2015-03-01 18:11:00
Private Message to Gryffindor House

For your information: I've sent for the elves to set the common room to rights.

If you have belongings strewn about and don't wish them to be vanished, you'll move them immediately. Put them away, for Holda's sake!

Peakes, Bones, Mackrell, Chadwick: if you want these comics, you'll collect them asap. Otherwise, they're for the rubbish bin.

alt_lana

2015-03-02 00:20:46
Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

Heh. She'll be over the moon about it when I break out the things the twins sent for my birthday!

Think I'll wait until after the elves have been through to straighten up, yeah?

alt_ron

2015-03-02 00:22:04
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

Did they send you anything that explodes?

Think we could slip it into her bed?

alt_harry

2015-03-02 00:29:59
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

What a brilliant idea!

(And, of course, they did. Not sure what all they'll do when they go off, mind you. Some of it's definitely confetti that'll snow all over everywhere, but I reckon there're some surprises, too.)

Some of it's sweets, though, and joke stuff. I just planned to pass it
around to everyone who's had to study all bleedin' day, and let them have fun.

@alt_ginny at 2015-03-02 00:24:43
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

'Pick up your toys or I'll throw them in the bin!' It's like she thinks she's our mum. If our mum were a bad-tempered troll who loathed Gryffindors, anyway.

@alt_ron at 2015-03-02 00:29:07
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

I know, right?

I mean, she's nice looking, but, oi! the temper!! Makes Mum seem like a puffskein.

So you won't get all Prefect-y if I share this stuff about and it ends up making a bit more mess?

@alt_ginny at 2015-03-02 04:30:44
Re: Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter

Well, don't do it while I'm watching, please? Obviously if it happens while I'm out of the room I'll have no idea where any of it came from.
I want to work on my mother's curse this week. Is there a time everyone can meet in the secret room?

Draco, Hermione, and Mr Snape, perhaps we can consult with you over the journals at the same time.

I think Desai's got me Wednesday night, but I might be able to shift that before supper if I had another 'assignment' I needed to work on after. Especially if I tell her it's something I'm working on with Harry.

And then there's L S-P, but we can manage her, too. Most likely. Assuming Harry doesn't get her ripped at him before then.

So, yeah. I should be able to work it out for whenever's good for the rest of you lot. And if I can't, it'll be because of something unexpected that I can't duck.

Yeah, Crouch usually comes on Mondays or Tuesdays.

What's Lana S-P done now? Found fault with Gryffindor again?
I could meet any evening.

I've been stopping by the Hospital Wing each night after supper, just to make sure the Healer of the Day isn't bolloxing anything up. So -- any evening, I think, but not until an hour or so after supper, and I'll let you know if it turns out someone's made such an utter hash of things I'll need to stay there for longer, is that okay?
I am sorry to bother you but there is something that Sally-Anne Perks said you might be able to help me with. It is a thing involving a dream. Well, many dreams. And probably it is mostly not a Divination thing, but part of it might be. And she said you might be a good person to talk to. So could we meet? Because I could write it all down but it would just be so much easier to tell you. And then if there is something Divinatory about it maybe you can tell, and that might help the dreams stop, along with certain other things I am doing that Sally-Anne talked with me about.

It is interfering with my paying attention in class, so it's sort of a thing to bring to the Head Girl. I hope.

Oh, Divination, is it?

I should probably tell you that despite being a NEWT-level Divination student, I believe that real prophecies are incredibly rare, and as for dreams, they're more likely to be messages from your unconscious. But I do have some experience in interpreting those. Well, my own, at least.

It's past curfew so if you'd prefer to meet in person it will have to be tomorrow.
2015-03-01 22:32:00
Order Only: Happy birthday, Ron!

I hope you've had a lovely day, and my parcel to you arrived without any difficulty.

We'll have a proper family celebration when you come home for the next holiday, of course. In the meantime, I trust your friends made sure you had a nice day.

alt_bill at 2015-03-02 04:36:07
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Ron.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 05:23:36
(no subject)

Cheers.

alt_gredforge at 2015-03-02 04:37:21
(no subject)

We trust you received our parcel.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 05:22:28
(no subject)

It went down a treat in Gryffindor. Nice you sent enough for all of us to have a proper celebration. We were all in the mood for a bit of mayhem!

The tingling toffies had people twitching and the giggle jellies were hilarious. But the ones everyone wants now are the fire drakes: that's dead brilliant, the way they sit in the fire and then all of a sudden start to glow and grow and growl and then zoom up and race round the room! I thought they might set the curtains on fire, but it was all good. Just a few burns on the chairs and carpets, but we got to them before anything burst into flames!
@alt_charlie at 2015-03-02 05:43:28  
(no subject)

Glad you had a good one, you. Give the old castle a bit of mayhem for me, yeah?

@alt_ron at 2015-03-02 05:26:39  
(no subject)

Thanks, Mum.

The hamper was the best! I'm stuffed full. And I shared it with everyone, really!

Can't wait to see you.

Don't forget I'm your favourite youngest son. I mean, squeezing babies is nice and all, but don't get carried away!

@alt_molly at 2015-03-04 00:59:43  
(no subject)

I certainly won't forget it!

And yes, you ARE my favourite youngest son.

Babies are all very well, but I'm certainly glad you're past the nappy stage!
2015-03-01 23:55:00
Order Only: Private message to Ron

I hope you enjoyed your birthday.
Too bad we're in separate dormitories. Sleep well and dream of me?

alt_sally_anne

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 05:58:14
(no subject)

Yeah. It was a good day.
And it is too bad. Reeks, actually.

I'd sleep loads better if you were here. Or, y'know. Not sleep, and enjoy it a whole lot more?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 05:59:36
(no subject)

Well, we could do both. First one, then the other.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:07:14
(no subject)

Yeah. Maybe if you'd tell me what it'd be like if you were here... y'know, so I can imagine it properly?
Then maybe I'd dream about that, an' a nice lonnnng dream full of, well, full of birthday surprises.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 06:09:51
(no subject)

Well, I guess first I'd kiss you, and then I'd

It's too embarrassing to write it out. But, remember what we did that last night we had together at your flat? That.
Have you been having trouble sleeping?

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:13:31 (no subject)

... 

Oh, I go to sleep, alright.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:13:51 (no subject)

And mostly I stay asleep. Mostly.

It's not insomnia.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 06:15:18 (no subject)

Are you still having nightmares about Ollerton?

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:28:24 (no subject)

Same dream. All the time. I dream it and then wake up and then dream it again.

It's-

I'm there and the people are all there, and they're arguing with me. And I keeping telling them that I didn't want to kill any of them, but the keep on, and I tell them I'm on their side, but I know that's really a bollocks thing to say, and they keep arguing and they're getting angrier and angrier, and they're pushing their kids in front of me, and telling me to tell their kids, y'know? And so I ask them why they're so upset because it didn't hurt them, dying like that. Y'know? AK doesn't hurt. It's really the most merciful thing that could've happened at
that point. Especially for their kids, right? Do they really wish we'd used severing hexes or muggle guns or, I dunno... anything else?

And then I wake up and I'm still thinking it: why are you complaining? We didn't hurt you!

And the thing is... they're not wrong, obviously. None of them wanted to die. Not like that. And they were so afraid. It was horrible.

But all the same, the more I think about it, the more I think it's true what I'm saying to them in the dream. But I know I'm wrong to say it?

I can't explain, but it's horrible in the dream. I can't make them see. And I know it can't possibly make sense to them. And they're so angry.

Oh, that's awful.

I've been dreaming about Ollerton, too, but not like that. And not every night, at this point, just some of the time.

I think you should try not arguing. If you can remember to do that once you're in the dream.

Maybe try telling them you're sorry, and just ... see what happens then.

I don't know if I am. Properly sorry.
I mean, I am. Me. But in the dream, that me, maybe isn't.

They told us last summer that things would happen when we started training and we'd end up having dreams about it. And they said they'd done studies and learned that people do better if they let the dreams happen and run their course. They said dreams are how we process stuff that we can't think through all the way when we're awake. Stuff we rationalise and think our way out of in ways that just dodge the really difficult bits.

Anywiz, they said the people who can't face the dreams and use potions to keep from having them, those people are the ones who flame out of training.

I just didn't realise it would take so long. I mean, they made it sound like it'd be a few nights and then you'd sort out whatever was bothering you, yeah?

Only it's not that quick. Obviously. Or maybe I'm slow.

I'll try that, though. I mean. Maybe I can talk myself into being sorry. Maybe that's what I've got to do.

Only, I think it's the other way round. The one in the dream's trying to talk me into changing.

Have you talked to Rachel Brodie about it? I mean the advice they gave you was for people like Lana Sandoval, not for people who were joining the Aurors because they want to bring down the Protectorate and change everything.

Lana wouldn't argue, if she had that dream. She'd whip out her wand and kill them all, all over again.

Also I don't believe none of them use potions. They can't
dreamless sleep every night but they can drink firewhiskey, and I bet some of them do.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:57:27
(no subject)

No. I haven't talked to her.

I know.

Only, it's- I dunno.

You're right about L S-P. Bet she never had any nightmares. (I mean, can nightmares have nightmares?)

Oh, yeah. Loads of them drink. Hadn't thought about it as a kind of dreamless sleep, but I reckon you're right. Think the elves would bring me some if I asked them? Yeah, I don't, either.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 06:37:20
(no subject)

There's another thing that sometimes works and that's imagining a very dull dream for yourself before you go to sleep, like telling yourself that you're going to dream about cleaning out the goat pens at the Burrow, and thinking about all the details of that particular chore. (I think it works better if it's not actually something you'd want to dream about.)

For me I used to use potions inventory in the hospital wing. The problem is, these days, I always start fretting about how maybe we're almost out of something and then I have to get up and write it down so I'll remember to check in the morning.

alt_ron at 2015-03-02 06:49:42
(no subject)

Ha.

You should try dreaming about the goats instead.
Actually, that's sort of brilliant. And it might work.

Don't worry about me, though. I'll get it sorted sooner or later. And it's not like it's anything really dire.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 06:51:41  
(no subject)

When it gets really bad I climb into bed with Pansy.

Starting in June we'll be able to share a bed any time we want. That'll help, I think. Three months! And we'll be done with NEWTs and school.

---

@alt_ron at 2015-03-02 07:01:25  
(no subject)

I hope you mean me and not Pansy. The one you'll be sharing with in June.

I mean, Pansy's great, but I'd rather be sleeping with you myself.

And if I go and have dreams about the two of you, now, it's totally on you!

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-02 07:05:06  
(no subject)

Of course I mean you.

And have at, I mean, Pansy wouldn't begrudge you dreaming about her even if she knew.
We've moved forward in our full disclosure of Order activities with Maghnus, and so far, it's proven quite useful. To catch the rest of you up, Remus, Maghnus, and myself just had a rather fruitful conversation this evening. We were introducing him to our laundry list of current plans and strategies. When I mentioned Prince William as a possible key to bringing down the wards, he immediately recognised the name as a person of interest from his work with Selwyn, and furthermore, had some ideas as to where he might be located. He immediately brought up Mysteries, of course, as well as Eton, but he also mentioned two sites we hadn't really heard mentioned before -- The Galleries, and Wakefield. Apparently, both are considered 'secure holding sites' for Muggles. He wasn't very knowledgeable about the residents -- but he strongly suspected that someone might be kept in secure isolation in either place in such a way that very few people would know of their existence.

This is the first we've heard about those specific sites, which suggests that they're meant to be low profile. I think it's slightly more plausible that a long-term prisoner would be held at one of those places instead of Eton, for example, as unless he was in stasis of some kind, he would require regular care of a sort.

Regardless, it is worth further exploration. I admit to hoping

Well.

There might be any number of people stashed away there.

Severus, you might chat with him later this week to see if there is anything he can recall that would be useful for your research.
Wakefield — the name is familiar. A former Muggle prison? I do not recognise the other.

alt_alice at 2015-03-03 19:19:12
(no subject)

I was unfamiliar with either, but he was able to point them out on a map.

alt_alice at 2015-03-03 21:28:10
Private Message to Sirius

I know Remus filled you in. I just wanted to know your thoughts.

Am I grasping at straws?

alt_sirius at 2015-03-04 02:45:58
Re: Private Message to Sirius

No, of course not.

I wish we knew more about these other facilities, though. What sorts of uses they serve now, who guards them, that sort of thing.

alt_alice at 2015-03-04 04:03:15
Re: Private Message to Sirius

Yes.

We're terribly short on details, I'm afraid.

It'll take time to sort all that out. And it may cost us dearly. We were so very lucky with Azkaban -- it was in an isolated location, the timing was ideal, but these places are just right out in the open, which requires a great deal more stealth, and we know next to nothing about them.

I just don't want to

Well. Let's just say that I'll probably want to keep checking in with
you and Remus both as we learn more, to make sure you agree that this is truly worth pursuing.

I'm hoping Severus will be able to dredge more up from Maghnus's memory.
 ORDONLY: Private Message to Al

hey.

you done for the night?
or you think you'll keep pacing for a while longer?

@alt_alice at 2015-03-03 06:22:49
(no subject)

I'm sorry love.

Feels like it'll be a while longer yet.

@alt_frank at 2015-03-03 06:23:39
(no subject)

want company?

@alt_alice at 2015-03-03 06:25:17
(no subject)

Yes.

Please.
My name is Nymphadora Tonks

And I am a member of the Order of the Phoenix.

I'm other things too, mind. I'm a mum. Former shop-keeper. Hogwarts alum. Rather terrible cook.

I remember what it felt like when I was first approached by a close friend, someone I trusted, and I was told that there were other people out there who thought like I did – who were horrified by the cruelty and restrictiveness of the Protectorate, and who wanted to change things for the better. Until that moment, I don’t think I’d ever realised just how hopeless and alone I’d always felt – and what an enormous relief it was to know that I wasn’t the only one who thought that way.

I was worried at first about what I’d gotten myself into. Whether the people I was throwing my lot in with would be just as brutal and cruel as those I was trying to fight against. But when we have meetings, we drink tea, sometimes something stronger, and eat biscuits with jam, and argue, and think up solutions to problems, and try to figure out how best to move forward, and laugh, and mourn, and really, I don’t think I’d ever imagined how shockingly normal it is.

And how wonderfully freeing.

I was forced into hiding a few months ago. And I've had time to think about what this change has meant for me and my family. For instance, I find it really telling that now that I’m a fugitive, I feel more free than I ever have. I don’t have to worry about my children seeing others being tortured and killed because of compulsory attendance at some sort of ghastly circus, or that they’ll be subjected to cruciatus if they get in trouble at school. I don’t have to watch every word I say. I don't have to be careful in case my neighbours see me reading a forbidden book, or listening to the wrong station on the radio. I don’t have to worry about whether I’m bribing the Watch enough so they won’t break the windows in my shop, or whether the graffiti across the street will get me arrested.

It doesn’t have to be this way, you know.

It hasn’t always been like this, after all. It was different twenty years
ago, and it can be different again.

One of the things I’ve been particularly struck by since I’ve taken a step back from the Protectorate, as it were, is how deeply afraid everyone is about everything. Including the people in charge.

Here’s what I mean. Do any of you lot know someone who is perfectly capable of passing judgement on other people, but can’t stand it at all when the same is done to him? The second someone says anything critical about him, he’s looking to throw a tantrum or pick a fight. Awfully insecure chap, isn’t he? Thin-skinned. No sense of humour.

And if I were to say, for example, that the Lord Protector wears frilly knickers to bed, or that his lifelong ambition was to decorate cakes, only he was absolute shite at it, so he decided to torture everybody instead because he was a petty, sick bastard, that’d be rather juvenile of me, to be sure. But it’s clearly a joke, isn’t it? It’s meant to poke fun at a powerful man. Which is something people do, by the way. And have done pretty much ever since we started writing things down.

Only we can’t do that here. It’s not allowed. And the only reason I can get away with saying this where other people can see it and not get dragged in for questioning or punishment is because I’m in hiding.

Awfully insecure of them, isn’t it? Almost like they’re afraid, or have something to hide. Frilly knickers, perhaps? Who’s to say. All I know is that a place that doesn’t allow free journalism, that shuts its borders, that doesn’t have a fair system of courts, that imprisons and tortures its citizens, and that has no bloody sense of humour, that place is a dictatorship, not a paradise. And even though the person in charge is powerful, he is just a man.

That’s all for now. I hope you had a bit of a laugh. I think we could all use one from time to time, don't you?

---

@alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-03 22:14:45

ORDER ONLY

I feel a bit naked without the Order Only lock.

Thanks for proofing, Charlie luv.
Hallo, cousin!

I hope this won't be too much trouble for you. Feel free to grouse about how I'm from the irredeemable part of the family.

Snape mentioned in passing that you'd managed to get some information about that curse from your mum. Well done, you.

No worries.

I'm pretty certain I have more traitor relatives than non-traitor ones, at this point.

I like what you wrote. It sounded normal and down to earth and not preachy at all, which I think other people will like, too.

Ta very much. That's what I was going for.

We're so proud that the truth about His Ponciness's frilly knickers has finally been revealed.

But you forgot to mention that he sleeps with a teddy bear.
alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-04 01:21:32
Re: ORDER ONLY

Cheers, lads. I was inspired by you, I'll have you know.

alt_pansy at 2015-03-04 01:47:15
Re: ORDER ONLY

Hah! Brilliant.

I think I must've heard 'knickers' being whispered at least twenty times at dinner.

alt_charlie at 2015-03-04 01:47:42
Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, it's not like I had to do much!

And now I'm back to imagining Voldemort in frilly knickers.

alt_ron at 2015-03-04 04:02:26
Re: ORDER ONLY

Brilliant.

Inspirational, really.

Somebody stole some witches' knickers, spelled them pink and frilly, and sent them floating around the corridors before supper. Just as a laugh.

alt_pansy at 2015-03-04 04:07:11
Re: ORDER ONLY

LSP looked like she was about ready to explode.

She was as red as a tomato at dinner. Did you see her glaring at everyone?
Y'know... that'd be a brilliant thing to add to your product line: some sort of toffee that'd turn a person's face red and make their head swell until it explodes all over.

Or, y'know, looks like it exploded, only it really just spews tomato slush all over the place.

I wish I could've seen that.

Of course, I've no idea who could've done it.

Or where they might've got the knickers from.

No idea at all.

Well, for the record, they definitely were not MY knickers. It's possible that they were Maegera Featherstone's, but if they were, they weren't a voluntary donation.
I'm sorry I haven't seen you the past couple of nights, love. Between your meetings and my reports, we're like brooms passing in the night.

