**2015-07-01 11:03:00**
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Hydra and Sally-Anne

I had the most vivid dream about Daphs last night. We were listening to music and she was going on and on about these plans she had for an academy of dramatic arts and she seemed so happy and wistful.

I miss her.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at **2015-07-01 19:03:26**
(no subject)

Yeah.

Every now and then something makes me think about one of the people we've lost. For me yesterday it was Neville. I was out in the Herbology beds to get something for a potion Madam Pomfrey needed and there were blooming narcissus in one of the beds. (It was an odd spot for them, I think someone put them there by mistake, or maybe they spread naturally when someone wasn't paying attention.)

I don't usually dream about them, though, I sort of wish I would.

---

**alt_hydra** at **2015-07-01 19:24:27**
(no subject)

I miss her, too.

Mostly, I'm angry (or maybe it's sad, sometimes I can't tell which) that she's dead and her 'husband' is still alive. I'm angry that he probably doesn't even care or spare her a second thought. I'm sad that she thought marrying him was one of the best ways she could help us.
Well, when I think about that part, mostly I feel guilty. Because I was the one who told her about the Order, and recruited her.

You still did the right thing.

But guilt is a funny emotion. It's not very rational.

Yeah. It makes me sad too. Because we could really use her now, you know? She'd be phenomenal at making everyone feel good about being part of this, and charming the purebloods who are afraid, and Barty Crouch is just awful and needs to up and die. Sooner rather than later.

ugh.

It's endlessly creepy how fixated he is on you, by the way.

At least that's a possible chink in his armour, but honestly, it's weird and sad. Do you think he honestly believes he's got a hold on you? Or that he's trying to rattle you?

I understand if you'd rather not talk about it. But he's awful, and I'm sorry he's being a bother.
I don't know what he thinks, except that he must feel some sense of ownership over me.

He isn't trying to rattle me, really. He's hunting me, and he thinks he's going to kill me one day. Or bring me to my mother to be killed.

Which just makes my skin crawl. Seriously. What gives him the right?

Anyways. Maybe he'll get obsessive enough about it that he'll trip up.

He really isn't the sort of person who trips up.

I'd imagine not, no.
Private Message to Alice Longbottom

Mrs Longbottom,

Pardon this interruption, please, but where might I enquire to learn more of the Provisional Government's plans for the re-establishment of Oxford, as mentioned in your message of May 31st to the People of Great Britain?

I shall return to the arithmantic and other tasks at hand, now, and thank you in advance for any information you can grant me -- and, indeed, my thanks for all you are doing and have done, the total of which mounts higher with every discussion I have with those who were aware of the efforts to liberate Albion before I became aware myself. Truly, the accounts are quite sobering, as well as inspiring -- and quite educational. One sometimes does not realise one is living through history every day, as it were, when one is daydreaming in books and yearning after tales of momentous occasions and valiant endeavours.

With appreciation,

Linus Moon

alt_alice at 2015-07-01 21:01:53
(no subject)

Linus -- I'd talk to Rosemary Roche. She usually sits with the Moddey and Sherwood groups at meals. She's currently assisting Mr Rees and Mr Dawkins with that particular project.

Naturally, there are many moving parts that tie in many other committees as well, but Rosemary has her fingers on the pulse of things as it were, and could fill you in on what is being done and what is left to do yet, which is considerable.

May I say, Linus, I am pleased that once you emerged from your books long enough to look around at the state of things, you decided to join in -- your work on the wards is much appreciated, and your quick adaptation bodes well for the changes we shall all have to make in order to succeed in this endeavour.
Private Message to Loyal Citizens of Albion: Happy Anniversary to the Finch-Fletchleys

I woke up this morning wondering how to post so that more than the Order of the Phoenix could see an announcement, but the Death Eaters still couldn't. I think this will work.

So anyone who can see this: Congratulations, you're a loyal citizen of Albion! Which is good because there's loads of work to do to make this country right.

And if Bellatrix Lestrange can see this, or Barty Crouch, then perhaps there's hope for them, after all.

Anyway, a year ago, Justin and Hydra risked rather a lot to get married. It was so dangerous that they had to keep it a complete secret, even from all of their best mates.

Everyone in the Order of the Phoenix knows what it's like to have to keep a dread secret. Probably loads of you Albionites do, too, when you've harboured feelings and beliefs that didn't properly match what the Protectorate was telling you, and you wanted to speak out against their injustice but you were too afraid. It's easy to keep a secret when it's something you fear, or feel ashamed about, or wish would go away. But sometimes, it's the happy secrets that are the hardest things to hold close and not share.

Like when someone like Terry, a muggleborn, had friends who were so determined to be able to talk to him, they figured out a way. And then he asked them to include me, too. So then, I had friends. I made friends with students like the Weasleys, Lee Jordan, Sally-Anne Perks, and later on, Pansy Parkinson, and Daphne Greengrass, and Hydra, and Justin. All because of a secret that we had to keep together. It was a happy secret, but it was still something we all knew we had to protect. Not protecting it would have meant prison, betraying even bigger secrets, like who was in the Order, and even death.

But it was ever so difficult, especially when there were people outside that circle who we weren't sure we could trust, however much we
wanted to do. So I can understand, a little, how hard and how
dangerous and how tempting it must have been for Justin and Hydra,
so often, not to slip, not to tell the rest of us--no matter how much
they trusted us--because happy secrets like that, they get around,
once they start to be shared.

And in a normal society, that's good. There might be a few people who
are hurt, personally, but that's a temporary pain. And far more people
would be happy right along with everyone else, so it would help the
sad ones find something to salvage and share in the happiness, too.

Today, here, in Albion, we can celebrate our happiness with each
other, secure that no one will kill us just for loving someone we're 'not
supposed to'--because there is no 'supposed to' about love. Sometimes
it's hard to believe that, but taking the chance and sharing one's
happiness is always better than having to keep it only to oneself.

Because happiness shared just gets better. And sadness shared, well,
that's what starts it to heal.

Justin and Hydra risked a lot for each other, but they kept their
marriage a happy secret for the good of all their friends, however
much they must have wanted to tell us. Today, though, they don't have
to hide, and they don't have to keep it secret, and they don't have to
be afraid, and they don't have to care who knows it.

Here's to not having to keep happy secrets, ever again.

---

_@alt_hydra_ at _2015-07-02 14:26:43_
(no subject)

It sounds like you're talking about happy gossip, too.

Thanks for writing this, Hermione.

---

_@alt_hermione_ at _2015-07-02 14:38:09_
_Private Message to Hydra_

Gossip is a little different, but maybe. It depends on
whether people are spreading it to hurt or spreading
it because they're genuinely excited for the person
they're gossiping about, I suppose.
Anyway, I figured today of all days, you deserve to be able to be happy without Crouch muscling in.

alt_hydra at 2015-07-02 14:42:48
Private message to Hermione

I hadn't thought about it before, but now that you've written this, I wonder if the fact that Justin is muggleborn has become less of a secret. It isn't as if he's made some big announcement (and I don't really think he needs to), but he did tell the Galleon, and Dolohov.

I also know that Crouch knows, and that he'll tell my mother, and she'll tell my father.

So yes, a happy secret but sometimes I just think about my Aunt, Dora's mother, and - I don't know, I wonder what could have been, I suppose.

But it's not very useful to think about things like that, so then I make myself stop.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-02 15:38:29
Re: Private message to Hermione

I don't know, but with what Draco and Sally-Anne said, some people may think it. Though I think it's more likely they'll just think that they mean because the Blacks, Lestranges and Malfoys and all are just maniacs about people being 'worthy' of joining their bloodlines, or being blood traitors in a more general sense.

Do you think Justin will care if strangers suddenly realise he's a muggleborn? I don't think he needs to make a big production of it, either, but he might want to have the option of being the one to say it in public, first.

alt_hydra at 2015-07-02 15:48:25
Re: Private message to Hermione

Sirius never fell in love with a muggleborn (well, I mean, he might have, but he's not known for it) so I don't think people will think that's what it means,
just that we're all traitors to pureblood values, or something. But then your entry did mention loving people we're 'not supposed to,' so who knows what it will get people thinking about.

I don't know, on one hand it might be more convenient to have people just realise it rather than having to make some kind of announcement. But yes, he might like the option.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-07-02 15:01:54  
(no subject)

Happy anniversary, Justin and Hydra.

---

**alt_draco** at 2015-07-02 15:29:35  
(no subject)

Congratulations all 'round.

Though I'd especially like to acknowledge my cousin for continuing in the grand tradition of "ruining" our respective family names in a whole host of ways. Good thing your mother had no other daughters, or else we might have a miniature Bellatrix on our hands in addition to the full-sized one.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-07-02 15:32:11  
(no subject)

You, Tonks, Sirius, Hydra, and Andromeda are a grand tradition to be proud of!

---

**alt_sirius** at 2015-07-02 17:34:52  
(no subject)

Well, the people we've included in our branches of the family are certainly improvements, assets and welcome additions.

Not a dud in the bunch.

