeing a second-year out of the corner of your eye, and thinking you see something much more dangerous.

I can understand why you want the Dreamless Sleep. Remember, I was there, too. Is there someone you trust who you can talk with? Finnigan, or Su Li?

---

@alt_padma at 2015-02-10 05:31:19
(no subject)

I'll take care of it. Thank you.
Why are you doing this, anyway? So you can tell everyone about it? Or just so you, Pansy and Daphne can have a good laugh at my expense?

I consider myself bound by the same confidentiality as the Healers from St Mungo's.

If we had a proper Matron, I'd have told her about it and let her handle talking to you. But, if we had a proper Matron, she'd have been paying attention to how often you were taking it. Since right now it's never the same Healer twice, there's not much point. I could leave a note telling them not to give you any more Dreamless Sleep, but I thought I'd try talking to you about it, first.

Just remember, Daphne may be Head Girl but I'm a Councilwitch now. Think about that very carefully before you do anything you'll regret.

Patil, I take Healing seriously. I'm not going to blab your secrets any more than I'd tell you which Firsties take Dry Dreams.

The absolute last thing this school needs is for someone with the privileges and responsibilities of a Councilwitch who's seeing dangers that aren't there. So believe me, I thought about what actions I might later regret.
So you say.

Fine, but if anyone starts making a meal out of all this, we'll both know who's to blame.
2015-02-10 14:25:00
Order Only: Private message to Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger

I heard Mr Derrick joined the Order. My father's old clerk, Maghnus Derrick. Is it true? I also heard he can't come to Moddey and I don't know why, I want to see him. Can you take me to visit him some other place? Like Sirius Black's house where the meeting was everyone went to?

---

2015-02-10 20:33:58
(alternate_hermione) at 2015-02-10 20:33:58
(no subject)

Hi, Arista.

He didn't exactly join the Order, which is why he can't come to visit Moddey Dhoo. Did Mrs Longbottom explain it to you?

What's happened is he's sworn to help us, but he's not a full member, he doesn't have a journal and he can't read our posts yet. I think he'll become a full member in time, though.

If you really want to see him, I'm sure Mrs Longbottom can arrange something.

How are your lessons going?

2015-02-10 20:45:48
(alternate_selwyn) at 2015-02-10 20:45:48
(no subject)

Tim didn't tell you about the accident, did he?
Because it was completely not my fault about the ink that spilled all over Sarah Little's shirt.

Other than that all my lessons are fine. My favourite is Potions Preparation. I wish I had a wand. They're going to let me try one from Melli's next batch.
Oh, no, I hadn't heard about that. I'm sure you didn't mean to spill it, though.

I remember quite liking potions before I had a wand, too, because it meant you could make things that were effective and it was like doing magic. Anyway, you'll get a wand. You don't want one that doesn't suit you, believe me.

Is Mr Black still teaching the potions preparation? Or is that someone else?

Sirius tries to come once a week. Mr Black, I mean. He actually like Sirius better but that makes Mrs McGivern cross so we try not to call him that when she's there.

Anyway sometimes I just wish I could have ANY wand at ALL. Or that I could have brought my wand from home, I wasn't very good at using it yet but that doesn't mean I wouldn't have grown into it properly now that I'm almost old enough to go to Hogwarts. (I would have gone this September.) Mellisandra says she thinks there are two in the batch she's working on right now that might be the right fit.

Actually, we like calling him Sirius better, too, but I know Mrs McGivern has standards she likes observed.

I wouldn't worry too much about not going to Hogwarts. It's not a particularly pleasant place to be going to school right now. When we fix things, then it'll be better, but for now you're better at Moddey.
Well if you fix things in the next seven years I can still go. Even if I have to start late.

Would you want to go? I mean if everything had changed a year ago so you could go to Hogwarts but just for one year to do your NEWTs would you want to?

I might want to sit the exams but no, I don't really see any point to going back to Hogwarts. For me, that is.

But then, I lived there for a long time when I wasn't a proper student, too. So there's that.

Besides, if you went to Hogwarts you'd have to leave Hector and Kevin and Matthew and all the others.

Don't you want to stay where you can be with all your friends?

Well if you'd fixed everything then Hector could go, too, when he was old enough. And I'd see him on holidays. That wouldn't be so bad. Maureen thinks Gemma and I would get on and I'd meet her, if I went there.

I suppose you wouldn't want to go because you'd have to leave Tim? He's much too old to go now, anyway.
Oh! No, it doesn't have anything to do with Tim. I mean, I don't live at Moddey and he does, now.

Well, but if you went to school you'd see him much less often. I mean you come to Moddey all the time and the people at Hogwarts can't.

That's true, but it's not a reason to go to Hogwarts. Or not to go.

I mean, you shouldn't do things or not do things because a boy wants you to do it. Any boy, I mean. You should do them because you want to, and only if you want to.

Well I hope I do get to go sometime. Maybe I won't care when I'm 17 like you. But you at least got Sorted.

I used to just assume I'd be in Slytherin because both my parents were Slytherins. Then after everything that happened when I came here I thought I really didn't want to be in Slytherin, I wanted to be in Hufflepuff like Maureen. (Who doesn't know what House she'd have really been Sorted into but Mrs Longbottom said once that if you ASK the Hat for Hufflepuff that's almost certainly where it will put you because Helga Hufflepuff said she'd take everyone and treat them all the same, like we do here.)

But Sarah Fawcett was in Ravenclaw and she says I'm clever enough that I could be in Ravenclaw, if I wanted. And I'm
good at lessons and I like reading.

And, Ron Weasley is in Gryffindor and so was Neville and so are you. And Neville told me once he thought I was brave. For changing my ideas and everything about my life. Although I'm not sure if it counts as brave when your alternative was dying? But there are loads of people in Gryffindor who I admire a lot.

Anyway I wish I could hear what the Hat thinks. About where I belong.

Mellisandra thinks it would still Sort me into Slytherin, unless I told it not to.

Do you know why it Sorted you into Gryffindor when you're also so clever?

(Actually I could ask Draco almost the same question because he's also clever and it Sorted him into Slytherin.)

alt_hermione at 2015-02-10 22:44:51 (no subject)

I can understand being curious. For me and for Terry, it was important to be Sorted because it meant we were really meant to go to Hogwarts with the other children. But honestly, I think perhaps Sorting may not be the best way to organise Hogwarts once we've won the war. Because loads of people are clever and also cunning, like Sally-Anne Perks, or brave but strategic, like Ron Weasley.

I do think you could be in almost any House you wanted, though, and that's rather the point. It's all about what traits you value the most.

And sometimes people don't understand the Hat's choices right away, but then they come to see that it was right. Did you know that Ginny Weasley and Sirius both thought they weren't supposed to be in Gryffindor? And they changed their minds in the end and agreed with the Hat.
But I think it's an awful lot of pressure to put on someone who's eleven. There has to be a better way to do it.

@alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 20:48:56

Anyway, I don't want to ask Mrs Longbottom for anything unless it's an absolute EMERGENCY. Maureen says she's still terribly upset about Neville. And she's hardly here right now because of the Sherwood evacuation. And there's about a thousand other real emergencies happening every other day so if I have to wait until I can talk to Mrs Longbottom about it I won't get to see Mr Derrick until sometime next November, if I'm lucky.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-10 20:55:01

Well, the Sherwood evacuation is still very difficult, finding everyone who scattered and such.

Would you like me or Draco to say something about seeing Mr Derrick?

@alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 21:02:24

I don't want to be a bother.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-10 22:08:36

Oh, but if we asked, then it wouldn't be you being the bother, do you see?
Oh yes, that's true.

Well if you think you can ask without making anyone cross?

This just isn't all that important compared to helping the people from Sherwood and all the rest that's going on.

It's times like this that I wish I'd had siblings so I knew something about little kids.

I feel like she's strongly hinting that she wants either me or you, specifically, to take her to see Derrick.

What do you think?

If she had a choice between us, she'd pick you in a heartbeat.

Or didn't you know she's got a crush on you?

Yes, it's quite glaringly obvious.
Not exactly something I want to encourage, to say the least.

Hey Arista, how is your flying going? Reckon you'll be able to beat me at a race by summertime?

Mr Derrick is basically in a position where he'll be able to gain the Order's trust over time, if he plays his cards right. So he might be able to visit Moddey one day, but not just yet.

I actually think he would like to see you and your brother, though.

I think I could beat you in a race right now! I'm smaller than you so my broom goes faster.

Anyway I guess it makes sense they don't let him come to Moddey yet because it's where ALL the babies are but I'm not really a baby anymore I'm almost old enough to go to Hogwarts, if I could go to Hogwarts, so if someone else could side-along me I could go to Sirius's house or Bedford or any of those other places and talk to him there. Don't you think?

There's more than just babies at Moddey. And yes, someone could bring you side-along if arrangements were made in advance.
alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 21:04:49
Private message to Draco

Your father's at Saltash, isn't he? The place without magic?

How is he doing?

alt_draco at 2015-02-10 21:09:58
Re: Private message to Draco

He doesn't like not having his magic, and he's cross that people like me and my mother betrayed him.

But he's become more cooperative as of late. If nothing else, helping us out makes him feel useful and important, and he does like that.

alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 21:12:25
Re: Private message to Draco

I know my father is dead because Harry saw him die. But I still keep thinking, what if he'd been wrong and they'd found him at Azkaban, like they found Maghnus Derrick? Because now he'd be at Saltash like your father.

He'd hate not having his magic. It would be better than Dementors I guess. But he'd hate it.

alt_draco at 2015-02-10 21:21:27
Re: Private message to Draco

That's probably a comforting fantasy. Just mind you don't get too caught up in thinking about things that can never be - it isn't healthy for anyone.

He does hate it, but unfortunately, he made a bad choice when he aligned himself with the Lord Protector, and then he made a second bad choice when he didn't help your father. Bad choices have consequences.
He's alive, though, and he still has me.

@alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 21:25:12  
Re: Private message to Draco

If he'd helped my father he'd probably be dead. I mean they did manage to kill the Lord Protector and your father wouldn't have been able to stop him from coming back.

Anyway. You're right it's a nice fantasy. I like thinking about it. Do you think I should stop?

@alt_draco at 2015-02-10 21:33:55  
Re: Private message to Draco

There's something to be said for dying while doing the right thing.

You don't have to stop if you don't want to, but some day you might find that you don't need those fantasies, anymore.

@alt_selwyn at 2015-02-10 21:38:12  
Re: Private message to Draco

Oh.

Yes, that's true. About dying, I mean.
As a result of Poppy's report from the Order meeting, we're getting together a Fidelius task force to start quietly giving assistance to people who are in need.

We've started stockpiling salt at Moddey (it helps that we're surrounded by a ready source), and will be offering training sessions starting this weekend to anyone who wants to help. We'll have certain security measures in place -- disguise through glamours, using false names, and helping only people that can be vouched for solidly by either someone in the Order, or someone one of us trusts. Those of you who do learn the Fidelius successfully can expect to eventually receive additional training in how to perform the modified Fidelius as well.

Bill, the forged papers will be an enormous help for the Sherwood groups attempting to resettle. Many thanks.

Cedric --

Don't think I haven't been so wrapped up in my own affairs that I haven't noticed your rather punishing schedule.

It did not work in your favour at Sherwood.

I need you in good shape, not worn clean through.

We need to sit down tomorrow to finalise the details for this caper you're heading up, and I'd like to talk to you about how we might work in a little more balance in your day-to-day as well.
2015-02-10 19:15:00
Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Where are you? Are you at home, or still at Moddey?

It worked out rather well, Maghnus Derrick deciding to throw his lot in with us just as we needed a secure spot to keep Peter.

I saw them both today. Plus Lucius. Ready for a friendly face. Moddey might be a few too many people.

alt_sirius at 2015-02-11 01:21:20
(no subject)

Still at Moddey but planning to head home very soon, once Hermione's finished her preparation for tomorrow's potions.

I could always go with you on your next trip to Saltash, you know.

Did you and Derrick come up with a suitable probation assignment, then?

alt_lupin at 2015-02-11 01:24:11
(no subject)

Well, he's staying at Bedford for now and assisting with the Sherwood groups that evacuated there. He'll be side-along apparating muggles to villages and had a few suggestions for locations he thought might be congenial. We'll see how it goes. He hasn't started nagging me yet about when we'll swear him fully in.

With Saltash -- you'll have to promise not to kill him. He's still not convinced I won't. I'm still not entirely convinced I won't.
Order Only - Private message to Hermione

I will say one thing for Ragnik: he's a good deal more talkative than the other goblins I've been around. Which is to say that he's not particularly talkative by wizarding standards, but definitely speaks up more than the goblins at Gringotts. All business, that lot. Maybe it's because he's young, or has just spent more time with wizards and witches than goblins. Anyway, I'm glad I happened to remember Binns' dreary lecture on Urg the Unclean. Somehow I doubt that Ragnick is really a direct descendent, but I reckon it's best to humour him on that point.

Oh, and Tim and those flowers? That was a downright massive bouquet. Was it equal in size to whatever he did wrong? Because he probably didn't mean it, you know. We men are just generally more idiotic than women - and pretty much everyone is more idiotic than you.

---

I think you impressed him, anyway, by not immediately assuming that Urg was wrong about whether the wizards violated goblin mining territory. Most people probably would have tried to argue the point.

The flowers--sorry about that. He's not an idiot, though. I mean, he didn't do anything wrong. Except for trying to give me those ridiculous flowers. I told him not to bother but he obviously hasn't--

I mean, I don't think he'll do anything like that again. I hope.

Well, nothing wizards do would surprise me, really.

So I take it you don't like flowers?

Well, you can't blame him for not knowing that, since a lot of
women fancy flowers quite a bit. But next time he wants to apologise to you he ought to send along books.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-11 03:14:09
(no subject)

I like flowers just fine.

He wasn't apologising, exactly. He was--well, all right, he was but like I said, he hadn't done anything wrong in the first place.

We broke up. Or, maybe I should say, I broke up with him.

alt_draco at 2015-02-11 03:15:52
(no subject)

Oh. Why didn't you ever say? And here I thought he had just made you cross.

Are you alright about it?

alt_hermione at 2015-02-11 03:17:42
(no subject)

I don't...I didn't really want to talk about it. There's nothing really to say.

I'm fine.

alt_draco at 2015-02-11 03:22:02
(no subject)

Alright.

If you do want to talk about it later, you know where I am.

And I don't know - I feel like I frequently work through my hopelessly tangled thoughts and emotions with you, but I never get to return the favour. If that's how you want it, I understand. No worries at all. But you would never be putting me out. Just so you know.
alt_hermione at 2015-02-11 03:27:26 (no subject)

I know. Thanks.

I don't feel put out, either, when you want to talk things through. That's how you and Harry have always been. It's...harder for me, I guess. I don't know whether that's because I never could express myself freely growing up, or because I just don't tend to confide in people. It's not that I don't trust you or anything.

alt_draco at 2015-02-11 03:32:14 (no subject)

Yeah, I figured it was something like that. Or a combination of those things.

Anyway, if you ever feel compelled, you'll know. No need to force it.
Private Message to Cyril Wright and Sanjay Mukherjee

Maybe you thought I was not serious about your accounting for where you would be working during study hours. I checked three separate times for each of you in the locations you designated.

You may conclude that I am not best pleased.

Both of you will be in my office at half-six tomorrow morning. I'll send the elves for you if you aren't.
**2015-02-11 14:57:00**

*Private message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold*

- Lana,

Have you any time free in the evening sometime soon? I've procured some more items that I believe would add an interesting dynamic to your analysis, and they are far too precious to trust to Owl delivery.

Additionally, by now you ought to have had time to incorporate my suggestions into your draft, and I would like to see how it's coming along.

Do let me know.

---

**alt_lana at 2015-02-12 00:40:33**

*(no subject)*

Oh. Absolutely.

I'm committing myself to keeping a close eye on the Gryffindors, who seem to require watching if they're to take their work at all seriously, so I don't plan any evenings away from the castle during the week, and I'm limiting myself to a single night at home over the weekends.

It's only spot checks at unexpected intervals, so, really, it suits my working pattern.

And, of course, it means I'll be delighted to see you whichever evening you're able to come.

I confess I'm curious about the items you're bringing and how they might influence the experiment. But then, you always have intriguing ideas, and my work is always better for trying what you suggest.
To think that house may finally be productive now that they have a Ravenclaw overseeing them instead of a fellow Gryffindor, who would only encourage their tendency toward sport and pointless causes.

Let's try for Friday.
Order Only: Private Message to Hydra

Hydra,

Are you coming up to the salle tonight? I say, Alfie Jugson just followed me halfway there, wondering whether we're tempting fate by being seen together so much more than usual.

I told him not to worry, what, that we're giving our history due consideration as we proceed.

At any rate, I'm just running some drills, while I wait.

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-12 02:44:50
(no subject)

Oh. Do you think I ought to not come up, now that he's said something?

I hope he's at least been wise enough to not share his observations with Remy.

Has anyone in the Order said anything about it to you?

alt_justin at 2015-02-12 02:49:42
(no subject)

If he's noticed, certainly Remy has done as well. But I did make it rather clear that no one needs to be told that we're working together. I think if you want to enforce the idea that you can make your own alliances, what, then you'd best not show intimidated by Alfie.

And no, no one in the Order's said anything, what. But then, Ron and Sally-Anne have had their own worries in the last week or two, and Harry and Daphne are somewhat distracted as well. I say, Sue may or may not even know. And I very much doubt any of them would report back to Mr Lupin or Mrs Longbottom.
Alright then.

To be safe, perhaps we ought to just run the course and practise drills - all completely legitimate activities.

Don't expect me to do very well, though. I'm more tired than usual tonight, for some reason.

If you wish, but I do still want to hear how things are going with you.

You've been tired more often than not lately, darling. Are you sure you don't need to go to the Hospital Wing for a checkup?

I shall have to tell you, then.

I don't think I need a checkup, I think I need more time - time that I can use for sleeping, specifically. Now that Crouch has been coming to the castle more frequently I've been training more than ever, and then there's homework and lessons, besides.
Perhaps you ought to put more protein in your diet. I know you don't care for meat, what, but it does help the stamina when one's timetable is as busy as ours.

-J

Eggs and cheese have protein, don't they?

Anyway, I've been eating a little meat now and then. Mostly when it's in a pie, so I can pretend it isn't there. It isn't the taste that I don't care for - it tastes a bit nice, actually. I just feel guilty about it.

Yes, but not too much egg and cheese or you'll have other problems besides fatigue!

-J

They only serve eggs at breakfast.

Alright, I'm on my way up. See you soon.
2015-02-12 20:40:00
Private Message to Igraine

See? I *told* you that all your Charms work needed was just a little more practise. That Banishing charm was particularly well done. I didn't have it down nearly as well as you do when I was preparing for OWLs.

There's a butterbeer at the Broomsticks with your name on it this weekend. If Darius doesn't mind sharing you for a few minutes, that is!
Things are still all sorts of mad around here. I tried out some of those questions you came up with to help test the Sherwood people who're going to try to fit in, and I think it helped, so ta very much. We've been sorting out clothing too, because that's one of the bigger tells, really. It reminds me of all the sewing I had to do for that review we did two years back. It seems like ages ago.

I hope it all goes well, though. With the Sherwood people. Mum thinks that once they have us come and Fidelius their new houses, their new neighbours will be quite interested in having something similar done, and that might be a way in, as it were.

And Professor Sinistra has us working on all sorts of projects. It's nearly enough to distract me, which is good. German has been fun. Using the letters I'm used to and writing left-to-right makes it a good deal easier than Arabic, too.

I miss you so very much it hurts sometimes.

But Artie, we can't risk it on Saturday. Because it wouldn't be just an hour, you know it wouldn't, and you and I both know you're under too much scrutiny these days. And disappearing for part of Valentine's day when your girlfriend is in hiding might make it too easy for someone to get suspicious.

I know I'm being a touch paranoid, but it just took three words not even three, really

and everything came crashing down around our shoulders, and I can't risk putting you in that position even if it means missing out on seeing you face to face until Easter.

Oh, Artie. I love you.

Ich liebe dich mehr als die Sterne.

??? ????
Give Kitty a hug for me, will you?
That was some curse on that fork, mate. I figured just turning it to a spoon would work, and Professor G did say we were supposed to change the objects as minimally as possible, so that would've been fairly minimal. Do you think he'll deduct points for the number of tries we had to make? Because I went through drinking straw and ladle before I decided to transfigure it into something that wasn't tableware at all.

Just wanted to say well done.

Hey, did Crabbe ever figure out the trick to mine? I was concentrating too hard on yours to see how he was doing.

Thanks. Ron's was like something his brothers would have made -- a little drawing of a cat that chased itself off the page, and if you flipped it to see it on the other side it did something to your hand. (I guessed something would happen and was careful, but I asked Ron later and he said I'd have grown cat's claws on my fingers. I'm a bit sorry now I didn't flip it.)

Crabbe was clearly out of his depth with this exercise. After the second time he got water all over his shoes he turned it into a hammer instead of a bowl. I suppose that solved the problem of it not properly holding liquid, right?
Transfiguration lessons are certainly challenging this term--but in a really good way, I think! It's been quite interesting to see everyone go a bit further in their studies. I'm sure Professor Glozeman is pushing us in ways we'd never have been exposed to with a less skilled professor in the post.

Jones, I think yours gets props for one of the funniest effects. Or perhaps it was just funny because of its victim. Not exactly a look they prize in MLE, eh, Weasley?

I myself was impressed that no one made the exact same thing. It shows quite a range of creative thinking.

And yes, Professor Glozeman is exceptional at keeping us on our toes!

Well, it shows some creative thinking. I mean, a coin? What was Smith thinking? Hardly what I'd call embracing the challenge. Did you discover the curse without it getting you first?

Well, I was left thinking that the curse is activated by spending the coin, so I bought a quill off Blaise. It gave me a tiny papercut - the coin, not the quill. So, that was that.
Your bracelet was quite elegant, Daphs.
I don't know if I was able to completely negate the effects of the curse you put on it, because I wasn't about to put it on to find out!

It sounds as if you enjoyed Professor Glozeman's lesson because it gave you the opportunity to see someone else look foolish - or, your idea of foolish, anyway.

What an odd thing to say! Of course not. I thought some of the ideas people had were rather elegant. Zabini's, for example.
I should think you of all people would appreciate the art of breaking curses--or coming up with them.

Is it odd?
What did you make?

A barrette, if you're curious. I'm not certain whether Macmillan broke the curse on it or not, to be honest. I don't think he'd have any reason to have put it on, anyway.
alt_hydra at 2015-02-14 00:46:08
(no subject)

What does the barrette do?

alt_padma at 2015-02-14 00:47:57
(no subject)

I'm not going to say, if Macmillan hasn't figured it out! Who knows whether Professor Glozeman will ask people who didn't complete the assignment to come back to it next lesson?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-14 00:49:24
(no subject)

Whatever it does, it makes the other person look foolish, doesn't it.

alt_padma at 2015-02-14 00:57:17
(no subject)

Oh, for Merlin's sake. It was an assignment, Lestrange. Have a sense of humour.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-14 00:59:17
(no subject)

Who says I'm not amused?

alt_padma at 2015-02-14 01:02:48
(no subject)

Oh, are you? It's good to know you're the sort of person who takes pleasure in other people's humiliation, then.
Only when it's deserved.

It can be quite a useful and motivating emotion.
Transfiguration today was really quite interesting. We were asked first to create a cursed object from a little ingot of metal, then to break the curse, using Transfiguration.

We've worked with Dark objects in Noble Arts class; part of the challenge was working out a way to break the curse with Transfiguration, rather than by removing it in one of the more standard ways. But, in drawing on what I'd learned in Noble Arts, I changed the metal of the bracelet to something less inclined to carry curses, and that made the bracelet safe to wear. (The object I was given to work on was made by Morag MacDougal and was a bracelet that would wrap itself around your wrist if touched.)

Anyway, it was a fascinating exercise! It was really interesting to use skills from two separate academic areas.

Did you ever retrieve the coin?

No.

I did try last weekend, but he was in there.

You think he found it. That's why he did the assignment today.

That's what I thought, too, when he told us to make something cursed.
Yeah, he didn't just tell us to make something cursed, he even gave us a piece of metal. And Zach Smith even made a coin. Though all it did was give you a little papercut if you tried to spend it, how naff is that?

I think we had probably better tell the other Juniors. Just in case.

I mean -- I'm good at covering my tracks and I don't think he learned much from the coin, if he found it? And for my project today I didn't cover my tracks at ALL. I wanted it to look competent but not sophisticated.

That's pretty much what I did. That's to say, nothing like a coin, and nothing that looked like I'm inclined to making serious objects.

I saw it was a drawing, what did it do? I wish he hadn't taken them all with him because I wanted a closer look.

Mine was a little elephant that would walk around and wave its trunk at you, and if you touched it it burned you. I'm pretty sure it wasn't hard for MacDougal to work out how to fix it.

Eh. Mine was just a cartoon. Of Satsuma the mad kitten. It was chasing string and ran around the corner of the parchment. If you turned it over to see where it went, then the curse would give you cat claws.
Harry didn't touch it, though. Said he changed Satsuma into a baby, and that broke the curse.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 04:08:23
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Too bad! I would've liked to see Harry with cat claws.

The problem is there's no clear definition of 'curse.' I mean, mine burned you, that's not fun. But Jones' mirror curse with the makeup was hilarious. I mean assuming it didn't hurt your eyes having all that eyeliner show up.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-14 04:09:38
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Nah.