But I managed to break away at lunch today and spend a little time at a hole-in-the-wall used bookstore in Knockturn Alley, and I found a slim volume on Goblin law. Old, too, at least seventeenth century, and it goes into rather more detail on the subject than any of my notes from working at Gringotts, or my old History of Magic textbooks. Blimey, the prose is stultifying, though. Really thick going.

Take pity on me? If you're free, come over to my flat, and we can try to puzzle some of this stuff out together. It might have some bearing on how we proceed with what we found in the Protectorate Collection.

Of course, it may have an entirely different effect on you. If it makes you horny, then hurrah. We can try something athletic, and then sleep. I always sleep better with you next to me.

Hey, love. Too right about brooms passing, I only just saw this. I'll head over, but if you're asleep I'll try not to wake you.
2015-03-04 19:43:00
Private message to Blaise

Hullo dear,

I've not had a chance to share the news, but Barty's throwing a party at Marlbourough over spring hols, and he's asking me to play the part of hostess. Exciting, don't you think?

Anyway, I wanted to let you know well in advance so you could start planning who to ask along as your plus one. Are you still carrying on with Elsie? I haven't managed to speak with her in weeks. Oh, and I really don't know if I'll have the guest list include anyone else in our sett other than you (my oldest and dearest friend!) Only one has to invite Harry, of course, and I may ask Barty if he'd like Hydra to be invited, seeing as she's his protégé.

I have the most excellent theme in mind, as well! I would tell you more, but I would like for it to be a surprise. Don't worry, I'll make sure that the invitations give a little bit of a hint, so people can have fun speculating, and plan their outfits accordingly.

Say you won't miss it?

---

@alt_blaise at 2015-03-05 03:05:44
(no subject)

Of course I won't miss.

Perhaps I should ask Hydra? That would cut down on the plus-ones. Do you think she'd like that? Or do you think she'd rather see if Harry comes back around to her? He hasn't seemed very- well, neither of them has, have they?

---

@alt_daphne at 2015-03-05 03:12:33
(no subject)

Oh. Well, I don't think she would object, but I can hardly say whether she'd like it or not. Despite the fact they don't seem close, I don't think she minds Harry's company. Why, do you fancy her? Or do you think it merely a handy convenience?
Well, she's certainly fanciable. **And** it would be convenient.  

I suppose the thought's crossed my mind about Hydra... more than once.

Only, of course, one doesn't want to trespass if Harry's still at all in the picture. He's not, though, is he?

---

Well no, I don't believe so. I don't know if that necessarily means she's available. She's very committed to her training, after all. But if it's just for the party, she may be amenable? No harm in asking, certainly.

---

I might do, then. Just for the party.

What about you? This seems rather A Step, doesn't it?

---

He did describe it as a "statement of sorts," and said it would "put things on a different footing." So. Whatever that means?

But then, Barty Crouch wouldn't ask just anyone to play hostess for him. Perhaps it is A Step.

Or A Test. Ha. But then he knows how much I adore a challenge.
Do you adore him, then?
I mean, are you feeling serious about it? Do you think he has Intentions? Or what do you think he's thinking?

It wouldn't do to predict his thinking.
I do rather adore him, I will admit. Dangerously so, perhaps - in that if it turned out he was not feeling serious, I would be quite thoroughly disappointed.

He hasn't been serious about many, though, has he? It's probably best to be realistic and simply enjoy the present moment.

Well, yes.
But it would be wise to be prepared in case he is serious.

Only, considering the age and experience differences, either he's larking about or he's looking for a wife. (One Our Lord would be more likely to accept than when He objected to Maebh Drumgoole.)

Would you really want to be married? So young, I mean. Of course, I expect we'll all be married sooner or later, and one hopes to want it when the occasion arrives. But is it what you want now? With him? (Setting aside the impulse to be cautious for a moment, just for the sake of thinking through the possibilities.)
Oh Blaise, you know I've never really wanted to be married. Not in the conventional sense, anyway. I want a life and career on the stage, after all.

But he's not a conventional sort of person, really. He's not at all boring, for one (far more interesting than his stoic presence would suggest, in fact). And I suppose that's why I've always objected to marriage - because it always seemed to me like accepting an entirely boring, dull, and unexciting life.

So, I suppose I might say Yes. If I knew what exactly he expected from a wife, and felt enticed by the prospect, rather than stifled.

That's alright, then. I was worried you might be pitching it in on all your dreams, and that would be a terrible shame.

I don't expect he is conventional. Or boring.

Dangerous is never dull.

And if you do agree to marry him, he'll be the luckiest wizard in the Protectorate. He'd best realise that.

He is dangerous, but he's more than that.

But yes.

Oh, pfft. I shan't be counting on his asking, even if you have gone and encouraged me to be prepared!
Megan,

How have you been sleeping since our chat? And were you able to incorporate any of the changes to your sleeping schedule that I suggested?

I've been compiling several interpretations of your dreams, and I will say that first and foremost, it is unlikely that there is anything prophetic in nature within them. It's not certain that they contain no prophecy, but again, unlikely. This is because true prophetic dreams leave the dreamer with no doubt that what they just experienced was no message from their inner-psyche, but a message from outside the psyche entirely.

That said, I do believe the dreams are telling you something important about yourself. The fact that M.U. smiles more and more ominously at you represents your own unwillingness to accept the dream's message. This, too, is why the dream keeps plaguing you. It will probably not retreat entirely until you come to understand and internalise its meaning.

As for meaning, I can only speculate, since I'm not you and don't share your experiences. The fact that you have fixated on M.U.'s presence in the dream is interesting, since there are other people who appear in the dream who may be equally important. The person who you see M.U. helping, for example, may be relevant. Also relevant is the fact that in the dream, you are forced to cast the killing curse on Macmillan. While on one level they may represent you fear of hurting your boyfriend, you must also consider the possibility that some unconscious part of you is very angry at him. For what, I can't say.

The figure of focus, though, is indeed M.U. Perhaps you have an unconscious fear that she has shaped your life in ways that will influence your future actions. What you must realise, though, is that influence works in many different directions. A person may be influenced to mimic another's behaviour, but they may also be influenced to do the exact opposite, to act in ways that are counter to that behaviour. Your unconscious may be telling you that soon, you will have to decide how you will allow M.U.'s memory to influence you.

I believe M.U. stands in for the Crone, here. The Crone, too, has
multiple sides, both negative and positive. She represents wisdom and
guidance, but she's also the smothering mother who captures and
binds her children to her will. For some reason your psyche has
latched on to M.U. as a mother figure, and it's up to you to decide
what lessons to take from her, and how to activate them into the real
world.

So, you see, when you say that you fear M.U. is coming back, what
that means is that you fear her coming back through you.

---

@alt_megan at 2015-03-06 19:49:52
(no subject)

Thank you. I am sorry I did not thank you right away
but I have been thinking about things.

It did not feel like I was angry at Ernie in the dream,
so I don't know what that's about. But perhaps I am and do not know
it. But I am not going to worry about that.

What you say about being afraid of her coming back through me

She really was everything a Hufflepuff can be if they are evil. I think
sometimes we Hufflepuffs think we are always nice, but it is not true.

I hope you do not feel called upon to reprimend me for speaking ill of
her, but I would say it even if you crucio'd me because it is true. She
was.

I do not intend to be that sort of Hufflepuff.

(You must know what I mean because surely there are Slytherins who
are not quite the best of the House, and all that.)

Anyhow, thank you and I will keep thinking about things. The dreams
have not been as bad since I tried what you said. And I will keep
talking to people about what I worry about, so I don't just keep it in
the cauldron until it explodes.
For Holda's sake, Megan. I haven't Cruciated anyone while serving as Head Girl. Why would I start with you?

I'm glad to hear that the dreams haven't been as bad.
Trust you're well this morning.

Keep finding myself thinking of you. This morning, for instance.

Believe I may need to consult with the Headmaster on several points this evening. Perhaps when we've finished you might be able to set aside work for the night?

By the way, my calendar's reminding me that Saturday is Rod's birthday. In case you wanted to know such things and didn't already.

---

Morning! We've not spent a morning together, have we? Perhaps we'll have a chance to remedy that sometime soon.

And yes, I made note of Uncle Rodolphus' birthday some time back, as I've always done my best to keep meticulous track of such things. (It feels peculiar to call him "Uncle," still, but I've the sense that he quite likes it.)

This evening would be lovely. I'll be sure to have things in order by the time you and the Headmaster are finished.

Oh! I'll be able to show you what I've put together as a guest list, so far. The only people from Hogwarts that I've included are Blaise Zabini, Harry (protocol), and Hydra (unless you believe it detrimental to your training). I imagine that Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil may feel snubbed if Hydra is invited and they are not, but that still doesn't particularly move me to include them.

Zabini, Hydra and Our Lord's son make a sound contingent from Hogwarts. Finnigan and Patil need to find their own way. It's not as if this will be a
meeting of the Council.

Expect Toshenka and I will finish by nine, fyi.

Still looking forward to seeing me?

alt_daphne at 2015-03-06 02:25:09
(no subject)

Still? More than before, even.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-03-06 02:31:17
(no subject)

Excellent.
Private Message to Zach, Megs, and Sue

I've had to confiscate enough frilly you-know-whats to start my own lingerie shop.

It's bloody ridiculous, is what it is.

The graffiti was bad enough, but I am not getting lined up and crucioed over knickers.

alt_susan at 2015-03-06 14:48:21
(no subject)

It's not really about knickers though, is it?

alt_ernie at 2015-03-06 16:51:42
(no subject)

Ah, right. It's all deep and philosophical like.

Symbolic knickers.

alt_megan at 2015-03-06 19:35:37
(no subject)

If you find some knickers which are grey with cunning little black bats on them when the pink frilly charming is dispelled, I would like them back. Because someone went and made them all symbolic and I am VERY CROSS NOW.

alt_megan at 2015-03-06 19:41:15
private message to Sue

I understand what you mean. But I do not think Ernie entirely wants to understand what you mean. Because it would make it rather difficult for him. Because he's supposed to confiscate them. And he does not want to get in trouble with the Headmaster or anyone else.
Though I have not noticed the Headmaster going out of his way to punish anyone about the knickers. Perhaps there are enough other things to keep him occupied at the moment. Because it's not like there's a shortage of trying circumstances around this place ever. Especially... well. It was different when we were firsties and the only things we were afraid of were the squid and the older students, and of getting things wrong in lessons and melting cauldrons and things like that. Wasn't it?

Well, I am supposed to be confiscating them too. Theoretically. I mean, as a Prefect and all.

I'm taking it as seriously as the Headmaster is, after all.
I think we should talk. Alone, I mean. Not like last night with the others there.

The trouble is that I keep thinking I'll say the wrong thing again. So, maybe we should sit somewhere together but not say much. For starters.

Hydra,

Yes, jolly good. I'd like that. Either way, what. Talking or--or not talking.

Tonight?

-Justin

I actually have a lot of homework I want to finish tonight. But tomorrow evening, if you're free?

Of course.

-J
Alice and Frank, one piece of news I hope will please you.

I've been running Evelyn through segments of past OWL exams over the past few weeks (three different complete exams, plus a sampling of questions on other topics that they did not include.) She's earned an O on all of them.

I've documented it thoroughly, including charms to make it clear it's all her work, so that should she need to demonstrate her credentials to others, it will be easy. (Evelyn knows where my files about her training are in my book trunk.)

Congratulations, and Evelyn, this means we can move onto much more interesting things with an entirely clear conscience now.

Oh!

Truly?

I just thought all that was getting ready for it.

...Really and truly?

Thank you, Professor.

Well done, lovie.

Thank you, Siz. That's very good to hear.
Thank you, mum.

Quite truly.

If you insist on sitting one more now you know, I won't stop you, but it might be a little silly.

I can go through and show you how I marked everything, when we get a chance.

I'd like to know what I was a little soft on, certainly.

I didn't think I'd ever get the chance to sit for any of my OWLs. And you took so much care with it, and it's just it's very lovely of you.

Thank you. So much.

Of course I took care with it. And you deserved every bit.

Half a dozen reasons why, that.

I don't have the same kind of test repository for Arithmancy, but you've been working through plenty there too, you know.
alt_evelyn at 2015-03-07 02:52:07
Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Ich bin sehr dankbar.
Ich werde das in meinem Herzen für den Rest meines Lebens zu halten.

Vielen Dank, Professor.

alt_sinistra at 2015-03-07 03:16:43
Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Bitte, bitte.
Es ist wirklich alles deine Arbeit.

Ich stellte du einfach zu den Sternen.

alt_frank at 2015-03-07 02:21:06
(no subject)

good work, sweetie.
that's my brilliant girl.

alt_evelyn at 2015-03-07 02:32:03
(no subject)

Thanks, dad.

alt_frank at 2015-03-07 02:34:58
(no subject)

stargazing tonight sound good to you?
we can bring kev along.
alt_evelyn at 2015-03-07 02:36:12
(no subject)

Yes, please!

alt_sinistra at 2015-03-07 02:15:34
Private message to Alice and Frank

One other thing, please.

Should anything happen to me, I would like my books and astronomy materials to go to Evelyn. There's a note for her with the other files, and some other information about personal effects and things.

I still feel like I'm not earning my keep sufficiently at all, but she is a pleasure to teach, and I'm very grateful for the chance, whatever else.

alt_frank at 2015-03-07 02:30:21
Re: Private message to Alice and Frank

understood.

jude and laura both think the world of you. don't see how they were managing before you came along.

and Al and me can't thank you enough for what you've been able to do for our evie.

that's worth plenty in my book.

alt_sinistra at 2015-03-07 02:41:49
Re: Private message to Alice and Frank

It's nothing compared to the Fidelius work, or the camps or a dozen other things, and I know that.

I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't teach.

Getting to teach someone as gifted and passionate about it as
Evelyn is - well, the thing that keeps getting me out of bed some mornings. Just, I know most people think astronomy's useless, or at least useless to most people.

I am working on something that might give us a direction about the first wards, or maybe the portkey problem. Maybe. Be a few weeks at least before I can even say if it'd help.

alt_alice at 2015-03-07 02:55:13
Re: Private message to Alice and Frank

And giving you the time and space to sort all of that out is valuable, and necessary.

Right now, we're looking at months if not years to sort all this out. It won't happen over night. But when it does, it'll be due to a small number of dedicated people working very hard, and I count you among them.

alt_sinistra at 2015-03-07 03:05:38
Re: Private message to Alice and Frank

So long as you're sure.

I am very good at diligent research, if nothing else.

Oh, I might as well say: I'm working through my own Master's old journals, as I think she may have consulted on parts of the initial wards.

It's all very opaque - think research notes with about three layers of intentional obscurity on top of it. But I keep finding hints. Enough to suggest further lines of exploration, anyway.

And in the meantime, there's teaching what I can, and chopping vegetables for Victor.
Indeed.
And that does sound promising. Keep me informed as you go.

I am fully aware that it might be quite a lot of 'nothing to report on yet,' but that's to be expected.

I will. Or if nothing comes of it.
If nothing else, I suppose it means I'll be well up on my locational magic theory for other purposes.

Good.
And Siz -- sending along that you're listening and safe is fine by me.

I'm sure he's aware he's writing for more than one audience, and I appreciate your sharing it openly.

If you're sure.
It -
Thank you. That means a lot.
I know.

I also know how hard all of this has been for you -- how much you've lost.

There are certain things I will always be cautious about -- but I'm glad we can talk it over together.
Brunch today was so good. I can't get over those potatoes. Ponty's been talking up Blaison for ages, I can see why. I'll have to drag him there next time I'm in a brunching mood.

It was lovely catching up. You looked absolutely marvelous, by the way. If my hair wasn't absolutely hopeless, I'd kidnap your stylist in a heartbeat.

From what you were saying over brunch, your equinox party sounds like it'll be just stunning. I can't wait.
2015-03-07 20:09:00
Private message to Barty

Good day, friend.

For my birthday I received enough bottles of Firewhiskey to wonder what my reputation has wrought. Only one bottle, however, was made in the manner of 12th century Ireland (greater proportion of malt to grain, matured in sherry casks, etc.). Only two distilleries in England produce this particular Firewhiskey - one located in the West Midlands, the other in Merseyside. Off the beaten path, to be certain. It was a gift from Daphne Greengrass, which has me wondering if it was you who tipped her off to my particular tastes, or if she managed to suss them out on her own.

Appreciated, if it was your doing.

Had a chance to fire call one Healer Hayden earlier this week. She was quite mum on the whole issue of Hydra's health and "accident," citing that you wouldn't approve of her sharing the details with me. And then that whole business of healer/patient confidentiality. Unflexible, yes. Nervous, too.

I realise you are likely reluctant to be forthcoming, what with the Missus minding over things, but assure me, if you will; was it truly just a training accident? If Bella has encouraged you to take a harder approach with the girl, know that Bella herself is not as responsible for Hydra's skills and gifts as she might think.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-03-08 04:33:59
(no subject)

Trust it was a pleasant day?

Afraid I can take no credit at all for the whiskey--beyond having shared a glass now and then with the witch in question, though we've not discussed makers or merits.

She's perceptive.

As for Hydra, no, I don't imagine there was much the Healer could have told you within her oath. It was an unfortunate bleeding, and we've been working on the fundamentals that will, one hopes, let her
avoid that sort of accident in future.

Training's always a wheeling path, from uncertainty and hesitation, to competence and then mastery, to overconfidence and carelessness, to correction or comeuppance--and then it circles back to hesitation and uncertainty. In this case, I had her back on her feet and in the salle inside two days, and am satisfied that she's not damaged by the experience.

Trust that both you and Bella will be pleased with her progress when you've a chance to evaluate it yourselves.

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 alt_rodolphus at 2015-03-08 04:48:27
(no subject)

Pleasant as one can hope for, at my age.
Perceptive? She's not a secret legilimens, is she? Suppose not, wrong side of the family.

I would be flattered by her efforts, but I've a feeling they're not exclusive to me. Is she equally as insightful with you?

A mere comeuppance, then. I suppose the fault then lies with that Bulstrode girl, for announcing Hydra's murder at your hands on the journals. Has she been dealt with, then?
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 alt_crouch_jr at 2015-03-08 05:04:38
(no subject)

Can't say that I gave the Bulstrode imp another thought. I could still offer a lesson in discretion if you'd like. From what I can gather, it would be wasted there. Below average intelligence.

Marked contrast with her Housemate, who is, indeed, insightful. Believe she approaches everything in the manner of character study. Has ambitions of the stage. Imagine she'll be All That one day. Not bad now.