The Weasleys have done rather well in that regard, too.
\textbf{alt_draco} at 2015-07-02 16:22:16
\textit{Order Only}

May as well enjoy the beginning of July, since the end of it will probably be thoroughly un-enjoyable.

\textbf{alt_hermione} at 2015-07-02 16:40:55
\textit{Re: Order Only: Private message to Draco}

We don't have to start thinking about that now. So, yes, we should enjoy things and try not to

We should be happy for them, all right?

\textbf{alt_luna} at 2015-07-03 00:49:57
\textit{(no subject)}

Happy Anniversary to you both, Hydra and Justin.

I hope you will have the chance to do something lovely to mark the occasion.

\textbf{alt_justin} at 2015-07-03 23:58:21
\textit{(no subject)}

Luna,

Thank you, yes, we did.

-F-F

\textbf{alt_fred} at 2015-07-03 00:55:42
\textit{(no subject)}

Wish we hadn't lost so much of our stock when Cris

We could have done a bang up fireworks display to celebrate.

Next year. We promise!
Fred,

Thanks very much for the thought, what, but we wouldn't have been at the castle to see it. We went to Brighton.

-F-F

Happy anniversary!

Hermione,

Thank you. I'm glad you made this about more than just our anniversary. I should have been bally well embarrassed otherwise.

But your timing was jolly well splendid, what. Brighton treated us like heroes. Whenever we left the room, we were feted like mad. They even sent us champagne, I've no idea where they found it.

-Justin
This is for the press/public relations committee:

Fabius and Saul asked us to sound out the people we were meeting with on our rounds to find out what people were thinking and saying about the old Protectorate versus new Albion.

One thing that came through loud and clear is that no one believes that it's the Order of the Phoenix who's showing up wearing our armbands to kill people: 'Do they think we're that bleeding stupid?'

(I should say, no one in the camps believes it. We should keep an ear out for any refugees arriving from the New London area, to see what they have to say.)

Mostly: people can see the changes happening, but they're grumbling because they want them to happen faster. We think that keeping regular news coming out about progress on these various fronts will help people stay patient.

They've heard about the new banks being planned and set up, and everyone's eager to know when a bank's coming to their neighbourhood. Now that people are starting to actually earn wages instead of working as slaves, naturally they want a place to be able to keep their money safe (word is filtering out about the shakedowns happening in New London. Fidelius is one thing, but stuffing pots of money into the mattress makes the mattress lumpy. Besides, people want to be able to earn interest and invest).

The directory project for family reunification is generating a little bit of fear but even more hope (I think people are starting to believe that we're not taking down their names to make it easier for Bellatrix Lestrange to descend on their home and kill everyone inside). The only thing keeping some of them from picking up stakes and going out searching for lost loved ones is the hope that long lost family members will be able to find them more easily if they stay put.

There's a lot of excited talk about the plans going forward for new schools to open this autumn, as well as hospitals, municipal centers and universities. The camps and communities are doing a great job with the push for individual and community gardens, and there's a lot
of hope that there'll be enough food for everyone next winter. We heard a suggestion from Beatrix Beerling at Sevenoaks: the workers there have voted to donate one day a month to the community labour pool to get transportation infrastructure from town to town up and operating again (repairs to rails, teaching the next generation about how to get old lorries running again, and so on).

I would say that there is a bit more willingness to trust us than there was even two weeks ago. We estimate that about 75% of the camps can receive programming from an Albion-loyal radio station now. And the people are definitely listening. They like the children's programming and the how to stuff, and music is appreciated, but they're really hungry for news. Presenting the news in question-and-answer format is even more trusted than just someone reading off announcements, particularly when they know the people asking the questions (like that program Lee did last week where we had the camp representatives posing them). Since the Protectorate didn't allow questions, the contrast with the old regime is really stark.

Let me know if there's anything else you want us to find out about, and we'll try to follow up--Frank, Tonks, George or me, I mean. Or Jeremy's lot: I know the supplies and requisition people have been taking the pulse on people's opinions, too.
I sent Mrs Longbottom the list of people Honoria and I talked to this week and whether they're solidly Order, solidly not, wavering, or if they refused to talk to us. I wish we could go into New London, there are so MANY people I want to talk to there, but I guess it's going to be a while before that's not too dangerous?

The people who aren't on our side think the fake Phoenix attacks really are us. The people who ARE on our side don't believe it for a minute and think it's the Death Eaters. Oh plus there's this one bloke who thought it was some third group I'd never heard of and I think he'd made up. And we heard some other odd theories. People are strange.

Anyway, Honoria and I made up a list for next week of people to visit. For some of them we're thinking there are people we'd like to bring with us, unless they're too busy to consider it. Madam Pomfrey for the people who have connections to St Mungo's, Pansy for some of the more uptight purebloods (she's better at being charming than Draco is), we're thinking about a few others. If they have time. Anyway. I hope this is helpful?

**alt_sirius** at **2015-07-06 04:17:17**
(no subject)

That matches what Fred reported about the camps not believing we're behind the attacks, as well.

I wonder if there's a way to use the attacks, then, to prove that it's not us. Some way to conspicuously be elsewhere or to prove that the alleged Phoenixes are recognisable Death Eaters.

**alt_ginny** at **2015-07-06 04:25:41**
(no subject)

Well if we knew where they were going to go we could lie in wait and grab them. Or send Draco with omnioculars. Or both.
I don't know how we'd know where they were going to go, though.

@alt_alice at 2015-07-07 01:17:40
(no subject)

This is all very useful, Ginny dear. Nicely done.

@alt_ginny at 2015-07-07 02:28:16
(no subject)

Thank you!

I talked with Madam Pomfrey this afternoon and she said that she can make time to go with me tomorrow as long as there isn't some emergency.
Rachel, what's the likelihood that your source in the Death Eaters could give you warning the next time they decide to impersonate us?

Ginny Weasley's got additional confirmation that those attacks could be the key to winning over anyone who's still on the fence about whether or not we're the good guys.

It's possible he'd know. I think it's unlikely he'll tell us, unless we can come up with some sort of strategy to get the leak blamed on someone else.

They might not need to know there was any sort of leak. We could either respond after they start their attack (and someone could conceivably have had time to raise an alarm) or we arrange to already be there, or we arrange to be conspicuously and visibly elsewhere when the attack is initiated.

There are ways to counter their tactic without giving away that we have an insider.

Possibly.

Let me think about how to present it.
I've been trying to catch you in person but it seems like any time I'm at the castle, you're not. Was the second full moon any less awful for you than the first? If you ARE here and free this evening, I'm here! and free! and we could go take sandwiches out by the lake or something. (If you're not, well, I'll keep trying.)

You probably haven't been seeing me because I've been sleeping so much. It was easier this time, but that was mostly because I wasn't as afraid, since I knew I wouldn't transform. My appetite was entirely different this month, but I did have the same itchy-I-can't-bear-the-feeling-of-my-own-skin problems.

Oh, well. Mr Lupin did say it'll become easier, and I hope he's right.

I'll look for you by the Great Hall entrance, and we can wrap a mini-picnic up in napkins and take it outside.

I'm so glad we had time to see each other!
Mrs Longbottom and Mr Lupin,

I am writing on behalf of Headmistress Vector.
We've finalised our schedule for the remainder of the summer, and would like to run the details by you -- specifically, the most time sensitive of the lot is our proposed timeline and security plan for the memorial and service week we've planned for students and families. We also would like to work out the timeline for preparation for student arrival at the start of term to facilitate the smoothest possible transition and give the Government of Albion time to make arrangements for alternative facilities.

Would either of you or a suitable representative be available for a meeting in the next week? It should take no longer than an hour or two.

Lastly, the Headmistress will be interviewing for staff positions. Do you require a list of candidates for security purposes? If so, please do let me know.

Sincerely,

Ernest MacMillan
Assistant to Headmistress Vector

---

I can definitely come meet with you.

Regarding the job candidates... Where is Septima planning to do the interviews, at the castle or down in Hogsmeade? I'd want to screen people before bringing them back to the castle, but if down in Hogsmeade, it's not necessary, except inasmuch as we'd probably want to screen them before a final hiring offer. I think my preference is that she interview in Hogsmeade and we screen finalists but that may be more work for Septima.
Meeting at Hogsmeade should be acceptable. If we go down that road, we might require some assistance from the Auror and Enforcer units just to make certain she and whoever she's interviewing won't be targeted -- Hogsmeade's been quiet, so it's not incredibly likely, and the Headmistress isn't concerned, but I am. Even a simple ward set-up would help.

Thank you, Mr Lupin.
2015-07-06 23:15:00
Private Message to Barty and Dyson

How is the team coming along? Will we be able to move soon?

Too many bloody committees this weekend all wanting to have their say. We should have done it already.

@alt_ptolemy

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-07 04:22:53
(no subject)

Keep your pants on, Baddock.

This strike will go forward when all pieces are in place.

@alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-07 04:29:36
(no subject)

What's the holdup now, then?

@alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-07 04:33:02
(no subject)

Understand that I ask because if you need assistance removing obstacles, I'm at your disposal.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-07 04:45:16
(no subject)

No hold up. Timing. Personnel. Target alignment.