Patil's look was priceless when she saw it, too. It was worth it just for that.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 04:29:07
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

By the way, I don't know if you noticed this, but that key Zach Smith got that I guess made him tell everyone about his past-due library book? no one made a key.

And, Blaise Zabini made a smooth oval thing that just looked like a pebble, and no one got that back.

There might have been others that got turned in and didn't come back out? But Blaise's was distinctive for being so random, you know, it wasn't really anything. And definitely no one made a key. (I thought about a key, but went with an elephant because I wanted something that was a little bit showy in form to go with the very very very simple curse that anyone could do.)
alt_ron at 2015-02-14 04:43:40  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron*

That key Smith got that had him telling everyone he'd shagged Astoria Greengrass? And Marjie Montague. I mean, yeah. Maybe he has done. It was just we didn't all need to know about it.

Odd about Zabini's. You sure no one got it?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 04:47:08  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron*

Not absolutely sure, but pretty sure. I'm in the back, so I could see what everyone got, and I didn't see anyone with Zabini's.

Anyway I think the library book was more scandalous. Didn't everyone know about Greengrass and Montague? Well, maybe not that he'd shagged them. But anyway, shagging's not against the rules or anything but Madam Pince will go spare if you keep a book for longer than you're supposed to.

alt_ron at 2015-02-14 05:16:00  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron*

Zabini transfigured his into a pebble? Wonder what the curse on it was?


alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 05:22:27  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron*

That sounds absolutely lovely.

Madam Pomfrey wanted to come and see me, though. See how we were doing. Well, how I was doing. And hear about everyone else. I don't imagine she's planning to stay the whole afternoon, though.
Erm.

Madam Pomfrey being there was not what I was imagining.

No I know, that's why I thought I'd better warn you.

Are you worried at all? About Glozeman's finding out?

Should we tell the other Juniors about it, just in case?

Yeah, I am worried. That's what I wrote Ron about, I wanted to know if he'd ever gone back for the coin. He did try to go back for it but Glozeman was there, he couldn't retrieve it.

So maybe Glozeman found it, and he had us do this today so he'd have a sample of our magic? I don't think he'll be able to identify me but I'm not sure.

I want you to teach me how to make it. So we can check and see if there's any way to trace it back to you, and so if I need to prove it was me instead, I can.
The hard part isn't making it, the hard part is covering your tracks.

Dolohov showed me all the standard spells for figuring out who made something, two years ago, after I showed him those socks I made that were supposed to be for Alecto Carrow. (I gave them to him, since he found them so interesting, and he had the House Elves put them into Dolores Umbridge's sock drawer.)

Maybe we ought to make quiet inquiries about whether there are other methods beyond the standard.

I've also read about thirty books on it.

I mean I haven't practiced that much. I feel guilty when I make things like that coin, I mean, I'm a Healer. It's just that making things is really fun.

Usually I just do it for Christmas presents for the Headmaster because he finds this sort of thing amusing. (One time I gave him a watch. I mean, I bought the watch but I altered how it works. It always tells you that you have plenty of time to get where you're going, when that's not true, and then suddenly you're late. But, if you check your watch against another clock or watch it'll always show the right time. There was some other stuff, too, like this effect gets worse the more worried you are about being late...anyway he thought it was brilliant. I talked to him later about how I did at making it hard for people to know who'd made the watch and he said it was basically untraceable to normal methods but someone really skilled, like Rodolphus Lestrange, might be able to at get my wand core and some
other identifiers. Glozeman's no Rodolphus Lestrange, though, and also, I've had several more years of practice.)

@alt_pansy at 2015-02-14 04:13:44  
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, then, unless Glozeman is friendly with Lestrange and asks his advice, or makes Lana Sandoval poke at it or something, I think you're covered. Because Dolohov wouldn't spill.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 04:17:40  
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, he might ask Sandoval to take a look! But yeah. I was watching during class to see exactly what people made, because I was worried someone would make a coin? And someone did, but it was Zach Smith. If Glozeman goes to Dolohov and tells him Zach Smith made a cursed coin and set it on him, Dolohov will laugh in his face. Or, you know, pour him a little cup of brandy, pat him on the hand, and tell him kindly that once he knows his students a little better he'll see how utterly absurd that idea is.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-14 05:56:14  
(no subject)

Yeah, it was. Some of it was fairly amusing, too.

. . . More amusing now I've got the kohl off my face. That took a while.
2015-02-13 20:01:00
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Say, Daphs.

You know spells that vanish makeup? This was funny, but I don't want to wake up looking like this tomorrow.  

alt_ron

alt_daphne at 2015-02-14 04:40:22
(no subject)

Try detergeo and if that doesn't work, let me know.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-14 04:48:54
(no subject)

You're the best!

Stings a bit. That's normal?

alt_daphne at 2015-02-14 04:50:34
(no subject)

Yes, it's a bit astringent, I'm afraid. Sorry!

alt_ron at 2015-02-14 04:55:21
(no subject)

Nah. Just wanted to be sure it wasn't some mistake I'd made, casting it.

I didn't see what you made. Or what you got back to neutralise. Anything interesting?
Zach made a galleon coin that gave me a papercut. Very sinister.

I made the cuffed bracelet that Pansy ended up with. It was cursed to make the wearer forget anything they were told while they were wearing it.

Oh, and I'm sorry to tell you that the makeup is my fault. Jones learnt it from a book of theatrical glamours I suggested to her.

A papercut. Seriously?

But the forgetfulness curse, that's a good idea. See that's the difference between you and Jones. You could've done loads of stage things, but you went for something different. (Unless forgetfulness curses are a thing actors do to each other. I expect it'd be excellent revenge if you wanted someone to go out on stage and completely fall flat in front of an audience. Very sinister, yourself!)

Anywiz, I didn't mind mine. It was a laugh.

Well, there are spells to help one remember their lines, but in this case I was just trying to think of something that could be very inconvenient and do a lot of indirect damage without actually melting someone's face off or some-such.

Hydra seemed to be defending you for some reason, and while I hate to agree with Padma, I must say that it really was a bit odd.
Hydra was?

What, on Patil's journal? I didn't bother reading.

Should I?

Oh, only if you want to. There wasn't too much to it, other than it seemed like Hydra might have been trying to irritate Padma in some fashion, but I suppose it can't be sure. You weren't actually mentioned by name or anything.

Heh. Well, anyone doing something to irritate Patil's worth having a look at!

I think it looks like she was just having a go at her.

And Patil doesn't seem to know how to get on with Jr DeathEater Lestrange
So, I was thinking we should probably make sure the rest of you know about this. A while back I made a coin with a mild curse on it, in case we needed something like that. If it's near the target, they'll get sick, and then it fades with time. It's really more of a prank than a curse, honestly, it didn't come out very strong. Anyway Ron had it and after Glozeman cruciated me and Justin because of Lucas O'Leary failing that Transfiguration exam he slipped it into Glozeman's office.

Ron went back to get it -- I mean, the magic's all discharged by now, so if he finds it he ought to just think it's a coin but just in case, you know -- but he wasn't able to get it.

Anyway I sort of wonder if the real purpose of today's exercise in class was to get a sample of our magic, specifically as it relates to curses. I did my best to make it look really different. But there wasn't time in class to warn anyone else about it and it's possible he'll decide it was me or Justin just because we were in his office.

I'm sorry I didn't tell you earlier. I was a little afraid you'd be indignant and insist that Ron needed to go back and get it because it was dishonorable and childish. (You weren't around when we pulled that prank on Ravenclaw with the lice.) And, it was definitely childish. I didn't know Ron was going to do that with the coin but I didn't exactly complain once I figured it out.
Sally-Anne,

I rather wish you had said something, what, as I used almost exactly what you describe on my piece.

I say, I couldn't respond earlier because I was in the Headmaster's Office. But if Professor Glozeman has any designs, what, at least he hasn't come forward with them--yet.

(It's certainly childish! But it's not up to me to be indignant about it.)

-Justin

Well, you didn't make a coin, at least.

Bugger. Did you cast anything on the ring you made that would obscure who made it?

No, I thought he'd want to be able to trace who made what, in case he hadn't kept notes.

I say, do you think I ought to have done?

-Justin

No, actually, it's good you didn't. If you had, that would have been a lot more suspicious.

I was very careful to cover my tracks when I made the coin. He shouldn't be able to get anything like a wand
identification off it. When I made my naff little elephant I left the identifying markers in place.

I'll definitely try your excuse if Dolohov gets suspicious enough to look at the elephant. I mean, that I thought he might want the identifying information intact. (Because Dolohov knows I know how to hide it.)

Yes, well, now I shall know to use the argument that I would hardly create something with the same effect to announce myself to him, if he levels any accusations against me.

Besides, Bundy will have removed the curse, what, and that might obscure the issue before he even has a chance to investigate.

-J

True. You'd think if he'd wanted to use it as proof he'd have kept it, like he kept Blaise Zabini’s.

Maybe he kept Zabini's because it was the same curse. I don't think so, though.

He kept Zabini's? Oh, I say. I wonder why. Given that Crabbe's was jolly well dangerous, it's hard to believe Professor Glozeman would scruple to spare Zach some pain. And we certainly saw he didn't spare him embarrassment, what!

-J
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 05:27:54
Re: Private message to Justin

Whatever Zabini cast wore him out a bit. It was something taxing, and I rather got the impression from the way he looked that it wasn't going to be an amusing sort of curse.

Neither was Crabbe's, but there are much more dire Dark objects out there than ones that petrify your wand hand, so. Anyway. That key Zach Smith got, no one in the class made that, and I didn't see anyone with Zabini's.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 05:01:05
Re: Private message to Justin

I could go to Dolohov. And 'confess,' sort of, by telling him I made a thing and I think it fell out of my pocket somewhere. I expect he'd pretend to believe me.

But if this has nothing to do with that stupid coin I'll feel awfully stupid.

alt_justin at 2015-02-14 05:02:29
Re: Private message to Justin

Well, how confident are you that he can successfully compare the coin to the other object you made today?

-J

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-14 05:09:08
Re: Private message to Justin

Glozeman? Not a chance, unless he goes to Rodolphus Lestrange. And then, I'm pretty sure the most he'll get is my wand core. Which is unicorn tail hair. Doesn't narrow things down much.

Dolohov knows perfectly well I make things like this for fun.
Pansy thinks he'll cover for me. I don't want YOU getting in trouble instead, though.

alt_justin at 2015-02-14 05:14:49
Re: Private message to Justin

I shouldn't worry if I were you, then. The Headmaster has enough invested in us both that I bally well doubt he shall let Professor Glozeman bully him about.
**2015-02-14 00:09:00**

*Private Message to H Lestrange*

Trust you booked the salle for half-seven.

Meet me on the Quidditch pitch at half-six for a run. We'll want the warm-up before we hit the course.

Want to see if you sorted out the business with your footwork.

Then it's parries, turns, and sense-deprivation work. I'll bring the hoods.

---

**alt_hydra** at **2015-02-14 06:20:09**

*(no subject)*

I did. And I also booked it for 10am on, since I didn't know if you would want to use the time meant for Hogsmeade for training, instead.

Do you ever sleep in late, though? On your birthday, say.

I'm wondering if I will have to give it up for the rest of my life, see.

---

**alt_crouch_jr** at **2015-02-14 06:29:02**

*(no subject)*

Foresight. Points for that.

In that case we'll run through noon. After that I've other commitments.

What's your notion of 'late' for sleeping? Mostly, I catch sleep where I'm able and take no more than actually needed. Generally, there's not time for more than that.

Enjoy the student life while you can. After that, your hours are not likely to be your own, any more than mine are.
I suppose late is sleeping until you wake up on your own without an alarm. Not that I've done that very often in my life, either. My hours weren't my own until I went to school.

I just feel more tired than usual lately. Maybe I'm still growing. I've been eating more to see if that helps.

Are you escorting Daphne 'round Hogsmeade, then?

Hm. I suppose they weren't.

If you're up past midnight and feeling tired during the day, the solution is fairly obvious. Go to bed.

Promenading around Hogsmeade village is not on the agenda, no.

I have an alert on my journal that sounds off if you write to me. Foresight.

Well, whatever you have planned, I'm sure she'll be pleased.

Will try to be more accommodating of your limitations from here on.

Go. Sleep.
See you in the morning.
Private Message to Sue and Zach

Oi, you two! Where are you? Get down to the Broomsticks! We're having a ripping time. Sue, you were right about the necklace, Megs loved it.

Zach, mate, you even attempting to be romantic with that one girl? You know, the one you kept going on about in class? She can come too, if you're all right with being seen in public with her, that is.

Private Message to Sue

All right, then, mate?

I figured, you know, today and all...

Anyways. Hope you'll join us for a butterbeer. Or something stronger, if you're up for it.
2015-02-14 19:29:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Al

still need to discuss logistics about the fidelius security protocol and training tomorrow.
you want to go for a walk while we do?

alt_alice at 2015-02-15 03:24:34
(no subject)
Yes.
Yes, we do.
All right.

alt_alice at 2015-02-15 06:57:37
(no subject)
That was quite a walk.
And much needed, too.
I love you, dearest man.

alt_frank at 2015-02-15 06:58:24
(no subject)
sheets are getting cold.

alt_alice at 2015-02-15 07:00:48
(no subject)
Nearly finished, you whinger.
Couldn't find where you'd put your clean socks.
screw the bloody socks. I will wear dirty socks tomorrow, and the world will keep turning.

got the fire going again. hurry back.

Sir, yes sir.
Cheeky.
Dux,

I say, not quite the Valentine's Day either of us had in mind, was it? I'm sorry I fell asleep, love. I daresay I needed the nap, what!

Though I'm bally well certain we both slept the better for being together, even if it was only for a handful of hours.

I'm glad you liked your presents.

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-15 03:10:24
(no subject)

Don't be offended, but giving me a chance to nap was actually the second-best gift of the day. I don't know how Crouch is able to stay so sharp on only a few hours sleep a night.

And I was happy to have enough galleons, for once, to buy you a real, proper present and not just some trifle. Have you figured out the extra special bit on the inkwell, yet?

alt_justin at 2015-02-15 03:17:40
(no subject)

I don't think it's surprising we both dropped off, with the way things have been going. That bed looked far too inviting, what. But I'm glad you took the chance to get some rest, if that's what you needed.

You know it doesn't matter to me whether you ever give me so much as a lump of coal, but it's quite a handsome dressing gown. I jolly well love it.

And I love seeing your initials next to mine, too. HEF-F. I keep brushing my thumb over it just to make them show. Can anyone see them, or just me?
So...ought we to try for the salle tomorrow night?

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-15 03:25:05
(no subject)

You're the only one who can see them - well, aside from me.

If we do go to the salle I don't want to do any kind of training. I had more than enough of that this morning.

Did you ever hear anything else about Professor Glozeman and that curse?

alt_justin at 2015-02-15 03:33:29
(no subject)

Training was not on my mind, no.

And no, I've not heard anything. At least, Professor Glozeman didn't come to see the Headmaster last evening. If he does call me into question, what, I know what I shall say in my defence, so I'm not terribly worried.

Though I bally well doubt this will be his last attempt to make things nasty for me or for Sally-Anne, for that matter. Do you know, she noticed that he didn't pass Zabini's curse item to Smith, but he had no qualms about giving me Crabbe's, despite its rather uncomfortable effects. So I've every reason to expect Transfiguration to be a trial for the remainder of the year.

I've survived worse, what.

-J
I don't think Glozeman has even the slimmest chance of making the Headmaster take his concerns seriously. And all over a silly cursed coin. He clearly doesn't have enough enemies on the council if that sort of thing keeps him up at night.
Hey, how was your boys' get-together at the safehouse?

Bea gave us all Valentines and somehow got Kreacher to make cupcakes. Then she got frosting in her hair.

It was quite an exciting day.

Snitch. We just lounged around and caught up, mostly. I tried out my Bellatrix impersonation on him, but there was firewhiskey so it all ended up being more hilarious than it ought to have been.

Too bad Hydra didn't show up - I was hoping to get her opinion. Oh, but Sally Anne came 'round and then Ron did, too. It wasn't til after they left that we realised they were probably hoping to have the place to themselves.

A Kreachercake? That sounds dreadful. Did it taste of mould and spiderwebs?

Actually the cake was quite good, you know he can bake really well if he wants to. (Actually, you know who really bakes well? Mr Snape. It's not something I think he'd like Sirius to know, though, if he doesn't already.) Anyway, it had pink icing and little balloons on, which if you touched them popped into little strips of confetti.

I can't quite imagine Bellatrix drunk on firewhiskey, though. You'll have to recreate it for me.
I'm reasonably certain Hydra was stuck training with Auror Crouch.

That doesn't surprise me about Snape. Potions is a bit like cooking, but with more complex recipes.

Auntie Bella would never drink - has to keep her senses sharpened at all times. It's a wonder how anyone ever convinced her to actually lower herself to have sex. Probably the Lord Protector insisted she have some sprogs, and that's all it took.

Harry said that Hydra and Crouch were in the castle's salle this morning. Would he really have kept her all day? Brutal.

So in that case, yes, he probably did.

Did you save me a kreachercake?

It's hard enough to think about Mr Snape with flour on his face; please, please do not make me think about your aunt having sex!

(But speaking of that...now that I think about it, I doubt Auror Crouch did keep Hydra all day. It's Valentine's Day; surely he wanted to spend some of it with Daphne? Talk about things I don't want to visualise....)

There are plenty of cupcakes. Are you coming back tonight? It's not too late to have another, but I'm not sure they'll go with whiskey.
I brought it up as a complete hypothetical, it's not my fault if your mind adds images and sound effects for good measure.

Urgh, imagining Crouch is even worse. Thanks for that. I guess we're even?

I was thinking of sleeping here at the safehouse, but I could probably be fit to apparate here in a little while. Are there any rules or superstitions about eating valentine themed food if you don't have a valentine? I feel like there are but I can't remember them.

I think you should sleep, if you're worried about apparating.

As for valentine's food, well Bea will gladly be your valentine, I'm sure. I don't think there's anything wrong, though, but once I heard Montgomery and Stevens saying that they thought it should all be black, if they weren't going to be able to have boyfriends on Valentine's Day. (That was when they were single, though!)

Anyway, I'll be sure there's a preserving charm on the cupcakes so they don't go stale before you get back.

Stale spiderweb kreachercakes.

Yeah, I think I'd better sleep here, it'll be longer than I thought before I can apparate.

'Night, Hermione.
The gossip back at the castle was that everyone saw Crouch and Daphne going into the Protector's Circle, you know, that inn in Hogsmeade.

That was at around noon, so Hydra had the afternoon free. I didn't hear anyone mention what she'd been up to, though.

I rather imagine Mr Snape's cupcakes would be the result of endless experiments on large and smaller quantities of bicarbonate of soda and whether it would improve things to grate the chocolate, shave it, chop it, or dice it before melting it. With endless notations in each cookbook. With the result being the world's most perfect chocolate cupcake that no one else ever makes because their own recipes are just fine and his requires too many charms to keep the temperatures perfect.

Sounds much better than a kreacher-cake. I want a snapecake now.

Isn't he still living in 12GP? You could ask him to bake you some cupcakes.
I think I'd have to make him think it was his idea, first.

I know - I'll tell him the Kreacher claims that his kreachercakes are superiour to snapecakes. There will be a bake-off.

DO IT.

Then send me a sample through the colocation box. I'll be the judge.

You know, the disadvantage of you staying in the safe house is that I can't confiscate your journal when you get like this.

Go to sleep, Draco!

(Oh, but drink some water first or you'll regret it in the morning.)

Are you saying I should stop winding him up?
@alt_hermione at 2015-02-15 05:25:15
Private Message to Harry

You're the one who let him get drunk! Did he even have anything to eat at all today?

@alt_harry at 2015-02-15 05:30:56
Re: Private Message to Harry

Of course! Well, I mean, I was eating. There were biscuits.

@alt_draco at 2015-02-15 05:23:45
(no subject)

I am being brilliant right now, do you not realise?

I'm going to make sure that we get to try snapecakes. Aren't you excited?

@alt_harry at 2015-02-15 05:31:35
(no subject)

I'm excited!

Maybe I should be sleeping instead of excited, though.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-15 05:22:35
(no subject)

It was really, really good to see you today.
You too, mate.
The tea's very thoughtful.

(All the conversations we've had about grammar, I wrote that, and now I can't stop sorting how I'd translate that sentence into one of the other languages as if the tea were the one doing the thinking.)

I'm glad it's clear out, tonight. Considering.

Did you decide on the book, or the arithmancy, or something else?

Book. I was reading Kevin and his bunkmates some bedtime stories, so I got in a reading sort of mood.

I'm glad you found it. I figured you'd be out tonight.

Books are excellent choices in all sorts of moods, really.

I'm thinking about the stories in the stars, more than the stars tonight. Or at least that's what I keep coming back to.

Not that most of them end well

There's something comforting about looking up, and seeing things not change very fast, though.
alt_evelyn at 2015-02-15 04:50:07
(no subject)

It is beautiful, isn't it? Like the most magnificent watch ever made.

And knowing what's going to happen next helps too. No matter what we do down here.

alt_sinistra at 2015-02-15 05:04:56
(no subject)

That's a very nice description, yes.

It's not that there aren't other things. Comets. Novae and supernovae. Meteor showers. But mostly things keep going as they were.

Of all the idiotic things to miss, now i miss the Hogwarts orreys. (And in truth, I'd always thought them necessary but fussy, speaking of clockwork mechanisms.)

alt_evelyn at 2015-02-15 05:11:49
(no subject)

I found myself missing the breakfast rolls the other day.

The hard ones. That take forever to chew.

I don't think reason factors in at all when it comes to that sort of thing. And it's easier to

alt_sinistra at 2015-02-15 05:19:31
(no subject)

Reason and I have not reliably been on particularly good terms, the past thirty six weeks eight months or so.

We feel what we feel, I guess, whether it's logical or not. Whether that's missing orreys or hard breakfast rolls or all sorts of other things.
I kept trying to tell myself all afternoon that it's not like today's that different from other days. But if I'm not going to manage reason - or being useful - I might as well let myself wallow in stars a bit.

Tomorrow, though. Do you have time for a couple of hours? Something dense and chewy, and distracting. (I promise, not as tedious at those sets of questions I've been throwing at you. I've got one more I want you to do, but not tomorrow.)

Yes. Please. That sounds lovely.

And the questions haven't been terrible. I've rather enjoyed solving some of them, actually. And if it'll help me with getting through my OWL material, I can certainly see the value in it.

I did say I had plans for you demonstrating you know the OWL material backwards and forwards.

Next clear night, I want to run you through a set of charts, under exam conditions, too.

I'm still looking at some of the locational offsets on the first wards. There's something nagging at me, and I just can't sort out what, and maybe you'll spot a pattern I'm not.

That sounds like a plan, then. On both fronts.
Excellent. You're a great help, truly, and getting to be more and more of one as we go. I am going back to the stars, I think. Enjoy your book?

Shall. And thank you, ever so much, Professor.

It's a good thing, to feel useful.
2015-02-14 22:35:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George

You are a wicked temptation, George Weasley. I barely managed to get back in time.

I can't stop grinning.

I am in love with a clever, ridiculous, wonderful man.

Who happens to be rather marvellous at shagging.

Lucky, lucky me.

I love your smile, and your kindness, and your freckles, and your hands, and the way your eyes crinkle at the corners when you think, and the way you look at me when we kiss, and you.

You are brilliant, and I can't believe I have to wait weeks before I get a chance to see you again.

Happy Valentine's, George.

---

@alt_george at 2015-02-18 17:57:32
(no subject)

Hogsmeade weekends were never such fun before.

I love the little mole just below your right knee. I love the look in your eyes and the way you wrinkle your nose when you think I'm going in for a tickle. I love the look on your face when I set off fireworks for you. I love the way you stick two or three quills behind your ear whenever you're going over the books.

I love whenever you put on that snooty look and voice to make me crack up.

I love your generosity and your loyalty. How did I ever get so lucky?

Hitty said she left my package for you the next day, but you found it, yeah? You won't unless your bed curtains are closed.
You're rather good at setting off fireworks, I must say.

And yes! Package received. I'm wearing it right now, actually.

It's a good thing you spelled the bed curtains -- I must've turned five shades of red and was giggling like a madwoman.
Astoria's told me about the rumours going 'round your sett, and no, of course he didn't ask me to marry him! By adult standards we've only been dating a very short while, and even though Lizzie got engaged while she was still at school I don't see myself taking that particular path. Besides that, as a council wizard he can't just up and get engaged on a whim.

You're too young to remember, but this isn't the first time that particular rumour's gotten around. Only the last time it happened, I was your age! (And no, he wasn't interested in me like that back then. So if that rumour is also going around, be sure to pay it no mind.)

So I heard it was Phillip Stretton who sent you that singing valentine? It was a bit out of tune, but still, a very sweet thought. He seems like a nice boy. Certainly someone worthy of your attentions.
I had difficulty sleeping last night, but not for want of fatigue and weariness.

Let me just say: yesterday was by far the most memorable and enjoyable Valentine's Day I have ever experienced. And there's no hyperbole in that. Thank you very much for spending it with me, and for the beautiful (intentional!) red roses.