And, no. Not a legilimens. Thankfully. (No idea how you've weathered that.)
```
Below the average of below average, it would seem. Perhaps I'll present the lesson myself.

As to the other: well, legilimency would be quite handy - even ripe with interesting possibility - with the right sort of woman. (Bella is not that sort.) Insightfulness may be the next best thing. Unless, of course, that insight gets leveled against you.

Fair point re. insightfulness. Confess I haven't sensed much danger in that regard, but letting one's guard down with a witch is unforgivable foolishness. (Have never been tempted to forget that in other quarters.)

Suppose legilimency could be an intriguing flavour. Not to my taste, I don't think. Which is as well, under the circumstances.

Undoubtedly foolish. Curiously tempting.

Though I don't picture you giving in, which I suspect is for the best.
Order Only: yet another thing for the broadcasts?

Those of you outside the agricultural and food processing sector may not be aware, but the Protectorate is looking out for our well-being in a new, expensive and annoying way. Health inspections are now required for such businesses employing halfbloods. There's an inspection fee. There's also a fee for registering to be eligible for the inspection. Separate paperwork for each halfblood employee, and a fee for each, of course. Due every month.

It starts tomorrow. The parents have been going spare about it all weekend. I expect they're not the only ones. Something for the broadcasts, perhaps? What's her name, that former official -- she'd probably have something to say about it.

What? That's utterly ridiculous.

Health inspections? Do they think we're going to make purebloods sick just by handling their food?

That explains the rather laden owl I received at dinner.

Jack, I'm sending the forms express once I have a chance to double check everything, and I'll send notice to Gringott's as well. Consider the fees covered. Might have to wait for the inspector to come round to get cracking again, but Merlin knows, we
can count our current raw goods at a loss and just send them straight along to the free zones.

Stebs, you catching any of this at the docks? I know you handle a great deal more than food, but I can see how you might get wrapped up in it. Let me know if your boss is being an arse about any of it.

And Jeremy -- any way we can capitalise on this? Any halfblood food suppliers or farmers we can get in close with, help ease the way a bit, fold into the network?

---

alt_pansy at 2015-03-09 03:54:53
Private Message to Sloper

And Jack --

I know we've just been working on this for a few months now, and the whole Order thing is still brand new, but I don't care about how much the bloody fees are, and I've got your back. Okay?

Trust me. The work we're doing is worth it.

---

alt_jeremy at 2015-03-09 04:27:51
(no subject)

Yeah, I think there is. The halfblood growers, processors and packagers are obviously the first ones to ask, but we've got a good chance with pureblood firms employing halfbloods as well.

First, the rules are complicated -- Stretton Farms grows and processes and packages, so we don't shut down -- though we do pay interest on the fees until the date of the actual inspection, and file what's called back-certification parchments to cover the sales we've made. But places that only process or package or both, they can't sell, so they've got goods piling up and no one's given an official answer as to whether those can be sold once inspections are passed, or how much their fees and interest will be. (Yeah, it's slanted in favor of big operations and against small ones or startups. I'm sure everyone's shocked.) Point is, a lot of small processors and some small packagers will be dead grateful for a rubbish hauler who will take away their uncertified goods for a small fee and return them an actual fair price for their goods under
the table in order to get them through until they've got proper certification -- and some will no doubt continue even when they are certified, if we treat them well. We may even wind up brokering some off-the-books deals between them as well.

This is the safest time to expand the network; anyone we'd bring in is in a bind, and right now they hate the bureaucracy of the Protectorate so much that they won't just keep our secrets, they'll offer us suggestions for who else to talk with.

Second, there's the growers. Some of them won't want to pay the interest to get their produce back-certified, though some will. For the ones that don't, there's a loophole my mate and his uncle say we should take advantage of before they close it: animal feed of any kind is not covered under these regulations yet. The haulers will be contacting growers about "salvaging" their uncertified and unsuitable for consumption items, which should bring in a fair amount.

Alice, I'll want to talk with you about storage options, because I've been thinking about how to stockpile with an eye toward streamlined distribution when we need it -- like if a lot of Sleepers suddenly wake up hungry.

---

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-09 05:21:20
(no subject)

Right.

Good.

Sounds like a plan.

I'll direct some funds your way first thing tomorrow courtesy of Towler and Sloper. Let me know if you need more to get this rolling.

@alt_jeremy at 2015-03-09 16:08:50
(no subject)

The more we can build and expand this network, the better chance we'll have of avoiding hunger and unrest after we take Britain back. Getting decent affordable food to people goes a long way
toward reassuring them, and once they know us, they'll be more likely to turn to us when everything's chaos.

Same is true of the barter network. Molly, we should talk. The haulers and I have some ideas on contacts and distribution protocols. You can tell us where we're missing things, yeah? We'd rather work to support any existing networks than undermine them.

...and the more personal connections we have with growers and primary distributors, the better. Yes.

Yes, indeed. Let's figure out a time that we can meet.

Rose Stuben (the barter network's present administrator) has heard a rumour that bartering may soon be declared illegal. Another way the Protectorate is cracking down, I suppose, and I really do think it will backfire. I've sounded Rose out as carefully as I can, and it's quite clear that she's more interested in keeping the barter network going than following every dotted i or crossed t of the law.

Yes. Of course. The sooner the better.

I'll see what I can come up with on my end, and we'll see where we can go from there.
We'll also need people to be ready to receive goods. Anyone who can cast a competent stasis charm is welcome.

Items acquired and taken to owlery. They'll go out tomorrow. (Paying for fast service seemed unnecessarily attention-attracting.)

Thanks. Means the world.

And yeah. Marzipan will keep, and drawing attention is the last thing we want here.

It's not just food. Apparently there are a load of new restrictions going in. They revoked my licensure today, from the programme I did over winter hols; I am no longer a Licensed Emergency Stabilisation Healing Associate (Junior Grade).

They want me to send back the pin.

I'm so sorry...that's just so petty and horrid and I oughtn't to be surprised.

Be interesting to see what, if anything, happens to Finnegans, though.

And bugger, I haven't heard anything from Mum & Dad about this,
but if it gets extended into other fields it could be really bad for them.

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-10 02:41:28
(no subject)

WOT?
That is utterly ridiculous.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-10 02:45:17
(no subject)

Yeah I agree completely.

They didn't say anything about the Hogwarts hospital wing but they probably don't know I've been helping out.

@alt_hermione at 2015-03-10 03:11:34
(no subject)

That's awful. I'm sorry, Sally-Anne. It's their loss.

Does anyone know why they've started these measures all of a sudden? I mean, I wonder if it's in response to the radio and our Fidelius squads and things like that, or whether there's some other reason for the timing.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-10 03:23:57
(no subject)

It's our loss, too, if this means I can't get into the apprenticeship programme. Which seems rather likely, though ... maybe Dolohov will be able to twist someone's arm. Have me declared Not That Sort of Half Blood. Who even knows.

It's a good question about Finnigan. Maybe they'll demand he send back his Dark Mark.
Well, of course, and I'm sure you're feeling really disappointed about it. But you can always study informally with Madam Pomfrey, at least for the time being. The way I've been keeping on with Mr Snape. Just because it's not St Mungo's doesn't mean it's not just as good. But I know, it's difficult not getting to do what you were hoping to do for a living, too.

Yes, I can study informally with Madam Pomfrey. The point of getting a St Mungo's traineeship was that I could study some of the areas of Healing that she's not expert in, as I did this summer with Healer Korotkova.

Madam Pomfrey is an excellent matron but there are areas of Healing that the Order could really use that she doesn't know much about, she'll tell you as much herself. (I am not sure there is an area within Potions-making that Mr Snape isn't an expert at.)

There IS another possibility for training which you might think about. I don't know if it will do you any good if you feel as though you have to make a show of your presence this summer.

But you could talk with the people at Saltash. They have a Muggle hospital within the environs of the ward, and they've managed to secure enough supplies through our networks that the Muggle healers--doctors, they call them--have started an ad hoc apprenticeship for students who want to learn Muggle healing.

Of course, you wouldn't be studying how to undo Curse damage, or Dark spells, or that sort of thing. And it's certainly a different
type of healing than even Madam Pomfrey could teach. But you would get a lot of experience learning how to treat people without magic, which might be useful some day, if you're separated from your wand in a battlefield situation. Muggles are BETTER than us for some sorts of things, including certain types of healing.

And you would certainly be highly respected there, if you wanted to study under some of the doctors there.

Anyway. It's a thought.

I've heard enough muttering about the Fidelius charms around the department that yes, I think that might be a contributing factor.

If you've been listening to rumours around the department about new measures beefing up security and all that, have you heard that absolutely mad idea that someone's floated that they're thinking of entirely shutting down the usual entrances to the entire Ministry -- floo, apparition, that sort of thing -- and instead they'll make us magically flush ourselves in, from the loos just outside the Ministry walls?

I just about laughed myself sick when I heard that one. Can you imagine?

Sorry to hear it.
I'm sorry, Sally-Anne. It utterly stinks.

They never do learn, do they? My father tried to lobby for similar sorts of restrictions almost thirty years ago. What idiots.

It's certainly something for the radio addresses, and you're right, Jeremy, it's right up Ms Birdwhistle's street.
2015-03-09 20:53:00
Private message to Headmaster Dolohov

I got a notification today from St Mungo's, informing me that that they are revoking my license from the programme to become a Licensed Emergency Stabilisation Healing Associate (Junior Grade). There have been no complaints about me or my work; this is entirely because there have been some new rules put in place regarding half-bloods and appropriate work for us.

They want me to return the pin. If you don't mind, I'm going to give it to you, as you have been my patron throughout this process, and let them know that they should talk to you if they want it back.

They didn't mention whether I'm still allowed to help out in the Hospital Wing, but then again, I'm not sure they're aware that I've been doing so.

---

alt_antonin at 2015-03-10 12:58:43
(no subject)

I see. Yes, bring the pin by. I'll take care of it, or at least give it my best effort.

As you were assisting in the Hospital Wing before you did the programme, I don't see why you have to stop. Assuming you'd like to continue, of course. And I keep meaning to talk to you -- it's about long enough that we've gone without any disasters, knock wood, that i could likely persuade one of the rotating crew to stick along permanently. Has anyone in particular impressed you? I'm thinking of asking Healer Patil; he seems one of the most competent.
Draco went to see his father again, over a week ago. They talked quite a bit about the protections on the older vaults like the Malfoys', the Blacks' and the Lestranges', and so we at Grimmauld have been discussing it on and off. I gather Hermione and Draco also tried to talk to the goblins at Moddey about it, but haven't got very far.

Charlie, did you know they've got a dragon in the bowels of the bank? Hermione said she tried to tell Ragnik how inhumane it was to keep a dragon underground but he didn't seem too fussed about it. I should say, they're highly reticent about letting us in to the vaults, and well, one can easily understand why.

But we had a thought, and Charlie, Bill, Rachel, perhaps it might be worth exploring. Ragnik informed them that the scepter of the isle was originally fashioned by goblins. I believe we were hoping for a replica of it anyway, to swap out with the real one, the horcrux. If we explained what Voldemort's done to it, and gave it back to them, do you think they would be willing to destroy it? And would that help them help us get into Bella's vault at the bank? If not, then what other measures could we employ to gain their cooperation - I have faith in Draco and Hermione, but it's Gringott's. They can use all the help they can get.

I don't know if we told the rest of you lot but Hermione and I have decided that I'll be the one to polyjuice into Bellatrix. Not that I relish the idea, but I've observed her enough times to know her mannerisms and way of speaking.

But Hermione needs someone to polyjuice into, as well. Hydra, we were thinking perhaps she could go in disguise as you? You could send us some of your hair through the colocation box. Oh, and if you still have them, those robes by Kosette that your mother bought you
some years back. It shouldn't be too difficult to transfigure them to fit your mother's build. If you don't mind, that is.

Kosette robes? I suppose they're at the bottom of one of my trunks, somewhere. I'll certainly never wear them so they're all yours, along with the hair.

Hermione, do you know how to imitate me? If you're with my mother, or supposed to be, just don't speak. That sounds about right.

After years of living in Buckingham, I'm fairly certain I can manage it.

Yeah, that sounds about right.

I know it's none of my business, but...are you and Justin--are you okay? Or do you think you're going to be? I don't mean to pry. But no one's said anything recently and I'm not sure if that means you've worked out whatever was wrong or if we should still be worried for you.

Because...well, it would be a shame if you weren't able to get past this. Whatever it is.

I mean, not that I know what's going on--and I'm not asking you to tell me. I just want you to know that I've been thinking about you, and how things might be going for you.
And if you do want to talk to someone...well, Draco talked through loads of things with me, and so did Harry, back when we were at school. We still do talk, though not as much as we used to. But what I'm saying is, I might be able to help, or at least listen. And I can promise I won't turn round and tell anyone else whatever you tell me.

alt_hydra at 2015-03-10 14:05:17
Re: Private Message to Hydra

We're working on it. I don't think anyone should worry because it's not as if there's anything they can do. This is between the two of us.

And thank you for the offer, but when I talk to people it doesn't seem to go so well, most of the time. I guess it's something I never learned to do.

alt_hermione at 2015-03-10 14:24:56
Re: Private Message to Hydra

That just means you need practice.

But seriously, did they get all judgemental on you? Boys do that—especially boys, I find. I mean, not that I have many girls to talk to but it's different with Tonks or some of the others at Moddey. Rachel, even, the few times I've had occasion.

Of course, you don't have to if you absolutely detest the very idea. Only think about it. I just know that I wish there had been people I could have talked to, back before I knew about the Order. And sometimes, not often, but sometimes I'm not sure why I still don't talk more, even though I know they're around to listen.

alt_hydra at 2015-03-10 14:57:26
Re: Private Message to Hydra

They? No. I mean, perhaps somewhat. Sally Anne was pushy about offering me all kinds of health advice, even though I didn't ask her for
any. And Justin said some truly horrid things to me. I know he was in some kind of terrible emotional state, but he still said them and now I can't seem to forget about it. And apparently he thought I was saying horrid things, even though I wasn't - that was just what he was hearing. But now I'm afraid to really talk to him because I worry he'll just hear the worst in everything I say. So mostly we've just been sitting together.

And, there are other reasons why I find it difficult to open up to people, but they're hard to explain. And when I try to I feel like an awful person.

@alt_hermione at 2015-03-10 18:50:36
Re: Private Message to Hydra

It's hard to imagine Justin saying anything horrid about anyone. He must have been beyond upset. But don't you think people who love each other should be able to get upset and let things out? I mean, maybe you haven't had the best examples, but every couple rows now and then, sometimes about things that don't even matter in the slightest. It doesn't mean they've stopped caring. Did he apologise, at least?

But besides that, you're not an awful person, so whatever it is that makes sharing difficult for you, it's not that. If you were Harry or Draco, I'd tell you that whatever it is that makes you feel awful, has to be better shared than kept a secret. Secrets are like that. They seem bigger and darker and more frightening the harder you try to keep them secret.

I should stop pressuring you. Maybe you just don't want to talk to me, and honestly, that's all right. I'm not offended. But I think you should think of someone you can talk to, and whether that person--whoever it is--can help you figure out how to not feel so awful for thinking or feeling whatever makes you feel that way.

And--I know it's hard to believe it, but you can trust any of us, in the Order. The Juniors or the adults. That was the strangest thing for me, anyway, to get used to. The fact that even if I had a daft sort of idea, I could say it to Sirius or Mr Lupin or Mr Snape or Draco or Tonks and maybe as soon as I said it
we'd all have a laugh about how ridiculous it was, but it didn't mean they thought I was out of my tree, or anything. Even if it's a horrible thing, they're not going to lock you away or--or be afraid of you. And neither am I, if it comes to that.

alt_alice at 2015-03-10 04:17:16
(no subject)

It's a gamble, but I believe it would ultimately pay off. It's unlikely they'd share their knowledge beyond their circles, not willingly at least, and if we keep it limited to a few elders...

Charlie? What are your thoughts? How would they respond to the notion of a horcrux, let alone using their handiwork for such a thing? Would they see it as an abomination?

And what else is needed to move forward with obtaining the scepter?

alt_charlie at 2015-03-10 13:50:56
(no subject)

I think they'd be horrified by the idea of Horcruxes, yeah. It changes the "thing that was made, as it was made, the way the maker intended" (which is only one word in Gobbledygook, so if you ever need to talk about it, use the word 'kekelochoyarg').

Whether that's enough to let us destroy it without there being a problem about things ... I don't know. Let me talk to Griphook and see what he thinks. We might be able to negotiate a copy, then we replace it, then the goblins destroy the Horcruxed original, or are present at the destruction, but they might know a better way of handling it.

Getting into Bella's vault ... I'm not sure about that, either. On the one hand, if we could present it as a strong enough need, we might be able to get them to help just enough. On the other hand, the idea of helping with a breakin to their own vaults might be just a step too far for them.

The biggest problem is that there are two schools of thought inside Gringotts about the Protectorate: the elders feel that the best thing to do is to just hunker down and wait it out, that human affairs are
not goblin affairs, while a small but vocal minority, usually the younger cohort, wants to help us do what we can to overthrow it. (It's a lot more complicated than that, of course, but that's the summary. And it's not entirely an age division. The Second-Eldest, for instance, was here for a year's honour-exchange from the goblin-clans of Japan back when the wards went up -- she hasn't seen her family in fifteen years or so, and there's nothing she wouldn't do to get back to them, so she's been in favour of throwing in with us since the start.)

So it depends. We have a few options. If we can take a few weeks before we want to go after the cup and the sceptre, I can try bringing it as a formal proposal to the Elders and argue my case -- although for something this serious, we might need to have me make the initial negotiating, then have you or Professor Dumbledore make the formal proposal to the Elders. (It's a pity Professor Dumbledore doesn't look as old as he is anymore, aside from the few I've really clicked with the goblins are still having a hard time taking me seriously because I'm so young. Although it got a lot easier once they found out I was a father.) Or, I could talk to Griphook a bit, and see if he can think of a way that he could help give us just enough information to help us get through without disaster while not actually taking any action that would, you know, be the goblins conspiring with us to rob their own bank.