Will keep you in mind, if we need to call all wands. Appreciate you have a stake and would enjoy the chase.
alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-07 04:23:51
Private Message to P Baddock

If you need to blow steam, we can arrange some more personal retribution.

Just say.

alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-07 04:29:49
Re: Private Message to P Baddock

What do you have in mind?

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-07 04:56:41
Re: Private Message to P Baddock

Thought we might have a bit of a hunt around Edinburgh. Intel re. Phoenix affiliates sighted in certain entertainment venues there.

Ours for the taking.

alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-07 05:00:31
Re: Private Message to P Baddock

What's the likelihood it would get us any closer to Peel or Fletch-Finchley?

Nevermind, it doesn't matter. I'm in, of course.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-07 05:07:48
Re: Private Message to P Baddock

Won't know until we look.
Order Only: Private message to Auror J Finch-Fletchley

Your next project is Dyson and Corbyn. Both of them, in whichever order is convenient. (I don't recommend that you tackle them simultaneously.)

According to Draco, they're some of the primary thugs Crouch is relying on to keep people in line. You should talk to Draco and get his full report on them before you get started.

Understood. Yes, quite.
Our first group of Sleeper potion is ready for the field. Mr Davidson, we'll want plenty of people handy to help them assimilate and adjust when they wake up. Have your team made any headway in figuring out who they all are at the first site?

Mrs Longbottom, we've also prepared some restoratives and nutritional preparations to give them as they regain consciousness. Even with the stable stasis, they'll need to kickstart their metabolisms. If we can arrange for family members to be there, that would probably be helpful, too, but I don't want to wait to identify them before we start waking them up. It's going to be a long process.

What I'd like is for our Potioneer assistants, along with the Healers assigned to the project, and any Muggles who are going to help, to assemble in the first designated site. It was outside of Stirling, wasn't it? If everything goes according to plan, we can branch out, but we'll still want Healers in case of complications. And probably some soldiers in case something really goes wrong.

We've built up a considerable amount of potion stores and I estimate that if we maintain production at this rate, we'll be able to wake a further 200 sleepers every week while still putting up an additional 100 doses to increase stock. That way when the supply lines are straightened out and we're ready to really to revive the rest, we'll have enough.

Will Friday be enough time to put together the team? We'll need the the Stirling Secret Keeper to write down the secret so everyone can get there.
Do you have any suggestions for who the Designated Explainers should be? I don't think we'll have significant numbers of family members on hand by Friday.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-08 01:18:02  
(no subject)

I agree, if Sherwood's volunteers haven't found out who they might be and therefore been able to locate family, then anyone will do, so long as they have a decent bedside manner and understand that we're liable to have some cases of shock.  

I was reading some material on treating patients who've woken after years in coma, or who've had severe encephalitis. I imagine it will be similar.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-08 01:19:30  
(no subject)

Except I think they should be Muggles. And only keep the Healers on hand in case we need immediate medical intervention.

alt_lupin at 2015-07-08 01:23:00  
(no subject)

Muggles, right. Good thought.  

How many do you think you'll need? Moving muggles is always a little more complicated... do you think you'll need a hundred, one for each Sleeper?

alt_hermione at 2015-07-08 01:34:26  
(no subject)

No, perhaps one to every three? We'll stagger waking them since we'll have fewer Healers than that, too.
I'll put our Camp teams on rounding up Muggle volunteers over the next few days from our free zones and the camps, we ought to be able to get thirty-odd fairly easily by Friday, and I'll see if they can't get a few more back-up and work out a rotating schedule to make sure they don't get worn out too quickly.
Met today with senior healing staff.

Hierarchies are still provisional as we continue recruitment, but it was a great good thing when Frances Oxley came our way. I've every confidence in her ability to manage the organisational challenges. Protocols have been agreed and compensation matters settled enough to see us through. Able Bellweather's agreed to direct our regional clinics and coordinate triage units when we've a need for them. Now if we can merely keep supplies moving, we should be well-equipped.

I met privately with Oxley and Bellweather afterwards. Both assure me their contacts at St M's remain firm, and that when the time comes, we can count on key staff to stand with us. I've heard directly from Healer Allthorpe, who is currently head of department for the magical maladies unit, but is standing ready to pull his staff in behind him when our moment arrives.

All's quiet on the ward here, so I've agreed to go tomorrow with Miss Weasley to pay a call on one or two of the families she's identified as likely candidates.

If either of you will be in the castle tomorrow evening, perhaps we could meet then for a fuller briefing if you'd care for one.

That's very good to hear about the regional clinics. St Mungo's may be staffed with people who would stand with us, but it's also right in New London. Also, I'd prefer to avoid making St Mungo's any sort of battlefield.

I expect to be available tomorrow evening; let's meet and we can talk all this through in more detail.
Yes, agreed.

I'll be available in the evening, yes.

That's very good to hear, Poppy. All round.
2015-07-08 01:02:00
Private message to The Weasley Family and Alice Longbottom

Your daughter/sister is in my Buckingham office. Her injuries have been healed and she is currently playing gobstones with my son.

I have an offer for you: the safe return of Ginny Weasley in return for my daughter.

Alice, I'm sure you will reject the idea out of hand. You've got much mileage out of Hydra's gifts, and it's plain that Ginny doesn't shoulder a role equal to Hydra's. To be frank: Ginny is more expendable to you than Hydra. Come to think of it, so was your own son.

Weasleys, you are left in the undesirable position of either convincing your leader to hand Hydra over, or finding a way to live with the knowledge that you left Ginny helpless, and in my hands.

alt_bellatrix

2015-07-08 18:28:53
Order Only

Goddammit.

Alice, Mum isn't reading her journal.

Do you want us to tell her, or will you?

I honestly don't know what she is going to say. But Bill and George and I don't believe she'd let Ginny come back to us alive, even if we gave her Hydra.

Which we won't.

alt_fred

2015-07-08 18:36:02
Re: Order Only

Fred, her message is meant to taunt. I will tell your mother that she is merely playing with us, and to not engage with her.

I suggest you do the same.
alt_fred at 2015-07-08 18:41:46
Re: Order Only

Understood. Perfectly. Which is why I didn't reply publicly, as you'll notice.

None of us will. She can take her 'mercy' and choke on it.

alt_fred at 2015-07-08 18:47:31
Re: Order Only

And I highly doubt Ginny's 'playing gobstones with Rigel.'

Honestly, how stupid does she think we are?!

alt_alice at 2015-07-08 20:51:45
Re: Order Only

I will be attempting to engage in negotiation with Bellatrix. I'm choosing to do it where you can see, because I'd rather you learn about the options available directly than second hand through her. Please know we're exploring what limited options there are available to us, and this is one of them.

This bargaining will not be pleasant to read, I can imagine. I am sorry for causing you and your family more pain in the process. She will attempt to use whatever we give her, because she is desperate and an utter stranger to empathy, decency, and honour.

alt_molly at 2015-07-08 21:20:35
Re: Order Only

Alice,

Thank you. I hope with all my heart that it works.

But I fear it won't. I would personally rend Bellatrix Lestrange
limb from limb if I could to save my dear girl. But Arthur taught me chess. He taught all the children chess. We all understand that with war must come sacrifice, and we are clearly still at war.

Ginny is a soldier for the Order. She understood the risks, she assumed them willingly, and I won't insult her by saying she didn't, or by begging to be spared from the cost.

I'll be damned before I'll play into Bellatrix Lestrange's hands the way she wants. You have my support, and I know you have Ginny's too. We fight on from here. I know you'll do what you can try to save her. But if we lose Ginny....

Merlin help us, we'll fight on without her.

@alt_alice at 2015-07-08 18:33:07
(no subject)

Your offer is meant to be an impossible one that we will be forced to refuse. You're only attempting to twist the knife further.

I'd rather stop with the games, Bellatrix.

@alt_bellatrix at 2015-07-08 18:38:13
(no subject)

You keep telling yourself that. Perhaps the Weasleys are also convinced that my offer is a sham. It provides a good deal of psychological comfort to believe that particular narrative, after all - that there is no chance to save her, even as I am offering you one in earnest.

I have learned more about compromise in these last several weeks than I ever cared to know.
I cannot force Hydra to return to you against her will, nor would I want to. I would be willing to give you Maebh unharmed and alive in exchange for Ginny in similar condition, however.

This is not a negotiation. It is a one time offer which you either refuse or accept.

Then your offer is refused.

Just how many family members are you willing to lose?

I don't think you've ever fought for anything a day in your life.

Your sister was the only one who never gave up on your brother Percy. Did you know that?

And there is some deeply buried resentment there for the rest of you. How quickly you give up, and give in.

It would appear her feelings on the matter are justified.
Nice.

I'm going to find a way to kill you. And the fact you don't think that's possible? That's an advantage on my side.

Mind you, I reckon I'll have to fight Hydra and the rest of the Order for the honours.
Justin and I found the room where they were treating Ginny. The healer who was helping her was confused, but I saw her memory of what happened.

Two of Crouch's Aurors showed up just a bit ago and told the healer "that's a Phoenix, Bellatrix will want her," and they took Ginny away. The healer is worried because she hadn't finished treating Ginny, and her injuries were quite grave.