If it's not too soon to ask, do you have a general idea of what your social calendar looks like during my spring hols? I already have friends and family making a bid on my time, but I would like to spend some of it with you in New London, if you are amenable (with the understanding that someone in your position may have to break plans at a moment's notice, of course). My girlfriends Elsie and Lizzie have been trying to convince me to have a party at Spencer House, as well, though in my opinion it wouldn't entirely be in good taste. I'm still in school, after all, and... well, Raz hasn't been gone even a year. I think they simply want to get a good look at the place, which can be accomplished just as easily by inviting them over for tea.

I hope this Sunday has treated you well. See you soon!
though--could be your peers will freelance for the rags.)

If you like the idea, begin a guest list.

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-16 05:12:14
(no subject)

Ha. Yesterday isn't the only thing that's charming.

You'd really want I admit I'm pleasantly surprised that you would suggest such a thing, and happy you believe me up to such a task. I do like the idea, in fact.

As for the picture of the flowers, well, that's a relatively harmless thing to get a picture of, all things considered. But I shall ponder that point carefully when penning the guest list.
2015-02-15 22:34:00
Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter and Sally Anne Perks

Bloody hell. Are all third year witches watering pots? I mean, Valentines doesn't go well and they decide they have to cry in the loo for a hundred years? They couldn't've gone and thrown stones at the squid? Or shouted at the stupid bloke that broke their ickle hearts?

And why that loo?

I mean, bloody Myrtle's loo.

Ugh. All right, we'll try again next chance we get, but with Sandoval wanting to know what we're doing every minute, argh. We'll make up something to tell her, but really.

Third years.

alt_ron at 2015-02-16 04:53:38
Private Message to Sally Anne

Do you mind that we didn't do anything, y'know, romantic yesterday?

Sorry I didn't at least get you flowers.

Only, well-

I guess I'm just really tight, and that's-

Sorry.

I don't want you to feel as if I don't care, cause I really do.

I really do.
Well, it's a good thing you're not dating Lavender Brown, because she probably wouldn't speak to you for a week.

It's okay. I know. I mean.

It's not a big deal.

Ha. Lav.

Did you see her yesterday? With Moon's love poems following her around everywhere? Hilarious.

I think she's got the perfect bloke for her, yeah?

She really does!

And, I've got the perfect bloke for me.

Aww!

Y'know, I can't think of anyone else I'd want to be with. Really.

Me, either.
(Did you know Pansy and George went off to a cave yesterday? A CAVE. If I had Pansy's dosh I think I'd get one of those hotel rooms every single time I went to Hogsmeade. And have room service bring up chocolate cake and butterbeer.)

They did?

Yeah, I think it's the cave where Sirius used to go when we were meeting him?

I mean, I'm sure they used warming charms and made themselves pretty comfortable? But. I mean. If I were rich I'd definitely pick a hotel. Caves don't have beds with lovely soft sheets or fireplaces or room service.

Next year on Valentine's Day we won't be students anymore. Are you going to get a flat with Justin again? Because your room in the flat was just fine.

I need to see what he thinks about that, actually.

Reckon I should ask if he wants to come to the Burrow for hols again. Though he went off to Daphs as soon as he got the chance, so I don't know. Maybe he won't want to. I mean, he's used to something better, y'know?
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-16 06:14:48
Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

That's because Hydra was there, not because he wanted something posh.

alt_ron at 2015-02-16 05:54:14
Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

A cave. In February.

Those two really are daft.

Guess they're serious, eh?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-16 06:13:56
Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Well, Pansy is! I don't know about George. Pansy thinks so, though.

alt_harry at 2015-02-16 04:57:35
(no subject)

'Why that loo' is obvious. Misery loves company. Where better to go cry than Moaning Myrtle's bathroo?

alt_ron at 2015-02-16 05:01:13
(no subject)

Must be, but, really. If I felt rotten I wouldn't go tell it to Myrtle. Would you?
Well, I never did!

I've heard she can be rather comforting, though, in her own (really odd) way.

Really odd.

That's an understatement.
2015-02-16 21:12:00
Private Message to Ernie

Hey, so I've been meaning to ask you all day:
How did it go last night? What was his excuse?

And yeah, you're right: Margie's fit but
Merlin, she's got a gob on her. I dunno, I think
maybe it's time to move on.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-17 03:20:33
(no subject)

Uh

Not quite sure what you're getting at, mate.

Excuse for what?

alt_zacharias at 2015-02-17 03:29:40
(no subject)

Finch-Fletchley. Out past curfew. You said you were
going to wait up for him. What happened, did you
fall asleep and miss him coming in?

alt_ernie at 2015-02-17 03:32:20
(no subject)

Right.

He came in before curfew, so bit of a moot point.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-17 03:33:38
(no subject)

Wait.

I mean

Hang on. I was waiting up? Because he was out past curfew?
Because he wasn't.

Yeah, he was.

And you were going to have a talk with him about why.

Bloody Erebus. Do you remember us talking about that?

I remember him coming back, and looking at the clock, and it was ten minutes before curfew, and thinking, 'well, he just made it in, didn't he?'

And no.

I don't remember us talking about curfew. Or that I needed to wait up.

Right, now we really need to talk to him, mate. He's modified your memory, he has.

Bloody hell.

Merlin, Zach.

For coming in after bloody curfew.

He messed with my head because he came in late? I mean, who does that?
Is this the first time he's pulled this?

Damn right, we have to talk to him.

[@alt_zacharias](https://example.com) at 2015-02-17 03:51:51
(no subject)

Too right.

And I'm going with you. Clearly you need backup, mate.

[@alt_ernie](https://example.com) at 2015-02-17 03:43:28
(no subject)

You're not messing with me, are you?

We really did talk?

[@alt_zacharias](https://example.com) at 2015-02-17 03:45:31
(no subject)

Yeah, we did. And he was *not* back in time.

I'm telling you, he's the one messing with you.

[@alt_ernie](https://example.com) at 2015-02-17 03:50:10
(no subject)

Yeah.

That, I can believe.
Hydra,

Well, I should think anytime we want to spend the night in the salle, it will no longer be a problem on my end, what.

I've just had a jolly well fraught conversation with Macmillan and Smith. Macmillan was waiting for me when I got back last night and I-I didn't want to take a chance he'd tell anyone, so I modified his memory. What I didn't know was that Smith also knew I hadn't made it back for curfew. I suppose I ought to have anticipated that, what.

In any case, they cornered me a few moments ago and I told them I'd been on business for the Headmaster, which he'd specifically told me to keep quiet, which is why I took the liberty with Macmillan. He bally well didn't believe me, what, though of course had our positions been reversed, I likely would not have believed him. Then I told him and Smith both that from now on, they had best simply leave off tracking my comings or goings, and there would be no need for further unpleasantness.

Neither of them are too happy about it, what, but at least it makes life a bit easier for us.

And how was your day, love?

-J

Macmillan was waiting for you. What for?

I'm not sure I see why you didn't just lie to him? Or just told him to mind his own business, for that matter. Did you panic?

They used to be your friends, in a manner of speaking. I'm sorry it's come to this. Are you certain it's what you want?
Smith said that they'd noted I wasn't back for curfew (and that it wasn't the first time) and that Macmillan had planned to confront me when I got in. Last night, he was bally well spoiling to report it. Of course, in hindsight I could have lied right then, but I didn't want to take a chance he'd not believe it.

We were friendly, yes, and if only they'd take a notion to channel their indignation into a healthy distaste for the Protectorate, what, it will be worth the breach. I hope by making myself as imperious as possible, they may seek out some of the other Juniors.

At any rate, they're well intimidated now, so we might as well enjoy the relative freedom that brings with it, what.

-Justin

Hufflepuffs are such busybodies, sometimes. Yourself excluded.

I don't know if you can be certain they won't try to cause trouble for you again. We oughtn't be too careless, anyway, because we've seen where that's led before.

As for them having a distaste for the Protectorate, well, it's probably much easier and more manageable to find fault with someone standing right in front of you, I suppose.

I say, they've been more put out than usual since the Triumph. I think on top of Professor Sprout's death and Professor Sinistra's flight (which are roundly blamed on the Headmaster here in the sett), I've become the symbol of his inhumanity. I'm bally well sure they were both extremely disquieted by the fact that I killed
another wizard in my duel, not a Muggle or an Inferus or some other dark creature.

One does wish there were ways to direct their anger down more productive avenues, what.

But you've cultivated a similar reputation, so it's not surprising they'd see me in a similar light.

-J

alt_hydra at 2015-02-17 05:25:04
(no subject)

Yes, and they have to live in the same room as you, not with the Headmaster. Or the Lord Protector.

I thought that if the comfortable students, the ones who were able to blithely ignore what goes on outside the castle, got a taste of what it was like to live with people like my mother, they might start to be aware of the other problematic aspects of the Protectorate.

But I didn't take into account that I lived with Mummy for years and years before I became aware of other things. I've tried to intimidate Padma and it hasn't really worked the way I thought it would. She's a little afraid of me, maybe, and she thinks I'm mad like Mummy is, but she's never made the connection that "oh, maybe it's the whole Protectorate that's mad, actually."

So I suppose it isn't working. Or else they're all just terribly thick.

alt_justin at 2015-02-17 05:36:01
(no subject)

Yes. In fact, Ernie tried to tell me to move out of Hufflepuff, what! He said that I simply can't be trusted. (Though I daresay Ron and Neville had to live with Finnigan for years under similar circumstances, and Ron and Harry still have him looking over their shoulders!) I told him he could think what he liked but as long as he and Zach didn't get in my way, they had nothing to
worry about.

You can imagine how well he took that. But at least he realises there's not a thing he can do to stop me coming and going as I please.

Though I suppose you're right and it's not wise to tempt fate. I even suggested he talk to the Headmaster if he felt so strongly about it--I say, I've never been so worried he'd take me up on it as just after I said it. My heart was pounding, what, and I'm sure if anyone with Legilimency had been there I'd have given myself quite away.

They've seemed to accept my lie for now, but if I have to repeat it to many others, it's bound to get back to the Headmaster one way or other.

I think in Patil's case, she's simply far too self-centred to apply the logic to all the Council, though I do believe Ollerton genuinely shook her firm delusion that the Protectorate is a splendid advance in statesmanship. Has your attitude made any difference among your classmates? Or anyone else in Slytherin?

-J

👤 **alt_hydra** at 2015-02-17 05:43:07

*(no subject)*

I thought I might be making a difference, but I'm just not sure anymore. Maybe I ought to try something different.

I'm tired, and I'm sure you are, too. Just don't forget to cast wards around your bed so that Ernie doesn't try to levitate your sleeping body out of the room in the night, or something.

Goodnight, Justin. Love you (even if you can't be trusted - ha!).
Still overtired? Poor love. But you're right, it's late.

And yes, I've been warding everything for a while, now. I don't expect it to change.

But don't let's lose heart completely.

I love you, too (even if you're jolly well mad, what!).

Sweet Dreams, my darling.

-J
2015-02-17 18:53:00
Order Only

Oh bloody buggery I just passed Lana S-P on my way to the library after supper and she was thinking about eye colour and about how mine are blue and my father's are grey and then she began wondering

She's pregnant. With my father's child.

I don't know for certain but I think they might have planned it together?

alt_pansy at 2015-02-18 01:05:54 (no subject)

Really?

Well. That's interesting.

alt_pansy at 2015-02-18 01:14:55 (no subject)

That must be a bit of a shock, Hydra.

D'you think we could use it to get to Bellatrix somehow?

Would Lana even be a match for her? Perhaps Lana and your father together might have a chance...

It'd save us a load of trouble.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 01:17:51 (no subject)

I'm not sure. Draco's right. Under normal circumstances, impregnating Lana would make her vulnerable to Mummy's rages. Daddy would know that better than anyone else.

But Mummy isn't possessive about Daddy's affections. She shuns
them. She might even think that Lana has taken a burden off her hands.

I don't know how she'd feel about him having a baby with another woman, though.

@alt_daphne  at 2015-02-18 01:06:32
(no subject)

What? But he's so much older than he's married! To your mother!

@alt_hydra  at 2015-02-18 01:25:12
(no subject)

Legally married, yes. They basically live apart and lead separate lives, except when it comes to family events, Protectorate affairs, and such.

He doesn't know that I know this, but he more or less agreed to stop interfering in my upbringing in exchange for being able to see Lana.

@alt_draco  at 2015-02-18 01:11:28
(no subject)

Bloody nightshade. You'd said they were having it on the side but actually planning a pregnancy behind both Ned and Bellatrix's back?

What could your father be thinking? I mean, he must believe that Bellatrix won't care, and has convinced Lana of the same - otherwise, I can't see how they'd risk such a thing.

@alt_hydra  at 2015-02-18 01:22:15
(no subject)

Well you know he has that preoccupation with the Lestrange bloodline. I think it's increased as of late, and that's why he bothered to dig up the truth about Daphne being Raz's daughter. Maybe that got him
thinking about having more children of his own. Mummy's definitely done with that, and she's nearly too old, besides.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-18 01:37:20  
(no subject)

That's right, he quite went on at me about the Sacred Twenty-Eight, and how many of the pureblood lines had recently gone extinct, or soon would. I almost got the impression that he wanted the Lestrange line to be the last and strongest bloodline standing, or something. Perhaps on account of them nearly squibbing out a few generations back.

Oh, and he's very prone to boasting about fact that his children have rare and remarkable magic.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 03:03:44  
(no subject)

Yes. I think we're part of his dark artefact collection.

Which isn't to say that he hasn't been kind and good and loving to me at times. He has. But not when it really mattered.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-18 03:11:51  
(no subject)

Do you think his interest in Lana is really only to get himself another Lestrange, then?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 03:17:17  
(no subject)

I don't think it's just that. I think perhaps he may love her. But for someone he loves, he's also complicating her life quite a bit.

Maybe he thinks this is the only way he can really have her. I don't know.
Hydra,

I say, are you all right? As Pansy says, it's obviously a shock.

What do you suppose Pennifold might do, if he found out?

-Justin

alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 02:54:28
(no subject)

I suppose I'm fine. If surprised. I always thought my father took his wedding vows quite seriously, despite the difficulties in their marriage. I'm fairly certain he never stepped out on my mother until Lana.

Maybe he really loves her.

What do you think a husband would do, if he found out his wife was pregnant with another man's child? And willingly, at that.

alt_justin at 2015-02-18 03:08:33
(no subject)

Well, as you say, I think it would depend on how he felt about his wife. Or whether he's the jealous type, what.

Though there is quite a lot to be said about breaking one's marriage vows.

-Justin
I can't say at all how Ned feels about his wife. Though I think she's probably the one who "runs" the marriage, so to speak.

Well, that's--

Can you even imagine her being a mother?

My mother is a mother.

Point.

L S-P's hardly your mother. Thank Merlin. But she's horrendous with little kids. Makes ickle Gryffindors cry every day. And the students she's got in lessons, too.

Maybe she'll be different with her own. D'you think?

Yeah, I don't, either.

What's your father see in them? Sorry. That's not fair to ask.

It probably depends on whether the child decides to hold her in awe or not. Honoria doesn't, and so Lana rejects her. But if Honoria tagged after Lana and tried to be just like her, Lana would probably
love it. Just like she loved Padma tagging after her.

What did you write and cross out? I don't mind.

📷 alt_ron at 2015-02-18 03:51:25
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I was wondering what your father sees in women like that. That's all.

   I mean, they're both fit. But they're also both manipulative and cruel.

I guess that's the least of it with your mum, but I don't really know, do I?

📷 alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 03:57:22
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I suppose if you become special to someone manipulative and cruel, it might make you feel quite extraordinary?

📷 alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 03:57:47
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I always thought women were more prone to that sort of thinking than men, though.

📷 alt_ron at 2015-02-18 04:17:55
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Hm.

   Maybe if you fall in love with someone like that you sort of don't see what they're like to other people? I mean, you might look away from it if they're not cruel to you.
alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 04:23:25
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Right. Mummy is quite awful to Daddy but she wasn't always so bad, I don't think. And I'm sure that Lana isn't awful to him at all.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-18 03:39:23
(no subject)

Well, and Sandoval's sort of... your mother but without the maniacal intensity.

She did idolise her when she was student, after all, and Bellatrix was the reason she wanted to be an Auror.

So maybe if your father does feel affection for her, it's because he sees Bella when she was younger?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-18 03:42:18
(no subject)

Yes, that could be why. She's like my mother but doesn't have legilimency to leverage against him. And he has the authority of age and experience over her, as well.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-18 06:03:00
(no subject)

I can see where that would be extremely appealing to your father.

Who do you think ought to find out? Hard to know what your mother would do, if anything. Ned would be furious, humiliated, and thoroughly distracted, but he's rather less our problem than Lana is. And I don't think he'd murder Lana over it, because for one thing, she could take him. (I'm not sure he would? I mean, adultery is SO common in that set, surely he wasn't really expecting...but a pregnancy! Passed off as his! I don't know.)
I'm not sure, only it did cross my mind that the information might be used to blackmail her into not being such a monster toward the Gryffindors and the younger students.

Only, then she'll wonder how the blackmailer found out she was pregnant with my father's child, and she'll probably make the connection that I read her thoughts.

ARE you all right, really? If your mother doesn't discover it, and your father doesn't admit it to you, it might be rather awkward for you to see Lana Sandoval-Pennifold with the baby and act as if you don't have any idea it's your half-brother or sister.

I wonder whether there might be another possibility....

Maybe Ned and Lana have been TRYING to get pregnant. And well, they've done some investigation and found out that Ned can't, or at least that his chances are low. That happens in some purebred families, doesn't it? So maybe Lana thinks he'll be so happy they're having a baby that he either won't guess or care that it's, uh, a cuckoo in the nest.

I can't imagine what would keep Hydra's mum from finding out the same way Hydra did, though. And if she finds out, and she's angry about it, well, she might--

oh, dear.
Order Only: private message to Sally-Anne

Wasn't expecting that. Hydra's little revelation, I mean. Merlin. Guess people really do live differently when they're part of the Sacred Twenty-Eight.

Don't know what to say there, really -- other than "let's bloody well exploit it however we can," of course. But.

Eh. She was just so offhanded about it, like of course they have their arrangements and do what they bloody well please. Not like they haven't got the money and the houses to do it with, of course. Must make it easy.

This isn't Protectorate evil. It's just power.

Oh, yeah. You hear all sorts of gossip in Slytherin House. Though Lana Sandoval being knocked up with Hydra's half-sibling behind Bellatrix's back is extreme even by the standards of the Sacred.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Alice, Frank, Sirius, and Remus

Trying to get back into the thick of things after months of sitting on my arse is hard. I've no idea where I'm needed most. What d'you lot think?

I need to train up a bit, I know that much. And Wee Ickle Adam is still terribly small, so I can't hare off for too long at a time, but a few hours here and there are certainly workable, and I want to be of help. And stretch my legs a bit too, yeah?

I was thinking if we nosed around the camps again, perhaps I could give a hand - there are two babies in England we haven't picked up yet, aren't there? Buraq and Thomas? I know security was tougher before Christmas, but it might be worth our while to head back, and I'd save us a dose of polyjuice.

And I'm definitely prepared to help with the Fidelius efforts, too.

---

yes to training.

you come round every other day or so, I'll get you in fighting shape.

and good to know about the fidelius, too. you did just fine on Sunday. think you'll be a natural at it.

---

I hope you're prepared for an arse-kicking of epic proportions, Frank, luv.

Eventually, that is.

Give a gal a few weeks to get her feet under her again.
if you think I'll take it easy on you, you'll be sore, and sorely mistaken.

Bring it on, old man.

We can go for the kids any time, soon as we can get hold of the right parchment to get in to their camps. We'll just have to make sure it doesn't take us more than four hours or so.

Good.

It's been suggested that we try to get Igraine Archer's mother out. And perhaps some other more experienced and trained muggleborn while we're at it.
Snape reminded me... I suppose that's something else I could do, ey? Write a little grim truth of my own.
2015-02-19 08:41:00
Private message to Mummy

Snape - he's the one who killed Mulciber and took Draco.

I thought this at Sherwood and I'm thinking it again: why does no one else in the council know how to use your special curse? The Black's Curse. AK is fine when the intent is to flatten, but if interrogation is the part of the plan, better to have an adjustable-duration curse like the one you use. I expect that you feel others should design a curse of their own, if they so want one, since I'm sure you worked for many years to perfect yours. But when it comes to securing the Protectorate against traitors like Snape, sharing your hard work would provide a valuable advantage, would it not?

alt_bellatrix at 2015-02-19 19:15:16
(no subject)

Hydra,

You interruption is just that. I'm sure you're clever enough to anticipate that MLE is being inundated with reports of Snape sightings today, and yet you dare to write me not with support, but to imply that I am somehow selfish in keeping to myself a curse that is my creation, borne from hour upon hour of careful research and testing, all performed by me. Does it not cross your mind that others might see fit to use such a curse against us? Our Lord is not the only one with enemies.

You have already answered your own question.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-19 19:18:57
(no subject)

I dare because I know you dislike it when I'm timid, even if you also dislike it when I interrupt you.

Assume you mean that others should invent a curse of their own, if they would find knowing yours to be useful. But even you could not have invented the curse without a solid foundation of training in the dark arts. Creation cannot occur inside a vacuum.
alt_bellatrix at 2015-02-19 19:22:05
(no subject)
You believe your training in the Arts to be deficient?
Perhaps you ought best tell that to Tosha, then.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-19 20:19:08
(no subject)
I haven't got any complaints.
But our enemies grow bolder by the day, and time is scarce. That's all.

alt_bellatrix at 2015-02-19 20:22:14
(no subject)
Arrive at your point. If you're asking for something, ask.
Unless you're feeling 'timid,' small one.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-19 20:33:39
(no subject)
I want you to teach me the curse.
I think it's you that's feeling timid. You already have to share legilimency with me, and you don't want to share more. Maybe you're afraid that our Lord will decide I'm just as valuable as you are. Maybe you're afraid He marked me as His equal back in first year.
But what you should be afraid of are the people who would see the Protectorate put to an end. They may be nothing, compared to you and to Him, but they are still a viable threat.
Your presumptions are very nearly amusing, daughter.

The answer is No.
2015-02-19 09:01:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Antosha, do you have time this morning that we could speak? I have the fourth years at 11, but am making rounds until then. I was roused from my workroom by one of the first-years, upset and thought I should keep an eye on the castle.

It's that... they're all whispering about it, and everyone's on edge.

Should I forbid them their journals? Or... I'm really not sure. But I don't like the way some of them are looking at me. At us. I just avoided the staff lounge because Professor Glozeman was there, and I don't know quite what I'd say if he starts on this.

Only, I'd like to have spoken with you first.

---

alt_antonin at 2015-02-19 15:59:44
(no subject)

No, confiscating journals will only reinforce matters. Stop by -- we'll talk.
I am a member of the Order of the Phoenix.

When I was eighteen years old, I joined Voldemort and his cause, seduced by pretty promises and stirring rhetoric. I realised quickly that stirring rhetoric was as false as the man who espoused it. Tom Riddle, better known as Voldemort, does not care about wizarding culture; he does not care about pureblood heritage. He is a halfblooded wizard who has seized power through deception and held it through his own atrocity and through tempting his followers to layer further atrocity atop his, and his hatred and persecution of Muggles and Muggleborn wizards is due to nothing but a desire for revenge upon those in his past he believes to have slighted him.

Those who hold power will call these the words of a traitor and a convict, but like so many others, my twelve years in Azkaban were for nothing more than possessing knowledge that was inconvenient for Riddle's plans, not as punishment for any of the crimes I committed while under his aegis. Azkaban is full of men and women guilty of no harsher crime than threatening the equilibrium or the image of Riddle's *soi-disant* utopia. The streets of New London are full of men and women guilty of crime after crime that will never be prosecuted.

You know this. In your heart of hearts, you know this is not the utopia you were promised, no matter how hard you try to convince yourself of the beauty of the Emperor's new clothes. You know you have been sold lies, and have paid far too dear a price for them. You know that no matter your rôle, your labour — your belief — is being used to prop up the paper tiger of the Protectorate; you may believe you love your country, but your country does not love you. It cannot. The Protectorate, like its ruler, has no heart to offer you, only fear and famine. The Protectorate takes the honest honour of its citizens and spends that coin on atrocity with the greatest of glee. The Protectorate endures because Riddle is able to persuade others — both those who rejoice in cruelty and those who are simply trying to live their lives — of the rightness of his orders, and because he and his followers have established very high penalties indeed for dissent.

I say to those of you who follow him, whether you have been inducted into his mysteries or simply are willing to follow him in exchange for
what few scraps of power he will let out of his hands: You are being used. Your actions do nothing more than lend legitimacy to a corrupt and bankrupt régime. You may seek power; you receive powerlessness. You may seek fortune; you receive fear. You may seek advancement; you receive atrocity. The Protectorate has no future. It cannot endure. All its shining promise is nothing more than gilt painted over rotting wood.

I will not condemn you for your belief: we are made to want a cause, a nation, a purpose. But no matter what you have done, no matter what mistakes you have made, no matter how closely you feel you are tied to the rise and fall of Tom Riddle's failed state, it is never too late to make a different decision, as I made a different decision, as so many others have. Free yourself now, before you too are a victim of Riddle's paranoia.

Riddle has sworn some seventy Death Eaters since his rise to power began. Thirty of us are dead or fled. How many of those thirty were killed by Riddle himself because he knew he had lost our allegiance? What did Dominic Selwyn know, to make him willing to sacrifice his life in the hopes of ending Riddle's? How many of the remaining would flee, if they felt they could?