I didn't know there was a dragon down there, no. That's disturbing. Draco, Hermione, do you know what breed it is? Some breeds prefer caves and small spaces if they're old or if their wings were injured -- it makes them feel more secure if they know no other dragon is going to sneak up on them -- but if it's healthy or if it's young, or if it's one of the breeds that hates small spaces, that's just not right. But even if it is not right, I don't know that we can afford to make a fuss about it yet, not when we're asking for such a huge favour, dammit.

Ragnik didn't know, or wouldn't say, what kind of dragon. They just have to see how keeping the poor thing is just as bad as wizards keeping muggles and muggleborns, though!

I was thinking...even if we're incredibly lucky, and no one sees
through our Polyjuice disguises, eventually, someone's probably going to mention seeing Bellatrix and Hydra where she knows they weren't. And someone like her might realise that means a breach of security. Wouldn't it make a perfect story for the goblins if their dragon managed to escape? Then they couldn't be held at fault for any loss of property that resulted.

I know, you'll say that it attracts too much attention. But they can't just leave the creature there, not if it's not meant to be underground!

---

**alt_luna** at **2015-03-10 22:54:11**
(no subject)

I feel the same way you do, Hermione, that it's incredibly cruel to leave a dragon down there. Why, dragons *need* sunlight to be healthy.

Finding a way to let the dragon go without losing an arm...well. Perhaps you should talk with Charlie about details like that.

---

**alt_lupin** at **2015-03-10 19:48:50**
(no subject)

Am I the most suitably old and grizzled-looking Order member these days? It's a shame I don't have a bit more grey in my hair.

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**alt_alice** at **2015-03-10 20:06:25**
(no subject)

Flatterer.

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**alt_sirius** at **2015-03-10 20:57:12**
(no subject)

Frank's far more grizzled. But you're older today than you were!

Do goblins award points for crankiness? We should send you in two weeks, then.
Happy birthday, Moony.

alt_lupin at 2015-03-11 04:16:40
(no subject)

My understanding is that you might get extra points for crankiness provided that you're cranky while still scrupulously following all the rules of goblin etiquette.

I might be able to pull that off but I'd need to spend the next fortnight in intensive coaching on goblin etiquette, and I think our expert is Charlie, who has other things he'd rather be doing when he visits than lecturing me on the precise proper forms of goblin address.

alt_sirius at 2015-03-11 04:32:48
(no subject)

Well, that works out, then, because as it happens, I have better things for you to do as well.

alt_bill at 2015-03-10 22:50:42
(no subject)

My gut agrees with yours, Charlie, on how the goblins would likely react to the information about Horcruxes. Immense distaste, but after that, as to how they would want to handle it--no predicting.

I'll be very interested to hear what Griphook says.
2015-03-10 17:45:00
Order Only: Happy birthday to Remus Lupin!

Thanks for all you do to keep this herd of kneazles moving in more or less the same direction. I hope your family does plenty today to spoil you rotten.

@alt_bill

@alt_kingsley at 2015-03-10 22:55:32
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Remus.

@alt_lupin at 2015-03-11 04:12:36
(no subject)

Thank you, Kingsley.

@alt_gredforge at 2015-03-10 22:56:57
(no subject)

Since you're stowed away at 12 Grimmauld, it's not very politic for us to set of fireworks to mark the occasion. But we'll save some for you, and you can let them off and call some mayhem when next you feel free to do so!

@alt_lupin at 2015-03-11 04:12:05
(no subject)

I wonder if there's a spot on the roof we could shoot them off from? They'd turn visible to everyone else once they got beyond the edges of the house.

Not that we'd want to use Weasley fireworks -- too potentially incriminating -- but we could lay in a stash of some other kind. Might serve as a distraction sometime, if we set a load of them off at once. Bring MLE running to Grimmauld Place instead of
wherever it was we didn't want them going.

alt_molly at 2015-03-10 22:58:01
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Remus, dear. It was SO lovely to tell you personally today when I stopped by to see Adam.

I hope you all liked the cake.

alt_lupin at 2015-03-11 04:12:24
(no subject)

Thank you, Molly! It was an excellent cake.

alt_alice at 2015-03-10 23:40:51
Private Message to Remus

I am so grateful for you, Remus.

Every single day.

Especially lately.

You are a steady, reasonable, and kind presence, and I am so glad to have you standing next to me in this mad endeavour we've gotten ourselves into.

I value your friendship, and love you so very dearly.

Thank you.

Many, many happy returns.

alt_lupin at 2015-03-11 04:12:52
Re: Private Message to Remus

Thank you, Alice.
alt jeremy at 2015-03-11 00:12:33
(no subject)

Cheers, Remus. Happy birthday.

alt lupin at 2015-03-11 04:13:09
(no subject)

Thanks, Jeremy.

alt pansy at 2015-03-11 01:11:08
(no subject)

And it's Evs' birthday too, right?

Happy returns to the both of you!

alt evelyn at 2015-03-11 03:56:08
(no subject)

Thank you! I've had a very lovely day. Everyone at Moddey's been quite thoughtful. And there was cake.

alt lupin at 2015-03-11 04:13:39
(no subject)

Thank you, Pansy, and happy birthday, Evelyn.

alt lupin at 2015-03-11 04:14:02
(no subject)

I've had an entirely lovely day. Thank you, Bill.
I've spent the past few weeks popping by Ken and Jack's in the guise of a friendly neighbourhood stray. Alice and Remus, I'm sure they've already told you about the muggle servants Ken and Jack requisitioned, but for those of you who don't know, there's a mum and dad, Betsy and Eamon Fisher, with their kids, Meg, who is about 12, and Colum, about eight. Meg really LOVES the Professor, so it's been easy to hang around, napping in corners after cadging treats. There are two other men, one I'd guess to be in his early 20s (Howell) and one who is older. Harder to estimate his age, because he's seen some hard living, but perhaps somewhere between 40 and 50 (Collins). Oh, I guess Jack and Ken can tell you their ages; it must be in their work requisition parchmenwork.

They've been working under Ken and Jack for about two months, and the mum has just about stopped flinching any time either Jack or Ken come within ten feet of her kids. I'll bet she's heard some horror stories about wizard masters in the camps--if she hasn't experienced it herself, that is. I heard Collins saying low over dinner to Howell one evening, 'they haven't even cursed us yet.' So the general impression they've seemed to pick up is that their new masters are kind, at least. Or maybe they're a bit too busy and perhaps inept to be cursing their servants a lot.

Part of the impression of ineptness is deliberate, of course. Ken had a shouty bit with Jack the morning after they moved that flat of three-quarters of the grapes they arranged with Jeremy's crew to spirit away in the dead of night. 'HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO FILL ALL THOSE BOTTLES WHEN YOU NEVER ORDER ENOUGH?!' Betsy was nervous and kept the children near her, but then seemed relieved that no one chucked anything at her.

Jack's picked up a few tricks about hiding things in inventory, too. It's strange how there's never an empty bottle around when you need one. So far I think the muggles are mostly just puzzled, but Collins and Howell maybe suspect something's up, particularly Collins. He isn't doing as much of the heavier chores, like mopping, scrubbing out the brewery vats and so on, because of his arthritis, so maybe he has more time to think. And I saw him almost start to argue with Jack once when Jack told him to put some 'spoiled' mash back by the
rubbish bins, like he suspected it was perfectly fine.

So they--Howell and Collins--have said a few things, low, when Jack and Ken aren't around. I think Collins is wondering if his masters are skimming the books to cheat Pansy.

Mr and Mrs Fisher are still terribly unnerved whenever Hitty pops by to deliver lunch to Ken and Jack. I think they're just not used to house elves. Mrs Fisher in particular always jumps about a foot whenever she hears Hitty's apparition pop.

Anyway. They aren't planning any mayhem while I've been listening to them. I don't think they're the type that'll scheme about how to get perks by reporting on their masters. The Fishers at least are relieved that they've landed with 'nice masters' and that they're all together as a family. But Howell and Collins suspect that something hinky is going on.

Anyway, I've written this up a bit further, and I'll send copies to Alice, Pansy, Jack and Ken.

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@alt_terry at 2015-03-11 00:33:05
Private message to Ken Towler and Jack Sloper

You really aren't used to having servants, are you? I'm not saying you should be mean to them or anything! But they've picked up on the fact that you're sort of puzzled about how to talk to them, supervise them.

Maybe you might talk with Sally-Ann or Jeremy about it, the ways that masters can act that are effective and reassuring, I mean, because of all of their experience at the Stretton Farms?

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-11 00:47:58
(no subject)

Thanks, Terry.

It sounds like things are manageable so far -- and I'm fine if the consensus is that they're pulling one over on me, as long as that's a good enough reason for them to stay quiet about it.
You might see how much they talk with the pickup crew, or Stebs's people, to see if they're spreading rumours or keeping mum.

@alt_terry at 2015-03-11 02:29:56 (no subject)

Good idea. I'll do that.
2015-03-10 20:13:00
(no subject)

hOgwArts iSn't thE SamE wiThouT yOu E. hAppy ReturNs. yOur fRieNd fltz.
There's something I wanted to say, because it's been brought up by a few people and is perhaps a topic of concern. That concern being that I don't open up to very many people or to any of the adults, in particular.

Firstly, you should know that if I really needed to talk to someone, I would. I think I would, at least, because if someone has a 'need' they usually act on it. Eventually, anyway.

However I will admit that I am probably not very good at feeling or recognising that need. I did not grow up confiding in people and I learned to keep to myself, mostly. When I did confide in people and ask for their help it often led to more problems. When I complained to my father or Aunt Narcissa or Uncle Raz or Nanella about something Mummy was doing, she would accuse me of manipulating them into feeling sorry for me, and usually she would go harder on me as a result. So, most of the time I didn't complain, except for those times when it seemed worth it to do it out of spite. Or, when I just really needed to feel like someone out there cared about me.

Because sometimes I did need to know that other people cared about me. It was the only way I could formulate a sense that my upbringing was backwards and wrong, and that I had valuable things to offer the world. So when my other relatives or Daddy were kind to me, it was something to keep me going. And I was very grateful for their kindness, for the most part.

But other parts of me were less grateful. There is a sort of shame that comes with knowing that other people feel sorry for you; you feel bad for making others feel bad and uncomfortable. Sometimes I resented adults, because of this shame they made me feel. And sometimes I resented them even more because even though they were kind, none of them did anything to stop my mother. They never took me away, never rescued me and hid me somewhere where she couldn't get to me. And a part of me hated them for it.

I know it's not very rational, and I know it's unfair, but I can't help that I felt this way, and that I still feel this way, sometimes.

And the Order adults... I resent them sometimes, too. Not actively, but
deep down I can't deny that it's there. Sometimes I have a childish wish that one of them would sit me down and say "I can't let you do this - you deserve so much better. I'm going to take you away from this, right now."

I wouldn't let them take me away, of course. I would tell them that what I'm doing is too important, because it is. But a part of me would be so happy to hear someone say that.

And that's part of the reason I don't open up to any of them. I worry that my resentment will come out. I worry I'll get attached to one of them, and be disappointed by them later.

The other reason I don't open up to people is because communicating has become more difficult since I became so good at legilimency. Unless people can occlude and actively do so around me, I can never escape what others might be thinking about me, be it negative, positive, or neutral. Even if I try very hard to ignore it, I can't help but notice the various dreary, anxious, and ecstatic thoughts and feelings people are having around me. I am so overwhelmed by other peoples expressions that it becomes difficult to get a sense of what my own are. Having an intimate conversation with someone becomes trying, because I am distracted by their own thoughts and emotions and lose track of myself. This isn't anyone's fault, it's just one of the complications of being a legilimens.

So, I don't know. I don't really expect anyone to have a response to this, and I don't need to hear anything from you all, really. I just thought it might make you understand me a little better, maybe.

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@alt_susan at 2015-03-12 00:48:09
(no subject)

It's funny. Sometimes I feel as though we talked more, in a purely social way, when we were younger & doing Teatime, than we do now that we're in the Order.

You're going places most of us can't imagine going (with maybe a few sort-of exceptions) and it's hard to know what would be helpful (to you just being Hydra not to the mission or whatever) and I, at least, feel awkward asking because I'm always afraid I'll muffle it.

But if you'd like to have some tea and wear a cunning hat, that could probably be arranged.
Yeah, I think you're right. Going to Hogwarts used to be a grand escape from everything, even when things were bad here.

I don't really know what's helpful, though.

That resentment that you mention, I've felt it, too. For myself, sometimes, but also on behalf of Terry when he was stuck with Carrow for so long, and even for Harry when he's been stuck at Buckingham and hates it so much. And other times when the Order have had to leave people in horrible situations, mostly because to try to rescue them would have simply been impracticable. So I know what you mean about being irrationally angry sometimes. It's *not* fair that you have such a terrible person for a mother. It's *not* fair that no one could remove you from her abuse.

I dunno, I know that in Terry's case, the Longbottoms deeply regretted that they couldn't do anything sooner, and now he's a proper member of their family. Which doesn't make up for Carrow, of course, but it's something. And in Harry's...well, he's still stuck at Buckingham but for the most part he can move around wherever and whenever he likes, and he knows he's got support, and I know that Sirius would have given almost *anything* to have taken him back—but of course, that would have just been a disaster if he'd tried.

That probably doesn't help much, though, does it? I just mean--I'm sure some of them wish they could tell you to run to safety, and they probably hate themselves a little for letting you take the risks you're taking.

By comparison, it feels like the adults get to escape much of the daily pressure of living in the Protectorate. But I know that's not entirely true or
fair because they've still had losses. Like Neville. But they also get to have a lot of good things that we don't get.

腨alt_evelyn at 2015-03-12 17:48:30
(no subject)

I think you have every right to feel the way you do.

I think they care too, even though they don't always know how to say it. Mum doesn't talk to me a lot about what she feels about things. I think she tries to protect me, especially lately. But I can tell that it's something she struggles with. And when she was talking about the September plan, one of the things she kept going on and on about was that she didn't want our people stuck in undercover for years and years. And she didn't mean Charlie or Bill. She meant you, Justin, and Ron.

I think it's her way of showing support.

But you're right. The adults don't have to do what you do. And I know it's more complicated than all that, but it's still massively unfair.

踹alt_hermione at 2015-03-12 02:30:47
(no subject)

Also, it occurs to me that you've never been able to come to an Order meeting, have you? Because you can never get away to attend, even when all the Juniors have been on holiday. And at Tea the grown-ups usually tried to give everyone loads of room, so they weren't looming over you lot. So....well, you've not really had an opportunity to get to know them, have you? That makes a difference, I think.

And...well, look. You will be disappointed in them. They're not perfect. We've all been cross with them at one point or other, I think, and sometimes with good reason. But...I think they do care, at least. Which is better than your mother, any day.
I'm not sure that being in the same room as all of the adults, where I can hear all their thoughts at once, would be the best way for me to get to know them. It sounds overwhelming.

No, I just meant that there's a lot of chatting informally, before and after, and people break up into smaller groups, you know, so you'd have the opportunity to talk to people without there being a specific reason to talk.

And anyway, at least three of them are Animagi, so you wouldn't hear what they're thinking at all.

I used to wish that someone would rescue me from my father. And then feel guilty because that would mean leaving my mother.

The Order adults didn't do anything when the Strettons locked me up and starved me that time, it was Pansy and Harry who helped me, and they didn't do anything to keep me away from my father, although Ron tried to help me, and I guess what I'm saying is that sometimes the adults are just useless, but you can count on the rest of us, you know?

I know it's not the same, because your mother is a billion times worse than my father, and she's vastly more powerful, and 'suck it up, Sally-Anne, it's not worth running away from school just because your father might leave you with a few bruises' is completely different from 'yes, we're going to let you become a Death Eater and let your mother cruciate you until you can barely move or talk because you're useful to us where you are.'

But
It took me a really long time to trust any of the adults at Hogwarts. At all. I didn't go to the Hospital Wing when I was sick, I didn't tell anyone that I didn't have knickers that fit me properly or gloves or warm clothes, any of that, because showing weakness just lets people know how they can hurt you more.

I think the first adult I trusted at all was Mrs Weasley. Because she passed me a letter from my family. I didn't ask for her help but she helped me anyway, I think that was what made it -- I don't know. She paid attention.

I don't know why they don't pay attention to you that way, if it's because you are a pureblood from a powerful family instead of a poor fostered half-blood who's easy to pity or if it's because if they actually thought about what it meant to be Bellatrix Lestrange's daughter, they'd have to do something about it, and it's far easier to just believe that you can manage.

And you know Hermione brought up Terry and that one really baffles me.

It would have been so easy to get him away from Carrow. They could have done it some summer if they wanted to be absolutely sure they weren't putting the Headmistress at risk.

The Twins broke into Carrow's private quarters to try to get to Terry and make sure he was all right. There were three Order adults at the school at the time -- the Headmistress, Professor Sprout, and Madam Pomfrey -- and none of them did anything at all to help Terry. Nothing!

I don't think Terry lets himself think about that, ever. Or he tells himself there was some reason.
I'm not really afraid of being hurt by my mother. Not to say I relish the idea, but I'm not afraid of it anymore. Even if she were to target someone else to hurt me, I'm not sure she would know who to go after. Justin said I act cold because I want to avoid thinking about the people I'm hurting, but it isn't that at all. If she thinks I care for no one in particular, then there's no one in particular for her to go after. Even if she killed me - that thought doesn't scare me. Maybe someone would actually finally try to stop her, then. I'm not sure.

I am afraid of what my mother will make me do, though. And what doing those things will do to me. It doesn't help that I've already been told that I've practically transformed into her.

I don't know how Terry can stand calling the Longbottoms his parents. But that's what he needs, I suppose. Everyone's different.

Dora does go out of her way to be kind to me, and it doesn't feel forced or unnatural, for the most part. And none of the others have done anything wrong, really. Like I said, it's not very rational to feel resentment toward them, but I do just the same. They just all seem like they've failed, somehow. And that's why we're stuck here, doing the work that matters.

If Neville were here to read what I wrote he'd argue passionately against me, and I know it.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-13 03:50:43  
Re: Private message to Hydra

Yeah.

I miss Neville.

alt_pansy at 2015-03-12 04:36:47  
(no subject)

I can see how opening up to someone like that might be overwhelming if you can't help but take in how they're feeling too.

So... if we were around you and occluded, would that help, you think? I suppose I thought it might be rude or something, to close off like that, like we had something to hide. But if it'd make things a bit easier on you, it's something I can work on.