That means she's been taken to Buckingham.

Ron, I'm sorry.

---

Yes, Ron, dreadfully sorry.

-J

I want you to return to your previous assignment.

If there's anything you can do for Ginny, I'll let you know.

Yes. Of course.

Yes, quite.
Fuck fuck fuck fuck FUCK.
Hydra, how well can she occlude?

She doesn't broadcast, but I don't know how well she'd do under questioning.

I want to go after her.
I can try getting in snakewise.

What are you going to do if you find her?

I'll take the cloak and yeah
get us both killed, trying to get her out.

Dammit. It's worth trying, isn't it?
No.

Not right now.

They will be on their guard and ready for us to try something. If we wait, they'll be more likely to be careless. I'm having my contact see if there's anything he can do.

Do any of you know whether she carries poison, or if she uses an Unbreakable Vow, or --

No.

Shall we proceed to Buckingham? We may be able to find her if it's not too late.

It would be like trying to break into MLE. Old MLE. You'd never get out again.

So, no. I'll see if my contact can get to her.
Well? What's he telling you?

Sorry.

Any word yet?

Fletcher healed her up.

He didn't go in for a close look.

Gah.

I really-

I'm not going to do anything you tell me not to, but-

It doesn't have to be me that tries, I mean, if you think I'd do something mad, but-

Are we really not even going to try?

I am currently trying to determine whether there's anything to try.

Storming Buckingham is not on the table, no.

Alice is going to tell your mother what happened. If you want to go be with your family, go.
If scouting Buckingham seems potentially useful I will send you.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 17:22:48
Re: Private Message to Brodie

Scouting. Yes.

Anything. Send me.

I'll help F-F. Or anything.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 17:35:57
Re: Private Message to Brodie

If F-F can use your help, you can certainly help F-F.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 16:32:43
(no subject)

I mean, no, she doesn't carry poison. Or have an unbreakable.

Her occlumency's competent. That's what Snape told her.

Which means she won't last under serious questioning.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 16:35:33
(no subject)

She knows your animagus form, Ron.

She knows the names of the people in the Order, but that's no longer a secret.

She knows our security procedures. I don't think she's a Secret Keeper for anyone.

What else?
Presumably your contact's identity is still secure.

Merlin.

The only people who know his name are you, Remus, Bill, and Sirius.

The Aurors have a list of people they're not to use lethal spells against, and he's on it, but there are other names on it as well. Still, if it were an Auror who'd been captured I'd let him know, so he could take steps.

I don't think Ginny knows anything that can seriously compromise us.

Yes.

We must see what is possible to do, but I trust your judgement about the possible cost and risk involved. You have my full support.

Please keep Remus and myself informed.

Strategically speaking, Ginny is expendable.

I think you're the one who has to decide whether that means she's expendable to the Order.
If she isn't, though, I don't know what that means.

I do not recommend attacking Buckingham. They will absolutely be prepared for that.

Yes.

I agree. We cannot storm Buckingham. That would be suicidal.

If there is any way of infiltrating and accessing her that would not compromise your contact, I suspect it would be miraculous indeed.

We must leave her in their hands, and see if an opportunity arises at a later date.

Damn it all.

I will tell Molly.

Thank you.
I think even killing her would compromise him.

Yes.

If something were to come up...

I know it's grasping at straws, and there's only so much we can afford to risk -- I am aware of the sort of weighing we must do, and am prepared to be cruel enough to keep us from folly.

I do have some experience in this, after all.

But do please let us know of any opportunities that come our way.

Believe me, I will.

Jason just told me that Broome came and took her to Bellatrix.
I see.

I just realized something. She had her journal with her.

Is there a way to make her unable to read the Order entries? I don't want to think about what compromising intel might be in Order posts two, three, and more years back.

Yeah. She does.

I don't think there are any surprises about who we are now.

Yeah, about security. So we need to be more careful about how people come and go here. That anti-polyjuice field seems like a really good idea. Someone's still working on that, right?

She knows names of people she was visiting and planning to visit to recruit them to our side.

Alice has that list, I think. I'll send people to warn them.
I'll get it from Honoria, too, in case there's anyone they added. Or were thinking about but hadn't made official.

Fuck.

What sort of injuries? Could you tell?

Poppy said she was knocked out.

I think we can assume that if Bellatrix wants to question her, she'll be provided with medical care first.

Hydra!

What kind of injuries has she got?

She wasn't able to stand or walk on her own. The healer was still doing diagnostics, but she knew that she was dealing with a progressive curse that causes pain, immobilisation, and so on.
Ron,

I expect you'll want to see your family and tell them what's happened.

Rachel's ordered me to continue with my previous assignment, what, which was to eliminate Dyson and Corbyn.

They're likely to be at Buckingham.

If you'd like to come back and help once you've finished, you're welcome along.

-Justin

Yeah. If Brodie lets me anywhere near Bham. Not sure she will.

Thanks, mate.

Well, you wouldn't be going to Buckingham, would you, old chap, you'd be coming to help me take out two targets, who happen to spend rather a lot of time at Buckingham.

In fact, I had been planning to acquire them on their way into or out of either the Elysian or the Orobouros clubs, so a second person to keep an eye on the second location would be bally well helpful.

But if we were to capture one of them, we could use polyjuice to get inside. Or do you think they've protections against that, like the sort we're trying to get operational at Hogwarts?
At the very least, we could perhaps find out information about the layout of the headquarters and where we'd be most likely to find her. I know time is of the essence but--well, I say, it's a start. Something productive to do, if you follow me.

-J

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 17:29:06
Re: Private Message to Ron

I told her I'll do whatever's needed. And mentioned this.

I expect they have got anti-polyjuice fields up. They invented them, yeah? And now we bloody need them worse than ever.

Would be interesting to know whether they've got them at either of those clubs, actually. That hunt would be more interesting if we could do it from the inside.

alt_justin at 2015-07-08 17:33:32
Re: Private Message to Ron

Agreed, much more interesting. They don't have polyjuice protection, but they do have other methods to prevent uninvited guests from getting past the lounge. I was nearly through the membership application before everything changed. It would be so much easier to get to them there, as well.

Will she let you come?

-J

alt_justin at 2015-07-08 17:02:44
Private Message to Hydra

Hello / goodbye, what? I didn't even get a chance to properly thank you for saving me from having to bathe that ward of patients.
You know there's a good chance Ron will make a play for Ginny, Buckingham or no.

-J
Assistance needed: St Mungo's.

We were surprised at the Puceys' house by enforcers. There was a fight. Injuries. I'm not certain how severe. Miss Weasley and Miss Sandoval have been removed to St Mungo's along with some of the others.

I was pinned down by a curse and couldn't stop their being taken.

Send help to St M's. They've not been recognised, I don't believe. See if you can't get to them before they are!

Could also use help here.

Dauphine Pucey and I are here with two small children and two enforcers we're holding under body bind.

Neither of us is in shape to apparate, I'm afraid, and she's quite concerned about the rest of her family.

We're not certain where they've all got to: some scattered during the attack, some we saw taken, others could be here somewhere, injured (or worse), but we can't... send someone when you're able.

It was Death Eaters costumed to look like our side, prominently displaying our armbands. They began the attack, not aiming to kill, but to injure and frighten.

Shortly after, another group arrived, wearing MLE uniforms and playing heroic. It was that lot who collected the injured and took them off to St M's.
alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 15:39:18
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

Bloody hell.

I sent Peel and a half-dozen others to the Pucey's. They should be there any moment.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 15:39:58
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

I don't suppose we're lucky enough that the people you've pinned down were the ones in our armbands?

alt_poppy at 2015-07-08 16:02:47
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

Indeed they are. Both. Caught between sides when MLE turned up.

Not a bit pleased about it, either.

Any news from the others?

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 16:03:42
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

They've found Honoria. No word yet on Ginny.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 16:04:36
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

Do you know what she got hit with? Sounds like she's not in Casualty, they may have moved her to a ward.
Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

I don't know.
She was knocked off her feet, but I couldn't see more than that.

Re: PM to Rachel, Alice, Remus

Spell injury wards sound like a good guess, then.

Private Message to Rachel Brodie

Rachel,
I've taken up position outside Elysian; shall I disengage to go to St M's?

-J

Re: Private Message to Rachel Brodie

Yes. I'm sending you, Hydra, Ron, and Draco. You'll recognise Ginny and Honoria.

Re: Private Message to Rachel Brodie

Jolly good, en route now.
**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-08 15:35:01
*Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy*

Go to St Mungo's. See if you can get to them. If you see DEMLE there stay clear, I don't want a firefight in the corridors of St M's.

---

**alt_ron** at 2015-07-08 15:36:24
*Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy*

On my way.

---

**alt_justin** at 2015-07-08 15:38:24
*Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy*

Ron, meet on SE corner. There appears to be a back entrance.

We can find people to polyjuice from here.

---

**alt_ron** at 2015-07-08 15:39:39
*Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy*

Yeah. Alright.