---

**alt_hydra** at 2015-02-19 15:59:01  
Order Only

I've just used your post as an excuse to ask my mother about her horrible curse, because if other council members knew how to use it, they could stop traitors such as yourself. She'll be annoyed with me, but it's better than asking out of the blue, un-prompted.

---

**alt_severus** at 2015-02-19 16:08:40  
Re: Order Only

I shall hope that your endeavour is successful; knowing how it would be cast would be most useful in attempting to develop countermeasures.
I'm sorry. I tried. I hinted and asked plainly. I tried
to provoke her in every way I could think of without
showing my hand.

But she still refused.

Do not apologise. It was an exceptionally long shot
to begin with; she does not like to share.

Ha, that's funny. One of the ways I tried to
provoke her was by saying she doesn't like
having to share legilimency with me and doesn't
want to share more because of that. And she
responded by telling me that my presumptions were amusing.

By which she means, of course, that you hit a
nerve she would not allow herself to admit. I am
sorry that you must deal with her; as parents go,
you certainly lost that roll of the dice.

Any information you are able to persuade her to reveal will be
helpful, but do not press too much. I would not wish for you to
anger her and have to suffer the consequences.
alt_alice at 2015-02-19 18:13:06
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Severus

Thank you, Severus.

I am proud to call you my colleague, and prouder still to call you my friend.

alt_severus at 2015-02-19 18:16:58
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Severus

Let us hope it can be of some use.

There are several available lines of argument I edited out of my first draft, as well as some practical suggestions; I may pen a followup later, once the shock of the revelation of the Dark Lord's heritage has a chance to calm somewhat.

alt_alice at 2015-02-19 18:41:26
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Severus

That sounds prudent, yes.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-19 20:01:38
Order Only

Of course, Azkaban's not really full of people who oppose the Protectorate. Not anymore!

Still, it's rather brilliant, everyone coming out with these statements. I wish we all could but I know why it's impractical for some of us.

alt_severus at 2015-02-19 20:16:55
Re: Order Only

I considered mentioning that, but decided against; I did not wish for the Azkaban breakout to be the focus of discussion.
While it is not possible for all members of the Order to speak out, you would not be a poor choice. At very least, I would like your permission for me to discuss the success you have achieved in your laboratory work in a future essay, whether by name or anonymously. It will not convince everyone, but successes achieved by Muggleborn and half-bloods might be an interesting topic.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-19 20:24:20
Re: Order Only: Private message to Mr Snape

I've thought about it. I don't want anything that might jeopardise the fiction that Draco's dead, of course, but I suppose enough people know that I escaped that it wouldn't be surprising.

But I know how badly he really wants to say something himself, because he thinks it'll make a huge difference to the others in their final years at Hogwarts. And I don't want him to get the feeling that everyone else can speak and he can't.

But if you wanted to talk about it, that would be all right.

alt_severus at 2015-02-19 20:43:32
Re: Order Only: Private message to Mr Snape

I shall do so, then.
That message from that Severus Snape person makes it sound like all the Council members are Hogwarts students and the Lord Protector is Madam Umbridge.

Sorry. Only I have had nightmares about her again and that is probably why she is on my mind.

I shouldn't say this to anyone. But you two are safe for me to say it to.

And now I am in trouble with Professor Donnelly because I was making "those infuriating mouse-like squeaking noises, Jones!" I suppose that he is right and I am lucky he did not actually transfigure me into a mouse.

But thinking of the Lord Protector in pink is

Oh dear.

They are right that this Snape person is upsetting people. Only maybe not quite the way they think.

I am not a bad person for thinking that. Am I? The pink, I mean. Because I needed a laugh this morning. Even if it was at something unsuitable.

Now you've got me thinking about it.

Long as we're the only ones you tell, and it was something you couldn't help thinking anyways. You're not a bad person ever, Megs.

And you're still dreaming about Her Pinkness?
That's no good.

Why d'you think it's come up again?

I don't know. I tried to ask Lavender about it because she is brill in Divination but she must have been too busy to answer. Probably swatting leftover flying poetry or something. I'll try again. Because these dreams are upsetting tedious.

As long as she does not tell me it's an anxiety dream about NEWTs. Which is what last week's Healer told me when I went to get something to help me sleep without awful dreams. (The Healer also told me I hadn't any excuse to have bad dreams because it is not like I was out doing things for Our Lord like some of my Councilwitch classmates, who had a legitimate reason to ask for such things. So I am not likely to go back there. Although on the other hand it's a different Healer now.)

Perks is pretty decent at that sort of thing.

I mean, of course you remember. From before. But it's different now, anyways. It's not like she'd get in the same kind of trouble, I mean.
She might help. If you asked.

@alt_megan at 2015-02-19 19:45:28
(no subject)

That is a good idea. I will ask her.

@alt_ernie at 2015-02-19 18:04:01
(no subject)

So I suppose he's working with that Mr Lupin, then. The old groundskeeper fellow.

And Sirius Black, too, I'd reckon.

And maybe he used to with

you know. Professor Sprout. And Longbottom, too.

Sort of hard to picture, Professor Sprout falling in with that lot, innit?

@alt_megan at 2015-02-19 19:44:29
(no subject)

It is very hard to picture.

And Professor Siz, too.

Professor Donnelly says mean things about her, sort of sideways, whenever someone misses a question, about how what could he expect given our previous instructor. Only it sounds more like personal nastiness towards her. I don't know. But I rather liked Professor Siz because she was fair to me. And she was married to a Councilwizard, so I keep wondering how she could have

But then, even Councilwizards have attacked the Lord Protector. As Snape pointed out. So I don't know what to think.

(I would say I wish we had a Hufflepuff in charge of things, but then I remember how that turned out the last time.)
How many traitors do you suppose there really are? Because it seems like there are more and more coming out of the woodwork.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-19 19:54:53 (no subject)

I honestly don't know, Megs.

It seems like a right mess, though.

alt_megan at 2015-02-19 20:42:50 (no subject)

It does. And other things are a right mess too. I understand why you feel you cannot go to Headmaster Dolohov about Finch-Frenchly but something should be done or he will think he can just do anything he wants because he is the Headmaster's pet. And it is not right.

There must be something that can be done.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-19 22:06:58 (no subject)

Yeah. Well.

He already thinks that much, clearly.

And I think Zach can only get away with punching him the once.

So.

alt_susan at 2015-02-19 23:37:40 (no subject)

I'm sorry you're having nightmares. And I'm glad you felt safe telling us about that, and the other thing too. And yeah...you're not wrong, about those two being two of a kind.
I don't even know what to think any more. Except that they are not telling us everything we need to know. Because I think things are worse than people are saying.

I'm pretty sure they are. I wish
Please, if you have a little time, I have a question about a Divination thing. And Ernie said you are good at it.

He said I was good at Divination? I'm not sure why, I don't even have an OWL in it. Have you tried Lavender Brown?

Well, it's maybe not exactly a Divination thing. It might be a Healer thing and I misunderstood what he meant.

Oh, I will have to explain the whole thing. (And before you ask, I already asked Lavender but she didn't answer so I don't know what is going on with that but I thought I would try asking you.)

I have been having bad dreams. Like very bad dreams. About horrible things. And Umbridge. And Umbridge making me do horrible things. And the Healer-of-the-week said it was just NEWT anxiety but I don't think it is.

So is that a Divination thing or a Healer thing? Because it is getting very troublesome and causing me to not pay full attention in class. Which is not helping anything or anybody and I am tired of losing points for it.

Oh, okay, I see why Macmillan said you should talk to me.

Most of the time, what you're seeing in dreams isn't
really telling you anything about the future. It's telling you something about yourself. Your mind will tend to visit and revisit certain things: traumas. Things that you avoid thinking about when you're awake. Things that worry you on some very basic level. When you are very anxious about one thing, your dreams will sometimes visit an entirely different thing that makes you anxious, that's why the Healer thought it was related to NEWTs.

From what I understand, Divination students have to learn to sort out all those sorts of things from the dreams they do have. Or all their predictions would be completely useless, since even when people have The Inner Eye (which Professor Carpenter thinks anyone can develop, but I've read that's not what most scholars believe) most of their dreams aren't prophetic. Or have a tiny prophetic ingredient mixed in with everything else.

So, if you're dreaming about Umbridge, and Umbridge making you do horrible things, I don't think this is exam anxiety. You followed the news and read the newspapers and all the rest, so you've had plenty of cause lately to think about people having to do things that are not something they would choose to do or would, normally, ever do. I expect that's part of what's bothering you, and why you're revisiting Umbridge every night.

It would probably help if you face it full on, the things you don't want to think about, and talk them through, with Macmillan or another friend (or me, if you'd like). Also, I can give you a potion that will help you to relax at night; that might help. (It's not Dreamless Sleep, it's just something you add a little of to tea.) If you're sleeping better, you'll have an easier time paying attention in class, I'm sure.

That makes sense. I just wish they would stop. The nightmares I mean. Though I also wish people would stop doing awful things would stop happening.

I would like a bit of that potion, please. Thank you. And I will think about who to talk to.
Anyway, Daphne would be a better person to ask about untangling prophetic information from your dreams and nightmares. From what I understand -- and bear in mind I don't take Divination, so this is all stuff I've picked up from learning about treating sleep disorders as a Healer -- things that are prophetic might be short, sharp, and extraordinarily clear. Like a single face in a large crowd that you still remember on waking. Other times, it's a symbol, but it's a symbol that's peculiar to you. This is why it's so hard to untangle, because of course ordinary dreams also have symbols in them.

Oh, and you know who else is good at it -- Daphne Greengrass. If Brown won't help you out, Daphne probably would.

That is true. Maybe I should ask her.

But if you have ideas I would very much like them. Because maybe they will help. And you have more sense than most of the Healers-of-the-Week, in any case!
2015-02-19 14:53:00
Private message to Barty

You've seen Snape's screed, I'm assuming.

I wonder whether I could persuade them I'd seen the light and be welcomed into their folds the way he apparently has. They'd have to be stupid to trust anything I said, but with a little bit of setup I could feed them some useful information to show my bona fides, and they do rather seem inclined to take the most charitable interpretation possible for motives.

Mind you, then I'd have to decide what to do with any information I found, and I am more tempted to sit back and watch things burn; 'what is truth', said jesting Pilate, and washed his hands.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-20 04:05:40
(no subject)

Are you lacking for work these days?

I'm not.

Have been running down buggering dead ends all damned day. The best that can be said is that it generated a veritable storm of informers wishing to report... every bloody thing you can think of: Snape-faced boggarts in the cupboard; their mother's lodger, who's got a scornful attitude and a habit of dropping French phrases into every other sentence; their neighbours' familiar which they've mistaken for an outlaw hiding in the shed or the cellar or the attic; the hermit who's lived forty years in a hovel in the woods, but they're sure it's really Snape. Or maybe it's Macnair. Or Black.

Dammit. Travers, again.

I'll let you know if we catch anything, but I shouldn't stay up expecting anything, if I were you.
My apologies, lapushka, I fell asleep before you wrote.

Good luck with your wild goose chase, but we both well know you aren't going to find Snape through tips sent in by the paranoid; he's smarter than that. And we've already established that he has Polyjuice available. (In fact, I would not put it past him to be one of the people who has called in one of the tips; that would suit his sense of humour.)

Although that reminds me: I was going to make another set of visits to the licensed growers of fluxweed and doublecheck their records again. (Unless you've done so within the last month, of course.) I've been through every possible place in Hogwarts that could be used to grow it, at least twice, but nothing; whatever Sprout was diverting, it wasn't that.

At any rate. I have a few ideas for information-gathering; how closely is Monitoring keeping an eye on us, these days? If you have a chance today, let Hopkirk and Pennifold know that any suspicious messages coming from me are in service to such a goal.
They've come back.

Oh, Merlin, they've come back.

I've just received word.

Finbar Quigley and Dudley Dursley walked in to a rendezvous an hour ago. From what I've been told, Finbar was badly injured at Sherwood, Dudley less so, and the two managed to make their way to the outskirts of Langwith. A couple took them both in, hid them, fed them, and managed to heal them up enough so they could make their way back to us. Fin's lost one of his hands, and has other ongoing issues that'll need addressing, but he's alive, and so is Dudley, and gracious. I am beyond relieved.

I'm going to see them right now.

Frank's fetching Colin and Terry so they can come with.

---

Good. I mean, that's really good to hear.

It is.
The prospect of Friday nights is much less interesting now that we no longer have our standing appointment, you know. There are entirely too few people who are willing to sit and talk about everything under the sun with me. And I've been forced to find my own copies of American Witches. (Have you read the latest? ...have I read the latest? I've lost track. I am current through Spring Break. At least they've backed off trying to make them say Important Things about what's going on here at Hogwarts. And at least they've added someone to the stable; if I had to read another book written by Miss Dangling-Participle, I'd've dropped in to the publisher to have words.)

If you have access to a bookstore, meanwhile, Benjamin Brickett has a new one out. Can't remember the title offhand, but it's about the development of writing. I get interrupted every time I get more than two pages in, but it's up to his usual standard so far.

I've been thinking about what you last said to me, you know, in the midst of putting pieces together. Two years' worth of pieces, and then some. I have no proof, of course, but Snape's identifying himself as a member of the Order was enough to let me put quite a few things together; I know you, and I know Poppy, and I know what you scruple at and what you will not put up with.

Does Narcissa know her son is still alive? Because if she doesn't, that is incredibly cruel of you. You have a week to find some way of telling me that she does that will satisfy your people in charge and their security measures, before I take care of it myself.

(I dislike ultimatums. They're messy, and they leave so little room for negotiation. But continuing to allow a mother to mourn her son as dead is the point at which ultimatums become necessary.)

As for the rest of what I've been putting together ... well. As I said, I've been thinking about what you last said to me, but в доме повешенного не говорят о верёвке. They're only suspicions, after all.

Give Miss L my best. And the other whose location I think you know.
I keep wondering when, precisely, you tipped over that line.

The first few days after the entire unpleasant mess, I was convinced it had all been a plot from the beginning -- your work with the YPL, your relationship with Raz, your befriending me, everything. That was anger talking, though, not the rational mind. I am willing to credit you now with more ability to dissemble than I had before, but not that much.

Still. How much of what I've said to you have you repeated?

I suppose I ought to assume it's been everything; that would be the rational assumption. I'm sure you've assumed the same. I wonder if my assumptions are as inaccurate.

You'll never read this, Toshenka, but if I don't write it, I'll burst. I miss you too. Fridays, most of all.

I hope Alice agrees I can send something. So you at least know I'm here and listening. That we weren't cruel to Narcissa. Not like that. (And there's Lucius, and I wish you knew he's safe, that we did what He wouldn't.)

It took me so much longer than other people to realise how broken things are, for everyone. Not until after Raz. Until it was personal. I'm ashamed of that. Ashamed to be here with everyone's who've been doing such hard and important things for so much longer.

I miss my life being simple, just the stars and the teaching and safe distance from anything dangerous, only it was always dangerous, I just didn't see.

You were never a plot, nor Raz. Honest friendship, honest love. It'd be easier if it weren't, if I could set you aside. But I can't, and so you and Raz are hanging there in the middle of every conversation, how loyalty isn't simple, friendship isn't simple, family isn't simple, and it matters anyway. People are kind here, far kinder than I have
any right to expect, but - I miss my friends. Including you.

There's a few bright stars. Evelyn. So many days when the reason I get out of bed is teaching her. How she's clever and hard-working and loves her studies, but she's caring, and wants so much to help. Thank you for saving her. I'm more and more sure you did. And I can't tell you that either.

(And then I think of Lana, and once I've gotten through a round of hating her for having everything I wanted and will never have and I don't even know where to start with Rod, I get to wishing you had a better apprentice, someone who'd care for you, not just look out for herself. One more way the world's broken.)

Cedric's working himself to pieces, and I don't know how to make him stop (because it's not like I don't do the same thing) but he's here and he's safe. And Poppy - Poppy's doing so much good here, everywhere, we could do with a dozen healers, but I know how hard it must be at school, without her. Without someone reliable.

I miss Pomona
Tosha wrote. The first time since - since December and everything. I can show you the message, and Alice, I know you're busy, but part of this is time-sensitive.

Some of it's about books (and I've no idea if there's a hidden message in there, there might be, but I'd need a couple more books to figure out if there is. They'd be easy for Jeremy or Nick or someone to pick up.)

But then he says that Severus making it clear he's in the Order makes him sure that Draco's alive. That, and knowing me and knowing Poppy, and knowing that there's things she and I wouldn't be party to. (Only it's more complicated than that, isn't it, but he's right about Draco. Sorry, I'm babbling.)

And then he gave me an ultimatum - that Narcissa needs to know. (Which she does, obviously, but he doesn't know that.) He says: "Does Narcissa know her son is still alive? Because if she doesn't, that is incredibly cruel of you. You have a week to find some way of telling me that she does that will satisfy your people in charge and their security measures, before I take care of it myself."

Obviously, I can't say anything to him in the journals, that'd put Narcissa at risk, he knows people are reading, and I won't do that. (Even if I hadn't promised Alice I wouldn't write.)

And I suppose the worst that could happen is that he tells Narcissa in a week, and she has to sort out what her reaction is with no warning, but honestly, Narcissa's Narcissa, and I'm sure she'd manage well enough. But I can also think of ways we could manage a private enough note, maybe. (I'm quite sure he'd go a very long way to avoid hurting her or putting her at risk.)

And then he said something - one of the Russian proverbs, it's about not talking about rope in the house of a hanged man - that he knows his entries might be read (well, especially to me) but in a way that makes me wonder what else he put together. And then he ends with "Give Miss L my best. And the other whose location I think you know."
And that might be Poppy, but I'm rather thinking it's Cedric he means, only that wouldn't be safe to say at all. Or acknowledge.

---

alt_severus at 2015-02-20 22:13:06  
(no subject)

Interesting. I wonder what else he has put together.

You realise, of course, that his ultimatum is a double-edged sword: if we do not send word to him, he will likely assume that means Narcissa already knows, because we would not let his ultimatum go unanswered if she did not. (If she did not, our move would be to contact him and tell her that she did — in the hopes he would take our word for it and not confirm with her — and therefore, he will assume that if we do send word, he will need to tell her, while if we do not, he will not. Unless he believes I am advising you, in which case he will assume I have explained his likely line of thinking and reverse those outcomes.)

I wonder if he is attempting to goad you into giving him some sign that you are alive and well.

Alice: Draco ought to know about this, whatever you decide.

---

alt_sinistra at 2015-02-20 22:30:26  
(no subject)

About Narcissa, quite. I don't know that there's a way through that that's got any certainty, just that I needed to tell you two, and then whoever else from there.

He left a second comment, while I was writing, about trying to figure out what tipped me over the line. What I'd told all of you about him. About if I'd been plotting way back, with the YPL and Raz and being his friend (and deciding not, but - well.)

As to the goading - I think he misses me as much as I miss him. Not that that does anyone any good.
Agreed regarding Draco.

I must admit, my first thought was that silence would be the better move -- let him assume whatever that might mean, and if he tells Narcissa his beliefs regarding Draco, so be it, I see no harm in it. Confirming that we have been in touch with her puts her in a decidedly more awkward position, and whereas he may not take that at face value, others certainly might.

...And if he were to interpret our silence as a necessary move for Narcissa Malfoy's safety, well, I also see no particular problem with that.

Hm.

Sinistra — what were you thinking as means by which to send the message? I can think of several options, of varying levels of security, but you know him best.

I am concerned that Narcissa might accidentally give away that Auror Brodie has been her contact, should Dolohov go to her with his suspicion. With Dolohov so close to Crouch, that may be something he feels honour-bound to report.

I did think at first that silence doesn't give more away, much as it may make things harder for Narcissa. And Narcissa's skilled at dissembling, even with no warning, but he does know her very well.
A note, my first thought was an anonymous owl from somewhere to Cottesmore - his London house - with instructions for his elf to bring it to him directly. I'm not sure it'd work if Barty were at home, but we could sort out the timing so it'd be unlikely.

Or, I suppose, there's coded messages in marzipan, sent to the school. I sent him something of the kind a couple of years ago, charmed words onto marzipan books, and I don't think it'd put the source at risk, just make it clear I had a way to get my hands on some. (They're in New London, and again, easy enough to lay hands on.)

I wonder. He mentioned books; could he have been hinting at a channel of communication? Can you think of a book title that might convey a message, but would be innocent enough to an observer that it would not automatically be assumed to be an answer to him?

He mentioned the American Witches series - there's a couple of titles that might do as a coded message. *Missing* or *No Safe Place* maybe, though I'd want to double check the plots.

The first time, it was his birthday and he and the others were in Ireland, and I was commenting on Madam Pinkness with them. To give you the background. I think he'd look at them before eating. I think there's a fair chance mail to the school - even to him, if it's not under the ouroboros seal or coming with Berry - is being searched, though.
I am satisfied there are several ways a message could be sent in such a way as to plausibly be no message at all, then.

Let us see what Draco has to say before I attempt to change your mind, Alice.

I am willing to listen, certainly, and this is by no means set in stone.

And may I say, Siz, when I say silence, I am not forbidding communication -- only thinking through the best strategy regarding his question of Draco.

It's not my decision to make, and I know that. It's why I told you both immediately.

I keep thinking about the other parts of it, too, mind.

I have so many things I wish I could say to him.

I have spoken with Draco, and he believes we should make no response; he feels Narcissa can handle matters well enough on her own.
I think that sounds reasonable.

He is unlikely to attempt to entrap her, but this is the safer route by far.

And what of the value in either remaining completely silent, or communicating enough to make it clear that one is capable, but chooses not to reveal certain information deliberately?

An all or nothing approach is almost certainly better, but allow me to think on this some more.

The thing that kept me up past dawn this morning (Victor has rather more diced potatoes than he was expecting, Alice) was Severus's point about there being more than one reason.

Which there is. It's Tosha, there's half a dozen reasons for whatever he's doing, at least.

Anyway. Of course he wouldn't want Narcissa hurting.

But if there's no answer at all, I'm wondering if he'd try some other ultimatum to get a response of some kind. And there's the rest of my family, still, he could make things difficult for, or other people.

Would it be possible to make a very indirect reply (the marzipan has a certain appeal here, really), that indicates I'm listening, and well enough, but after his ultimatum expires?
I guess my conversation with Mummy yesterday must have worked, in a fashion.

She sent me an Owl this morning. You can imagine that it wasn't kindly worded, but the gist was that if I am not clever enough to design my own curses, she will give me a place to start (this way if I succeed she will still feel as if she's won, see).

What she told me is that Black's Curse has three incantation words and three distinct wand movements. The last of the three words, and the last of the three movements, are variable - probably this is how the curse is adjusted for on-set and duration.

She also provided me with one of the incantation words, and one of the movements.

The incantation is *morior*.

The movement is sharp upper thrust from the inside low-line, wrist pronated, wand point higher than the hand.

I'm telling you lot because as far as I know you have the best knowledge of the Dark Arts. Hermione, I know you might not have much to do with the Dark Arts, but you're very clever so including you seemed clever, too.

I don't need to tell you that this spell is incredibly dark and dangerous. We'll all need to be careful. Moreso than usual, even.

---

*alt_hermione* at 2015-02-21 01:25:32
(no subject)

Well, that's not much to go on, is it, but it is something, anyway.

There are a number of spells with a similar upward thrust, though. 'Point me' comes to mind, and *Protego*, but neither of them seem in the same class as this, nor do they have to originate so
low on the body.

Did she say whether *morior* is the first or the second word? I think it almost has to be the second but there might be reasons for it to be the first.

---

**alt_draco** at 2015-02-21 02:10:32  
(no subject)

Do you think that wand movement must be the opening move? It's so aggressive that I can't imagine it being anything but.

---

**alt_severus** at 2015-02-21 02:37:27  
(no subject)

It does echo the opening wand movements of several very powerful curses, mostly involving the body's systems. There's an organ liquidation curse that begins with upper thrust from the outside low-line, for instance.

I wonder if the second wand movement involves the temporal binding, and the third then modifies it.

---

**alt_justin** at 2015-02-21 02:39:00  
(no subject)

Draco,

Yes, I think it must be. Which means the next motion is likely a downsweep of some sort, what. Not that that narrows things down much. Right or left? Across the body or to the outside?

The effect includes exsanguination, doesn't it? I wonder if it's in any way similar to the spells profiled in al-Muquarrah's *Studies in Visceral Power*. Grimmauld's library might well have a copy in translation, what; I've heard Professor Dolohov mutter more than once that he regrets losing access to the books you've got there.

-Justin
Yes, just found it. It's on a high shelf along with the other really dark texts.

Tried to pull it down, but I came over ill. Do you know what kind of handling it requires? Dragonhide gloves or other protection. Or, might it be one of those books that can only be read during daylight hours?

I should think gloves would be a wise precaution. I'm not certain about whether it's only safe to read during the day. Professor Dolohov's only given me sections and secondary works on the volume, not the actual book.

One measure I have gleaned from those, what, is to read it in very small increments. I should say not more than a few pages at a stretch.

I'm jolly well certain it shan't react well to trying to use magic on it, either.

-Justin

I will come down and take a look at it, but from the title I suspect you may also wish to wash your hands with water that has been boiled and cooled before donning the gloves.
There's a particular spell you're supposed to cast on yourself before you handle it. Does the Grimmauld library have 'On Protection' by Kamar ad-Din?