And with the adults, I don't know. I can see how when they hear 'give us space,' or something, it's a bit of a bind, because it's like, if they did say something, it's unwanted and could be making things worse. Not like it's always like that, of course, but I can see how it could make it difficult to know when it is wanted. So maybe they do feel that way, but don't want it to be harder than it is or something.

alt_pansy at 2015-03-12 04:51:20  
(no subject)

...and, to be totally fair, it's vastly different for me than it is for you when it comes to what I have to do, and who I talk to regularly, and how I grew up, and all that.

So that isn't to say that I think what you feel is wrong. At all. Because it just is how you feel about it.
alt_hydra at 2015-03-12 13:59:41  
(no subject)  
Occlusion might be helpful, yes.  
If I told Crouch I needed space he'd just ignore me

alt_pansy at 2015-03-12 14:47:15  
(no subject)  
We'll give it a try.

alt_luna at 2015-03-15 18:09:54  
(no subject)  
I had to think about this for a few days.  
I feel alone a lot, and I think I'm quiet, because I feel rather isolated, too. I know that being with the Browns isn't anything like having to be on the Council or having to deal with your mother, but I do have at least a little reason to feel let down as well. The Weasleys wanted to adopt me, but they couldn't. Being with the Browns isn't as dreadful as things you and Terry and Harry have had to face, but I did feel the keen disappointment that I couldn't be rescued.

I don't feel angry at the adults, but that's partly because I know that at least the Weasleys tried, and it's not nearly so bad for me, and partly because it's just not exactly in my nature to get angry; it never has been.

I have wanted to reach out to you, because we were both in Teatime of the Strange, and wasn't that supposed to be about those of us who feel rather alone? But that doesn't quite work quite as well now, since while Mandy is on the Galleon, she isn't in the Order. And Millie is, well, Millie, and it's rather difficult to be close to her now, with the way alliances are shifting among the students.
Good news -- Cerys Archer is out of the camps. She's currently putting her feet up after a nice hot bath, and will be our guest at Grimmauld for a few days before she is ready to sort out a more permanent place to stay.

Poppy, it looks like she's in fair health, all things considered, but it might be worth your visiting just in case.

She's very eager to get her hands on a wand again, and is quite set on getting word to Igraine, understandably so. Just wondering what you lot at Hogwarts think would be best. Are they intercepting owls regularly at Hogwarts these days? Can you slip her something without her tracking it to one of you? I'm thinking it's big enough news that maybe putting a note on her pillow might be better than getting hit with a figurative bludger in the Great Hall over morning porridge.

Don't send an owl. She should be somewhere private when she finds out. I'll think about what would work well.

Ta very much, Sally-Anne.

And that business they're pulling with your license is just not on. You think Dolohov'll be able to pull some strings?
alt_alice at 2015-03-15 00:10:01
(no subject)

I'll be by this evening, and can bring some wands with to see if any suit.

Good work.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-15 00:11:10
(no subject)

Excellent. She'll appreciate it, I'm sure.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-15 00:24:56
Private Message to Alice and Frank

This might be overstepping, but if the Longbottom crew wants to join in on a picnic lunch or something tomorrow, we can let Bea and Kev tumble around together, catch a bit of sun, sit and not talk in a companionable sort of way, let Evs whip me in a pick-up game of chess, that sort of thing.

I don't know if you already have any plans, but it's a thought.

alt_frank at 2015-03-15 00:26:51
Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

you're right. it's a good thought. we'll run it by evie and terry.

thanks, you.

alt_frank at 2015-03-15 04:26:00
Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

picnic sounds good on our end.
alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-15 05:47:51
Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

Excellent.
Right, I've spent the morning with the Goblins talking about the sceptre and Bella's vault and the dragon they've got down there and all, and I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is, Griphook didn't tell me right off that what we wanted was impossible. The bad news is, it's not the sort of thing he's empowered to decide himself, no matter how high up in the hierarchy he is. (I don't think I've said: he's the current Eldest of the House of Rilkit, who was one of their greatest leaders and prophets in known history, which means that he has a lot of influence over the Elders. But he's the most junior of the Elders, so most of the influence he has is of the informal type. It's hard to explain.)

So, we've been invited to come to the formal negotiating table for ... I think the best way to translate the word for it is 'an argument', which should tell you about what the experience is like. Which means we need to bring our Elders, and we need to be ready with a list of what we want in an ideal world and what we'd settle for in a realistic one, and what we're willing to give up for it.

Alice, Remus, Professor Dumbledore, I think you three are the best idea to represent us -- you're our leaders. I can be there too, but it will work best if our demands come from you. I can give you a crash course in the etiquette for a proper Argument -- or at least make sure you won't mortally offend anyone. If we borrow 12GP for a meeting tomorrow night, could you three all make it?

And Poppy -- I think we should be covered with Alice, Remus, Professor Dumbledore and me, but if the Elders think there isn't enough age and wisdom being brought to the Argument, would you be willing to join us? I don't think we'll get to that point, they understand that leadership works differently for humans, but it'd be a good idea to be prepared for the possibility, I think.
Consider it done. Excellent work, Charlie.

Ta very much. I don't mind doing it, Griphook and I have built a pretty good rapport by now. I mean, he really seems to have started to trust me to keep my promises, which is huge -- we (humans) don't exactly have a great track record for keeping promises to the Goblins, so just the fact that they don't automatically expect us to betray them is a huge step forward. Humans don't get invited to participate in an Argument very often -- mostly because they don't expect us to keep up our side of any bargain that gets struck. Just the fact they're willing to let us make our case for this ... well, it feels like a genuine payoff for all the effort we've been making over the past few years.

I should add, the etiquette and stuff isn't hard to learn. Just fiddly in a few places. Griphook and I have talked about it before in our "the things we do and believe are really kind of weird when you stop and think about it, aren't they?" conversations, and I think I've got a fairly decent grip on the big stuff, there are just a few things that are absolutely critical and the rest are window dressing. (Mostly the two big things are table manners -- an Argument is always held over a meal -- and the proper language for proposing, accepting, revising, and rejecting items of agreement. It's all very ritualised.)

Excellent. I can practise with Ragnik a bit after we cover the basics. I already know some about the knife placement, and the order things are supposed to be served in is important, of course, but I've no idea how it's different for an Argument than an everyday meal with an apprentice at the table.
Off the top of my head, I'm trying to make a list:

• never reach for a communal dish with the right hand because that's the hand most people hold weapons in and it can represent an attack

• never thank the provider of the meal or comment positively upon the quality or compliment it, because that implies that the meal being all right/good/enjoyable was enough of a surprise to you for you to comment on it and is a serious insult

• No matter what, don't mention death at the table while there is food in front of us. This is going to be a big problem to work around but there are a bunch of acceptable euphemisms, I want to double check with Ragnik and Griphook to make sure I know them all.

• never touch your feet, your nose, or your ear while sitting at the table, and if you do by accident, you have to get up and wash your hands.

There are a few other little things -- like I said, I'm making a list -- but those are the big ones that we're most likely to stumble over.

Don't forget the one about never crossing your left hand over your right, if you're reaching for anything, because that's commonly interpreted as shiftiness, lying. It's not so much a rule, as a cultural impression.

Right, thanks for reminding me in time!
I think we're in pretty good shape. I'll talk to Griphook about scheduling with the Elders.

**alt_lupin** at **2015-03-15 03:58:19**
(no subject)

By all means. I am at your disposal.

If other residents of 12GP can arrange to come, I'd appreciate it; you can help me practise.

**alt_albus** at **2015-03-15 13:26:38**
(no subject)

I will be pleased to be there this evening.

As to age, I suppose there is the question of whether they would see through the glamour that shows my lived age, as opposed to my face without it. We can discuss, I'm sure.
right, food's packed. victor's put together a nice spread.

heading down in about ten.

don't forget kev's kite, yeah?

and evie, tonks said she'd be up for an arse kicking in chess, if you want to bring that with.

I've put the kite in my satchel, and yes, I'll bring the chess set too.

Are we going to build a proper fire? I've got some spare apples if we are.

yeah.

apples sound good.

I'm fetching Kev. We'll make sure he's properly bundled.
Oooh, I forgot, Terry, could you grab that story I've been translating? It's on top of the bookshelf in the classroom. I thought I could read it out loud a bit.

I'll get it on our way out.

Thank you.

Thanks.

I know it's been a really rough few months. But I'm glad you're here. Where you belong.

I'm sitting on a blanket watching you horse around in the surf with Kev and Bea, and Dad is chuckling a bit, with those wrinkles he gets around his eyes, and mum's head is in his lap, and I think I just saw her smile too.

I think I'll put this down and join in.
Spring is coming.

We've started our early Spring planting in earnest, and after a winter of potatoes, are looking forward to some more variety in our diet -- although the influx of fruit and grain shipments have been very appreciated, and thoroughly enjoyed. I have a feeling that cauliflower and Brussels sprouts will be quite the luxury even to our pickier eaters, and Merlin, I cannot wait for fresh peas.

Cerys found a suitable wand last night, and in a few days, she'll be touring the free zones to find her footing. Bill, thank you for your permit work -- the more you can cobble together on that front, the better. Sally-Anne, Daphne, Hydra, Pansy, let us know once you've sorted a way to send Igraine word.

Once we've had the chance to negotiate with the Goblins, we'll know more about our immediate future surrounding the Scepter and our access to Bellatrix's vault. (Charlie -- I attempted Goblin Rules at dinner tonight, and while Ragnik gave me a few more stylistic reminders, he told me that on the whole, I'd done 'reasonably well,' which I take to mean that I need a bit more work, but managed not to mortally offend him.) When it comes to the rest of them, there are several we have yet to identify, and the current location of the diadem is still unknown. The first strategy that comes to mind is to send teams to Umbridge and Minerva's houses respectively for a thorough search, as by my reckoning, we are not even particularly certain whether she had the diadem when she was plated. Thoughts?

We also have a possible lead on locations where Prince William may be held, and will need to engage in careful reconnaissance -- Kingsley, Tonks, you'll be taking lead on that one. Anyone who wants to help out will be much appreciated, I'm sure.

Easter hols are coming up. If there's anything the Hogwarts crew anticipates they'd need, or would want to help with, please let us know. I know that some of you will be less free to have your own schedules than others, we'll try to schedule a meeting that will work for as many of us as possible.
Private Message to Evelyn and Terry

I know I've said as much already, but yesterday was lovely. I think we might have to do it all again next Sunday just because.

Thank you.

(no subject)

Right-oh.

Sounds like it'll be fun.

Private Message to Al

took you a while to chew over that one. coming up soon?

Is Kevin in his room tonight?

for the time being.

I can fetch him if you'd like, though.

No.

It's best he stay where he is. For tonight at least.
I'm just so bloody tired, love.

alt_frank at 2015-03-17 05:00:07
Re: Private Message to Al

I know.
2015-03-18 20:17:00
*It was SO amazing*

to have a lesson out-of-doors today! Professor Desai, that was really loads of fun and educational, too, I'm sure. But mostly it was such a treat to be able to enjoy some of that wonderful sunshine. It feels like it's been winter for ages.

I hope everyone's voices are back to normal. I'm fairly certain honey's available from the house-elves if you need any in your tea. (Belinda, Zach, let that be a lesson to you about just diving in to spells without reading them all the way through, first.)

---

alt_padma at 2015-03-19 01:23:25
*Private Message to Seamus*

Well? Do you have a sore throat or did you just not speak until it wore off?

alt_seamus at 2015-03-19 01:25:56
*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Well, when she called on me I didn't have much choice, did I?

It's not too bad. At least it wore off.

alt_seamus at 2015-03-19 01:26:37
*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

And hey, it kept us outside for the second hour of Defence!

alt_padma at 2015-03-19 01:33:37
*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

I know!

You're going to completely read the tract in the library, right?
Re: Private Message to Seamus

Yeah, every word!

Desai was polite enough about it today but I don't want to push my luck!

I am glad you found today's lesson valuable, my dear.

The weather was truly delightful. Quite a treat.
Order Only: Juniors in Defence Class

Hullo, all,

Headmaster Dolohov didn't have much in the way of work for me this evening, so I asked and he allowed me to borrow his copy of the Kilwale text.

I say, if I'm reading it correctly, I think the spell Professor Desai assigned us for Friday is the one often referred to as "Junior Auror Blue," what. Be absolutely certain to read every footnote, all of you.

Does anyone want to meet tomorrow evening to practise?

-Justin

Oh wow Desai must have been a lot crosser than she looked.

Why would she need to be especially cross?

Well -- in the lesson today we were trying out Cadwallader's shield spell, the one for outdoor use. A lot of people didn't read the whole chapter and didn't know to cast the little charm first that protects you from the protection spell and they all wound up shouting everything at the top of their lungs for two hours. Finnigan, Crabbe and Goyle, Millicent, Zach Smith... anyway Desai acted like she thought this was hilarious. It was really nice out
today and I sort of wondered if she'd hoped this would happen, because it was a good reason to keep us all outside. Surely teachers like going outside, too?

But, now she's assigned a spell that will make people grow blue scales all over their bodies if they muck up and don't read the footnotes.

Maybe she's not cross, exactly, but she certainly seems to want to teach people a lesson. Especially if a lot of them get it wrong, it gets more uncomfortable the longer you wait and the last person in line will have a good long wait for the Healer.

---

@alt_harry at 2015-03-19 02:01:45
(no subject)

Junior Auror Blue?
Should I know what you're talking about?

@alt_ron at 2015-03-19 02:15:42
(no subject)

Looks like someone hasn't read all our footnotes, then!

@alt_harry at 2015-03-19 02:17:33
(no subject)

I tried! You lot talk kind of a lot.

@alt_ron at 2015-03-19 02:30:41
(no subject)

Yeah, all right, I suppose.

Well, Justin's right, mate. It's all in the footnotes, on this one.
Oh, yeah, Junior Auror Blue! We learned it in the summer programme, but actually, some of us (well, Pansy, really), ran afoul of it back in our third year. We were working on advanced duelling spells with Neville.

Er. Anywiz. So, yeah, it starts out like a pretty normal protection, but, the thing is that if you don't do a special step that the book only tells you about in the footnote, well, when someone hits you with any of a bunch of different spells--poof! You turn blue. And, there are some nastier complications, too, if you don't have it removed right away. (Right, Fisheye?)

I don't really think I need much practice and Desai knows I already know it, but if you like, mate, I can come and make sure everyone gets the knack of the countermeasure.

That's if LSP will let us out of the tower.

Right.

So, anyone want to run a betting pool on who turns blue?

I think Milli again. (She shouted herself hoarse, I feel a little sorry for her.)

Her own fault. She should have shut her gob sooner.
It got stiff really quickly, and it was really hard to breathe. And blink. And talk.

Merlin, the look on Madame P's face was something else.
Professor, I wish to state quite clearly that I in no way have any quibble with the lesson you have assigned to us -- or, indeed with any of the lessons you have given us thus far! Quite exhilarating and educational, to be sure! What I wish a bit of guidance on, however, is whether I would be in any way interfering with your pedagogy if I were to tutor one or two of my fellow students who might be a bit, ah, remiss about fully absorbing all information given in and connected with the assignment. It occurs to me that perhaps this was indeed part of your intent, and that perhaps you wish us to learn that we must all teach each other to strive for the utmost excellence and present our professors with the very best that we can be, as to do otherwise is in a very real sense to squander the resources of the Protectorate.

On the other hand, I cannot deny that there is a certain logic to the playing out of nature, red in tooth and claw, or, in this case, blue in scale et cetera, as it does serve to make the point in ways no mere exhortations can achieve.

Please advise -- and again, thank you for doing us the honour of providing magnificently challenging instruction!

---

My dear, I am not in the least surprised that you have done the reading quite thoroughly.

And while I hate to discourage you from sharing your talents and gifts with your fellow students, I did in fact have some very specific pedagogical goals in mind when I set this assignment.

It is, in fact, advisable for anyone learning a new spell -- especially an advanced and difficult one -- to read thoroughly whatever information they have to hand. As Wednesday's lesson made it clear, not all of your peers have absorbed the importance of this practise yet. I do indeed hope that tomorrow's lesson makes an impression on them.
All that said: you should do as your conscience dictates, of course.
2015-03-19 21:45:00
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Tomorrow with Desai's likely to be interesting.

I tried warning Greg and Vince about the catch in that spell, but I'm completely certain neither one of them listened to two words in three.

Honestly.

If it didn't cost so many points, I'd let them have their just desserts...

Have you tried warning Mils?

Expect that was as much wasted breath.
2015-03-19 21:47:00
deleted message to Ernie and Sue

I do not know what to think right now. Finch-Fletchley came and gave me some friendly advice. He said that's what it was. Anyhow he warned me that there is a catch to the lesson Professor Desai gave us, and that I should read the footnotes very carefully. And if I need help I should ask him. Because otherwise I will turn all scaly blue.

At first I thought he was trying to make me mess it up somehow, because I am not certain he is a trustworthy person. But I looked at the footnotes and there is actually something there. So now I do not know what to think.

What do you think? Was he just being nice? Or was he being nice for something? And if so, what?

This is all very complicated!

Maybe he is just tired of everyone looking at him like he is so dangerous?

---

@alt_ernie at 2015-03-20 04:08:52
deleted message (no subject)

He said that, did he? 'Friendly.'

Hah.

And you were alone? You know you shouldn't talk to him alone, right? Because it's just as likely that you caught him being dodgy and he changed around your memories or something to make you think he was being all helpful.

I'm just saying.

Don't talk to him alone.

Anyways. We should probably make sure my footnotes and someone else who isn't in Hufflepuff's footnotes say exactly the same thing. Just because.
It wasn't alone. I mean there was no one else in the conversation but we were in the corridor and there were people walking past us. It was right after lunch. So it is unlikely that he changed my memories around unless he changed a lot of people's. Or I suppose unless he changed my memories to make me think he was talking to me in the corridor.

The footnotes are in the library copy. Or at least in the one I looked at. The other copies had people reading them so I could not check them, but this one was random and besides I thought Madam Pince had some sort of alarm spell for catching people changing things in books because of certain things that happened years ago. Or at least that's what people say. But it would not be a bad idea to go check more than one of them just to be sure.