---

**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-08 15:38:25
*Re: Private message to Auror Weasley*

If the DEs get to her first, do not get yourself caught or killed, too. And do not engage in the corridors of St Mungo's unless you have no other option.
alt_ron at 2015-07-08 16:05:07
Re: Private message to Auror Weasley

I've got Honoria.

Malfoy's bringing the cloak.

Justin and Hydra are looking for Gin. Haven't found her yet. Hoping Hydra can work out where they've got her.

alt_draco at 2015-07-08 15:39:01
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

Got it.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 15:59:12
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

I've found Honoria. Second floor. Take the second left turning off the main corridor. It's a casualty ward.

Look out for the triage witches as you come up, but they've got their hands full at the moment, so I got by, looking like I knew my business. We'll need the cloak to get her out, though.

alt_draco at 2015-07-08 16:00:55
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

All right. Reckon it's a good thing I took the polyjuice, too.

alt_justin at 2015-07-08 16:01:29
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

I say, any sign of Ginny? Hydra and I will head up to the fourth floor and have a look in the spell injury wards.
alt_ron at 2015-07-08 16:03:53
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

No, Gin's not here.

Go.

alt_hydra at 2015-07-08 16:21:13
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

It's not good, she's not here any more.

Let's get out.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 16:24:46
Re: Private message to Aurors Weasley, H F-F, J F-F, and Malfoy

Wait. What?
Bill --

I realise you and your family are reeling at the moment -- but there is an immediate security concern.

Ginny has her journal, and may be forced to reveal the existence of the lock and read the Order entries.

What do we need to do to bar her access?

Would

I am loathe to say it, but would removing her from the Order membership accomplish this?

It would be for security purposes only, of course

Removing her would work.

She could be re-added if when she returns to us.

Yes. She most certainly would be.

This would be the first time we would have ever disbarred a member from our ranks, at least in my memory.

The reason is just, though.
Right. Let's meet in the library and get it done.

I just realised it, too.

The Lock operates contingent on membership. Yes, absolutely, remove her from the Order NOW.

RIGHT NOW.

And god, yes, please. Let her return to us.

I am so deeply sorry, Bill.

Can Rachel’s contact Accio the fucking thing? Even if he can’t get to her?

We can’t risk it, Bill. It’d draw too much attention to our source.
Right. Right. Of course.

The Lock can't be broken by a non-member. As long as she's removed from the rolls, they won't be able to read it. She won't be able to read it. I'm sure of that.

What Bellatrix'll be able to read from her memory, though...

Shite, shite, shite.

Bellatrix made an obviously false offer of Ginny for Hydra. But if I were to come back with a more equitable one...

What are your thoughts about a prisoner exchange?

The Patils will not want Padma as an option, naturally.

Would we be willing to give up Maebh? A few of the Enforcers we've captured? Not even addressing the logistics of making sure security concerns were addressed... I'm just wondering if I ought to make the attempt, and if so, what we could offer in a real exchange.

I'd trade Maebh for Ginny. I'd trade anyone we've currently got prisoner.

My guess is Bellatrix figures that if they were foolish enough to get themselves captured, they deserve whatever mercy we mete out, and aren't worth her time.

But it might be worth a try.
Don't offer the lot, though. Try Maebh and see if she wants you to sweeten the pot.

Is there anyone from their lot who actually cares about Maebh?

Crouch might. I'll see what she says.

Claims it to be a one time offer I can accept or refuse. Refused, naturally.

Blast.
Go find your mum and don't let her open her journal until I tell you it's okay.

The news is not good.

Stay with your mum. I need to -- I'll talk to her in person but there are a few things I need to find out first.

Fred and George and I are staying with her. Alice came and told her.

Whatever you have to do. If you can.

Mum's agreed.

And I love you. I trust you.

Whatever you and Alice decide, I know it will be the right decision.

We can't.

The only good news here is that she doesn't know...
much, and it shouldn't take long for Bellatrix to know she's told her everything she can.

Shite.

I'm...I'm going to close my journal for awhile myself, now.

Deal with the security ramifications, and whatever else you have to do. Tell Ron if he can't be spared now, understood, but we'll be here when he's free.

Wait--the Order lock!

Did Ginn have her journal with her?!

I had the same thought.

Remus thinks she can be removed from the Order. Temporarily. And this would mean she no longer had access to the locked entries.

She could still read private messages, though, if they let her have her journal for some reason.

Except wait. Fuck.

Bellatrix could read them right out of her head.
**2015-07-08 11:14:00**

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Al

just stepped out of saltash and got the news.
you need us to come in?

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-08 18:16:26**
(no subject)

There's nothing that can be done.

---

**alt_frank** at **2015-07-08 18:19:06**
(no subject)

shite.
sorry to hear it.

I know you're thinking through contingencies and are up to your neck in it. you want help wading through it all, you got it. you need us to keep on recruiting, we'll keep on.

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-08 18:20:33**
(no subject)

You keep on for the time being, but don't stay out too late, love. Because I most certainly will need help wading too.

Oh, Frank.

I feel so bloody helpless.

---

**alt_frank** at **2015-07-08 18:21:47**
(no subject)
we'll be back for dinner.

and I'll be yours for the rest of the evening, whatever you need.

@alt_alice at 2015-07-08 18:23:13
(no subject)

All right.

@alt_alice at 2015-07-08 18:24:54
(no subject)

Bellatrix Lestrange can go to hell.
2015-07-08 11:28:00
Private message to Reynard
Can you get to Ginny Weasley?

-alt_rachel

-alt_jason at 2015-07-08 16:34:30
(no subject)
Pardon?
Percy's sister? Is she somewhere I'm meant to be able to get to?

-alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 16:37:44
(no subject)
She was injured in a manufactured conflict between 'the Phoenixes' (which is to say, Protectorate defenders in Phoenix armbands) and 'MLE.' Taken to St Mungo's, from which she was removed by Crouch's MLE and -- I would assume -- taken to Buckingham.

-alt_jason at 2015-07-08 16:42:47
(no subject)
Then she'd be taken straight to Lady Lestrange.

Sorry, but she doesn't really have an open-door policy.

-alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 16:44:55
(no subject)
She's still badly injured. If Bellatrix wants to interrogate her, presumably she wants her alive. Is there a Healer on site? Where would they see to her?
Armenius Fletcher has a ward set up here. I suppose I could bust in for a potion of some kind and see what he's up to.

Yes, please.

Fletcher was making her sit up and drink a glass of water. Whatever she suffered, it looks like he put it right.

Couldn't really see what she was thinking or feeling, but her expression made it clear she wasn't happy. Can she occlude?

She can occlude. Probably not for long under cruciatus, though.

How much does she know?
Nothing that would compromise you.
Nothing that would seriously compromise us.

Oh, good. Then I can stop trying to think up ways to make it look like Fletcher accidentally killed her in the course of his treatment.

Do you have any way to kill her that wouldn't compromise you?

Broome just came in; he's bringing her to Lady Lestrange.
Sorry Minx, but I think our window of opportunity, slim as it was, has passed.

Shit.
Hey, Tuna brain. I'm coming back to Hogwarts to see if there's anything I can do for your mum.

Is there anything in the works for trying to get Ginny back?

Are you planning to do something foolishly heroic? You'd let us know if you were going to take on Buckingham yourself, wouldn't you?

I keep thinking about when the joined the Order and posted about how she'd

I'm so sorry, Ron.

Me, too.

Where are you? Did Madam P get back? Is she alright?

Yeah, she got back and she's okay. I haven't seen her much, I think Rachel spent part of the afternoon debriefing her.

I saw Bellatrix wrote to your family. What did she say?
Wanted to taunt us. Let us know she broke the occlumency straight away. Offered to trade Gin for Hydra. Jolly things like that.

Fred asked me to come sit with your family when I get done with my shift.

Anyway please let me know when you get back. If you decide to go to bed, or something.

Oh.

I'm sorry. I mean, there's nothing you can do there. I'll come save you from it when I get back. Will be a while, though. I should really stay here til closing.

You know Mum will understand if you're stuck on the ward. It's-there'll be loads of people with her. You know that.

It's actually really busy here, because Madam P was gone for so much of the day and -- almost everyone knows and people are coming in for sleep potions and calming tisanes and tummy tonic, you can probably guess.

I really feel like I ought to go if I can, though.
Cheers.

Not sure. Haven't heard anything from Brodie about anything, and she promised she'd let me go along if anything develops.

I'm currently sat in a restaurant across from the Ouroboros Club, having tea and watching for Dyson or Corbyn to come past. When I finish the biscuits, I'll slip back in the alley to change, and then I'm planning to climb a tree out front and curl round one of the branches and just stay there. Until Ouroboros closes or until it gets too chilly for snakes to want to hang out in the open up a tree, anywiz.
**2015-07-08 12:38:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley and Rachel Brodie*

F-F: I'm yours. Should I meet you or go direct to the Ouroboros?

If there's anything I can do to help Gin, though, I want to go.

---

**2015-07-08 17:46:04**

*alt_justin* (no subject)

Jolly good. Go to Ouroboros; I'll stay on the Elysian and we'll see which of us wins.