Yeah, I know the spell you mean, but it seems that won't be sufficient for a book like this. We're able to handle it now, but only for small increments at a time. It's alright, we're taking turns with it.

Gloves might also work but I definitely agree with the purified water (and you'll want to use it again after you handle it. Actually before you get started you should boil some rosemary, that'll strengthen its cleansing properties. Fresh rosemary, if you have it, but dried is better than nothing.)

Just to say, I don't think we can assume the other incantation words are necessarily Latin in origin. She also modified the curse not long back so that it would work on metamorophigi, animagi, etc. So that's another aspect to consider.
I was thinking about this last night and I assume you'll already be thinking about Arabic, given the suggestion of looking up al-Muquarrah, but there's also a classic Persian text that in translation is called 'The Destructive Principle.' People tend not to think about Persian wizards as a source for dark spells, because the Dark Arts for so many centuries there were incredibly taboo, and that one secret school produced stuff that was exceedingly Dark. Dark just for the sake of being dark, if that makes sense. Anyway, the secret school that did the Dark scholarship was not very large AND the spells they produced were generally not all that useful so unless you're a serious scholar of Dark Arts like Dolohov (or Sandoval) you'll probably just skip their work. 'The Destructive Principle' was a collection of essays, theories, and spells put together by that school of Dark Arts -- it has lots of different authors, and some of what they knew they only passed along verbally, so it's also a bit maddening to try to read since they'll make references to things you have no way of knowing.

Anyway -- Professor Dolohov has a copy of 'The Destructive Principle,' of course -- two, actually, one in Persian and one in English. (Actually, I think he also has a copy that was translated into some other language. I can't remember which.) But, if Hydra wants to look at it, she'll have to ask him herself, because the proper owner has to do a rite just to lend it out, and if the borrower passes it along to anyone else it could kill the next reader, or at least hurt them really badly. So, having Justin borrow it and pass it along definitely would not work.

And of course this might not even be relevant. But a book of Dark spells and scholarship by a whole load of people who wanted to study Dark Arts just for the sake of coming up with the evillest stuff possible is at least the sort of thing Bellatrix would've wanted a look at at some point.
Hydra,

Are you meeting your taskmaster today? If not, we could use the salle and work on possible combinations using the first clues.

-Justin

Not today. Monday, I think. So we could meet if you like.

All right. I'm just finishing an essay for Ancient Runes and can meet you at three o'clock.

-J

So I've been thinking about this. There's a pair of really old spells that I guess nobody can decide now if they were Celtish or Pictish, but they go, y'know, that far back. When the Norse and the Saxons were invading, and all. One of them, the name comes out to something about turning ravens red, if you translate it. Anywiz, the one's an entrail expelling curse, and the other liquifies them.

Does she think much of indigenous magic?

The wand movements on both of those have got an element that loops around, to throw the curse so it swirls around and enters all ways at once. There was a drawing of the motion, I remember, and it's based on knotwork, the swirl pattern. Anywiz, the thing is, if
that's the sort of motion for the other element of her curse, that could be first element and the upward slash could come second to give it force, y'know? Or it could be the other way round with the slash first followed by the rounding manoeuvre, but the other way felt more natural to me. (Which means nothing because what feels natural to me is probably not the same for her. And, also, 'natural' isn't the point.)

Yeah. That's all I've got so far.
Dear lady,

It is past time to give you a list of various items collected in my visits to various supportive parties around the country. I've some monetary donations, as well.

Item one: A goblin-made formal toasting goblet that neutralises most poisons (though not, I gather, one of the ones most commonly used by Goblins during the later Goblin Rebellions.) They might appreciate the return.

Item two: An intricate puzzlebox, deemed insoluble by the best wizarding minds of the last four centuries. The goblins might like a go, perhaps?

Item three: A brooch whose gem shifts colour in accord with astrological alignments, calculated according to the Heidelberger Schicksalsbuch manuscript (now outdated, naturally, but quite possibly of interest to the centaurs.)

Item four: Metal from a meteor fall near Hatford in 1628.

Item five: A cave-digging device, magical, of potential interest if you wish to make a treaty with the giants.

Items six through eight: Trinkets producing magical effects for entertainment - lights, sounds, and so forth. Ditto. I rather like the one that produces a flock of birds, personally.

Item nine: a children's music box that when playing, generates a field of some substantial radius that stuns anyone intending harm to children. The Black Lake merfolk might find this particularly reassuring, if it can be made to play underwater.

Item ten: A fishing spear that when blood-bonded to the owner will allow the owner to perfectly track fish cut with it. Possibly of use with the oceanic mer.

Item eleven: A carved wooden tube, about six feet long, brought back from Australia as a trophy. The current family has no idea what it
does, but as soon as I asked about odd magical items they might be willing to donate to the cause, they insisted I take it, as it makes them uncomfortable. (I do not believe it is Dark magic, but there is something exceedingly odd about it.)

---

**alt_alice** at 2015-02-22 01:50:48  
(no subject)

You'd think one would get used to being utterly surprised after a fashion, but you still manage to catch me nearly every time.

Thank you.

I'm wondering about taking a different tack with the centaurs -- they seem to find us untrustworthy on the whole, and have driven away Charlie. I'm wondering if you might be received where he would not be.

I'll see what we can do regarding the music-box -- it's been a while since I had a chance to fiddle with Charms.

---

**alt_albus** at 2015-02-22 02:08:46  
(no subject)

I do have a reputation to maintain, dear lady, for being surprising.

As to the centaurs, I would be quite willing to make the attempt. I will see about consulting with Charlie about the details so far.

---

**alt_alice** at 2015-02-22 02:15:04  
(no subject)

Good.

That's a weight off my shoulders.

I'll talk to Hagrid about making a trip North now we have something to parley with.
Private Message to A Dolohov

Sorry. Meant to write this morning and then got pulled in again. (And, no, of course, no one expects to find Snape, but it's kicked up fresh information of not-unrelated sorts. A gift not to be ignored.)

Have spoken with Pennifold and Hopkirk re. your journal activity. Before you wrote Sinistra.

May I ask?

You weren't serious about offering yourself as bait? I want to know if that's any part of what you're thinking. Want to know in detail.

You asked about fluxweed. Metheny's unit goes over books for the licensed growers regularly, but an unanticipated visit from someone outside the department has its uses, as you know. Which is to say: if you have time and inclination, feel free. On the other hand, you know they aren't diverting supply from licensed sources.

Assumption here is that they're growing it inside one (or more) of the fidelius voids. Towle in Protectorate Defence has his people watching coordinates disappear all over the countryside. They're coordinating with Tinsley in Magical Transport--his arithmancers in Portkey admin report the same. Mostly it's small holes, one house here, one farm there, but as you know, some have been substantial. Not yet quite a swiss cheese, but Towle thinks that's what's coming. Happens with every period of unrest. (Orion Black wasn't alone in doing it before the war, and there were some strategic sectors Fideliused then, as well. Not really on a larger scale now. The notable thing is simply that it's begun again.)

Anyway. Apologise for having been short with my answer when you wrote.

How are you, Batya?
It's all right, dear heart. It isn't as though you aren't busy.

Bait ... I'm mulling it over. Tactically, it would make sense; any bits of information could help. They'd have to be fools to ever believe me sincere, but foolishness has never been a problem for that lot; they are Dumbledore's, after all, and he's always been ruled by sentiment. They took in Snape, at least, and his hands were certainly no cleaner than mine. (And with his age-old grudge against Black, and vice versa, it is proof they do not allow old grudges to stop them.) The trouble being, of course, that a volte-face from me would be fairly unbelievable unless I chose my approach exceptionally carefully, but Aurora and I have enough history for me to draw on that I could shade things in that direction over time. Certainly I could make her think my faith wavering, if I put my mind to it firmly enough, and her last message to me back in December made me think that she's been asked to show anything I write to her to others in the organisation.

With enough effort, and one or two strategic disclosures of intelligence (carefully chosen so as to be genuine but worthless), I might succeed. I'm just not certain if it's worth the effort.

What do you think?

And yes, I thought about the prospect that they are growing it themselves, but even the seeds are damn difficult to get a hold of. I suppose it's worth an afternoon of showing the colours around the usual suppliers. I'll pencil it in for sometime next week.

I'm all right. Tired, but that's nothing new. I swear the work on my desk multiplies every time I take my eyes off it for more than a few minutes; I would suspect someone had hit my office with a parchment-multiplying curse if I did not check regularly for outside influence.

Say that you're free tomorrow evening for supper? At Cottesmore instead of up here. Unless you'd like another chance to woo your inamorata. (I want the record to reflect how very good I am being in not teasing you.)
Difficult to say. Worth it to exchange genuine but worthless information for what would probably be gauged in exactly the same way on their part? It's hubris to expect stupidity from one's enemies. (Someone wise once told me that. And more than once, wasn't it?) On the other hand, it's a reasonable strategy to play out an opportunity in hopes that advantage or fortune will fall favourably.

You know I'd risk it myself if I had opportunity. If opportunity unfolds for you, then-

You'd present the matter to Our Lord, of course.

Sunday supper at Cottesmore? Absolutely. Cannot think of anything I'd trade for that. (Work permitting.)

I do need to come there at some point. Hate to have my schedule with Hydra disrupted. But that can't be helped, and Monday wouldn't be much worse than Sunday in terms of there being lessons next morning for her. Tomorrow through late afternoon, at least, is out as far as I'm concerned, and, of course, even our supper is contingent on the day's work wrapping up properly.

(Good of you, yes, on the latter score.)

Of course I will bring matters to Our Lord as soon as I get anywhere. If I do. (As to you quoting my lessons back at me: it isn't that I think them stupid. They've got at least a few decent tactical thinkers among them, if nothing else. But they're more ruled by sentiment than calculation, and sentiment can be exploited if one knows what one is looking at.)

I'll make a few overtures, at least. It costs little.

I'll tell Berry to expect us, then, with the understanding that work may delay if not pre-empt us. And if you have to miss supper tomorrow, then we ought to at least try to cadge some time on
Monday before you depart. (You could always invite Miss Greengrass to join us for a private supper on Monday, either way. I will continue to behave. At least until she leaves.)

(In all seriousness: I will not interfere, solnyshko, and I am not pressing you or looking too far into the future, but should matters continue to progress in the direction they appear to be progressing, you should know that any of mother's jewels are yours to do with as you will. She would be delighted to have you have them.)

릇 alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-22 06:17:07
(no subject)

(Appreciate that, as well. Truly. Though, indeed, matters have not progressed that far:)

(She does know there are constraints. Has said so herself.)

噫 alt_antonin at 2015-02-22 06:31:14
(no subject)

I am not surprised to hear it; she is a highly perceptive young woman. You could do far worse.

I won't press, truly. You know what you're doing, and I am the last person in the world to have opinions on matters of romance. But I wanted you to know that I am very pleased at the thought of you finding someone, and if there's anything I can do to help matters along, I will.

(I do expect that you will tell me when I can start poking fun, however.)

 heightFor alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-22 07:52:44
(no subject)

(Whatever brings you joy. I can weather your poking, old man.)
If you listen to the gossip rags, you already have.
I've found the last of the canons I was looking for -- it had been misfiled, probably back when I was studying in the Conclave myself; as you can imagine, the topic is not one I must frequently address -- and it looks as though I was correct: everything you're working on should be perfectly safe for both you and the baby until the third trimester, at which point you'll need to cut back the time you spend in ritual work to no more than one hour out of every forty-eight, and only during daytime. I've put the scrolls in your inbox for you to double-check my work.

(From witches of my acquaintance, I know that pregnancy can be very difficult on one's body and one's magic. I said it the other day, and will say it as often as I need to: I would far rather you take the extra six months than endanger you or your child. Your progress is stellar enough that there is no danger I will think you slacking. As your Master, I order you to place your health and well-being, and that of your child, ahead of any timeline you have constructed for yourself, my dear. I will enforce this however necessary.)

Do tell Ned, meanwhile, that he's welcome to join us in the castle any time he and you would like. He shouldn't miss out on things, and you shouldn't miss out on his support.
I am pleased to announce that Jack Sloper and Kenneth Towler have been sworn in as our two newest members. Nick Towler was present as a proud witness. Both Jack and Ken spoke highly of their experiences in the galleon group at Hogwarts, and were clear to point out their degree of trust in and respect for the ringleaders of the galleon group as a driving force behind their agreeing to join the Order.

They'll continue in their vital work diverting much-needed food resources to our refugees, and we're looking forward to sorting out where else they may be of assistance.

Our Fidelius project continues on apace, and we certainly have a demand for it, as it goes hand-in-hand with our resettling of our Sherwood people. We've completed construction of additional greenhouses at Bedford, and will put them to immediate use to make up somewhat for what was lost in Sherwood. Survivors from Sherwood continue to trickle in slowly -- by last count, we've had about two dozen who were among the missing return to us, and remain hopeful that there are a few yet making their way back home.

Brill.
Thanks, Mrs L.

You know what this means, gents? You're getting a lot more post from me.

Welcome to the club. Hope your head doesn't spin too badly. George and Fred are good blokes to catch you up on things if you need it.

While we're at it, Terry, I was wondering if you could do us a favour and sniff out the crew Sloper and Towler have working for them? You know, like Sirius used to do at Laszlo's. To see whether they're catching on to what we're up to, and whether we can trust them.

...Jack, Ken, Terry is an animagus who can turn into a dog. Merlin,
you two have an awful lot of catching up to do. We are going to have the best conversation over Easter hols, I just know it.

**alt_pansy at 2015-02-23 04:48:07**

*(no subject)*

And Jeremy!

Jeremy, be a darling and take this lot out to lunch sometime soon, will you? I have a feeling you'll have quite a bit to discuss.

**alt_jeremy at 2015-02-23 16:30:14**

*(no subject)*

Indeed. Shall do. Will be refreshing having someone else looking startled at the revelations.

(Ken, Jack: don't stay up too late reading back in the journals, tempting though it may be. And welcome.)

**alt_terry at 2015-02-23 18:26:00**

*(no subject)*

Sure, I can do that. I'll talk with Sirius a bit about the sorts of things he looked for, and I've already talked with our two newest members about when the Professor might mosey by, casual-like.

Welcome to the Order, Jack and Ken.

**alt_pansy at 2015-02-23 04:28:02**

*(no subject)*

...And Mrs L, Mrs Weasley, I was thinking we ought to get the Sherwood people in on the bartering network as soon as possible.

Also, we can start diverting some extra funds their way. If each of those households buys up three times as much food as they need, we can make it stretch pretty far, especially if it's staples.
Yes, I've already been working on this; maybe you'll remember that I mentioned it in the comments on the minutes of the last Order meeting. I've been cautiously probing Rose Stuben's opinions (she's the new network administrator), and she's given me a very clear signal that she's very willing to expand the network to accommodate people who *really need* it.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank, Terry, and Evelyn

Where is Kevin?

I went to check on him and he wasn't in his bed and Jacinda didn't remember putting him down for the night and assumed he was with us.

Is he with one of you?

You have one minute to reply before I call the alarm and start a search.

---

alt_alice at 2015-02-23 04:04:07
(no subject)

Frank?

alt_frank at 2015-02-23 04:09:21
Private Message to Al

sorry love

was wrapping up some chores in the greenhouse.

bit of a heartstopper, ey?

alt_alice at 2015-02-23 04:11:38
Re: Private Message to Al

To say the least.

Oh, Frank.
Re: Private Message to Al

hey.

on my way up.

(Re: Private Message to Al)

Oh!

Oh, mum. I'm sorry.

We were out stargazing.

He's here, he's fine. We're both fine.

(Re: Private Message to Al)

All right.

All right, then.

There's no need to apologise. Just

Please make sure we know next time.

(Re: Private Message to Al)

Yes. Of course. Of course I will. I wasn't

We were talking about it at dinner, and he got rather excited once I suggested he could come with me some time, so we just got our warm things and went on a bit of a walk once it got dark.

I wasn't thinking.

I'm so sorry.
I know, sweetie.

how bout you make your way back in, and you and kev come on up to our room, just so we can clap eyes on you before bed?

We're heading back now. We'll be up in ten minutes or less. I promise.

good.

You doing better today, Mum?

I know that was a bad scare. Which was hard. Especially after N.

Evelyn was awfully subdued when I talked with her afterwards; she really felt badly about it.

But I guess you know that.

Yes.

Yes, of course.
Thank you, love.

It's just one of those things. Every now and then, without any particular reason or logic, something will just bring me to my knees, and I am so sorry to wrap you all up in it, especially as it was such a small and lighthearted thing.

I want us to have moments where we can go off on a walk without even thinking about letting someone else know. And I cannot wait until the day where I won't jump to the worst possible outcome each and every time. But I suppose that's a ways off yet for me.
2015-02-23 20:40:00
Well

if anyone takes the stairs nearest the hospital wing

watch out for a bloody mess.

Real blood I mean.

vince you owe me a galleon thank you

alt_millicent

2015-02-24 02:45:11
(no subject)

What?

What's happened? And to whom?

alt_padma

2015-02-24 02:48:50
(no subject)

unfortunetly there has been a murder.

but don't bother patil, there's no one you can punish for it.

alt_millicent

2015-02-24 02:52:36
(no subject)

A MURDER?

What are you talking about? And what has Crabbe to do with it??

I'd like to know why you think you shouldn't report to a Prefect and a Councilwitch just what is going on, Bulstrode.
Vincent didn't do it.

Cos it involves a prefect and a council person that's why

Also I am very sad

Sally-Anne, are you reading this??

Is Hydra involved? She's the Council member in Slytherin!

Where did she say it's a Slytherin council member?

She said it's a Prefect and a Council member - that doesn't necessarily mean they're even the same person.

It could be a Council Member who's also a Professor, and a Prefect not on the Council.

But Sally-Anne, if you are reading, maybe you ought to go to the Hospital Wing to find out for sure.

I just guessed Slytherin because that's Millie's House, but you're right. If she's telling anything like the truth, it could be one of the professors. Or the Headmaster?
Whose blood? Do you know? What happened?

Probably I shouldn't say

Do any of you in Slytherin know who it is?

Not a clue. I'm off to see what's going on.

Millie, if you and Vince are playing some kind of game in the corridors, you'll be responsible for cleaning up any mess that you've made.

What are you on about I don't even know where vince is.

he's YOUR boyfriend
Vincent is not my

That's it, I'm going to investigate just what's going on. Now, stop spreading rumours and fancies about the journals and keep your quill to yourself, please.

I don't speak Bulstrode's excuse for a language at the best of times but can you even begin to translate this nonsense?

She's having us all on, I bet.

I haven't the foggiest, but I'm just on my way to the hospital wing corridor.

Okay.

There is quite a bit of blood. On the stairs here.

Padma, can you please tell the Ravenclaw prefects to keep all students away from the vicinity of the hospital wing?
@alt_padma at 2015-02-24 03:08:07
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Of course.

Do you need anyone else?

Should I have all the prefects check in with their whereabouts?

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 03:12:16
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Please.

And do ignore Millie's announcement. Of course there's a far more sensible explanation.

Thank you, Padma.

@alt_millicent at 2015-02-24 03:09:13
(no subject)

unfortunetly Hydra Lestrange was murdered by Auror crouch.

It is very sad.

@alt_ron at 2015-02-24 03:14:33
Order Only Private Message to Daphne

What?

Crouch is definitely here. They cleared me out of the salle earlier, so--

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 03:22:10
Re: Order Only Private Message to Daphne

Of course he hasn't murdered Hydra. It was a training mishap, I'm sure.

I'll see if they'll let me in..
Of course he would.

Though really, she can't be right. Daphs?

Please, no.

Hydra wouldn't have blown her cover.

Barty Crouch is private messaging the Headmaster. So whoever's hurt or killed, it probably isn't one of them.

Worse luck.

Bulstrode! Maybe think for two seconds before spouting on?! Even if...
alt_millicent at 2015-02-24 03:27:14
Re: Private Message to Millicent

who asked you bones

alt_susan at 2015-02-24 03:29:24
Re: Private Message to Millicent

Maybe I just don't want to see you get Cruciated in front of the whole school or worse...

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 03:25:48
Order Only

I don't know what Auror Crouch wrote to the Headmaster, but he's just gone tearing out.

I'm going to the Hospital Wing.

Unless...we should be preparing to...to run?

I--

So sorry, I do feel rather queasy, in point of fact.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:30:08
Re: Order Only

They're not letting anyone in.

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 03:34:24
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Oh. Oh, yes, I see. Of course.

Sorry to disturb, but, have you any Tummy Tonic in your kit? I really do feel the most frightful
indigestion or something of that sort. Perhaps it's simply nerves, what.

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:36:48
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I have some but they're making it rather difficult for people to even get near the Hospital Wing so if you really need something it might be easier for me to meet you?

But if you just want an excuse to come to where they're not letting anyone in, it'll do.

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 03:41:18
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Meet.

Yes, perhaps...at the bottom of the Hospital Wing tower? I'd rather you not go far in case you're needed or--or can think of an excuse to get in and find out what's happened.

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:45:03
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I really don't think I'm going to be able to get in anytime soon but yeah, I should stay nearby because Dolohov told me to treat students who needed care while the HW was closed up.

Anyway I'll meet you there and yes, I have something for a bad stomach.
alt_molly at 2015-02-24 03:34:28  
Re: Order Only

Oh, dear.

Perhaps you should check in with everyone, but don't make any moves out of the ordinary yet. Ginny and Ron's clock hands still say 'School' rather than 'Mortal Peril.'

And of course Hydra wouldn't have blown her cover! But Hydra, can you check in with us? If you can read this?

I'll keep watch on the clock.

alt_gredforge at 2015-02-24 03:39:13  
Re: Order Only

We can be standing by at the apparition point just outside the castle grounds if need be. We'll bring several brooms, and keep an eye on our journals.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:40:25  
Re: Order Only

The Headmaster arrived and went in (but didn't let me in, so I still don't know what's going on).

He told me to stay outside in case anyone needed Healing so now I'm OFFICIALLY running a mini-infirmary outside the Hospital Wing.

Can someone make sure the salle is empty? This would be a really unfortunate time for another training accident.

alt_susan at 2015-02-24 03:44:05  
Re: Order Only

I'll go. I'm free and doing rounds is a good enough excuse.
Also if you run into people who need something send them my way but I'm not going to make a general announcement because I don't want a stampede of malingering nosey parkers.

True enough!

If you've got plenty of Calming Draught and that sort of thing--maybe I could swing past the hospital wing and pick up some for the sett?

I don't have loads. If people need something, it might be better to have Pansy give you some of the Small Mercies drops (she's been brewing it for me to give people who need help sleeping).

Makes sense; I'll send her a PM. Just thinking about how to keep you from getting swarmed.

The salle's empty; I'm just going to Spellotape up some CLOSED parchments & be on my way.

Ugh! Just saw Vane coming down the corridor--she'll try to bleed me dry for gossip material if she catches me!
WHAT? NO WAY. REALLY?
ATTENTION ALL PREFECTS

Please check in to this message as soon as possible, with your current location.

Also, please keep students away from the stairway leading to the Hospital Wing, until further notice.

STUDENTS, please disregard Miss Bulstrode's ridiculous announcement and claims. There is no cause for concern. The Head Girl has Auror Crouch well under control, I'm sure.

alt_susan at 2015-02-24 03:23:20
(no subject)

I'm down in the Hufflepuff Common Room if you need me for anything.

alt_lavender at 2015-02-24 04:06:59
(no subject)

Oh dear! I've been off revising. I do hope everyone is well! Or as well as may be.

alt_padma at 2015-02-24 04:11:06
Private Message to Lav

Revising, my eye. You and Lines were off snogging.

At least, you'd better have been actually snogging and not just letting him read you more bloody poetry. Honestly, Lav, it's utterly embarrassing that you've not had your fill of him yet.

Anyway, no. Everyone's not all right but I think the hubbub has died down now.
alt_lavender at 2015-02-24 04:20:24
Re: Private Message to Lav

There's no reason we can't combine work with a little pleasure! At least I'm getting some.

So Lestrange really was seriously injured? I assumed Bulstrode had got the wrong end of the wand somehow or else was exaggerating for effect.
There ARE blood traces on Hosp wing steps. Someone's evanescoed it but some drops were missed. Hosp wing shut and no one's allowed in
2015-02-23 21:19:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

Situation needs your attention. Hospital Wing.

-alt_crouch_jr
2015-02-23 21:21:00
Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne and Daphne

Where are you? Are you in the hospital wing tonight?

alt_ron

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:27:35
(no subject)

No. I checked in earlier, but it's Healer Hayden tonight and she's good, I mean, she checks the records and puts things back in the right spots so I made sure the inventory was up to date and left again.

I tried to go back just now but it's shut up.

I'm staying by the door, anyway, because if someone else shows up bleeding they might not be allowed in, either.

There was A LOT of blood here earlier. But, if it was a training salle accident, that doesn't make a lot of sense because there should've been blood all through the school, you know? Like, sectumsepra will make someone bleed like this but they'll start right away.

alt_ron at 2015-02-24 03:30:58
(no subject)

Can you hear anything in there?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 03:32:28
(no subject)

There are permanent privacy charms on the Hospital Wing. So, no.
Damn. Of course there are. Wouldn't you bloody know.

Did you try knocking?

Yeah. They're not letting anyone in, including me.

I haven't been kept out of the Hospital Wing for any reason since the new Healers started showing up.

If it weren't Hayden I might write to the Headmaster and suggest he make them let me in? But she's actually really good and I don't want to be a distraction.