And if you don't go check the library copies you won't see the footnotes at all. And if he's telling the truth you will be all blue and scaly. So you'd better check too! Both of you!

Fine. I will.

That doesn't mean I trust a word he says. Or if he's actually telling the truth, that he doesn't have some sort of ulterior motive.
2015-03-19 23:12:00
Order Only

Justin (and the rest of you), I'm sorry Ron and I weren't able to slip out and practice. Sandoval's watching the whole of Gryffindor House like a hawk. She's assigned all the 7th years to tutor 5th years, and we got in our hours but when she saw our logs she told us there were some other 5th years who needed extra help with Defence and we should work with them, next, and after that we really couldn't get away.

At least she wants to make very sure all the 5th years pass OWLs.

---

alt_pansy at 2015-03-20 05:24:23
(no subject)

Ugh. She's such a potion.

Although you've got a point about the OWLs. I wonder if we could pit her against Glozeman?
2015-03-20 12:08:00
Order Only: Private message to Ron

I hope you can give Lana the slip at least for a few minutes sometime today?

I definitely feel like I could use some extra luck.

@alt_sally_anne
2015-03-20 14:15:00

Christophanus Clarriker and Ginevra Weasley

Kindly report to my office when classes are over and explain yourselves. I will refrain from taking points until I can hear something resembling a coherent story from each of you.
2015-03-20 14:29:00
ORDER ONLY

Anyone available to do some ley flying this evening would be most welcome. Cecelia wants to check some readings, and see if anything unusual crops up as a result of the equinox. We need teams spread out fairly evenly to cover as much ground as we can.

Happy first day of Spring.

alt_alice

---

alt_frank at 2015-03-21 00:50:50
(no subject)

(All quiet up North, Mrs L. Not a ripple. At least not yet.)

alt_nymphadora at 2015-03-21 00:52:57
(no subject)

I've been keeping a close eye on Adam today on the off chance that he might be keyed in to the calendar somehow, but other than a rather spectacular spit-up, he seems to be his usual baby self.

alt_jeremy at 2015-03-21 01:47:25
(no subject)

Not a ripple, not a shimmer, not a shudder so far.

Sticking to leys a bit out. Won't risk going anywhere near our stone. Not with them watching it.

alt_cedric at 2015-03-21 14:21:36
(no subject)

I'd've said before turning in if there was anything. My area was dead silent.
2015-03-20 14:40:00
Private Message to Sally Anne

So. Five.

So far.

alt_ron

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-20 19:45:08
(no subject)

Well, I'll waylay you in a corridor like a firstie if I have to, Ron Weasley, but I won't be very happy about it!

alt_ron at 2015-03-20 19:57:02
(no subject)

Ha.

Who is that little mousy witch in Hufflepuff with all the freckles? She jumped me this morning, and then went over pale after she'd done. Thought she was going to faint!

Maybe we can slip off after Arts? Or. Er. I promised Desai I'd see her after. Come with?

alt_ron at 2015-03-20 20:07:16
(no subject)

Except.

Damn.

I told Chadwick-
LS-P and her bloody tutoring.

Do I look like a tutor to you?

No!

I look like a bloke that needs to get snogged by his girl on Kiss a Ginger Day! That's what I look like.

Yeah, that is what you look like!

Maybe after supper?

Is she still walking your whole house back to your tower so she can keep an eye on you like you're a bunch of primary schoolers? Maybe tell her you have to go to the loo. Or, have Harry pretend he's feeling ill and you can generously help him to the loo and then you've BOTH got away from her for a while (and getting away from Harry shouldn't be too hard).

Or we could sign up to duel in the salle. Would that be too obvious? Probably, if Sandoval is checking up on what all of you are up to.

Harry and I could sign up for the salle... and then I could slip out.

Hang on. Let me ask him to get us signed up as soon as Dovs lets us go.
Okay. Do you think you need to add some third person to make sure Harry doesn't get stuck alone in the salle with nothing to do?
2015-03-20 15:28:00
Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Say.

I was thinking we could ditch out on LS-P if we signed up for the salle. Only you'd need to sign us up because I've got to see Desai and then I've got Thaddeus Chadwick until supper. But I'm not doing any more tutoring after that tonight.

Which. Um. When I say we should sign up for the salle, I sort of mean we should sign up but not stay long. If you don't mind covering for us, I was thinking maybe SA and I could get a little time to- y'know.

----

alt_harry at 2015-03-20 20:41:20
(no subject)

Oh, I see.

Sure. I'll sign us up. I might aim for one of the later slots, though, so we're not filling up the salle during a peak time and then not actually using it for its intended purpose.

Also, if we're arriving later, there's less likely to be anyone there who'll notice when you leave again.

----

alt_ron at 2015-03-20 20:49:00
(no subject)

Yeah, that works. As long as we don't get trapped up the tower. I mean, she wanted me to break my last slot with F-F.

Speaking of S-P. Did you see her when Honoria snogged me at breakfast? I'd pay a lot to have a picture of that look.

It'd be great at the centre of a dart board.
Yeah, I did see. I think she was crosser with Honoria than with you, though.

I bet Honoria dreams of hexing her.

Seriously. I mean, if I'd ever treated Ginny the way Lana treats Honoria, I'd be a bloody pulp.
George Weasley!

Now that was a brilliant piece of spellwork.
I'll be brushing glitter out of my hair for a week, and everyone around me applauded and whistled.

Kiss a Ginger Day indeed.

And please tell me Fred got himself properly snogged today.
After all, odds are distinctly in his favour.

Well, I certainly didn't kiss him! But one or two women who came into the shop did. Right giggly, they were.
And one of them was at least as old as Mum. Yurgh.
A couple of them made a lunge for me, too, but I ducked--you know how good I am at dodging; all that experience as a Beater--and politely explained my kisses were all spoken for.
alt_pansy at 2015-03-21 02:37:10
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George

Sounds like quite the hardship.

alt_george at 2015-03-21 02:21:28
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George

I just wish I could have been there to do the job properly. Charmed paper lips were the best substitute I could come up with in lieu of my charming self.

(I meant every word in the note, too.)

alt_pansy at 2015-03-21 02:38:49
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George

(I know you did.)

(It made me turn all sorts of shades of pink.)

(You are quite charming, after all.)

(I love you.)

alt_george at 2015-03-21 04:01:40
Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George

(Love you, too.)
2015-03-22 20:07:00
Order Only: Private message to Pansy

So, you know how Ginny Weasley turned Clarriker into a piglet when he tried kissing her on the equinox?

Desai made them come in, but when she heard what happened, she gave ten points to Gryffindor. And took fifteen from Hufflepuff.

You haven't told George we're the ones who started that 'tradition,' have you? If you have, can you make sure he doesn't ever tell his sister? Or Ron, for that matter! It's a secret I'm currently planning to take to my grave.

---

alt_pansy at 2015-03-23 03:03:31
(no subject)

Heh. Nice.

I haven't told him, no. Only that I thought it was very fitting that he was one of my first kisses because of it.

It is rather hilarious when you think about the fact that we started it, given who we ended up with.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-23 03:10:54
(no subject)

Well, those two facts might not be entirely coincidental.

alt_pansy at 2015-03-23 03:31:30
(no subject)

...Indeed.
Residents of Grimmauld: If you enter the kitchen, be careful; the brioche dough is rising on the counter and ought not be disturbed. Magic within a five-foot radius of it will disturb the spellwork. If there are requests for particular varietals of biscuit or scone, I am willing to entertain them.

Alice: I regret to inform you that the last of our five patients passed away today. I will see you tomorrow to discuss our next set of plans.

Oh, Severus.
He hung on for so very long, I'd hoped

I had as well.
We have learned little from the autopsies that we did not already know. This still makes no sense. It's as though the potion they were dosed with is an entirely different potion from the one that

Oh. Oh.
alt_severus at 2015-03-23 03:14:03  
(no subject)

It cannot possibly be that simple an answer. Can it?

alt_severus at 2015-03-23 03:15:29  
(no subject)

Miss Granger, I will be in the laboratory; if you are still awake I would appreciate the company.

Alice: If I do not resurface by tomorrow evening, send someone to ensure that I sleep at some point.

alt_hermione at 2015-03-23 03:27:04  
(no subject)

I'm awake.

What is it?

alt_severus at 2015-03-23 03:39:18  
(no subject)

We have been beating our heads against the problem that none of our candidate antidotes served to awaken those Sleepers we had in our custody, and we have picked apart every one of the premises we have been working with to determine the reason why nothing has been working, but we did not think to examine the premise at the core of the issue: we have been assuming that the potion the entire country was dosed with back in '82 and '83, and the potion used now in the Sleeper warehouses, are the same thing.

The sample I reverse-engineered, that we have been using for our antidote discovery, was the latter. If it is the second half of a regimen, or if it replaced the version that was administered countrywide, our guests would not have received any dose of the potion we have been researching all along.
I do not know that this is the answer, but there are many things it would explain.

@alt_hermione at 2015-03-23 03:53:00
(no subject)

Oh, because then--yes, yes, of course!

I'll be right down.

@alt_alice at 2015-03-23 03:30:35
(no subject)

Of course, love.

I'm glad to see you've already sorted out your next move.
Draco,

We might be a few days working on things for the potion. Maybe longer, so it means you'd be going to Moddey alone to see Ragnik on Thursday. I mean, I *might* be able to go with you but probably not, I'd plan on going alone if I were you. All right? We've still got time and we're not even going to get the other goblins to help before Mrs Longbottom and Remus have their argument-thing with them.

Oh, meanwhile, though, I left a book for you on the landing. It's about lock-picking. Just in case they say no, even after Remus and Mrs Longbottom make the case.
Think he's still rising that brioche dough? I mean, I don't want to disturb it if he's got some plan for it. How long does brioche dough rise for, anyway?

-No idea.
Make Kreacher move it, if it's in your way. That way if anything happens it's not our fault.

All I know is that when it starts growing green bits, it's no longer edible.

And that I made a cake he was working on fall once by banging around in the kitchen, so I suppose that was directed at me.
**2015-03-24 14:12:00**  
*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

So -- if telling Sandoval-Pennifold we were going to be duelling Justin in the salle could get us out from under her thumb once, it ought to work again.

Only this time, let's try to make sure we can get down to the Chamber.

If we talk to Pansy and Sally-Anne, they might be able to provoke Myrtle into flooding her bathroom. That should keep everyone out. Then we could have Luna and Susan stand watch, maybe. Luna could be in the bathroom and talk to Myrtle so she didn't catch on, and Susan could keep an eye outside.

What do you think?

---

**alt_ron at 2015-03-24 19:34:11**  
*(no subject)*

We'd need to have someone decoy Milland, too. Otherwise, he might get word the loo's flooded and come check on it. I mean, our luck being what it's been...

---

**alt_harry at 2015-03-24 19:37:35**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah. Too bad your brothers aren't here anymore, they'd have been perfect.

Maybe we could ask Hydra to help with that.

---

**alt_harry at 2015-03-24 19:40:29**  
*(no subject)*

Or Ginny or Katrina, though I'd kind of prefer to leave Gryffindors out as much as possible because Lana's keeping such close watch over everyone they're ten times as likely to get caught.
I don't suppose there's some way I could get Finnigan and Patil to create some crisis that Milland would have to attend to.

[@alt_ron](2015-03-24 19:47:20) (no subject)

Yeah, I think Hydra'd be better than getting Gin or Kat into it. Although, you know they'd both be up for it. Especially if it were something that targeted our favourite Head of Gryffindor. Maybe they could fill her office with mud or set a fire in there. A little one.

If you can think of how to get them to do it, that'd be brilliant. Way better than putting any of ours in the mix. Maybe Hydra could get them to do something that goes 'surprisingly' pearshaped on them all?

[@alt_harry](2015-03-24 19:50:06) (no subject)

That would be brilliant.

Though after Desai ambushed everyone with the Junior Auror Blue spell they ought to be a bit more on their guard.

[@alt_ron](2015-03-24 19:58:43) (no subject)

Well, yeah. Everyone should be reading their assignments more carefully.

But do you think they'd expect Hydra to set them up for something nasty?

[@alt_harry](2015-03-24 20:04:22) (no subject)

They may have noticed she doesn't much like them.

So, possibly.
Heh.

Well she doesn't much like them, so if she can pull it off, I expect she'd have fun doing it!

And I reckon she can do.

You're probably right.

Okay. Let me write a note to everyone else and see what they think.
Ron and I have been trying to get back down to the Chamber to get one of the basilisk fangs, so that we'll be able to destroy the horcruxes once we find them. It's been more difficult because Sandoval has been watching all the Gryffindors like some sort of cross between a mother hen and a harpy. We did manage to lose her a few nights ago, but the entrance to the Chamber is in Myrtle's loo and we nearly got caught.

Anyway we want to try again. Here's what we think we need.

Justin, saying we were going to duel with you in the salle worked well to get us away from her. We want to use that excuse again.

Sally-Anne and Pansy, we want Myrtle to flood her bathroom, to keep people from coming to use it. Do you think you could do something to make her throw a tantrum?

Luna and Susan, we'll need someone in there, or just outside, keeping watch while we go down. Anyone who's in the loo needs to be able to put up with Myrtle.

Hydra or anyone else, we need someone to keep Milland occupied -- probably by making a bigger and more urgent mess somewhere else. It probably shouldn't be a Gryffindor taking care of this, because the way Sandoval's been watching people, they're a lot more likely to get caught. Hydra, if you can think of a way to trick Finnigan and Patil into making the enormous mess, that's even better, but failing that, anything anyone can come up with would be terrific. We really need Milland occupied but if it keeps Sandoval distracted that's even better.

And here I thought you were trying to get away from Lana so we could snog.
Er.
I was.

Really.

Only then we happened to go past Myrtle's loo and it looked empty, so we gave it a go. I mean, I'd've told you if we'd got down there and I hadn't been going to make it to meet you.

And as it was, as soon as we'd bloody got in there, we nearly got caught. By a pack of giggling third year Huffles. And it turned out they were setting up round the corner for some sort of homework or game or summat.

So it all worked out, yeah?

Rather nicely, I thought!

Which we could do again any time.

Only, not when we go down the Chamber if we can bring that off.

As much as I enjoy snogging you I will cede precedence to missions to retrieve basilisk fangs so we can destroy Voldemort's horcruxes.

Anyway we need to think of something that will convince Lana you're busy revising or doing something else she approves of that happens every day!

See? We've got our priorities in order!

Yeah, so it's down to training or doing something
for Desai or Dovs. The problem with those two is it's easy for her to check with them. It's a shame, really, that neither of us is tight with Carpenter. I suppose we could say we were doing something with Grubbly-Plank, but everyone knows she mostly uses sixth years for the time consuming stuff, since they haven't got exams coming up.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-24 21:18:16
Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah, maybe you could come up with something that you're doing for Desai that she's not actually watching you do. And let her think it takes you a bit longer to do it than it actually does.

alt_ron at 2015-03-24 20:45:45
(no subject)

Once again, it's a shame it's really Milland we've got to deal with now.

Though I guess that's not the biggest thing that's happened to change Hogwarts for the worse. Given all of it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-24 20:56:34
(no subject)

Yes, I think Pansy and I could send Myrtle into hysterics. It would take us about five minutes to get her going, and then another twenty for her to work up a proper flood. Just bear in mind we'd better not ever need her to do us a favour -- she holds grudges.

alt_ron at 2015-03-24 21:09:26
(no subject)

Well, if we need a favour, we'll just send Sue and Luna, Or Kat. She likes them, I think. Or Daphs. All the ghosts like her.

Anywiz, I expect the two of you'll do the best job of winding her up. I mean, this is a proper job for Slytherins.
alt_pansy at 2015-03-24 22:21:53
(no subject)

We are rather good at finding weak spots.

alt_ron at 2015-03-24 22:36:10
(no subject)

Exactly.

And it's just what Mrs L's always saying: what this country needs is people of all kinds using their best talents. That's how we're going to put down the LP and take over the Ministry.

And it all starts with a bit of a flood in Moaning Myrtle's loo!

alt_ron at 2015-03-24 22:36:31
(no subject)

There must be a slogan in there somewhere: 'Loo-ook Out!' or 'A Little Water Goes a Long Way!' or 'Sloshin' Our Way to Vict'ry!' or 'Splish, Splash, The Protector's Hash!'

Or, um. Maybe just 'Remember Myrtle!'?

alt_pansy at 2015-03-25 02:37:18
(no subject)

If we win, I swear to Merlin, I will write a song about flooding the loo as a key moment in our victory.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-25 03:32:27
(no subject)

If we win, I'll sing it with you publicly!
Harry,

I say, jolly good idea, old man. I wonder if it makes sense to get a bit of Polyjuice before we try it, so that two others can take it to impersonate you and Ron while you go. That way, if Professor Sandoval-Pennifold decides to come check on us, what, you'll appear to be where you said you were going. We're rather short on Order members who could assist, but perhaps one or two of the Galleoneers would help, even if they didn't know the whole of what we're doing?

As far as Mr Milland, the Friar was saying at supper how much more impish Peeves gets when spring rolls round. Perhaps he could be persuaded to cut a swath through the castle when we need him to do. There's also something to be said for making certain we control the circumstances in which Milland is kept away. I wonder what would induce Patil to cause so significant a disruption. The options that leap to mind may well attract more attention than one wants, what.

-Justin

Polyjuice would be an excellent thing. If Mrs L can spare some for us. I mean, I understand why we don't generally get any to use, but this is higher priority than most of what happens here.

Mind you, anyone taking our places would have a dreary evening if they spend it in Gryffindor, trying to tutor people and not give away they're not either of us. I reckon they could say we've got our own work that's got to be done, and then make everyone leave us alone for the night. But all in all, it'd be better if we sign up for the salle and whoever covers for us, does it there.

And you're right! Peeves could be brilliant if we can get him to do our business. We'd just need to have a fallback plan in case he decides he'd rather gives us trouble than help us.
alt_harry at 2015-03-25 03:33:47
(no subject)

What's the worst that could happen if we're missed? If it's just detention, we could risk it.

alt_ron at 2015-03-25 04:03:01
(no subject)

Seriously. I mean, we've basically got detention with LSP all term. How would actual detention be any worse?

alt_evelyn at 2015-03-25 04:03:40
(no subject)

He really, really likes the stinkbombs. I gave some to him when we needed the Umbridge distraction, and he practically kissed me on the cheek.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-25 04:09:49
(no subject)

Well, supplying Peeves with a whole lot of stinkbombs ought to be manageable.

We'd probably better not let anyone realise it was the Order that did it, though. There's a lot people will forgive, but letting Peeves throw those all over the school isn't on the list.

alt_alice at 2015-03-25 04:05:37
(no subject)

I can spare four hours' worth -- either two two-hour doses, or one four hour one. And if you don't use it now, you can save it for later.
Ron,

I rather figured that we'd want whomever pretends to be you to come to the salle, what. That way we ought to be able to help cover for them (and you) if something should happen.

And yes, I agree, old man, a fallback plan would be wise. Peeves does have a way of deciding at bally well inconvenient times that it's far more interesting not to cooperate than it is to oblige.

If Mrs Longbottom is providing the potion, we've a Hogsmeade Day on Saturday. We could retrieve it then.

-Justin

alt_harry at 2015-03-26 05:03:02
(no subject)

Let's try it Saturday night. Everyone's a bit distracted when they get back from Hogsmeade anyway, it'll explain why someone had stink bombs that Peeves got hold of, and Milland will probably be busy just cleaning up all the mud that got tracked in even if Peeves doesn't help out.

alt_justin at 2015-03-26 12:48:29
(no subject)

Jolly good.