-J

---

**2015-07-08 17:47:31**

*alt_ron* (no subject)

Reckon I should go see Mum on my way.

But it's good I have orders. If you see what I mean.

---

**2015-07-08 17:50:00**

*alt_justin* Private Message to Ron

Yes, of course, mate. Take your time. But don't let her make you feel guilty for not staying, either.

When you get to NL, let me know and we can always take a reconnoiter round the palace and see what can be seen.

-J
alt_ron at 2015-07-08 17:51:07
Re: Private Message to Ron

Cheers.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 17:49:14
(no subject)

I won't hesitate to pull you out if something comes up. (Just as I pulled Justin off the job this morning.)

I'm sure your mother and brothers would like to see you at least briefly before you go to meet Justin.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 17:52:22
(no subject)

I'll stop in, yeah.

Thanks.

alt_ron at 2015-07-08 18:29:08
(no subject)

Bellatrix Lestrange just wrote us to offer an exchange: Ginny for Hydra.

Dammit. Mum wasn't doing too badly when I saw her. Considering. This'll send her to bits.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 18:31:06
(no subject)

Yeah, that's the wonderful thing about Bellatrix. Sometimes you don't even have to be her prisoner for her to find a way to

This probably doesn't need to be said, but no deal.
Yeah.

I know.

 Probably her actual goal is to turn your family against Alice. Or against Hydra. Or both.

Charming. Presumably this is not time for a mother-in-law joke. Nonetheless in the ledger of 'world's worst,' I do believe I win. Again.
Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

I'm so desperately sorry.
Would the professor be any help?

Just to be with you, I mean.
I can't go after her. I wish with all my heart I could.

I wish you could, too.
But you can't.
We're best on our own for now.

Understood.
2015-07-08 16:00:00
Order Only - Private message to Ron and Justin

You two all right? I thought you might want to know that Honoria is fine. Everyone's so worried about Ginny (understandably) that they might not have told you.

Ron, I saw that my mother wrote to your family.

What's she said?

alt_justin at 2015-07-08 22:08:27
(no subject)

Hello,

Ron's covering Ouroboros and I'm near the Elysian keeping a low profile. I'm glad Honoria's on the mend. (Has anyone explained to her what's happened?)

-J

alt_justin at 2015-07-08 22:11:09
Private Message to Hydra

Sorry for not taking the opportunity to kiss you goodbye but the polyjuice hadn't worn off and--well.

-J

alt_hydra at 2015-07-08 22:15:19
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Ew. That orderly was not attractive.
Your Healer was no prize, either! I suppose attractiveness is not really a priority when picking out someone to impersonate.

Ron may not--I suspect he'll want to be in animal form for a while. At least he didn't say anything about rushing off to Buckingham, what, I just wanted him to know that if he did want to focus there instead of here, we'd work around it.

Rachel or Mrs Longbottom haven't told you about the message?

-J

No, they hadn't.

Yeah, I'm fine.

Glad to know about Honoria. How's Madam P, d'you know? I asked Sally Anne, but I reckon she must be busy.

Your mother wrote to taunt Alice and my mum and to offer a trade: Ginny for you. Said she knew they wouldn't take it, but clearly she meant to drive a wedge.

Wrote to tell me Ginny never gave up on Percy and resents the rest of us because we did. Just letting me know she's got through the Occlumency, in other words. I thought about answering her to say that while Gin may think that, it doesn't mean it's true--but so far I've sat on my hands and not written. Reckon it's better not to.
Good show, old man. It's no use trying to spar with her; you'll get no satisfaction and you might even make yourself more upset.

I know it's dashed tempting, though. Anything your end? Nothing here.

-Justin

No, nothing here, either.

But that's what makes surveillance such glamorous work, what?

Oh.

I think she might mean it. The trade, I mean.

But, maybe not. She's not an easy person to predict. Which is why she's rather good (in a bad sort of way) at what she does, I suppose.

I'm sorry.

I'm sure she bally well does mean it. If we were foolish enough to accept, you're a much bigger prize to her than Ginny. But we'll just have to get Ginny back on our own, without your mother's help.

When most people say they have a horrid mother-in-law, they don't quite mean it the way I do.
You don't think she'd believe us if we did take her up on the trade, in order to draw her into the open?

-J

© alt_hydra at 2015-07-08 23:16:11
(no subject)

I mentioned that idea to Rachel, but I think Mummy would be prepared for a trap, even if she was hoping that we'd follow through on the trade. After all, that's how Harry won. By giving himself over. She won't have forgotten that.

© alt_ron at 2015-07-08 23:05:30
(no subject)

Well, no doubt she'd be bloody delighted to have us hand you over. No telling whether she'd feel obliged to give Ginny back in return. Or in what condition.

But, yeah. I imagine she's done quite a lot of damage this afternoon with Alice and Mum. And she's got the twins wound tight. Bill, too, I imagine. At least Charlie wasn't having to sit there all afternoon. Unless they found him and dragged him down from the preserve. But, really, what can any of them do? Brodie's not going to approve an attack on Buckingham, and she won't let me try slipping in there. And, yeah, she's probably right about it, too, but you know-

Ah, never mind. I keep going round and round all of it in my head, and really, I should just close this and pay attention to who's coming and going at the Ouroboros.

© alt_hydra at 2015-07-08 23:18:21
Private message to Ron

This is what they do. She and Crouch. They like to get inside your head and twist things around.
It's awful. I know that it's awful.

I don't want to distract you, though.
Managed to catch up with Tosha. Quite willing to set aside other things for this project. Diminishing returns on his other work--I'd say a break from that is in order, at the least. Can attest that it's making him pensive. (I'd say 'morose', but know he'd deny that.)

In any case, he perked up at the thought of this opportunity. Believe you'll hear from him or see him there soon.

Continuing to give thought to Brodie's fox. 28 May. 4 June. 8 July.

Glad to hear it, re: Tosha.
A. Longbottom offered Maebh in exchange for Hydra. Informed her that it was not a negotiation.

I believe they'll be quite sorry they rejected my offer, but I did expect that they would.

Yes. More than a month between the last and today. We've got no fox animagi in the palace that I know of, but it's one possibility. Brodie was in MEU with Gauge, Montague, and Parker. Friendly with Lana Sandoval-Pennifold and Sarah Yaxley. Had bedded a remarkable number of MLE staff, not to mention my brother-in-law.

So there are several possibilities, then.

Maebh. Can't fathom why there's not been a trial yet. For propaganda value if nothing else. Surely they haven't been holding onto her in expectation that she'd be useful for an exchange?
Not that she has no value, only it's obviously not the sort they understand. M's use now will be as a tool for measuring the rigour of their new 'justice'. Suppose they can't decide what code to apply?

As for foxes, think it's likely a code for someone who fancies themselves clever.

Unless it's something to do with Ireland, and the reference is Guil Foxe. I can attest that he's dead, though. Saw the corpse myself.

---

@alt_bellatrix at 2015-07-09 00:11:31
(no subject)

Can't decide because they insist on letting everyone have a say.

My experience has taught me that very few fancy themselves dull, even when their minds reflect the dullest of thoughts.

But it's clearly someone Brodie thinks of as clever. German background is possible, given the origins of the name "Reynard." Almost guaranteed to be a Slytherin. Someone not of their organisation, or else they'd employ their secret methods of communication.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-09 00:52:52
(no subject)

We'll assume it's one of ours.

Changes nothing. Already alert for signs of intel leakage.

Not entirely unrelated: have my eye on Baddock. Shame it was Ned we lost. Of the two, he was higher value. Better temperament. Better at following and anticipating orders. Less entrepreneurial. Baddock wants to be giving orders rather than taking them.
As we should.

I tend to agree with your assessment of Ptolemy. Keep me updated on him and anyone else who snags your attention.
If you get a minute to stop by my office this afternoon, please do.

---

All right.

Ron already told me about my mother's offer, though.

---

Oh, did he? Good. Does Alice need to reassure you we're not planning to bundle you off to your mad mum, or do you trust us not to stab you in the back?

---

I also wanted to ask if you'd had any thoughts about Rigel.

And what rumours you're hearing around the castle. Either with your ears or your legilimency.

---

No, I trust you.

I'd say accept her offer so we can turn it into a trap, but I know that Mummy will already have planned for that.

Everyone in the Order could read Madam P's entry, so they know Ginny and Honoria needed to be rescued, and they know that
Honoria's back and Ginny's not. And they saw that my mother wrote Alice and the Weasleys.

So mostly people think she's not long for this world.

The problem with Rigel is that he's probably in the palace most of the time, and if we could get in there then we could get Ginny.

But I know my mother doesn't control him the same way she controlled me. She can't legitimise him without falling under his spell, so she has to bribe him. Or give him things he wants, then take them away until he does something she needs him to do.

I don't think he's afraid of her yet, either.

So all I can think of is luring him away from her, somehow. But I don't know with what.

---

**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-08 23:47:12

(no subject)

I've been thinking about ways to turn it into a trap. We could send someone who's used polyjuice, but it would have to be one of the natural occlumens, which means me, Ron, Sirius, or Terry. Ron would probably do it, but I can't imagine successfully turning it into an ambush.