Anyway given what Millie said I don't want to send Justin or Draco into a panic but I'm really worried.

Yeah. Neither of them needs to see us worrying and guessing.

I saw Draco's comment about Hydra blowing her cover.

But if that happened and Barty, well, tried to kill her
or something, then he wouldn't take her to hospital to get fixed up. So it has to be some kind of training accident.

@alt_sally_anne | 2015-02-24 03:34:09
---
Yeah, that's a good point.

He wouldn't have TRIED to kill her.

@alt_ron | 2015-02-24 03:35:06
---
Nice.

@alt_daphne | 2015-02-24 03:36:04
---
Yes, that's what I said.

And if healer Hayden is good, as you said, well, hopefully we'll know more soon.

@alt_daphne | 2015-02-24 03:39:34
---
Alright, I've just finished questioning Millie.

Apparently she saw Barty rushing down the stairs while carrying Hydra, and Hydra was very pale and unmoving and trailing blood.

@alt_ron | 2015-02-24 03:42:42
---
Well, he didn't want her to die, at least.
Well, unless he impulsively cursed her and then realised that if she died she couldn't be questioned.

But, I can't imagine Hydra giving herself away. So.
2015-02-23 21:42:00
Private message to Barty

I'm so sorry to interrupt. Unfortunately another student saw you carrying Hydra, and has led others to believe that you intentionally hurt her.

I'm assuming that a training incident occurred and the situation is well under control.

Shall I put that out as the official message to shut down any further speculation?

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 04:01:33
(no subject)

Yes.

Accident.

No cause for concern.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:02:17
(no subject)

As I thought.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 04:14:51
(no subject)

Well managed.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:29:27
(no subject)

I've just reassured her father, as well, who did not press for details.

Don't think me a coward for hoping that her
mother isn't next to write to me. Mercy.

Anyway, I'm sure this means our rendezvous must wait for another night. In the meanwhile, is there anything else I can do?

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 04:37:37
(no subject)

Hm.

If you're not too tired, I could slip away soon.

Wouldn't want to keep you up too late, however. Or tempt you to bend rules.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:45:54
(no subject)

What's the point of being Head Girl if you can't bend the rules?

So she's truly going to be alright, then? You needn't tell me more than that. But - it would put my mind and heart at ease.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 04:53:59
(no subject)

No reason for concern.

On either score.

I have it on good authority the Headmaster will not concern himself if the Head Girl is out in good company. And the matron du jour is fortunately competent and has things well in hand, so we ought to be able to put that aside and enjoy good company while there's opportunity.
And I do have nothing but faith in your good authority.

I'll wait for you - you know where.

I do.
Right. Crouch came out, saw Justin, and said he needed to come into the Hospital Wing with him. So -- I just followed them in, because someone was asking for calming potions, I thought that would do as an excuse if I needed one but no one seemed to care.

Anyway. Hydra is not dead and she will recover. And the Order as a whole is not in any sort of danger.
alt_justin at 2015-02-24 05:12:19
Re: Private message to Justin

Thank you but I've no desire to dull this particular pain, just now.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 04:03:02
Private message to Hydra

How are you feeling? (You probably won't be reading this for a while but it didn't seem right sending Justin a message and not you.)

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:07:54
Private message to Sally Anne

You've written to Justin and Hydra.

What's really happened?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 04:11:23
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

The details aren't mine to divulge. (Anything I find out through Healing is supposed to stay confidential.)

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:13:09
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

I thought you'd say that.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-24 04:22:51
Private Message to Sally-Anne

Why did they need Justin?

Are they in trouble, do you think? I mean, serious trouble, not just school-type of trouble.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 04:25:03
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

When I slipped back out they'd let Justin sit down by Hydra's bed. Nothing dreadful.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-24 04:30:24
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

They let him.... Does Dolohov know that they're still in love? Because that seems--well, I mean wouldn't he have asked Harry to sit with her if she was asking for her boyfriend or something?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 04:34:13
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Dolohov isn't a complete pillock, so he might have figured it out.

alt_harry at 2015-02-24 04:23:18
(no subject)

Are you still in there?

Is Justin in some sort of trouble? What's going on?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 04:26:34
(no subject)

I am not. I gathered up the calming potions I was going to say I was in there for, if anyone had asked, and went back out because I'm supposed to be managing anything minor if they turn up looking for a matron.

When I stepped back out they'd let Justin sit down by Hydra's bed, which did not suggest to me that he was in trouble.
That sounds...I'm a little afraid to say encouraging but...at least not terrible.

Not as terrible as it could have been anyhow.

Thank you, Sally-Anne. That's good to know.

What exactly happened?

I'm sorry Mr Lupin but I can't tell you or Mrs Longbottom, either. You'll have to ask Hydra once she's recovered about anything you want to know.

(And if Milli hadn't opened her big fat mouth you wouldn't have known anything was going on.)

Yes, indeed.
Hydra's resting.
Healer... er, Healer--she's made everyone else leave. So she can reopen the ward.

That's all I can report at the moment.

-Justin

Is Crouch still in there? Or did the Healer kick him out, too?

Are you okay?

He'd gone, I think. The Headmaster, as well. As Daphne said, it was an accident.

-Justin

I know there's all sorts of things you can't say.

And that's fine.

I won't ask.

If you want to just sit around and listen to music for a bit tonight or something, though, I could do that.
On my way.

See you soon.
ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Please dismiss any wild rumours you may have heard in the last hour or so.

A training accident occurred when the salle was in use by two council members.

The situation is well in control, and please remember that council wizards and witches are well accustomed to this sort of thing, and well-equipped to manage them without our involvement. I advise you to cease any speculation that you may be tempted to indulge in.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of your evening.

---

**alt_lavender** at 2015-02-24 04:10:11
(no subject)

Thank you for taking the time to reassure everyone. I'll be sure to direct my Housemates here so they can see there's no need for concern.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-02-24 04:17:54
*Private message to the Prefects*

I've retrieved some calming potions and other necessities and am outside the Hospital Wing if anyone needs something. (In a serious emergency I'm sure they will re-open the Hospital Wing but for people with upset stomachs, excess anxiety, and so on, I've set up just outside.)

**alt_rodolphus** at 2015-02-24 04:19:58
*Private message to Daphne Greengrass*

-Daphne,

I have pieced together that this involved both Hydra and Barty. Is that correct?

And everything is well under control. Also correct?
You may be frank with me.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 04:22:27
Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass

I am in earnest, Uncle. The situation would have been entirely discrete and you would have heard nothing of it, had an unwise student not run wild with her quill.

I apologise for any distress it may have caused you. Know that Barty has assured me that there is no cause for concern.

alt_rodolphus at 2015-02-24 04:23:54
Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass

Barty, is it?

Then I thank you for putting my concern to rest.
No one is dead. Hydra will recover. Don't worry.
Sally-Anne says that maybe Professor Dolohov figured out that Justin and Hydra are still in love and so he's letting Justin sit by Hydra's bedside out of kindness and he's not in trouble.

Do any of you believe that for a moment? 

---

**alt_harry** at **2015-02-24 04:52:59**
(no subject)

Do you think I should try to get in and check on him?

Sally-Anne wouldn't lie if he were seriously in trouble, would she?

---

**alt_hermione** at **2015-02-24 04:55:31**
(no subject)

Well, I don't think she'd lie but she's studying to be a Healer. She takes their oaths of confidentiality fairly seriously.

I don't know. I mean, you are supposed to be her boyfriend at school, aren't you? Shouldn't you try to see her?

---

**alt_harry** at **2015-02-24 05:00:23**
(no subject)

You're probably right.

We've been doing a terrible job of pretending we're in a relationship, though. And I've been 'supervising' a 'revising group' to keep Lana Sandoval off everyone's back.
And is CROUCH still sitting in there, too?

Hadn't he ought to be shooed out, since he's the one who hurt Hydra so badly? But noooo, he's the Headmaster's pouncy, precious son, or something.

Justin says no, Crouch got shooed out, too. Well, eventually, anyway.

Oh.

Wait, why would Justin be in trouble? He's not the one who caused the "training accident."

Oh, Draco. Because he's not supposed to be hanging about with Hydra, but the way the Headmaster had him called in when no one else was even allowed to be on the ward at all.... Well, don't you see?

See what?
peloton

\texttt{alt_draco} at 2015-02-24 05:18:56
(no subject)

Sorry mate, looks like Hydra asked for Justin to come be by her side instead of you.

Don't take it too hard.

\texttt{alt_hermione} at 2015-02-24 05:20:30
(no subject)

Well, \textit{obviously} Headmaster Dolohov knows that Justin's important to Hydra, and she is to him, and he might be willing to let them sit together in a crisis but that doesn't mean he can simply let them carry on.

And--

Well. There might be more to it but it might not have \textit{been} a training accident, at all. Though I suppose we've no way to know that for certain.

\texttt{alt_harry} at 2015-02-24 05:21:50
(no subject)

Wait, are you saying you think Crouch attacked Hydra on purpose? I mean, on purpose, not for training purposes.

Why?

\texttt{alt_hermione} at 2015-02-24 05:23:05
(no subject)

No, that's not what I'm saying.

\textit{Never mind}. Forget it.
I don't know why you're getting cross instead of just saying whatever it is you're trying to say.

If any of the things I think it could be are really what it was, then I don't think it's my place to say them.

Yeah, if it wasn't a training accident, then what else would it be?

If you can work out what she's on about can you let me know later?

I don't know but I have a feeling we are being disgustingly thick right now.

Clearly!

Doesn't help that even on my clever days I'm thick compared to Hermione.
alt_draco at 2015-02-24 05:33:54
Re: Private message to Draco

You and me both.

Neither of us will ever measure up.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 14:41:25
Private message to Hermione

I'm sorry I didn't reply last night, but I had some things to attend to.

Anyway, I see what you've said to Harry and Draco above and - well, you can't blame them for being daft, as they're only eighteen year old boys. Wait - seventeen, isn't it? No matter. They're boys and boys will never understand life and death the way girls do.

Back over Christmas hols, when Hydra had been cruciated by her mother, I offered to let her spend the night at Raz's house, which is mine now, I suppose. Justin came, too, and they spent two nights together. At the time Sally Anne and I speculated that they might be married in secret. I still think that may be true, though I have no verification of it.

I don't think there was any sort of training accident last night. I cleaned up some of the blood on the stairs, mostly because it didn't really look like blood from an injury.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-24 15:17:56
Re: Private message to Hermione

No, that's all right. And I'm not trying to pry, it's just we were all quite concerned for Hydra.

The problem is there are too many things it could have been, and every possibility's rather horrible. But those nights over Christmas, Hydra was in a terrible state, wasn't she?
Yes, she'd been cruciated by her mother, but not just regular cruciation (which is bad enough, I'm sure!). Her mother was doing it for just a split-second longer than is advisable, and Hydra could scarcely move one side of her body. It's lucky Sally Anne knew what to do.

That's what I thought--I mean, her mother's vile enough that nothing's too low for her--but I mean, about how badly off she was. So, it's not as if Justin would have tried anything when she was so hurt.

One thing I'm wondering is if she had some health condition neither of them knew about, and whatever happened in the salle triggered some sort of--reaction. But that's not what you think it was, is it?

Well, there were the two nights, and she was doing better by the second one. You're right, he wouldn't have "tried" anything, but that doesn't mean she wouldn't have asked. I mean, not everyone's the same. It could have just been an act of comfort, you see? Of not feeling so terribly alone.

I think she was pregnant. You haven't been here to see her, but she really was much more fatigued than usual. And her face had got rounder, too, so I think she'd put on a little weight.
2015-02-23 23:00:00
Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

Hey Pansy--

Do you have any of that Small Mercies potion? It'd be handy to have and to give to other Prefects who might need it for their Houses after all the rumours flying around.

I'm still out so I can come by the dungeons.

alt_susan

2015-02-24 04:54:55
(no subject)

Yes, of course.

alt_pansy

2015-02-24 05:08:47
(no subject)

Thanks! It's good to know you're brewing it.

Some people who'd be tossing and turning otherwise will be able to get a good night's sleep. I keep telling myself that that's not nothing.

Whoever named that potion did a good job.

alt_pansy

2015-02-24 05:12:09
(no subject)

You're right. It isn't nothing.

I hate just sitting around, worrying, but at least we can help others a bit.
Yeah. And it was good to hear about Ken & Jack too. I imagine you're well pleased about that.

And it sounds like Terry's mates from Sherwood are healing up too.

It's not all bad news by any means. It's not.

Dammit...I don't even believe myself.

...Yeah.

I mean, celebrating people not dying is all well and good. But after a fashion, it'd be nice to not have the need.

And we will someday.

Promise.

And--if we're both there to see it--on that day we're going to sing all the songs and dance all the dances and toast all the toasts.

You with me?

Yes, please.

I'll hold you to that.
@alt_susan at 2015-02-24 06:15:39
(no subject)

I'm holding you to your promise too.

And maybe I'd better go before we really get soppy!
2015-02-23 23:35:00
Order Only: Private message to Susan

Are you in the Sette? Can you check on whether Justin made it back?

alt_sally_anne

alt_susan at 2015-02-24 05:39:31
(no subject)

I've been sitting up in the common room since I came back from meeting Pansy and no--he hasn't.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 05:40:54
(no subject)

Okay. Thanks.

alt_susan at 2015-02-24 05:43:54
(no subject)

I can stay up a while longer to see if he comes in? It's not as if I'm going to get much sleep anyhow.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 05:45:39
(no subject)

Well, okay. Let me know if he turns up.

Thanks.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 06:14:58
(no subject)

Okay we found him.

He's not going to sleep in his dorm tonight, we'll find somewhere else for him.
alt_susan at 2015-02-24 06:19:23
(no subject)

I'm so glad that you found him and that he hasn't done anything rash. Well--more rash than staying out of the dorms all night.

You're...I don't know and I don't need to know and you wouldn't tell me anyway...but it seems like this is a lot. A lot for you to carry.

Thanks for taking care of us all.
Still at the Hospital Wing? Need an escort?

Not an escort, exactly. Justin never made it back to the Sette. Help me look for him?

Harry's coming, too. We've got the cloak. In case.

Okay, good. I don't think he's gone out of the castle or anything? but who knows.

Well, y'know. Just in case we need to all duck into a corner and let Glozeman go by us or something.

Anywiz. There in a minute.
Hey.

I just wanted to let you know that we're doing our best to keep people from speculating too much about what's happened, and that I very much hope you're feeling better, and I'm glad you are expected to make a full recovery.

Whatever you need, just let me know, whether it's a bit of space, or people you can walk to class with who won't be a bother.

I've ordered some really top-shelf chocolate, too. I figure it certainly can't hurt.

---

Chocolate, yes, sure to do a world of good.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Well, if you wouldn't care for it, it'll save for later.

Life would be much simpler if that's all anyone needed, wouldn't it, though?
alt_hydra at 2015-02-25 03:25:54
(no subject)

Thanks.

I still don't want any chocolate, and I don't want to talk. But thank you, just the same.

alt_pansy at 2015-02-25 05:44:13
(no subject)

The way I figure it, you're the one who gets to sort out what'd be best for you.

No chocolate or talking sounds like something I can most certainly do.
2015-02-24 09:12:00
Private Message to H Lestrange

Checked on you before I left and saw that you were sleeping. Trust it was restorative.

Will give you two days, but then you will absolutely need to be back in training. Not at full force, but must not invite invalidism to set in. Must train body and mind to know that you can press through any physical ailment.

In that regard, this event may be instructionally useful.

Choose to see it that way.

What were you possibly thinking?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 15:23:16
(no subject)

This morning's healer said that I can go to my next lesson, if I want. Which I do. I would also like to return to our training programme as soon as possible. Before two days, even, if your schedule will allow.

What was I thinking?

I wasn't keeping it a secret from you. I had no idea, in fact. Though in retrospect I suppose I ought to have had an idea, there were reasons it didn't seem possible.

So now it's like it never happened, which is best.

I would like to know what you are going to tell my parents.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 15:39:04
(no subject)

Good. Will come tonight.

No idea? Mordred.
If you've no more idea what your body is about than that-

We'll discuss what signs there were and what you ought to have known or suspected. Will also discuss how to be proof against surprises. Not saying anything against children as a life choice, but Aurors (in particular) do not stumble into them.

Am not in the habit of concealing things from your mother. However. It's unlikely we'll see one another this week unless she seeks me out.

Your best hope is that she has other, more pressing things on her mind.

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 15:50:09
(no subject)

Yes, I know how babies are made. I've been having sex since I was fourteen. I've never had regular monthlies, and as far as I knew, I had one in January. And since I've been in the castle since that time, there was no reason to think anything was amiss. I wasn't sick to my stomach. I wasn't hungry for pickled turnips. I was just fine.

So you can skip your birds and the bees lecture.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-24 15:54:57
(no subject)

Self-awareness and self-command. Neither on display there.

We will discuss what I say we'll discuss.

Tonight.

Pull yourself together, Lestrange.
I know I've disappointed you.

I won't apologise for it. I will simply see that it doesn't happen again.

Not in the way you suppose.

Let's call it an opportunity now to show what you're made of. Which is quite solid stuff, judging from most of the evidence.

Want you to continue to make the best showing you can manage. You've some discerning judges watching your progress. Expect that hasn't escaped your notice.

Expect to be in the castle for supper. Will collect you at the end of the meal so everyone present can see that you've no hesitation getting back on your broom.

Alright.
2015-02-24 09:37:00
Private message to Harry Marvolo and Ron Weasley

He may have been gone before I got up properly in the morning, but I heard the lot of you come in last night and it's not as if I wasn't going to notice the camp cot. (Where did that even come from?)

Finch-Fletchley isn't a Gryffindor. He has a House and a dorm of his own, and that's where he belongs.

alt_ron at 2015-02-24 15:57:50
(no subject)

I'll tell him he should try Ravenclaw tonight, then, eh?
Honestly, Finnigan, it's not as if he was in the way.

alt_seamus at 2015-02-24 16:00:09
(no subject)

That's not the point and you know it.

Maybe he should try Ravenclaw, if he's so determined to move out of his own House. At least Ravenclaw doesn't have Sandoval-Pennifold breathing down their neck every moment. What do you think she'd have to say if she found out Finch-Fletchley slept in Gryffindor last night? I don't reckon it would be good for him or any of the rest of us. (Other than possibly Marvolo, I don't think she much minds what he does.)

alt_ron at 2015-02-24 16:27:28
(no subject)

Seriously, LSP.
So, what do you think happened last night, anyway? Just a training accident, like they said?

French-Fletchley had a little sleepover in Gryffindor last night. Took Harry's bed. (Harry slept in a camp cot. Neville's bed was gone when we got back in January -- his stuff was all gone, actually, and the room had adjusted to be for three people.) He was gone when I got up in the morning but I saw him in the night.

If it was just a training accident, why would she have asked for French-Flatly?

And it must have been quite serious if he needed to be cosseted all night.

...that was the most impressive Potions accident I've seen in a while!

Bravo! Ten points for Hufflepuff! Or, you know, whatever House he's in today.
I came back to the Hospital Wing early this morning but the Healer on duty wouldn't let me in to see you.

Are--that is, do you even want to see me?

It's entirely my fault. I'll swear to it if--if that's what's needed.

I.... I thought you said you couldn't be

The thing is, I had to tell the Headmaster about us. Last night. He was going on about how irresponsible we'd been and I--I don't know why I thought it would help--I told him it wasn't as scandalous as he thought because we're already married.

I'm such a dashed idiot

Did the Healer last night--the kind one, I don't know her name--did she--tell you anything, after she made me go?

Oh, dash it.

I've so much I want to say and do and I'm afraid nothing I choose will be the right thing.

I'm leaving the hospital in a bit so that I can make it to lessons.

What do you mean, swear to it? If you mean to my parents, they don't know at this point and hopefully it will stay that way.
Healer Hayden did speak with me, but what she said - it isn't so important.

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 17:00:01  
(no subject)

I've no idea what the Headmaster will say or do. Last night he was too shocked, I think, to decide properly.

I'll have to speak to him today, what, but I'll do my best to make him see it would be counterproductive to tell them.

I suppose if you're well enough to return to lessons then whatever she said must have been--

Right. No, quite right. I say, sorry to disturb.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 17:13:51  
(no subject)

Crouch hasn't said whether he'll tell or not. I don't think he cares to give me peace of mind at the moment.

I mean, I'm not sure what you want to know. She said that bleeding wasn't uncommon, early on, so that's why I thought I'd had my monthly as usual. She wanted me to know that I should be able to carry to term with proper care, and that everything had been going along normal, only I had too much bodily stress without any healer supervision.

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 18:10:48  
(no subject)

I'm sure we both have little peace of mind to look forward to for a while.

Now I've a detention for Professor Glozeman, as well. As if I cared a whit for that.

So, it was.... I mean to say, if you hadn't been pushed so hard, we might have been parents within the year. Perhaps it's for the best,
not having to face that particular challenge right away.

I'm going to take my lunch outdoors.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 18:46:13 (no subject)

Parents - no. No, we wouldn't have been.

It would have had to be taken care of, one way or another.

alt_justin at 2015-02-24 18:55:51 (no subject)

You would see it that way. There's only ever one option with you. Like mother like daughter, indeed.

I suppose you'll say you're relieved to have lost our child, as well.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 19:04:48 (no subject)

It seems my responses to what happened haven't pleased anyone.

I'm very sorry I'm not having the correct and proper response to something that happened to me. To me. Tell me, what response would make you feel better, Justin?
2015-02-24 12:11:00
Private Message to Sally-Anne, Ron and Harry

It's a beautiful day, isn't it. I'm going outside for luncheon.

If anyone should happen to be looking for me, what, I'll be near the lake.

alt_justin

2015-02-24 20:42:49
(no subject)

Er, mate. This isn't your afternoon for Potions.

Maybe you should chuck it in?

If you want to leave and want someone to leave with, I could wash this up and go. I mean, I can come back and do this one evening. I'll just say it was turning sour if Gimlet says anything.

alt_ron

2015-02-24 20:45:04
(no subject)

Yes, by all means.

alt_ron

2015-02-24 20:50:56
(no subject)

Alright, then!

Oh, say. Look out if you come round the inside corner of your bench. There's a puddle of that glop oozing out on the floor. Could be slippery. Or caustic. What was in your cauldron when it went up, anywiz?
I've no idea.

What are we meant to be making? Oh, dash it, it doesn't bally well matter. I'll just clear the lot away and have done.

Harry,

Thank you, for coming outside this afternoon. I'm sorry I wasn't fit company but I do want you to know I appreciated the effort. And the not talking, as Ron would say.

-Justin

Has she replied at all? You don't need to tell me what she said, I'm not asking that. I just--want to know if she's asking for anything. Though I suppose she's with that murdering blighter and can't bally well reply.

She's jolly well brassed off with me, though. So I can't talk to her, just now. Everything I say's wrong, as I feared. Particularly things I said and didn't mean at all.

If you're seeing to her then please, don't fuss about me. But--

Well. I'll wait for her, I suppose.

-Justin
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 02:50:28
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

No, I haven't heard back from her. Given how much blood she lost yesterday I rather hope she went to bed early. She might write later, I suppose, or maybe not.

I think she rather likes it when she gets a little fussing, because then she knows people care. But, I don't think she quite knows what to do with it.

Anyway. How are you doing?

alt_justin at 2015-02-25 03:05:21
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Smashing, of course. I couldn't even put sliced mugwort into a bollocky cauldron this afternoon without blowing it up.

I've already gone up and drawn the curtains, or I'd say let's meet in the secret room.

She certainly doesn't wish to be fussed over about this. I'm rather sure she's in favour of pretending it never happened, in fact. I'd go so far as to say she's relieved to be rid of it.

And it wasn't my body so I'm not permitted to feel anything, either, it would seem.

Oh, I say. I'm frightfully sorry. I shouldn't be burdening you with all this.

I'm perfectly all right, obviously.

-Justin
Well if you put in sliced mugwort that might explain the explosion as it wasn't in the potion we were supposed to be working on.

I'm sorry you're grieving, Justin. You're not a burden on me. You're a friend, and I'm here to listen if you want to talk to someone who already knows. (You're also allowed to tell people, if you want to talk to Harry, or Ron. You're not a Healer; you know because you were involved.)

No, but I don't think she wants me to tell anyone. So I can't, can I? And I don't think I'm supposed to feel grief, either, or anger or shame or worry. I'm meant to simply go along as if nothing happened because that's how she wants it. And because she'd have preferred it never to have happened in the first place.

You're supposed to feel whatever you feel. And Hydra's supposed to feel whatever she feels.

If I got accidentally pregnant, and I miscarried, I would be tremendously relieved. Because it would be very selfish for me to keep the baby, given that it would mean I couldn't go on to apprentice as a Healer (not at St Mungo's, anyway) and in fact it might even mess up Ron's chances of getting into the Auror training.
programme. No one in the Order would ever say so, but I'd know. The unselfish choice would be to terminate it.

So to have the decision taken out of my hands would be a relief, not because I wouldn't want Ron's baby, but because I would, actually.

---

@alt_justin at 2015-02-25 05:23:58
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, that's more than can be said for Hydra.

Obviously, I don't want to think of a child endangering her life, or our prospects, and you're quite right that we would have had to make a decision, had we known.

But the difference is that you'd want that child, and it might even cross your mind to regret the choice you'd have had to make. Or had made for you, what.