Do you expect she'll prevent you going to Hogsmeade? We could have it through the box if you think there might be an issue.

-J
Sure! What night do you want to do it?

I can probably use rounds as an excuse for being out, and I'm pretty sure I can handle Myrtle.

Saturday, after Hogsmeade. Late. Well, late-ish.
2015-03-27 20:12:00
Order Only Private message to Hermione

Do you anticipate that you'll be working with Snape on the sleepers all weekend? Because I was thinking it's high time we head out to Westcliff-on-Sea and search Madam Bumbridge's old house. Not that I'm particularly looking forward to pawing through her pink belongings, but it's something that needs to be done, I reckon.

But I don't want to disturb you if you think you can't spare the time. I'll ask Tonks or Sirius if they're up for it.

---

alt_hermione at 2015-03-28 02:25:37
(no subject)

Oh, no, was Ragnik really horrid because you were alone? Sorry. Only these regressions were somewhat time-sensitive, but I think we're almost there.

Yes, I'll be able to come this weekend. You're right, we've been putting it off but we really should take care of it, and we might as well do it while we're waiting to be able to attempt Gringott's. It'll be good practice.

alt_draco at 2015-03-28 02:34:12
(no subject)

Oh, no. The wee bloke was no trouble at all. We had tea and talked about American Witches. He's a fan, you know. Not so much a fan of me, but not everyone can have Arista Selwyn's enthusiasm and good taste.

Alright, brilliant. That part of England's pretty this time of year, actually. It'll be nice to see it again.
I didn't know you've read *American Witches*. Did you read the one where Becki died? (I don't know why they insist on spelling people's names so oddly, do you?) Well, anyway, I had to stop after that one. People just don't behave that way when someone they know dies. And we ought to know. I know, they're only fantasies but--

Oh. Wait. You were making fun, weren't you.

Sorry. We've been keeping really mad hours, I think I'm just quite tired.

Right, well, what do we know about the house?

I asked to borrow the first few from you back when we were still at Hogwarts. But I'm not surprised you've forgotten. That was more or less a lifetime ago, wasn't it?

Anyway, I read them for how rubbish they are. And yeah, I was taking the mick a bit, though Ragnik really has read *American Witches*, and when I bring them up it's the only time he seems keen to converse with me.

She inherited the house from her father, who died while she was still at Hogwarts, apparently. Really small, from the sounds of it. Well, "modest sized" is what someone who didn't grow up in a Manor would call it. Which means we should be able to get through it in a single day. Which is just as well since I don't fancy having to spend days on end there. And you've got important work to return to, besides.
I didn't think you had actually *read* them, though. Well, anyway.

I hope it'll only take a day. You might be surprised what some people can cram into a modest-sized house. I mean, is it as big as Grimmauld? Think how much was here before everyone started clearing it out. And I don't imagine anyone's bothered to look through any of her things at all (I mean, that's the only reason it's worth going to have a look in the first place, right?).

I don't suppose we could simply stand in the foyer and say, 'Accio anything interesting or important' and have that work.

Do we know anything about whether she warded the place at all?

Based on what I've researched it's likely quite a bit smaller than Grimmauld. Maybe three bedrooms and a study, with a carriage house out back. Thing is, however much she owns, we can count on the place being well-ordered. Bumbridge would want everything in its designated place, no exceptions. And the house will definitely be warded, unless skilled thieves with wands somehow broke in, which I doubt.

And no, I'm afraid we'll actually have to touch her belongings. So bring gloves, and extra gloves. Make sure they're not pink.

And antiseptic, I suppose.

Now I remember why we've been putting it off.
I gave you your chance to back out. Now you're stuck with me.

But at least we'll get to have a look at the sea.
Right, lads, on my way, and we're on a tight schedule. I've got a business to fail, a boyfriend to say hallo to, and a ghost to hack off. It's looking to be a full day.

I've got the files you've sent, I'll bring the last of Terry's reports for us to go over, too. Meet you at the Three Broomsticks.
Okay, I made it to the house in Hogsmeade and no one else is here this time!

Hope to see you soon. Oh and I have some sandwiches so we won’t go hungry.
**2015-03-28 21:49:00**

*Order Only*

Myrtle's bathroom is flooded. Pansy and I are out and Luna's gone in. Susan's got an eye on the corridor.

Harry and Ron, you're up.

---

**alt_harry at 2015-03-29 02:53:16**

(no subject)

Right. On our way.

---

**alt_susan at 2015-03-29 02:56:25**

(no subject)

Whatever did you and Pansy say? It seems to have had the desired effect!

---

**alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 03:10:32**

*Private message to Susan*

I dished to Pansy about meeting Ron in Hogsmeade today and then we turned to Myrtle and said, 'oh, did anyone ever kiss you, before you died? never? oh, how TERRIBLE' and we told her how badly we felt for her. And then we told her how pretty she'd have been if she'd ever grown up.

Worked a trick. And we weren't even cruel. Exactly. We were SYMPATHETIC.

---

**alt_susan at 2015-03-29 03:29:51**

*Re: Private message to Susan*

That's... so Slytherin. In the best way. And Luna's a good listener, so she ought to keep her well occupied.
Hopefully everyone who might be curious will be off dealing with the distractions, but if not I'm ready.

Hello, Sally-Anne,

We're ready in here, as well. And I say, Daphne thought to bring a pair of prop spectacles for whichever of you becomes Harry.

-Justin

That'll be me! Because turning into my own boyfriend would be a little too weird!

Okay just so everyone knows:

Pansy and I are in the salle with Justin, being Ron and Harry.

Hopefully NO ONE will see us. But if you happen to see Ron or Harry in the next two hours, it's probably not Ron, or Harry, but Pansy, or me.

Harry, your eyesight is remarkably terrible. It's a good thing I spent the summer learning to make eyeglasses or I'd spend the next two hours having to sit very still to avoid running into walls.

Okay, this being a different person thing is possibly the weirdest thing I've ever done.
I'm pretty sure it's the weirdest think I've ever done for the Order.

We probably ought to go ahead and do some practice duelling since we're stuck in here and that's what we're supposed to be doing but really what I want to do is try out all the different things about this body. I mean Harry's got much stronger arms than I do and he's quite a bit taller and obviously there are some other differences. SO WEIRD.

(I mean I guess duelling is one way to try things out.)

alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 03:22:54  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

SO VERY WEIRD.

I can see why you wouldn't want to be Ron. Because that'd be EVEN MORE WEIRD.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 03:24:01  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

You sitting there being Ron is still PRETTY DAMN WEIRD.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 03:24:38  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

Also, if you have to convince anyone else you're Ron, don't stare at your hands like that. He knows he's got big hands, they're not at all impressive to him.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 03:25:08  
Re: Private message to Pansy  

I should probably stop flexing my arm muscles, I don't think Harry does that, either.
@alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 03:27:20
Re: Private message to Pansy

Hah! No, I'd imagine he doesn't.

I sort of want to go to the loo. Just to see what it'd be like.

Is that weird?

It's weird.

Still.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 03:28:47
Re: Private message to Pansy

Not really weird.

But we should probably better stay in here where we can giggle and stare at our overly large hands and feet and try out our muscles and the only person to roll his eyes at us is Justin.
 whoever bought stink bombs today

you should have kept better track of them!

if one of the slytherins could ask the baron to tell peeves to knock it off, the rest of us would sincerely appreciate it. or if someone could get the stink bombs away from him. either one, really.
2015-03-28 22:45:00
Order Only: Attention Harry and Ron

Harry, Ron,

Everything going all right? How are you getting on? I say, do not return straight to Gryffindor right away if you've already retrieved the fang. And do not go to the salle, either. Just tell us when you're back in Myrtle's bathroom.

Professor Sandoval-Pennifold just popped in on the salle and has dragged 'Ron' back to the Tower to help tutor younger students. 'Harry' went along as well (because Sally-Anne wasn't about to let Pansy go by herself, what). But it means we've got to smuggle you two back in and them back out of Gryffindor Tower before their potion wears off.

Sally-Anne, Pansy, are you two doing all right? Ginny, you'll help them, I trust. I daresay Sally-Anne's already familiar enough with the Gryffindor boys' dormitory, what!

-Justin

alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 03:56:17
(no subject)

We're fine.

I'm just really, really glad you jumped in and started talking once Lana poked her head in, so we could gather ourselves a bit.

We're helping out a bunch of the 5th years. I'm not as good at Transfig as Ron, but I'm doing all right so far.

alt_harry at 2015-03-29 03:56:22
(no subject)

We're doing all right. It takes a while to cut through basilisk bone, even with that spell Linus Moon found for me. (Don't worry, I gave him an 'intellectual puzzle,' I didn't explain why I wanted to pry a fang out
of a basilisk.) But, we're almost done. I think we'll be up within a half hour.

Sally-Anne, Pansy, you'll do fine.

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 03:58:43
(no subject)

Good.

Urgh. It's hard to talk like a boy.

And how on earth do you people *sit*?

@alt_ginny at 2015-03-29 04:01:12
(no subject)

You hog all the space, is how you sit if you're a boy. (Ask me how I know this. Go on.)

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 04:03:06
(no subject)

...I'd imagine sitting round the Weasley dinner table gives one some experience.

Honestly, though, after this, I can start to see why.

@alt_ginny at 2015-03-29 03:59:40
(no subject)

Someone noticed Pansy's voice was off but I told them it was some new sweet the Twins were working on for their shop. Makes you go all posh.

@alt_susan at 2015-03-29 04:05:24
(no subject)

Professor Vector just wandered by, but I think she must have been absorbed in her Arithmancy, because she just nodded at me and kept on.
alt_sally_anne at 2015-03-29 04:08:06
Private message to Harry

There are a lot of people who are scared of you. Especially younger students. I think some of them think you're in Gryffindor to find traitors. I mean -- you came to Gryffindor, and then Neville got caught, right?

Romilda Vane, though, has a crush on you. Had you noticed?

alt_ron at 2015-03-29 04:10:14
(no subject)

All right.

We've got the bloody thing. Sheesh. I think my magic's half tapped out. That's some spell Moon came up with, and basilisk bone is a nightmare!

Anywiz, we're going to use the cloak, but we'll need you lot in Gryff to set up a distraction when we come in. Any of you in a good spot to pull that off?

We'll drop a note here when we're outside the portrait, yeah?

alt_ginny at 2015-03-29 04:12:21
(no subject)

Katrina Bundy and I can create a distraction. Do you need someone to open up the portrait so you can get in?

alt_ron at 2015-03-29 04:14:05
(no subject)

Yeah, actually, that's better than talking to the Pink Lady ourselves. She'll have it all over school that we were outside and inside at the same time otherwise.
Oh and you might want to cast a bubblehead charm before you come through the portrait hole.

Should I ask?

Good. That's fabulous. Ron, you've been helping Mackrell with Transfig. He's having trouble with Inanimatus Conjurus.

Ta.

(Sorry you had to work with him. Can be such a wanker, that one.)

Harry, you were helping Lucas O'Leary with Transfiguration.

I left a list of resources for you to point him toward tucked inside your Transfiguration textbook.
It's a good thing we'd both been in Gryffindor Tower before. Made it a lot easier to pull this off.

Right, we're here. Under the cloak, right outside.
I don't know whose idea of a joke this is

But if I find out who brought those stink bombs back from Hogsmeade I'm going to use them to try out some highly entertaining joke spells I got out of one of Mr Rosier's books. Ha ha ha.

The Gryffindor common room had better be properly aired out by morning.

Sounds like you're having quite the night.

Milland was having fits earlier, trying to catch Peeves.

Yeah. I thought I'd finally got away from it when I came up to Gryffindor, but some idiot set one off in our common room. I don't know if it was Peeves or someone else.
Ron and I have a basilisk fang, wrapped up and ready. I'm going to put it in my trunk for tonight, because Sally-Anne and Pansy needed to use my cloak to get out of Gryffindor so I can't get to the secret room.

Sally-Anne and Pansy are out of Gryffindor. If you could let us know when you're back in your proper bodies and in your own House, I think we'd all be glad to know.

Mrs Longbottom, I'll send the fang through the colocation box as soon as I can get to it. (It might take a day or two. I'd rather not carry the basilisk fang around in my bag.)

Nice work, all of you.

We are back in our proper bodies and our proper common room.
Alice,

I'm not going to be back this evening. No need for concern. Simply following up on things and enjoying the chance to be out and about in Spring. I've just had quite an interesting appointment with a collection of dodgy individuals at a disused tin mine on Bodmin moor. (From Albus' list; did not disappoint.)

Am on my way now to Merrymeet beyond Liskeard. Felton Parish has invited me to a listening party this evening at the Waymark Inn: he tells me they're collecting quite a crowd that are completely taken with 'The Tuckers'.

(Do tell Ms Morgenstern that she has a burgeoning audience. Parish says it reminds them of a programme from back in the days when a bit of jiggering would get the BBC to come in over the wireless. And they're all on edge whether Tertius Apsted will let his daughter continue seeing young Bran Jones, so I hope we get a bit of progress on that front tonight!)

More farmers in this lot. Parish thinks they're ready to consider new possibilities. Even risky ones.

Which brings me to my report: I'd an excellent visit with Walter Legman out in Torpoint. He's continuing to push me on whether we couldn't Fidelius the lot of them. It's fourteen significant farms in his collective, all of them ready to put in with us if we can protect them and supply them once they're under the enchantment. They know the financial end can't work as they're accustomed, but they've had nothing but falling prices for years now, and they have a vision for being the ones that survive into the 'new era'. That's how Legman put it to me, and he was quite clearly being literal about surviving.

So. May I offer him terms?
Good. Very good work.

We'll need to outline what such support might entail, to make certain it's an agreement we can maintain to the benefit of both parties, but it's a very good move all round, I think. We ought to be able to fold them into the black market and back-door end of the food and barter network we've been growing, and offer a sustainable (if not necessarily enormously profitable) alternative.

We might also tap them for storage and stockpiling as well, depending on space considerations.

As for added possibilities: Torpoint is just on the water across from Plymouth. It's been a ferry point for hundreds of years. And a smugglers' haven. Both of them are.

And as we've said from the outset, it's a key location for us given that it's just across the inlet from Saltash.

For the rest of you: that's why they were eager to talk to us initially. They're all very much aware of what happened at Saltash and they've got ties to the people who were interned there in addition to having done business supplying the camp. Legman and his family have been farming at Torpoint for generations, but most of the other farms were owned by Muggles until they were forced into Saltash camp. The farms were taken over by wizards, obviously, most of them related to Legman one way or another, but they've basically been hiring the farmers back out of the camps all along, and they'd worked out a collective that kept the original owners as parties of the agreement with a secret, but explicit promise that if the Protectorate ever ends, they'll all share ownership, Muggle and Wizard alike. Sadly, they lost a lot of folks to the uprising at Saltash, and it was because they wanted information about people there that brought us together at first.
They're a good fit for us for all those reasons. If we're able to Fidelius on the scale required.

@alt_sirius at 2015-03-30 00:48:20
(no subject)

I'm sure that if we plan it out properly, we can manage it.

@alt_poppy at 2015-03-30 20:25:08
(no subject)

There's certainly demand for it if we can manage it. I could find us half a dozen new properties a week to Fidelius, and many of them would pay a pretty sum for the service.

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-29 23:54:17
(no subject)

That's brill, Madame P!

@alt_poppy at 2015-03-30 00:30:55
(no subject)

I've made plans to meet with several of the people on Jeremy's list this coming week, so I trust I'll soon have more fruit (as it were) to offer your operations.

@alt_pansy at 2015-03-30 05:42:05
(no subject)

I've been setting up some meetings over hols on my end of things too -- a few distributors who've been struggling with the new restrictions who might be eager for someone who'll pay reasonable prices. It helps that I've got a bit of a reputation when it comes to associating with halfbloods.
That you do!

Oooh, what a cliffhanger! And I could tell Kenton was hiding something, but it was a nice enough twist for him to reveal he used to be a guard for one of the camps. Didn't see that one coming. I have no idea how on earth Muriel will react to that one. Unless she already knows, that is...

Oh, that would be an excellent twist! And... she might know, mightn't she? There was that conversation she had with Bauer Knockton three or four episodes back that the programme cut away from. He could have told her. Not sure he would have done, but it's a very interesting notion.

I've been thinking all day.

Pansy, Sally-Anne, you remember the Archetype Cafe, yes? We met there, two springs ago. It's a women's collective, several branches. There's the cafe, Poppet (the bakery with the excellent marzipan), and a farm to table ingredients box that goes out all summer. Other things, too.

Their goals mean they need to be aboveboard in any way that can be traced, but I know they'd not mind a safehouse, and they've got connections to all sorts of people. And I've been thinking about them a lot with people talking about the new restrictions, because Tamsin,
who runs the cafe, is a pureblood, but her partner, Thalia, who's the chef, is a halfblood.

Anyway. The reason I was thinking of them specifically was that they might be a way to funnel food for coin, depending on the details.

I think they'd be safe to approach, carefully, even if they decide they can't take the risk. (They've deliberately cultivated a diverse customer base, and that means Ministry and MLE among others.)

---

alt_pansy at 2015-03-31 03:36:00
(no subject)

I'll see if I can make a soft approach over hols.

After all, I'm a fellow woman who's very interested in this farm-to-table business, and while we're exchanging tips, have I mentioned the really phenomenal rubbish removal service I've started using recently? It's very much worth checking up. Even picks up things I'd consider scrap and pays me for it.

Or something like that.

---

alt_sinistra at 2015-03-31 11:10:26
(no subject)

I'll write up some notes for you, so you know where to hint.

If you think it'd be useful to have one from me to her, in case you need it, I can do that too. (I bought into a share in the collective a couple of years ago, at her suggestion., which is why I know as much of the background as I do.)

She's the sort of Ravenclaw, Tamsin, who likes her arithmancy to be about 'if you have 1/2 a bushel of peas and 2 dozen carrots, 5 onions, and a chicken, along with 3 loaves of bread you'd really like to use up today, and if your jam stocks are lower than you'd like, what can you put on a lunch menu that's satisfying?' To give you an idea.
Alice and Remus, as well as the rest of you: this is Tonks' and my report on our investigation of Maghnus Derrick's information about a possible site where Prince William (King William?) might be held (as well as any other high-value hostages).

We have been casing the Galleries of Justice carefully for about a week now. There is a nominal security staff, but based on our observations of the comings and goings of personnel, it doesn't look like it's being guarded like an important target. It looks as though only one watchman stays there at night, something which we confirmed when we finally took down the security wards very carefully (they really weren't very serious wards at all), and moved in to investigate.

We managed to elude the guard easily, but all we found inside were cabinets of parchment records. I would have loved to have stayed a week to riffle through them--we might have managed to pinpoint some useful information, although a lot of it looks like mere bureaucratic trash. But there was no sign, on our first foray, of any holding cells for prisoners. Well, there were rooms which used to be holding cells, obviously, but they're now jammed full of filing cabinets. We used Homenum Revelio, of course, as well as every other revealing charm we could think of, but it looks as though it might have been used as a prison in the past, the building is now exactly what it is purported to be: a depository of parchment work. We spent several hours searching for any trace of prisoners there, using every revealing charm we could think of, but no luck.