I've been trying to work out whether we could use their expectation of a rescue attempt against them, and try for Rigel. And wondering whether I'm being overly cautious, and regretting not telling my spy this afternoon that Ginny knew his name.

---

**alt_hydra** at 2015-07-08 23:59:53

(no subject)

While I'm sure my mother is prepared for all counter-actions we might take, I don't think she expects us to mount a rescue or accept her offer.

I think she expects us to do nothing, and feel helpless, while she does to Ginny whatever she has planned.
I realise that's an unhelpful thing to say, though.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 00:18:07
(no subject)

You're probably right about what she expects.
Order Only: Private message to Rachel, Pansy, Sally-Anne, Terry, Tonks, and Luna

For those of you who don't know yet, Bellatrix's message included a few taunts and an offer meant to be refused: Ginny for Hydra.

Alice has written the refusal. So. Yeah. Now we wait. Probably anything we hear after this point won't be good.

Pans, George asked me to write to you to let you know he wants to see you.

Ron stopped by, but he's off now. Sally-Anne, Luna, Tonks, Rachel: George, Bill, Charlie and me are in Mum's rooms, and she's asked me to let you all know she'd like the rest of the family here, if you can come. (Rach, reckon you probably can't right now, but stop by, when you have a pause. Mum understands, and she's not going to go flying off the handle at you.)

The Professor would be welcome right about now, too.

---

alt_terry at 2015-07-08 23:09:43
(no subject)

On my way.

alt_luna at 2015-07-08 23:13:30
Private message to Fred Weasley

Will it upset your Mum more if I'm crying? Because I can't stop.

alt_fred at 2015-07-08 23:14:00
Re: Private message to Fred Weasley

She'd probably think you were mad if you weren't crying. She certainly is.
So don't let that stop you.

_@alt_pansy at 2015-07-08 23:28:24_
(no subject)

I'll be there shortly, with a loaded tea tray and sandwiches.

Thank you, Fred.

_@alt_pansy at 2015-07-08 23:33:22_
_Private Message to Fred_

Should I see if Honoria is up for coming along as well? I have a feeling she's in need of some family at the moment too.

_@alt_fred at 2015-07-08 23:37:43_
_Re: Private Message to Fred_

Yeah, Honoria's welcome, too.

_@alt_rachel at 2015-07-08 23:42:09_
(no subject)

Please tell your mother I'll try to stop by when I can.

_@alt_fred at 2015-07-08 23:50:41_
(no subject)

I will.
I need to finish up my shift in the infirmary but I'll come after.

Thanks.
Thank you, everyone. Our family is deeply grateful for your support.

I don't know what else I can say.

---

I know you did everything you possibly could.

Thank you for saying so.

I didn't have a chance to tell you earlier, but if it's any comfort, Ginny was right about the Puceys. Dauphine and the two little ones, her nieces, came with us. They're at Moddey now. And we're hoping that the others--the ones taken to hospital and the ones who ran from the attack--will find their way here. We'd done our job persuading them before we were overrun, and if they'd needed any further convincing, that surely will have accomplished it.

And we sent a team to Letitia Calderwood. She was to be next on our list. Ginny had met her while she was modelling. There was a feature run on the two of them, past and present Purest Sparkle girls, and they'd made a connection? I'm not certain. In any case, the team today managed to persuade her that she was likely to be MLE's next target--which she surely would have been, as she was so freshly in Ginny's thoughts--and she agreed to shelter with us. I believe they took her to one of the safe houses we're using for people who need careful evaluation and orientation before we can decide how far to trust them and where they'd be best suited. So our work today bore fruit, though it was costly indeed.

I am so very sorry, Molly.
Re: Private message to Poppy

It wasn't for nothing, then. I'll try to hang on to that.

I tried to convince Alice of this, but please, will you tell her I said it to you, too? I don't blame her. She knows what this is like, and I won't turn against her, I won't let Bellatrix win that way.

I was going to ask for a calming draught, but I think not. If I stay up all night crying, I don't give a damn.

I will speak with Alice, of course. I'm sure she knows she can count on you always, though, just as you know that she will keep faith with you through whatever may come. We have one another, and that is something Bellatrix Lestrange cannot fathom and can never take from us.

I respect your decision about the calming draught. It's my firm belief that weeping properly is therapeutic. Should you change your mind at any point, do send an elf for me. At whatever time.

There's truly no hope? No hope at all of rescue, or that

oh mercy

I understand now, I truly understand why you killed Stephen McGivern.
If Bellatrix keeps her alive, which she may do for a while, we may have a chance to rescue her later. It depends on what they do with her, where they decide to keep her, other things.

I must know.

How, do you think, might they use her? If they keep her alive?

They may want her as a hostage, to try to influence our decisions or movements. They may want to force her to speak against the Order publicly, for propaganda purposes. They may want to turn her against us, again, probably for propaganda purposes. Or possibly Bellatrix is going to try again to use her as a lever on the Order.

I see. Yes, of course.

Forewarned is forearmed, I suppose.

Well. I will do my utmost to keep myself and the rest of the family from dancing to Bellatrix's *tarantella* hex, no matter what happens.
Once she's dead, she can't be used against us any more. Which would argue for keeping her alive for now.

I'm really not sure that's better.

I read this, and I actually considered for a moment....

I wondered whether it would give Ginny more time, a better chance of survival, if I gave Bellatrix what she wants. All the signs of agony, of desperation, helpless rants, that kind of thing?

But then I realised no, I can't do that. It would only help to destroy everything we've been working for with the Order, to demonstrate to everyone that Bellatrix is right, that everyone has to fold in the face of the pain she can dish out. And that she'll always win because her capacity for causing pain is limitless.

Which means that the best chance I have of cutting Ginny's pain short would be convincing Bellatrix I refuse to dance to her piping. I won't do everything I can to save my own daughter.

And Bellatrix will undoubtedly inform her of that, right before she kills her.

Oh, Rachel, I can't bear this.

Where is Ron? You haven't...you won't send him after Ginny?
Ron is in the field right now, helping Justin with something.

I would send him after Ginny if I thought he'd have a chance of success. Right now it would be a suicide mission. He's admitted as much.

About Bellatrix -- you'll drive yourself mad thinking in those circles. You don't have to say a word where she can see it for her to know what she's doing to you. I don't think she seriously expected to schism the Order, any more than we seriously expected her to take Maebh in trade.

I'm glad you haven't sent him on, yes, a suicide mission. I do think the field is the best thing for him right now; all us Weasleys feel best when we're being useful.

About Bellatrix--you're right. And Alice is right, too: the best thing of all is not to engage.

If Ginny is kept alive and allowed to use her journal...well, we'll deal with that if and when it happens.

She won't be able to read the Lock, but she'll have private messages. But you should assume that she'll be forced to read any messages she receives to Bellatrix.
Yes, I've already realised that, of course.

Rachel, I'm...I'm very grateful. To have you in your present position, I mean. At least you know Bellatrix, and the way our enemy thinks and operates, and in the midst of this awfulness, I truly believe we can trust that you have the best chance of gauging what is the right thing to do.

If there isn't any right way, you'll have the best chance of any of us of seeing that, too.

I'm sorry, I'm afraid I'm dreadfully emotional, today, and perhaps I'm not making much sense. But I wanted you to know that.

Will you stop by soon? It's clear Bill wants to see you, but he doesn't want to interrupt you.

Yes, I was just about to come. I'll see you soon.

Thank you for not lying to me. And for giving me a voice in the decision.

I am sorry I couldn't do more.
I can't bear it, Arthur. I want to scream my lungs out. I want to cast Avada Kedavra on Bellatrix Lestrange.

I wanted to rake my nails down Alice's face when she

when she

oh, but I know that's exactly what that bitch wanted. I won't give her the satisfaction. Alice knows what it's like to have her child in their hands, and I see perfectly well that she was dying inside when she was talking to us. She is not the enemy.

I did everything I could to keep them all safe, Arthur, but I couldn't do it. I couldn't save Percy, and I couldn't save her, and I can't save her, and I'm burning up with shame, and terror, and ... and rage!

I feel so helpless, and that's exactly how Bellatrix Lestrange wants me to feel, but how can I help it? How can I thwart her now? Tell me, how!?

Oh Merlin.

I can't be with her. It's mad, but I'm silently pleading with every power I know to keep Ron from going after her. Because he'll only be lost, too.

All I have is you. Please stay with her. Please be near her. Oh, if only love could bring back the dead, so you could shield her, protect her.

But you can't. You're beyond my thoughts and my pleas, and no tears of mine will help Ginny or make it possible for you to save her.
The only crumb of comfort left to me is the hope that since you're lost to me, you'll be there to meet her when Bellatrix kills her, too.

---

**alt_molly** at **2015-07-09 01:51:51**  
*Private message to Gideon and Fabian Prewett*

I must be absolutely mad to write this, but I can't even care. Any mother in this position would be crazed with grief, I imagine.

You're her uncles. I've called upon her father's spirit to protect her. As long as I'm writing hopeless message to the dead, I might as well call upon you, too.