Of course, I understand what you mean--what you're trying to say. And I do see the validity of feeling that this--situation--is rather dodging a bludger. But there's something stinging nonetheless in realising that she never wanted my child, even if the timing and circumstances were far from ideal.

I never told you that we'd planned to leave and go to Grimmauld. The night before Sherwood and Ollerton, we'd both packed our things to run. But then we were sent out and--well, we changed our plans, after.

So, you see, if she'd learned or realised her condition, we would have had a choice. We could have changed our minds again. But she hasn't even considered that as an option. It's not anything that even entered her mind. Terminating the pregnancy was her only thought.

There's a difference between relieved and thankful.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 05:52:00
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Does she not want YOUR child or does she not want ANY child?

It's not as if she's exactly had a good role model for parenting.

Anyway loads of people our age don't think they ever want kids and loads of them change their minds later, it's something everyone makes jokes about in the American Witches books.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 05:14:12
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

By the way, I should probably mention.

Over Christmas, when you and Hydra were staying at Spence, Daphne and I speculated a bit - idly -- that the two of you had got secretly married. There was just something about the two of you together... anyway.

I was thinking today and realised that stomach ache of yours you wanted a potion for, that wasn't nerves. Of course, I won't tell Daphne she was right, but if she speculates again and I dodge the question she may draw her own conclusions.

alt_justin at 2015-02-25 05:27:13
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I say. Either you're too clever by half or we're worse at this than we thought.

Oh, bug dash it, if Antonin knows, I don't see why a friend shouldn't. Yes. Since July.
Well.

Congratulations.
2015-02-24 14:07:00

Honestly.

If a fellow student is having difficulties with equipment or procedures in the Potions lab, it behooves those nearest to take prudent measures to ameliorate the situation rather than stand about snickering. I don't care what your personal opinions of your classmates are, or how they have treated you, or whatever; put the bloody fire out FIRST, and then express whatever bon mots are weighing so heavily upon your mind.

Merlin. Some people.

alt_seamus at 2015-02-24 20:30:55
(no subject)

When it's someone normally so outstanding in every subject who set his cauldron on fire, I think it's rather understandable that people might stand back a few moments out of respect? I would have rather expected Finch-Fletchley to be able to put out his own fire, rather than needing any of us to come to his aid.

alt_ernie at 2015-02-24 20:37:18
(no subject)

True. After all, it can be rather shocking to realise that even the best of us are capable of failure.

alt_padma at 2015-02-24 20:39:11
(no subject)

Well, I suppose it's to be expected. From what I hear, he didn't get much sleep last night.
alt_pansy at 2015-02-24 20:39:32
(no subject)

Come on, MacMillan.
Green is not your colour.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 20:43:14
(no subject)

It's certainly gracious of you to acknowledge that Finch-Fletchley outdoes you in every subject, Macmillan.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-24 20:35:44
Order Only: Private message to Ron and Harry

Did either of you find Justin at lunch? I didn't even see his note until lunch was over.

alt_harry at 2015-02-24 20:37:23
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Harry

I did.

We watched the squid for a half hour. Then I thought he was going to say something, but instead his journal alerted him and he started writing furiously (to Hydra, I think) and he got crosser and crosser until he slammed his journal shut and we went inside.

alt_ron at 2015-02-24 23:50:53
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Harry

No, I was in the salle with Desai at lunch. And wasn't that interesting? Apparently Dolohov hasn't told the staff anything. Anywiz, she'd only heard there was a 'training accident', which she assumed wasn't the whole story, so she was trying to squeeze me for information I might've got from you. Told her you took confidentiality verrrry seriously. Dull of you.
She wanted to know about F-F's troubles in Hufflepuff, too--whether 'some sort of intervention' was needed there. I told her I didn't think he'd want any. It's his to sort out with those pillocks he's got to share with. She seemed amused about Hufflepuffs being jealous of his abilities. I told her the real trouble was that he's too polite to just settle it with them once and for all, and she seemed to like that. Think that's how she sees it.

So, yeah. That was lunch.

I did spend some time with him this afternoon, though. After I got him to give up before he exploded another cauldron. He didn't even know what he'd put in the one that went all over. Seriously messed in the head today, that one.

Anywiz, we left and went and sat on the stairs that run up the west tower, but then Sirius wrote him, so I left and came up to the tower before LSP could come looking for me. Since I hadn't signed her roster to tell her where I'd be studying this afternoon. (Even Finnick's had it with her.)

---

@alt_harry at 2015-02-24 20:42:02
(no subject)

Well said, Moon. I agree.

Anyone can have an accident in Potions class. I would hope that if this happened to me, people would help me out rather than taking pleasure in my failure.

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-24 20:59:29
(no subject)

Macmillan, Finnigan, and Patil,

I suggest you start acting like the adults and role models you're meant to be or I'll recommend to the Headmaster that your badges be pulled and distributed to those more worthy of the name "prefect."
All right, there?

Justin, what's this about your potion catching fire? Is this to do with whatever happened last night?

If it's private or personal, I've no wish to pry but if there's anything we ought to know...well, I do hope you'll tell me.

You know we're all rather captive here without any idea what's going on. In the absence of hard facts, there's only speculation to be had. You should know that Sally-Anne's told Remus nothing apart from this training accident story, but.... Look here, are you two in some sort of trouble? Were you caught together, or something?

If you're afraid we'll be cross with you, I assure you, I'll do all I can to help.

Sirius,

It's extremely private and personal and yes, it might well affect the Order. Or, one should say, we'll make certain it does not affect the Order.

We weren't caught together--I say, not in the way you're asking. But the Headmaster knows we've disobeyed the Lestranges' wish that we cease our relationship. Auror Crouch knows it, as well.

We've no idea if they mean to inform the Lestranges yet, and if they do, I may have to withdraw from Hogwarts. Hydra might choose to do so as well. I sincerely hope it shan't come to that, for either of us.

I believe that's all that might concern you or Mrs Longbottom at this time. I hope you shan't take it amiss if I say that I doubt very much whether either of us care whether you are cross, or not, what. It's happened and there's nothing to be done about it but wait and see what comes next.
-Justin

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-24 21:49:08
(no subject)

I see.

And Hydra, are you all right? Nothing to say, or does Justin speak for you on this? Is there anything you need from any of us?

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-24 21:56:06
(no subject)

I suggest you let Justin speak, since he's the one aching to be heard.

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-24 22:19:09
Private Message to Hydra

That doesn't sound too good. What's he done?

@alt_sirius at 2015-02-24 23:35:44
Private Message to Justin

I asked but she hasn't answered. What have you done?

@alt_justin at 2015-02-25 01:32:03
Re: Private Message to Justin

Everything. Nothing. Too much, not enough.

I can at least state that Professor Dolohov will not be informing the Lestranges, though he's far from happy about it. One can't blame him, of course. I don't know what I expected--a fight, I suppose. Having to argue the case. But it didn't come to that.
I'm sorry, Sirius--Hydra's correct, I want to talk about it, but I don't think I had better.

-Justin

Merlin. So she is pregnant, then?

Or...she was, but not anymore?
2015-02-24 17:21:00
Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

I confess I was concerned to read that the ward was closed last evening. Was that at Crouch's insistence? Surely if there'd been another serious illness or injury, those students wouldn't have been turned away?

Never mind. It's not mine to interfere, which is why I didn't wish to write whilst you appeared to be in the midst of a difficult situation.

I trust that you feel things were managed well enough in the end.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 01:04:27
(no subject)

I wasn't there when things started so I don't know, but I think Healer Hayden closed it. I'm not sure if it was because she wanted to give Hydra privacy, or if she was seriously worried that Hydra might die.

Anyway, I was shut out with everyone else but I slipped in when Dolohov came to get Justin, because I wanted to make sure that the Order wasn't in any danger. It wasn't. So I gathered up some calming droughts and the other things I thought I might need and went back outside.

If anyone had arrived with a truly dangerous illness or injury I'd have shouted and banged on the door and I'm sure they'd have opened up -- I mean of course then they'd have had the problem of two students in dire need at the same time. I imagine they'd have had Dolohov firecall St Mungo's. But fortunately it was just the usual bad stomachs and the like.
And I know what happened to Hydra and there isn't anyone I can talk with about it. I've been trying to decide whether you qualify under the 'discuss with a colleague' exception even though it's not as if I really need advice because Hydra's not actually under my care. I just want to tell someone about it and I don't know

I mean

it's her private business, really. Nothing to do with the Order at all. No one would have even heard about it if Milli hadn't decided to tell everyone that Crouch had murdered Hydra.

I believe that if you wished to discuss the circumstances of her treatment as you observed them or wished to discuss her condition, it could be construed as part of your training. As could speaking about your reactions, concerns, apprehensions, etc.

I will, of course, hold in strictest confidence anything you might say on the subject.

Well, okay, because although I do think Hydra and Justin ought to tell Mrs Longbottom, that's mostly just because Justin could still wind up in terrible trouble over this. It wouldn't be Order-related trouble, it would be Rodolphus-is-a-protective-father trouble, but still.

Hydra was pregnant, apparently. And the training accident in the salle made her miscarry. She hemorrhaged while Crouch was bringing her to the hospital wing, that was the blood on the stairs everyone was talking about.
And here's the thing. Back when I was a fifth year, Professor Sinistra gave Pansy and me copies of this book called 'Wise Witch, Wise Woman' which talked about every contraceptive spell or potion or rune anyone's ever invented (she gave us the 10th edition, the 12th apparently isn't is good, except for the Seaman's Shield but she'd copied that in). And she wanted me to pass it along to Hydra, so I did. There are long-term spells and short-term spells and potions that are very easy to brew and potions that you can get from the Matron if you can get over your embarrassment and even a rune is better than nothing. (I wear a rune, even though I don't usually DEPEND on the rune, just because it's never a bad idea to double up.)

I mean I KNOW it's easy to get careless about it when most of the time you're at Hogwarts but they were SO STUPID part of me wants to shake both of them. Even though I also want them to confide in me and feel comfortable with me so of course I'm not going to say this to either of them.

I did offer Hydra a rune, though, because you can just put it on and never take it off and it's quite a bit better than nothing.

---

🎶 alt_poppy at 2015-02-25 06:25:01
(no subject)

One of the most difficult duties of a healer is masking one's criticism when expressing it would serve no healing purpose and when it would discourage further communication.

I'm certain I've failed often enough in this regard. And I'd wager that most healers struggle to master it.

I gather you didn't observe the treatment Hydra received?

Do you know, instead, whether the spilt blood and tissue were promptly scourified and vanished? What appeared to be merely blood might be easily analysed if someone had thought to collect a sample. And, of course, there are other uses for samples of spilt blood and she'd tissue.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 06:31:47
(no subject)

No, I didn't see what treatment Hydra received.

When I got into the hospital wing they'd cleaned -- I don't know if they vanished the blood and tissue or if they set some aside. But, she left blood all over the school. Someone did vanish the blood on the stairs, but there were still traces, and I haven't seen the salle. (I did have the Prefects close it just because I was thinking the last thing we needed was another serious training accident with the Healer so distracted.)

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-26 14:57:10
(no subject)

Is there anything I ought to be saying to Justin or Hydra?

They're still not speaking to each other, as far as I can tell. I rather think it's their business and they need to work it out for themselves if they're going to, but he's also the only person Hydra ever really talks to.

Justin was very hurt and angry because Hydra didn't want the pregnancy. And I can understand that he's sad, but he -- I don't know. I mean, I keep trying to imagine Ron in the same situation and maybe for us it would be easier because I do at least want children someday and I guess Hydra doesn't and Justin does. Anyway I think Hydra was exasperated with him for being so sad, or possibly she felt like he was making it all about him, I'm not sure exactly because it's not like either of them is really telling me about this, it's mostly just between the lines.

I don't know whether to try to get involved, or not. Hermione guessed that it was a miscarriage, I'm not sure if anyone else did.
It seems this is your time to learn how complicated it can be when Healing mixes with friendship.

I'm afraid my best advice is to let them seek you out if they wish your help or want to unburden themselves to someone whose silence they can trust. Pressing offers of help on them is likely to make them suspect you of cloaking personal curiosity within the professional gesture.

If either of them do want your counsel, though, each of them will be working through what they feel and why. Even if they believe they know exactly what they feel, it's likely they'll continue to discover new layers of it for some time to come.

You say that Hydra did not want to be pregnant and does not want children at all. Her reasons for either are unlikely to be straightforward even if she believes them quite simple and clear-cut. Likewise, his sadness for a child he didn't know they'd conceived until it was already gone is likely for many things in addition to the child itself--things to do, perhaps, with his own mother and father and siblings if he has any or had any, and to do with a range of other memories, relationships, hopes and expectations he may not fully realise he holds.

I trust you to know how to listen, and how to encourage that they listen to one another--should they turn to you. And I trust you to know how to respect their privacy and their trust, so they don't remember every time they see you that you know things about them they may wish not to be reminded of.
Did people leave you be, today?
Did anyone suspect? I assume you know, if they did.

Sorry, just finished up in the salle with Crouch.
I wouldn't say I gave anyone a choice to do anything other that leave me be.

No. no one suspected the exact nature of the incident, but they did have their fun speculating.

How are you feeling?
My mum got pregnant with me by accident. I've always thought that if I got pregnant by accident I'd just end the pregnancy. But that was an easier thing to tell myself when the father was just hypothetical. I think if I got pregnant and then miscarried I'd be sad but also relieved. Not having to make the decision to do the unselfish thing for the Order. (Which no one would tell me to do, of course.) But I might just be sad. Or I might just be relieved. I'm not sure.

Anyway I'm not telling you how to feel, obviously. If you want to talk about it, though, I'll listen.
I didn't know that I was pregnant, so I don't feel anything. It's like nothing happened.

Except for maybe feeling cross that it *did* happen and I didn't figure it out.

Oh, you were far enough along -- I thought you must have known.

Would you like a rune? I use the monthly charm, these days, but I started out with the rune as a backup when I was using the one-time charm, just in case I forgot. It's best if etched on copper and worn on a leather cord around your neck (or your waist).

Or, you know, if you want help with the monthly charm, or getting the potion, or anything like that.

Yes, you aren't the first to express disbelief on that point.

Thank you, but I think it's more than safe to say that the mistake won't ever be repeated.

If you're telling me that you're never, ever going to sleep with Justin again, I think you'd better let me give you a rune.

'I will just never, ever have sex again' is precisely the sort of attitude that results in accidental pregnancies.
I can make it look like a pretty piece of jewelry. No one will know what it's for.

Anyway, I believe you that you didn't know, I'm just surprised. I guess that's why you were so tired, though.

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-25 05:51:06
(no subject)

That's not what I meant.

No, just - nevermind.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 05:53:50
(no subject)

No -- what? I mean -- did you have Healer Hayden cast one of the really, really long-lasting spells on you, after?

@alt_hydra at 2015-02-25 16:31:47
(no subject)

Why do you need to know? I haven't gone to you for healer's help, have I? The other night I had to answer dozens of questions about my body while the Headmaster and Crouch were right there, watching the whole thing happen. All while experiencing tremendous pain. And then last night, with Crouch, I had to describe the virtues and failings of every single part of my body. Yes, every single part, from the top of my head all the way down to my toes. I was also made to disclose all the ways that my body has ever been criticized or praised by my parents or anyone else, and all the injuries it has suffered over the years. So when I say that the mistake won't be repeated you can rest assured that it's already been taken care of.
If it was Crouch who cast something on you to keep it from happening again I was going to ask if I could check his work. I'm sure it would keep you from getting pregnant but there are considerations a good Healer is supposed to take into account with those spells, and Crouch might not.

But other than that -- here at school the Healers in the HW don't know about the Order and all the special risks you're running there. And the adults in the Order don't know half of what goes on with Crouch -- nor do I, but at least I see you every day.

You deserve to have someone looking out for you who knows the secrets from both sides, at least as much as you're willing to share.

But obviously you don't have to tell me anything you don't want to talk about.

You can check later. Much later. I don't want to do it just now.

Okay. That's fine.

If you notice a worsening of your menstrual cramps next month (or anytime in about the next six months), that's one of the things that can happen with some versions of the charm. If you talk to me or one of the female Healers on duty at that point, there's an adjustment to the magic that should fix it.

Also, if Justin continues to be a pillock please let me know so that I can hex him into next week. (Or, you know, if you'd like
him hexed into next week right now I could probably arrange that.)

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 17:31:13
(no subject)

There's something else I was thinking about last night.

Justin has Dolohov as a mentor, but he also has Sirius.
I have Dolohov as a mentor, but I also have Madam Pomfrey.
Ron has Desai as a mentor, but he also has Rachel.

You have Crouch as a mentor. Who do you have in the Order?
Do you have anybody?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-25 17:36:50
(no subject)

I suppose not.

That's alright though.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-25 17:45:57
(no subject)

Do any of the adults annoy you less than the others?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-25 18:58:10
(no subject)

None of them annoy me, exactly. That isn't the right word. Some of them do make me feel something I can't quite describe but don't particularly like. Shame, maybe.

So here's who makes me feel that way, from the most to the least.

- The Weasleys (Not Ron, though. And not Ginny so much)
- The Longbottoms (The Longbottoms and the Weasleys might be tied)
- Mr Kingsley
- Madam Pomfrey
- Professor Sinistra
- Mr Lupin
- Sirius
- Rachel Brodie
- Dora
- Snape
- Macnair (because he never says anything, does he)
Hey, Pans,

I can't entirely glean what's been going on because most of the journal entries of our crew at Hogwarts have been behind a private lock, even the Order Only ones. We gather that Hydra was hurt? Anyone else?

Should Fred and I make up a gift basket or something you can pass along to her and/or anyone else involved?

It's rather difficult to sit around with our fingers up our arses, wondering what's going on.

Anyway. Saw you sent Hydra a private message. If there's anything at the store you can think of that could help her or anyone else, reply here, okay? Even if it's just a bunch of chocolates or something. We can send it, and you can hand it off to the appropriate party.

Maybe a spell launcher she can aim at dear Barty Crouch's back. Fu has been coming up with some interesting prototypes. At the very least, the idea might make her laugh. If she needs to laugh?

Yours,
loving yet clueless,
George

You are quite sweet to think of what you can do. And it is difficult, I rather feel all thumbs myself.

Honestly, there's very little I know, and I believe that's the way Hydra wants it. She was hurt, she's supposed to make a full recovery, and that's all anyone's saying.

She replied to my message, which asked her what I could do to help, but in a way that made it clear she'd like some space and privacy. I'll let you know if anything changes, but yeah. Right now, no gift baskets, just keep sending good thoughts her way.
It sounds silly, but I've been doing that today, actually. When I see her. Sending good thoughts. Just thinking about snatches of random funny songs, or that Patil looks like she snogged a lemon, or imagining Lana Sandoval-Pennifold getting spotty.

Because she might actually pick it up, and so much of what people are going to think when she passes by them is going to be 'I wonder.'

@alt_george at 2015-02-25 03:02:32
(no subject)

You're right. That's probably the best way to help a legilimen who's been hurt. Reckon she can't read Fred's and my thoughts from this distance, though, can she?

We wish we could be at Hogwarts right now. I mean, it sounds ghastly, but at least we could be helping protect some of the younger ones, and providing back up and assistance to other Order members there.

Well, and besides I miss you. Never tried out the Astronomy Tower for its traditional use when we had a chance, did we?

But the work we're doing here is important, too. Not just the business, but the R&D for Fu.

Sleep well, Pansy, and if there's anything Fred or I can do, let us know, yeah?

@alt_pansy at 2015-02-25 03:26:38
(no subject)

We didn't! Quite the pity. We'll have to make up for it.

I'm sure we'll come up with something.

And you're right -- it is important. It's absolutely marvellous, what you've been able to accomplish, and it's doing so much good. I can't wait to be out of here to join you.
Bat your eyes at Fred and tell him he's a dear, will you?

*alt_george* at 2015-02-25 04:26:14  
(no subject)

It'll give him a swelled head. But that's a normal circumstance, so that's all right.

Pass on our hullos to Ginny and Ron, yeah? Oh, and tell them that Mum's over the MOON about Adam, and really eager for them to meet him. (She looks wary whenever we pick him up, though. Tonks looks even warier, which we think means she has good mothering instincts.)

*alt_pansy* at 2015-02-25 05:29:11  
(no subject)

Shall.

And give Bea something fun from me, will you? So she doesn't feel too terribly left out.
Order Only: Private Message to Harry, Sally-Anne, Ron and Daphne

How is everything at Hogwarts today?

You should probably know that whatever Justin and Hydra told Sirius (or didn't? I can't tell, I just know he wrote to them), sent him on a tear last night. So I think it's pretty much what we thought, Daphne. Draco and I could sort of hear him and Mr Lupin; I'm sure Mr Snape and Tonks probably heard bits of it, too, though we were in the library researching, so we were closer.

Anyway. I can't imagine they're both back to normal but maybe at least neither of them is melting a cauldron or anything.

Daphne, could you get anything out of Crouch, as to what exactly went wrong? (I'm not including Draco on this so you can talk about it and not have to worry about him just going on and on about what a slick git he is, and I won't tell him anything if you don't want me to.)

I was thinking about Hydra, though, and how she doesn't like to talk about things, because--well, I'm the same way. And I know for me, I just need to be left alone, and I know most people in the Order prefer to push until someone gets over the worst. But it doesn't always work that way. So I hope people are running interference for her, if that's what she needs.
but to learn to do so. But if they just go off alone to stuff things down and forget about them, that can't be good or healthy in the long run.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-26 03:30:10 (no subject)

It can be, though. Sometimes forgetting and moving on is all there is to do. That's part of working through what happens.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-26 03:38:27 (no subject)

How does something force themselves to forget about something? I'd like to know that trick!

I'm not saying a person needs to wallow in their trauma and allow it to define them, but I do think it's important - vital, in fact - for a person to acknowledge, at least to him or herself, things like "I didn't like that," or "that really hurt me." Or even "I'm really really angry that happened to me." Because if a person doesn't, then it's like saying their own feelings and reactions don't matter. And they do.

alt_hermione at 2015-02-26 03:45:13
Private Message to Daphne

It helps when there's so much to do that one doesn't have time for anything else.

Anyway. I imagine it's pretty tense, isn't it, because Hydra doesn't get demonstrative about things, but clearly Justin couldn't keep himself under control yesterday. So I hope they're able to get back on the same page soon. Especially considering how that could affect them forever, you know? I mean, loads of couples never get over something like this.

alt_daphne at 2015-02-26 04:01:17
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Yes, I think that's comparable to 'stuffing it down.'
Justin is very demonstrative compared to Hydra (but everyone is, compared to her). She must be more open with him than the rest of us, but I don't think she'll ever be demonstrative and he knows that about her by now, surely.

When she was what - eleven? - she opened up to someone who possessed her and made her try to murder a load of people - and one of them did die. That would certainly put you off spilling your guts, I think.

True. I was thinking more about the way she was raised, with Bellatrix for a mother. Sirius sometimes talks about things his mother did (and we used to hear her screeching all the time, so there's that) and I'd bet she wasn't half as horrid as Bellatrix. With someone like that, you'd learn to tamp down your emotions. Which is why she poured her heart into that awful diary, in the first place.

So, you think they're facing it together, then? I mean, they always do manage to find one another, in the end. And if you and Sally-Anne are right and they're bonded, well, they'd rather have to work through it, wouldn't they.

I can't even imagine getting married, or getting pregnant, right now. I mean, at our age. Can you?

I think they're probably in for a rough patch but I certainly hope they get through it.

I can't even imagine how they ended up married, both so young! Hydra's nearly two years younger than you and me and Justin, remember. I can only think that they needed something that felt secure and safe amidst all the chaos, and getting married seemed like a good answer. A port in the storm. Maybe they believe in that whole 'soul mate' thing, too. Most people do, even though if you ask me that's completely silly. If you look at any broken-up couple I bet a lot
of them would say that they were sure they were soul-mates, at one point or another.

I used to think I would never want to marry, and I'm still not sure I would. Who even knows what things will be like in ten or twenty years? A lot depends on that, I think. Same with having children.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-26 04:42:53
Re: Private Message to Daphne

I don't know, I mean, I think he's always been attracted to her, right from the first. I don't think he's even ever looked at another girl, certainly not the way he looks at her. And I can imagine she'd be comforted by the thought of someone adoring her like that--for her, and not because she's a prodigy or a Legilimens or a prize for Harry or anything like that. Though, that doesn't mean she feels as starry-eyed about him as he does about her, does it. Of course, if they got married, I think she must at least have thought she loved him enough to risk her parents finding out.

But that's the difference, isn't it, between relationships that work and the ones that don't. I mean, I think most people in failed relationships don't care for each other equally, anyway. Or if they do, they don't show it the same way.

Even Sirius and Mr Lupin, they obviously love each other but they don't go soppy over one another much, and sometimes it's Mr Lupin going soppy and sometimes it's Sirius, but hardly ever both of them together. And they love each other about as completely as I think it's possible to do.

And yes, I know what you mean about the way things are, now, but I didn't even mean it that way. I just meant--I'm not ready. Not nearly. Even if there were a perfect bloke for me, which I don't think there is because boys are all really rather thick, aren't they. Or they're too whiny or they want a girl to be something she's not, or they're too old or too young or they don't like girls at all. Not that he'd need to be perfect, I don't mean that, just--well, I suppose I have high standards. And more important things to do than worry about it!
So, no, I'm not even thinking about the current conditions, political or otherwise. I just mean, for myself. I used to think it's just what everyone does, but of course, there are loads of people who never find the right person.