Tonks thought to 'Accio' a parchment with a map of the building's layout, and sure enough, one floated back to her. We took it with us when we left, and we've been studying it, trying to identify any spaces or corners which don't square with our explorations, which might suggest hidden doors or rooms. We'll go back in tonight just to be sure, but I'm not very hopeful.

I really do think they would have secured the building more intently if key prisoners--any prisoners--were kept there.
I see. Thank you both.

We'll keep at it, Alice.
Private message to Barty

The RSVPs have really rolled in this weekend. It looks as if we'll have an excellent turn-out, though Rodolphus didn't indicate whether or not Auror Lestrange would be joining him. Is she much for parties, do you know? I know that her sister, Mrs Malfoy, is, but she's not RSVPed yet, either. Oh, and Phina keeps asking me if you'll wear one of her couture designs, if she sends you something. I don't know why she won't simply ask you herself--she can be rather shy and funny that way. I'll be wearing something of hers, but I don't think she'd do something so gauche as to make us look matchy-matchy. Rather, we'd compliment each other appropriately. But if you already have your own designer in mind, let me know and I shall pass that along to her.

Oh! And Giles Cork has sent me some drawings of the set pieces he's designing. And the effects he describes sound tremendous, just the thing for "Dreams of a Mid-summer's Night." I think Marlborough will be quite transformed. And the head baker at Toothsome will be sending me some samples to try this week. Though if you like, I can tell him to hold off and we can visit the bakery ourselves once I'm home for hols. The manager of Siren's Call also confirmed their booking, and from the sounds of it they've decided that the party will be the perfect place for them to debut their new single.

All these details--I don't mind managing them at all (I quite enjoy it, in fact), but I don't want to go over your head on anything, either. I'm really very excited, you see!

And also very looking forward to spending time with you outside the school.

Count Bella in the number, and if she comes, she comes. (I wouldn't expect her, but one never knows.) As for Narcissa, I expect she will accept or decline in due time. (And if she doesn't say she will come, you may count on her not coming. It would be out of character, however, for her not to reply at all. If you'd like, I'll check that she received the invitation.)
Tell Phina Krumgold to send me a drawing. (Better yet, tell her to call and schedule an appointment.) If she's quick about it, perhaps we could do a fitting together while you're home? Might be amusing. Definitely want to taste sweets with you. Have them send their samples to Marlborough, and we'll give them a proper trial.

You have absolute license to make arrangements and manage details. Am glad you're enjoying yourself.

As for the last: I look forward to uninterrupted, uncensored time alone with you. Fair to say that I have plans to rival your party arrangements for the hours we'll spend in private.

---

@alt_daphne at 2015-03-30 02:34:03
(no subject)

Check with Mrs Malfoy if its' convenient, but it's fully possible she just hasn't had a chance to reply yet.

To be honest, I've no idea whether she thinks favourably of me or not. When I was dating Draco, she didn't see to be very interested in getting to know me, and neither did Mr Malfoy. But I think that may have been due to Draco than either of his parents.

Phina--I think she'd likely drop everything if it means we can both be seen wearing her couture. I'll write to her tomorrow. And to Toothsome, as well.

It sounds as if it will be a whirlwind of a week. And no matter how I try to guess what you have in store for us, I know I shall be thoroughly surprised.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-03-30 02:53:09
(no subject)

Does it really matter what Narcissa thinks of you?

If I might... I'd recommend not giving that much weight to her opinion.

And, yes, my plans are not to be enquired after. I'm confident you'll enjoy all that's in store for you.
I want everyone to think highly of me, even the people I have a rather low opinion of. Makes it much easier to make one's way in the world, I find. I suspect that the Headmaster may have a similar outlook, though he of course embodies and executes it quite differently than I do, if that's the case.

But your advice is sound, just the same, and I shan't give the matter any further thought.

Tosha, yes. And Narcissa. I'd say you've summarised her philosophy in stating your own.

Which may suggest the challenge for the two of you.

And even more Slytherins, besides. Including my father, I suppose. Rabastan, I mean.

I've got to get to sleep, Barty, but I'll thank you in advance for the good dreams.

See you soon.
2015-03-29 22:02:00
Order Only: Private Message to Draco

Are you about done upstairs? I've finished in the kitchen and there's definitely nothing here. Well, apart from the profusion of pink.

Anyway, I'm getting hungry. And tired. It was a lovely day, but we probably shouldn't have spent so long at the shore before looking for the house.

alt_hermione

alt_draco at 2015-03-30 03:22:33
(no subject)

Ugh, thank Merlin you've got your journal with you. I've been shouting for you but the walls must be spelled for sound-proofing. I'm trapped in Bumbridge's bedroom. I don't know how but I must have tripped something. And there's a mirror in here that keeps giving me tips on how to improve myself and it's about to drive me mad. And everything is ruffled and pink and I feel as if I'm stuck inside a cake. Oh, bloody nightshade. Please tell me you can open the door from the other side?

alt_hermione at 2015-03-30 03:23:56
(no subject)

Is the mirror saying anything helpful?

alt_draco at 2015-03-30 03:27:45
(no subject)

It says I need a haircut and that I need to mind my tone if I want to foster good relationships with others.

HERMIONE OPEN THE DOOR.
All right, I'm coming up. Did the door lock or did the knob come off in your hand or what?

The door shut as soon as I stepped inside, and after that I couldn't budge it for anything. Tried every spell I know.

Weird sort of ward to have on one's bedroom. Why would the old cow lock herself in?

I don't know. Which door is it--

Oh, I see----
Draco and I finally went to Dolores Umbridge's house to look for the diadem. That was an experience I don't think either of us wants to repeat--ever. It wasn't particularly dangerous--well, apart from one room that locked Draco in for a while, and I couldn't hear him calling--but anything you lot have been imagining about what her home must have been like, let me assure you, it was worse.

Only there weren't any cat or kitten things anywhere, which I thought was surprising. I mean, you know how when someone likes cats they often get given things with cats on, and she had nothing of the kind. And we still can't understand why she'd have a self-locking room with soundproofing spells, either, unless she shut herself in there from time to time to have screaming fits, and had some way of getting out that we couldn't duplicate.

In any case, we didn't find the diadem, obviously, or anything that even seemed like a horcrux. I did find all sorts of ledgers that were simply filled with notes on co-workers and professors and really almost anyone she knew, it looked like. Mainly she seemed to jot down ways in which she could do a better job. (Mr Snape, you'll be amused that one of the Hogwarts notebooks includes some observations on Milland's cleaning routines. Did she happen to ever suggest an alternative to Madam Skower's? Because it's in here. If you care, which I'm sure you don't, but there it is, anyway.)

By the way, I think she must have been raised by her father, because there were loads of photos of her as a girl and the same older wizard, but none of a mother.

Oh, and Sally-Anne, Draco was apparently looking for ways to get out of that bedroom and found the socks you knitted. We brought them back because we thought, you never know, they might make another excellent gift for someone. Professor Sandoval-Pennifold, maybe.
Ugh.

Sounds dreadful.

That's odd, though, about the cats.

And the room.

She did take live kittens and turn them into plates, though. So maybe it wasn't that she liked them, but that she really, really didn't? Or the kittens from the neighbours were messing around in her garden or something?

...I, for one, am very glad to not have to think too deeply about Dolores Umbridge's motives for anything any more, with the exception of where she'd put a possessed tiara.

I really hope it's not with her. Because that'd mean we'd have to de-plate her, and ugh.

Seriously, Mrs L, you do not want her in Saltash. Or really anywhere. Other than a plate.

Well, we could put her back in, couldn't we?

Do we even know where the plate is? Headmistress McGonagall had it.
I would really LOVE to give those socks to Lana.

BUT, after Glozeman went to Dolohov about that coin, Dolohov called me in and we had this really pleasant chat where he didn't say, 'look, if something like this happens again, he might go to MLE instead of coming to me and you really don't want that, because even though I know you're capable of covering your tracks up to a point you probably couldn't cover them from a real expert, and Death Eaters have real experts on call. And even if you didn't put it there, you know perfectly well they'll blame it on you if they can. So please do us both a favour and don't let this happen again.'

I mean, he said lots of other entirely pleasant things and we both knew what he meant.

And as far as experts go, she's sleeping with Rodolphus Lestrange so she's definitely got experts handy. Oh plus Dolohov would recognise the socks. He's the one who put them in Umbridge's drawer, after all. (After I showed them to him, he asked for them and promised they wouldn't end up anywhere they shouldn't.)
The list of registered Fidelius charms has not made its way to the Wards department. They have complained, repeatedly, through the "proper" channels. They warn of dire consequences if this trend is allowed to continue. I am escalating it to your attention. Fix this or you will be reporting on the resulting problems directly to Our Lord.
2015-03-31 21:20:00
Order Only Private message to Tonks

Had my shifts switched around on me again unexpectedly, so I'll be by tomorrow instead of Thursday, and Saturday instead of Friday. Is there anything I should bring you? For you and Adam or for the rest of the house?

Ugh, the constant rearranging is useful sometimes, but it's also really bloody annoying, too. I'm sorry I can't be more reliable, luv.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-04-01 02:43:35
(no subject)

That is fine by me, world's-best-da. You're already popping over here every spare hour you have, and we've two other adults to help carry the load (and three other slightly less invested adults and a house-elf in a pinch).

I can see how the shuffling around can be frustrating, but truly, I'm just glad we get to see you, regardless of the day.

Besides, Sir Adam won't be able to keep time for a while yet.

It was such a relief to have a perfectly normal baby looking up at me on the equinox. Merlin. He woke up and yelped a bit, and I must've jumped a mile.

We're good on overall supplies, but are watching our sugar consumption, which has left a certain little someone quite put out. Apples would be appreciated.

alt_charlie at 2015-04-01 02:55:36
(no subject)

Apples I think I can do. There's a market down in Inverness that we've been popping over to lately for supplementing the usual fare up here, and I think I saw a vendor who still had some apples last time I was in. Assuming they're there still -- I think the stall manager was
a halfblood, and you know how much they've been yanking halfbloods around again.

I'll see if I can get some sugar, too. Or black treacle or ... you know, it's the time of year somebody might have some maple syrup. If it's not too awfully priced, I'll bring you some of that, too. (You should send me on quests more often. It satisfies some primal urge to go out and drag things back to the cave for you and himself. Me big man, me good provider.)

And I know, I must have watched him like a hawk all that night myself. I tell you, I'm really wondering if Beltane will make anything odd turn up. If we make it through that, I'll be ready to relax a bit.

---

@alt_nymphadora at 2015-04-01 04:38:01  
(no subject)

Agreed. We might have to raise a glass or three the day after.

All that sounds lovely. And if it makes you feel better for providing it, that's a winning combination for all of us!

I must admit -- there's a part of me that's guiltily glad I'm not out there any more. That Laszlo's doesn't have to go through all that hassle on my account. For starters. I've no idea what additional hoops they'd make me jump through to continue to have the honour of cleaning the Ministry bogs, but I'm sure it'd be humiliating.

There's so many more people who are a great deal worse off, mind. But still.

---

@alt_charlie at 2015-04-01 04:39:07  
(no subject)

That makes sense, really. Well, it's like how we've said before, that we're both glad Bea and Adam aren't going to wind up at Hogwarts the way it is now, that the only way they'll go is if (when) we win before then and dismantle this whole sorry lot. And on the one hand, you feel guilty that you're not putting yourself in the thick of it, like the kids are and all, but on the other hand, I'm so thankful that at least a few people I love aren't under the thumb
and in the thick of things.

And then I wind up feeling guilty that I'm thankful, and it all goes around again.

I need to sit on Ron over Easter hols a bit. I'm so worried about him. I know I can't make him talk to me, wild dragons can't make him talk before he's ready, but I do want him to know that he can talk to me if he wants to. Maybe we should go fishing. Or I could bring him up here one afternoon and we could set ourselves down in the gear shed and do the mending.

That's a good idea, actually, I'll go write him right now and make the offer.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-04-01 05:18:05
(no subject)

That sounds like a good idea.

And it can get rather vicious, can't it? I suppose the best we can do is own it, and keep working as hard as we can to make sure other people get to be safe too.

alt_nymphadora at 2015-04-01 05:19:50
(no subject)

Which reminds me, I've got a cousin to poke at.
**2015-03-31 21:41:00**

*Private Message to Snape*

Where are you?

You're supposed to be here helping with the anti-fidelius potion. There are too many high value targets hiding out and striking at our glorious work. If we can break just one they'll all scramble out like ants when you pour boiling oil down their nest. We let you into our sacred brotherhood on your supposed skills. Why aren't you in the lab utilizing them at all hours?

---

**alt_severus** at **2015-04-01 02:10:56**

(no subject)

I'm sorry, sir; I have been in the library researching effective substitutions for several of the ingredients we can no longer reliably source.

Has anyone yet identified a particular approach that seems most likely to bear fruit? I can concentrate my research in that direction.

---

**alt_rookwood** at **2015-04-01 05:18:31**

(no subject)

The most promising lead, though least useful, is Ander's & Smythe's vision potion. Being able to see in, but not penetrate the ward has it's applications, but falls short of finishing the job. Pity they believe it would require brewing in water from Blue Lake in New Zealand. Any leads on replacing that?

Crabbe suggested Fiendfyre, because he always suggests Fiendfyre. There are possibilities in destroying the ground that was walked to create the zone. But it is so unpredictable as to me impractical.

Dominic floated the idea of bottling some combination of various transportation and invisibility spells to allow the imbiber to step through the ward line of a known location. Look into the elemental harmonics of the runic bases of those spells. We discussed the list of potential spells at the last meeting.
He says "they" must be flushed soon or the consequences will be d

 alt_severus at 2015-04-01 19:52:36
(no subject)

For the vision potion: perhaps the waters from the Chalice Well at Glastonbury, or the waters of Bath. Though I am not certain they would have the same properties.

Has anyone ever determined whether unconsciousness makes a difference in crossing Fidelius lines? (That is, if someone is not conscious that they cannot see the space, could they cross it?) Perhaps there is some room to combine this project and the Sleeper project.
As you may have seen, Rookwood has just written to me. He apparently believes it is just after my induction and I am slacking on my duties to participate in potions development — apparently there is an "anti-Fidelius" potion in the works, though from what he said it does not sound as though there has been much progress.

I shall attempt to get as much information as possible out of him until someone inevitably realises what he has done.

---

Is such a thing theoretically possible?

I'm curious as to how on earth it would be utilised. Please let us know what you are able to needle out of him.

---

He has not replied yet. I told him that I have been in the library researching ingredient substitutions and suggested that he let me know what the most promising lines of discovery were so that I could direct my research appropriately; with luck he will give me a state of the art summary and I can evaluate further.

I will confess I cannot think of any immediate methods of attacking the problem — it is not a class of spell that lends itself to potion-based countermeasures, and to my knowledge no one has ever succeeded in breaking a Fidelius, once set, through any means other than the cooperation of the secret-keeper. But for all that he is clearly diminished from what he once was, Rookwood's mind works in twisty ways I cannot always predict. Ninety percent of the time it results in nonsense; the other ten percent of the time, genius. Let us hope this instance is the former rather than the latter.
As to the other project with which I am engaged, Miss Granger and I may have news soon. I do not mean to raise hopes, but I am cautiously optimistic about our prospects in a way I have not been in quite some time.

alt_alice at 2015-04-01 03:26:09
(no subject)

That is very good to hear.

alt_severus at 2015-04-01 20:01:18
(no subject)

He's raving, alas. Unmoored from time in more than one way — apparently 'Dominic', by whom he means Selwyn, was making suggestions for this project — and nothing of what he names as the current thrusts of research would have any chance of working. (One suspects his underlings have been telling him what he wants to hear.)

I attempted to prompt him toward the topic of the Sleepers in hope he would have something useful to say.

alt_alice at 2015-04-01 20:29:57
(no subject)

Just tread lightly on that one, Severus. You know that everything you say will be under a high degree of scrutiny. A few false seeds would not go amiss, I'm sure.
We have some news.

I should explain that last summer, Remus and I put out the word to some of our contacts that we wanted to find out what was to be done with Minerva's things. You may remember that her house and all its contents were placed at the disposal of the Ministry, so while those of you at school could go through her quarters, we couldn't retrieve anything from her London home. Apparently it was something of a conundrum for the Ministry as well, as they couldn't decide whether she should be branded traitor and all her assets retained for the state, or whether her will should be executed, or what. According to our informant, there was also a scuffle because her solicitor, Fox-Burton, wanted to rid himself of the responsibility when he thought it might get out that he'd represented a high-level member of the Order of the Phoenix.

Anyway, the sum of all this is that it's taken nine months, but it's finally been determined that her things will be sent to a public auction. It's during the Hogwarts Easter holidays, so students ought to be able to go, if we have to go that route. Our contact suggested breaking in to remove anything we might want. But Harry, I thought perhaps you might try your hand with the auction house and see if you could get yourself a private viewing of the contents of the estate before the public auction, on the excuse that there may be items you want to purchase outright without having to compete. I bet they'd rush to accommodate you.

I mean to say, if we had to, we could all go in disguises and bid on items until we get anything we need but I can think of far better uses for our resources. And if we did have to break in, it would only signal to the Ministry that there were items of note. Also, I wouldn't put it past them to have put tracing charms on the items until they're legally purchased (and even then, I expect we'll want to give everything a thorough once-over, just in case!).

The owl we received said that the auction will be in the Prophet soon, but I doubt very much anyone would question you learning about it before any official announcement, Harry.

With any luck, we'll find everything of hers that we're looking for--
including that blasted plate--and we can ask Umbridge directly where she hid the diadem.

---

👤 **alt_harry** at 2015-04-01 05:06:00

*(no subject)*

All right. I'll see if I can arrange a private viewing.

I'll send an owl tomorrow.
Are your Easter hols spoken for, or do you think you'll have an afternoon to spare for your favourite brother? We could go fishing, maybe, or you could come up to the reserve and we could mend gear for a bit and then go flying. Promise I won't ask any stupid questions or try to make you talk about your feelings, I just want to spend some time with you.