**alt_daphne** at 2015-02-26 04:52:56
*Re: Private Message to Daphne*

Mr Black and Mr Lupin may love each other 'completely' but near as I can tell, it took them *ages* to get there. Maybe Justin and Hydra will need ages, too.

With all respect, for not being ready you seem to be thinking about it quite a lot? I'm sure you're not ready for marriage or kids, but relationships do seem to be on your mind. Weren't you dating someone at Sherwood? What happened to him?

**alt_hermione** at 2015-02-26 05:00:22
*Re: Private Message to Daphne*

You don't think it's natural to think about relationships when they're forming and taking shape all around us? That's rather narrow of you. I thought you had better imagination--I mean, you're an actress, after all.

**alt_daphne** at 2015-02-26 05:10:52
*Re: Private Message to Daphne*

I acknowledge others' relationships, certainly, and I do notice a lot about people, I think. But I don't analyze those things too deeply if I can help it. Unless, I suppose, I believe it will help me to better understand the people involved.

Because really, you can't do another person's thinking for them. You can't really know what's in their head, even if you've convinced yourself you've got it right. (Well, unless you're Hydra.)

And my imagination is quite poor, otherwise I'd be writing
plays and songs and not just performing those that were written by others.

*alt_hermione* at 2015-02-26 05:15:19  
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Hm, well, perhaps that's the difference between you and me, then. I do enjoy working out puzzles and things, and people are certainly interesting puzzles.

*alt_daphne* at 2015-02-26 05:18:43  
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Oh, yes, sometimes a person has that effect on me. Draco certainly did.

*alt_sally_anne* at 2015-02-26 05:04:23  
(no subject)

I'm worried about both Hydra and Justin.

I mean -- Justin's really the only person Hydra talks to. So if they're cross with each other I don't know what she'll do.

I was thinking today that a lot of us have a mentor in the Order, someone who takes a special interest in us and asks us how we're doing. Or family. Or both. Although, Daphne, now that I think about it I'm not sure you have anyone like that yet? Hydra doesn't have anyone like that. And, she says it's fine and I'm sure if Mrs Longbottom said, 'Hydra, would you like a mentor in the Order' she'd say no. But it's not as if anyone said to her, 'how would you like for Auror Crouch to train you,' he just turned up and started doing it.

I don't know. I think it would be a good idea if Mr Snape started taking an interest in her. Or Tonks, but she's surely very busy right now with the new baby. Do you think he would? I'd rather not send him a PM that Hydra would see and then have him pop up and start writing to her; I mean, I've already been more of a mother hen today than I think she exactly appreciates.
Funny you should mention because Tonks was just asking me today what I thought she should do to--to reach out to Hydra. And I told her that it's hard to listen to someone who doesn't talk much, and that I thought hardly anyone apart from us lot ever talks to her at all, unless there's something horrible going on.

The thing is, Hydra knows just what to do when her mother is horrid, she never seems to even need anyone's advice. I'm sure Mr Snape would listen to her just like he and Draco talked about things (and still do) but there's absolutely nothing he can tell her about her experience that she doesn't already know. And she's a Legilimens, she can almost always anticipate what other people are going to do. She's uncanny at catching other people flat-footed.

I wish she and Sirius would talk more. Draco used to despise him and now they get on quite well; I think Hydra's got much the same reactions to Sirius as Draco did, because she doesn't understand his sense of humour. But I think he's been through loads of the same sorts of abuse by his mother and maybe his perspective could help her be less--less guarded about herself. Less prickly.

She might not need advice and she probably doesn't want to talk about her feelings with anybody. But she might still like it if someone in the Order showed an interest in her.

As a person, I mean, not just as the best Order legilimens and our only Order member on the Council.

Well, that's just what I told Tonks, that hardly anyone just talks to her. And all I'm saying is that she doesn't like to give the impression she wants
anyone to talk to, so while it doesn't excuse them for not trying, it's not surprising.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-26 05:42:48
(no subject)

Yeah that's the thing, when you have a parent you can't trust at all, it's a lot safer not to ever put yourself in a position where you NEED someone to listen.

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-26 05:17:51
(no subject)

I asked for Rachel's advice once, but I'm not sure that I would call her my mentor. And I expect she'd be completely surprised if I were to refer to her as one.

I'm not under nearly the same kind of pressure as Hydra, though. And I don't have any difficulties talking to people, if I feel troubled.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-26 05:30:41
(no subject)

Well, are there any of the adults you especially like or admire?

Or, coming at it from the other direction, which of them irritate you the least often?

@alt_daphne at 2015-02-26 05:42:03
(no subject)

I'm not sure, I don't know any of them particularly well.

I mean, I know Professor Sinistra from Astronomy but - I don't want to be a painful reminder of what she's lost. And Mrs Weasley is very nice and doting but I think I made a bad impression on her, when we first met. And...let's see.

I like Mr Black's motorbike. Oh, and Mr Lupin's meeting notes
always make me smile, even when they're filled with horrible grim news.

Sorry, I'm not doing very well at this.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-26 05:24:10
(no subject)

So, they are cross with each other, then? I was worried about that. It's hard to tell from here if they're cross or hurt or upset or just what, exactly. I'd have thought they'd--well, I don't know.

@alt_harry at 2015-02-26 05:26:28
(no subject)

Yeah. They're cross with each other.

@alt_hermione at 2015-02-26 05:55:35
Private Message to Sally-Anne

Daphne told me she thinks it was a miscarriage, and that you two think they're married. You don't have to confirm it if it makes you uncomfortable, but I wanted you to know that I almost guessed something like that, anyway. Well. I wasn't sure if it was an actual miscarriage or some curse that triggered one, or a curse that led them to realise she was pregnant and they made her terminate the pregnancy. But something like that, anyway.

And I used to look after Harry and Draco, remember, so I know what it's like when two people are behaving like pillocks and you can't talk to anyone about it. So if you need someone you can talk to about what's happening, well, it won't bother me at all.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-02-26 06:23:16
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Thank you. I discussed this with Madam Pomfrey. (That was part of what got me thinking about how Hydra doesn't have a mentor in the Order.)
Oh, good! Did she have any advice about how to counsel them?
Merlin, my legs are sore. Anyone need a bloke who can run them ragged and make them regret all those hours spent eating sweets on the sofa? Because Frank Longbottom's rather good at it.

Oh, and Alice, my first field Fidelius worked like a charm, as it were. The Knights send their thanks and regards. Pulled it off without a hitch, and can't wait to do more.

I'm working on my 'I'm a member of the Order' bit. Let me know if there's anything that you lot think needs saying, ey?

I'll look it over for you when you're done with it, if you'd like. Not that I don't think you'll do fine with it, just that sometimes it's nice to have another pair of eyes.

Yes please! I'm hoping a bit of humour won't entirely go amiss. We'll see.

Wotcher, Cousin Hydra.

Barty Crouch can be a bit of a handful sometimes, can't he?

I remember one time, he decided to spend an entire dinner discussing my rather extensive disappointments. He wasn't done by the time we'd finished eating, so he carried it over into coffee and
dessert. I'm quite surprised he didn't immortalise the speech in needlepoint and have it framed so I could revisit it from time to time and be reminded of his wit and wisdom.

I'd bet a knut I managed to frustrate the hell out of him, though, so I suppose it all evened out after a fashion.

I'm very glad you're out of the hospital wing, by the way. Gave me a bit of a fright, there.

I know you're most likely sick and tired of people asking you if you're all right and expecting an answer, so I won't add to the heap. If you ever are in the mood for a chat, though, I'm all ears.

Love,

Cousin Dora

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@alt_hydra at 2015-02-26 15:29:30

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Yes, he is good at taking measure of my disappointments, as well. Though he is more inclined to make me point them out for him.

I don't mind it so much. When he does it I can tell it's out of a desire to see me succeed, rather than an expectation that I will fail.

Though I suppose that wasn't his intent with you.

Anyway I'm feeling fine and you can tell everyone so.

---

@alt_nymphadora at 2015-02-26 16:01:03

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Shall.

And I suppose if I'm charitable, and squint a bit, he did have a sense of responsibility and duty, and was trying, it was just based on the idea that I was wrong to begin with and needed fixing.

I'm glad you don't mind it terribly.
I'm afraid my stubbornness would get the best of me more often than not and then I'd open my gob and tell him what I thought, and then that'd just confirm what he already expected.

Got the stubbornness from my mum. The gob part was all dad, though.

@alt_poppy at 2015-02-27 00:24:06
(no subject)

Excellent news about your success with the charm!

I've collected several more requests for our budding Fidelius service. One in Derbyshire, one outside Norwich, and two near Lincoln. I'll stop by tomorrow and share details and coordinates with you--unless you're planning to be at Moddey instead of Grimmauld?

Alice, I've several messages to deliver to you from today's expedition. I'll look for you after supper.
2015-02-26 15:15:00  
Order Only Private message to Justin  

There is something I want to say to you.

What you wrote to me about being like my mother is the worst thing you've ever done to me, and made me feel more terrible than anything my mother has inflicted in a good long while.

However my feelings and reactions may seem foreign and alien to all of you, I do have them. Everyone wants me to behave and respond to things in a certain way, and as far as I can see, it's a way that's meant to make them feel better - not me. They want to feel relief. They want to be unburdened from their sense of helplessness. And most of the time I'm happy to lie and tell them that everything's just fine, so that they can be free of that burden. But sometimes things aren't just fine, and I can't bring myself to lie.

That's the hardest thing about all of this, knowing that you want me to be different from how I am. And I thought you were the one person who accepted me, completely.

I know that you're upset. As soon as I realised what had happened, I knew you would be, and I was sorry that you were going to be feeling pain over it.

I'm sorry that my reaction wasn't the same as yours, Justin, but you need to know that my reaction wasn't about you.

alt_justin at 2015-02-27 00:46:14  
(no subject)  

What I said was abominable. It wasn't--I didn't mean it the way it came out. I was--am--angry and ashamed and not half confused. I don't want you to be different, for my sake or anyone else's, and of course, you have to process what happened in whatever way comes naturally to you.

But you're wrong about people wanting you to react in a certain way. They don't want you to do anything in one particular way or think that one reaction's more 'natural' than another. Certainly not merely to make themselves feel better. Perhaps they're anticipating that if they were in your position, they would react this way or that way, and
you do have a confounding habit of putting people back on their heels with your responses, because they are anything but common. So it's possible that people are surprised and perhaps bally well confused, and likely that makes them hesitant to approach you.

That goes for me, from time to time. I can't read your mind; I've no idea when you want me to leave you be or how you want me to react to the indignities you're subjected to. I didn't know what to expect when they let me join you. I wouldn't have been surprised if you'd told me to leave or you'd hit me or you'd clung to me for dear life. I didn't care which one it was--nor that, as it turned out, it was none of them--but I knew I needed to be whatever you needed me to be, at that moment. You've still not told me straight out what that is.

If people feel helpless around you, Hydra, it's because you don't give them any room to help you. I know why you find it so hard to trust them, and I'm not naïve enough to believe that doesn't include me, as well. But it's a lonely way to go through hardship. It's normal to feel helpless when someone one loves is in pain, and it's normal to both want to help and not know how. That's why one asks what will serve, instead of assuming one knows what's best.

And when you said you would have 'taken care of' the pregnancy, particularly after having said that the Healer's assessment of it wasn't important.... Well, I know you've said you don't want children, what, but that was always hypothetical. I hoped you'd change your mind, eventually. It seemed you were saying you would have ended it without even considering our options. And in that moment, I suspected it was because the only choice you could see was the course your mother would have taken, or want you to take. Perhaps you wouldn't have found it as easy a decision as it sounded, but it certainly seemed to me that you wouldn't have had a single regret about it. It's not clear to me you even would have discussed it with me, first, for fear I'd talk you round to leaving school or defying her wishes for your future. Giving her power over you, what, and incidentally, taking a leaf from her book in the way she treats your father. When you emulate her, you also empty yourself of tenderness, and you hollow out your feelings until they're insignificant. I think you do it to protect yourself, to shield yourself from the hurt and confusion you're causing.

Yes, this happened to you. Inside you. I think I felt a shadow of it, but that's all it was: a pale reflection. I can't know or imagine what it felt like, or how it affected you. You've the right to feel as you feel about what happened. Your reaction was of course not about me. But it was
directed at me. And at that moment, you hurt me, too.

I don't begrudge you that, truly. I'm sure I deserved it for having put you in this position in the first place. It certainly doesn't excuse my churlish reply—for that, I can only say that I wasn't prepared to be wounded quite so completely. I don't, now, believe that's what you meant, either. But I'm still not sure, and it still troubles me that my first assumption might have been all too correct.

I don't understand. You say that your comment was abominable, and then you go on to say that I'm emulating her, even when it comes to how I treat you. How have I treated you as she treats my father?

I didn't say I would have 'taken care of' it. I said that it would have to had to be taken care of. And you assumed all the worst possible things in that statement, up to and including that I would make the decision behind your back.

I see you also assumed that I would change my mind. About having children, that is. Why would you assume that I didn't know what I wanted, in that regard? Perhaps my mind would change, but how can I possibly know that? How can you? A change of mind is just that: unpredictable and unforeseen.

Yes, I would have wanted us to terminate the pregnancy. But not for the reasons you seem to think. And regret - how would I even know? I don't know if I would regret the choice or not because it's not a choice we ever got to make. And if I didn't regret it, would that make me a monster? Would you want me to make choices that would wrap me up and drag me down in regret, or would you want me to make choices that I can live with?

I've read this and re-read it and most of what I see is you telling me that you don't want me to be different, and then going on to list a number of ways in which I ought to try to change. Give people room to help me. Stop hollowing out my feelings.

I'll grant you that people can't read my mind and sometimes I very nearly forget that. I wish that they could. It would clearly make things easier.
And of course I trust you. Or, I thought I did. Now... I don't know.

[@alt_justin](https://www.alt_justin.com) at 2015-02-27 04:17:48 (no subject)

I didn't say you were *actually* treating me as she does him, what, I said I *believed* that you were. I *imagined* that you were approaching the situation as she would do, that you would have done so had we discovered your condition any other way.

Nor did I assume you would change your mind about children; I said *I hoped* you would. All this talk of never having been given the chance to make a choice indicates you haven't spared a thought for what might have been. Perhaps that's healthier than my reaction, but it does suggest that at least part of my understanding was correct. But all right. I shall not assume. What reasons? Why would you have wanted to terminate, if you'd known?

Hydra, I'm not telling you to change, or that I think you ought to, or that there's anything wrong with the way you present yourself. You said yourself that others find you alien or foreign. That means they are going to treat you strangely. If that doesn't bother you, then don't bother to change it. It's entirely up to you. But recognise that so long as they don't understand you, they'll continue to make the mistake of trying to put you into familiar, comfortable patterns, and you'll continue to defy those patterns and confound their expectations.

You confound mine, constantly, and I know you better than most. But you are not an easy person to know.

That doesn't mean you have to change; it means that if you want them to know you better, you have to let them see you now and again. Not the façade you construct out of your mother's and Crouch's techniques for putting people ill at ease, what, and not the girl who lies to people simply to avoid admitting a vulnerability. The real you.
Why would you imagine me doing that? I don't approach any situation involving us the way she would. Are you afraid that I will?

I would have wanted to terminate because we've both already committed ourselves to a completely different path than parenthood - for now, anyway. And because I would not want to give my mother a chance to ruin the baby's life, nor would I want to subject any child to life in the Protectorate, as it is now. And because I won't be someone who has children just so they have something to feel happy about when they wake up in the morning. And because I'm sixteen. It's not what I want right now, even if I did decide to truly contemplate it as an option.

I don't even know what to say about the rest of what you've written, so I don't think I shall try.

Why would I imagine it? I don't know. I've no idea, except that I think I was out of my mind at the time. And am I afraid you'll become her? Yes, but only in my darkest moments. I think it's fair to say that this week has been one of the worst I can recall.

We said that we would tell each other when we saw signs of becoming what we didn't wish to be. I--I thought I had seen those signs. I invented it, out of my own grief and fear and self-recrimination. And I mixed in what I suspect must have been your own shock and worry and anger and I thought it meant--that you hated me.

You're saying it wasn't any of that, that it had nothing whatever to do with me, and I believe you. I couldn't see what you were saying before; I was too stung by it. I've no defence, save to say that I was in despair. I thought you hated me. So I hated myself. And I'm ashamed to say I think I hated you.

I spent most of the night thinking, even praying, trying to
understand why this trial has come to us, and what good might come of it. Perhaps it was to...force us to confront questions we've never properly talked about, though we thought we had a perfect accord. So that we can find our way through them before we face a lifetime together. Perhaps it was to prove that we're not ready for a family, that we're both of us still too young. Or perhaps it was needed to pave the way for something to change between you and Auror Crouch, or myself and Headmaster Dolohov, or both. Perhaps we're being punished for our deeds, or for concealing our marriage from our friends. Perhaps it wasn't anything, just a foolish mistake and the price for that foolishness. I still don't know but I do know that I'll never forgive myself if it breaks us apart.

I thought a lot, too, about how it would have been if it had been any other sort of illness, or a physical trauma that wasn't linked to our indiscretion If you had been injured or had some sort of exhausted collapse, for example, what would have been different? You'd likely have said something like, 'It's painful and unpleasant, but that's simply pain; it'll pass and I'll be fine.' And the others would fuss and tell you that if there's anything they can do, please to just say, and I'd be standing by, waiting for you to tell me when you were ready to accept comfort or talk to me.

And it might have taken a day or so, but soon enough, you'd ask for me and we'd meet and talk and touch and make a plan, and while it might not be properly fixed, things would at least begin to be on the mend.

I don't know how to mend this. I don't know how you want to be helped. I don't know if you think there's anything to be mended (apart from my frightful lack of consideration). I have been stumbling about and bungling my every attempt to offer--I don't know, advice? Answers? Support? I know I've bally well made a dashed mess of it, at every turn, whatever else. I've been so desperate to be of use that I've said all the wrong things, instead of listening.

And I realised that the words I haven't said are the only ones I should have been saying all along: I love you. I'm sorry. Please forgive me.
I am not going to become my mother.

I don't know what to write. I'm now afraid to say anything for fear that you'll take it in the worst possible way.

No, of course you're not.

Let's stop writing. Can you meet me this evening? Will you? I shall spell-o-tape my mouth shut if that will help. But I promise I shall listen, if that's what you want, or sit together and do nothing--whatever you desire. If you're not ready, I understand that, too. I shall wait.

As ever, yours,

-J

Crouch is coming right after supper. He'll keep me until 10, I expect.

And - I love you too. But things still feel all wrong. I don't know.

I'll stop writing.
2015-02-26 18:36:00
Private message to Auror Crouch

How much am I like my mother?

alt_hydra

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 02:07:01
(no subject)

Not sure what metric to apply.

0.3333 bella-units +/- 0.0001 (adjusted for ambivalence)

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 02:08:06
(no subject)

What do you really want to know?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-27 02:11:57
(no subject)

I don't want to be like her.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 02:24:15
(no subject)

But you suspect there are ways in which you are?

If it's helpful, I'll go on record as thinking you're entitled to differentiate yourself. One might say Bella's inimitable. Frees you to go your own way.
More than that. She's heartless. Not just in matters of strategy, but in every possible way. And if I said it to her face she wouldn't deny it.

But, I don't think she is capable of being anything else.

Apparently, according to some, I can be the same way. In my own fashion.

It wasn't intended as a compliment.

Significant that it bothers you to think you might be taken as sharing that characteristic.

I don't believe you do.

When you say she's heartless, I think you mean that your mother lacks personal attachments, fondness, love, compassion, empathy, and I agree she wouldn't deny it, though she doesn't view their absence as a lack.

It's partly the work, and partly the depth of her commitment to Our Lord. Those things have shaped her. She wasn't always what she is now. But... the seeds of it have been there as long as I've known her. If anything I'd say she's become more herself with time. Attributes that were always part of her have intensified.

Maybe that sounds ominous, but you're not your mother. You were raised by her, and that shaped you, but you're not destined to be identical, any more than she's identical to her mother (whom I can't claim to know well, but have met and observed) or a duplicate of her father (whom I did meet and remember vividly). Any more than I'm like my own father. Partly it's that your father also shaped you, and partly it's that you have your own rather vigorous ideas about what you want and want to be.

Let's stick with something I've observed directly. You fight differently than she does, and one of the ways in which your
fighting differs is that while she reads her opponents' emotions and is quite canny about manipulating them, she doesn't understand most of those emotions and her attention to them is strictly to find weakness. Like a colour blind person who sees only certain shades on a map, she recognises and exploits pride and fear. (Not saying that's not effective. It certainly is.)

You, however, seem to glean more nuance in your opponents, and you use the information differently--yes for an opening, and yes for pressure points you can exploit, but I've watched you find anxieties, irritations, and sentiments that you've been able to play to advantage.

I watched you disarm an opponent in Sherwood by widening your eyes and affecting a childish look--you told me that you'd seen that you reminded him of a girl he had some attachment to (you thought a niece).

The point is that you're not heartless. The heartless cannot parse such things or make that appeal to emotions that your foe couldn't reconcile. And so you had him. Absolutely. Your mother would have had him, too, mind you, but it would have gone quite differently.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-27 04:27:12
(no subject)

I would hope that it doesn't take highly skilled Auror to spot the differences between us.

I want to become more myself, too. Once I know what that is, exactly.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 04:52:46
(no subject)

Shouldn't think it would. Someone else's answer would address other differences than mine.

No one wants you to be a duplicate of your mother. Except, possibly, your mother, herself.

I'd suggest, however, that were she to consider the prospect
dispassionately, she wouldn't much care for your becoming a second Bellatrix.

Our job's to find out what you are. Who.

alt_hydra at 2015-02-27 04:57:27
(no subject)

No, I don't believe she would care for that.

So you don't want me to be a duplicate of you, either?

Because I'm prettier than you and I'd rather like to keep it that way.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 05:04:26
(no subject)

Ha. I concede on the question of prettiness.

And for that as well as other reasons, the world can well do without a second of me.

Don't you think?

alt_hydra at 2015-02-27 05:08:50
(no subject)

One seems to get the job done.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 05:08:30
(no subject)

Tomorrow evening. Full-on run through the Salle.

Think you're ready to manage that?
alt_hydra at 2015-02-27 05:11:31
(no subject)

Yes.

Straight after supper?

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-02-27 05:13:40
(no subject)

Yes.

Will see you then.
**2015-02-27 14:20:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa*

Are we forgiven for invading yesterday? I didn't want you to be alone on Lucius' birthday.

I hope you'll consider coming with us tomorrow evening. Karo's newest is a triumph and she does so want you to hear it in person.

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**alt_narcissa at 2015-02-27 22:49:43**

(no subject)

You're most thoughtful, Ptolemmy. Of course I shall come; I wouldn't miss it.
2015-02-28 21:54:00

Private Message to Students of Gryffindor House

26 points from Gryffindor for laziness, mendacity, and irresponsibility.

Tangwystyl Harrington, Simon Masterson, and Ophelia Oglethorpe you'll be serving detention all day tomorrow and every evening next week for disrupting the library this evening. Madam Pince communicated her disapproval to me in the strongest terms.

Forsythia Bray and Wesley Morgan: I expect to see both of you here in the Gryffindor common room in ten minutes. Professor Marwick is mystified why you would have claimed you had an appointment with him this evening. You will be doing detention with me tomorrow and with him every night throughout next week: since you're so keen to supplement your History lessons, he will be happy to assist you.

Catherine Marks and Sanjay Mukherjee. Report here in ten minutes if you know what's good for you. Given that you are not, in fact, up the Astronomy tower, you should have no difficulty making it here before I double your detention.

Maegara Featherstone, Deirdre Lynch, and Vivian Harkiss: you will have Professor Desai sign the homework you claim to be doing in her classroom. If you are not able to procure her signature, you will be serving a week's detention for lying on the sign-out roster.

Ragnilda Rosmerta and Gareth Archer: Professor Babbling tells me she's not seen you tonight. Unless you return here directly with an excellent explanation and a pass signed by a teacher accounting for your evening's diligent work, the consequences will be unpleasant.

Lucas O'Leary: given that I can't make out what you wrote on tonight's roster, you'll be serving in-House detention tomorrow. Bring your signed homework to me immediately, and we'll leave it at that. If you are not here in ten minutes with documentation of your whereabouts this evening, the penalty will increase.
You know, it's nice that you are so very concerned about where Gryffindors are, how hard we're working, and whether we've completed our homework. But I think it's worth noting that the only person at this school who has ever previously been this concerned with everyone's exact whereabouts was Umbridge, and the only student at Hogwarts who failed his exams in the last seven years was a Ravenclaw.

I should have thought you shared my concern for students' performance on their exams. I'd understood it was a project of yours in past years to hire tutors for the weakest. You're mistaken, though, if you think it's only the weakest I care about. Gryffindor House is full of laggards who seem completely uninterested in education or the futures it opens for those who do well.

Our Lord needs people to embrace the future, to thrive and excel in all things, beginning with education. This House is full of potential, and it would be tragic to allow it be thrown away for lack of simple attention and basic work.

That won't happen while I'm Head of Gryffindor House. I'm going to see to it that each and everyone of you learns as much as you are capable of learning, and that each of you facing exams goes into them as fully prepared as possible.

Like it or not.