I'm so sorry I couldn't save you. The same monsters who killed you are threatening my Ginny now.

If the dead have any power, any agency at all, please use all of yours that you can to guard my little girl.

---

**alt_molly** at **2015-07-09 02:09:14**  
*Re: Private message to Ginny Weasley*

You'll never see this. Even if you're alive, and even if you're allowed to see your journal, I can't write anything that Bellatrix can then pry out of your mind to use to hurt you, and to hurt us in return. So I'm writing it here, even though

oh bugger I told Alice to tell Rachel to take your life if you couldn't be rescued. But we couldn't even do that.

My darling Ginevra, I'm so sorry that we failed you. I would do anything to take your place, to take the curses for you, but I can't. We'll keep trying to think of a way to get you out of there. If they give us time, perhaps it will be possible. **Anyway, I know Alice won't and Rachel Ginny, if we could**

But if we can't--

If we can't, your father will be waiting for you.

I promise.
Sometimes I miss not having any friends.

The Weasleys can be overwhelming in the best of circumstances. Under these conditions I imagine they're justified in whatever conflicting emotions they may be exhibiting.

I think perhaps you miss not being responsible for the hard decisions.

It's not the Weasleys that are the problem, it's me. I try to keep my distance from people. It didn't even really work in Dogstar but it really doesn't work in the Order.

Well, it does if you've an irascible personality. But even a greasy curmudgeon like Severus couldn't manage complete misanthropy.

If you need to go off and be alone, just go.
I don't really think I'd better.
I'll stop by and see Molly for a bit. I've been putting it off.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 03:26:36
(no subject)

And you're right about the hard decisions.
This is awful.

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-09 03:34:59
(no subject)

Bill's not up for a particularly rough shag, then?
No. Probably not.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 03:36:58
(no subject)

He might be, later. Right now he's with Molly and his brothers. Can't very well pull him away.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 03:46:48
(no subject)

I think I might feel better right now if Molly wanted to curse at me and spit in my face.

She says she's grateful to me because I know Bellatrix and she thinks I'll make the right decision.

And now she really understands why I killed Stephen.

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-09 04:00:45
(no subject)

Circe.
Two days is my best estimate. Three, if I accidentally trip the Gryffindor gallantry, but I'm fairly confident I can avoid it.

Bella, how long have you been cruciating her? If it's been more than a few hours, it's likely time for me to step in. Once she sees me, it will be very important that from then on out, for at least the next day or two, she only sees me when I am coming in to chase you off and bring her respite. We'll need for her to associate me with safety, or at least with a temporary cessation of pain.

If you aren't at a turning point, I'll come in in a moment and 'object' to your treatment of her. We'll need to leave her alone and let her get a few hours' sleep tonight -- if only so that I can wake her in the wee hours and start planting the seeds of uncertainty. (Thank you for that information on her fears about her late, unlamented brother; that will serve nicely as a lever.)

Barty -- if you have some time tomorrow (morning or afternoon; the timing is flexible) I will likely need you to come play boogeyman. Or if there's a minion you have available, but it's important that it not be anyone who might be at all tempted to be soft on her.

Three is acceptable. Two would be astonishing - especially for her family.

Corbyn's been working on her. It may be good to switch to me for a time before you step in.

One half-hour, say.
The two-day estimate is a bit optimistic, but from what you've said I'll have plenty of strings to pull. Mind you, that isn't a timeline for full cooperation -- that will take longer -- but I'm confident I can have her cooperating in her own conditioning no earlier than the weekend.

Yes, half an hour of your work would be an excellent scene to set. If you aim for a crescendo I'll burst in at the height of matters. Do ignore everything I say to you; it will be entirely for her benefit, of course.

Understood.

I'll remove the imperturbable ward on the door enough for you to be certain when we've reached the crescendo.

Much appreciated. You'll know when I'm about to come in, of course, but please do try to act surprised. A bit of bickering would not go amiss.

All right, I have her ensconced in one of the holding cells with a number of monitoring spells to catch if she tries to hurt herself. I'll keep an eye on her, and once she's soundly asleep in a few hours I'll wake her and feed her the beginning of the story we discussed. (If you can be within listening range for that, and tell me if there's anything I can work with or if we need to switch storylines, I would be much obliged.) At very least I want to plant the idea that we weren't responsible for her brother's death.
tonight; it will give her more time to think about who might have been.

Then in the morning, you can send Corbyn in with instructions to make it seem as though he did not get the orders I issued about her treatment, and I can rescue her again. Barty can come in in the afternoon, and put her through another round of interrogation, and that should leave things nicely for me to come in again tomorrow night. With luck I should be able to enlist her enough in her own interrogation by then.

I'll need another dose or two of the Cruciation palliative tomorrow to reinforce the notion that I am the source of kindness and benevolence, but with luck we won't need quite as much subterfuge by a day or two from now.

(Also, in case you did not catch me thinking it: very well played indeed.)

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-09 03:48:57
(no subject)

Pleased to be of service.

@alt_antonin at 2015-07-09 03:53:09
(no subject)

You do bring me the nicest presents; it's only proper for me to share the wealth.
2015-07-08 23:00:00
Private message to Jason

Do you know if that's really Ginny Weasley that Bellatrix has in her office?

@alt_seamus

2015-07-09 04:05:40
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. It definitely is.

Earlier today I saw Broome escorting her to Lady Lestrange.

@alt_jason

2015-07-09 04:13:59
(no subject)

Off the door? Odd, that. So she wanted someone to hear. I wonder who. Perhaps any and all of us?

And could be that Lady Lestrange is simply enjoying herself at this point. Now that she's out of the field she finds fewer opportunities to do the things she really takes pleasure in.
You did interrogation for a while.
Did you like it?
If they'd known how good you are at legilimency they'd have kept you on, surely.

Interrogation gets folded in with Surveillance and Investigation, because we all know who's the head Interrogator around here, don't we? Anyway, I did intensives in both Surveillance and Investigation. They were great and I got to work on some fantastic operations. Lots of spying on Dogstar and such.

I was pretty eager to impress back then, but after a time I could sense that my ambitiousness was rubbing some people the wrong way. It made them mistrust me, in some cases, or outright compete with me in others. I did an intensive with MEU to show that I didn't mind doing the work that nobody wanted, and that's where I ended up.

'Course, MEU doesn't really exist now, as such.

And yeah, they probably would have kept me on, and I probably would have revealed my skills, eventually. I rather wanted to see if I could improve it, first. With practice, you know? Because I think it probably can be improved. Hydra Lestrange didn't come into her legilimency until what, a few years ago? And yet she's somehow as good as her mother.

Sounds like the MEU thing backfired, if that wasn't where you actually wanted to be.
Is it getting better? Your legilimency, I mean.
I can't tell. If it is improving, it's doing so in a profoundly slow way.

You know, I almost don't want to suggest this because you've done so well at occlumency, but would you be willing to let me cast the legilimency spell on you? It might shift things around in some way, maybe amplify my natural ability. But I know it's a lot to ask, and I sort of expect you to tell me no.

There's no one else I can ask, though, so I figure it's worth a try.

Does it hurt? Why wouldn't I let you?

No, it won't hurt.

And you might not let me because I don't know what will happen, or what I'll end up reading off you. It's like asking you for permission to invade your privacy.

But I wouldn't be doing it because I want to invade your privacy, if you see what I mean.

I trust you.

Anyway, you're teaching me to occlude. I wouldn't be able to occlude at all if you hadn't
taught me and you'd be able to invade my privacy all you wanted, any time you wanted.

[@alt_jason](#) at 2015-07-09 05:07:42
(no subject)

Good then.

Well if my legilimency improves then I can actually probably help you make your occlusion stronger, too. So it works out for both of us.

Let's not start tonight, though. I'm knackered.

Tomorrow night, though?

[@alt_seamus](#) at 2015-07-09 05:10:31
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

Do you know what they're going to do to

I'll see you tomorrow.
If anybody has any really big chores or cleaning or repairs or anything they've been putting off, let me know. If I'm really lucky I'll be able to put off the breakdown that's looming on the horizon by keeping busy until after it's ... all over. One way or the other.

---

I keep looking down at Adam and remembering when Ginny was that little and oh Merlin that's my baby sister they've got. They've got her and they're hurting her and she's scared and she's smart enough to know we can't come for her and sorry. I just need to be busy right now. I'll be in the kitchen I think.

---

I'll come join you. We can be busy together, yeah?

---

Yeah. Yeah, thanks.

You know, it's weird, but? I caught myself thinking a little while ago, I miss Snape. Because on nights when I needed to do something, he'd just point me at the stillroom and have me scrub things, or bring me in the kitchen and have me wash pans, and he never once asked me how I was doing or how I was holding up or anything daft like that.
Maybe I'll see if Hermione needs people to chop things. Although at the rate I'm going I'd probably cut off a fingertip or something, and then she'd tell me off for bleeding on the ingredients. (She's sounding more and more like him every day!)
Right, what can we give Molly to do tomorrow and for the next few days? Otherwise I've a feeling Rachel's guilt will feed Molly's reassurance, which will feed Rachel's guilt, &c, so on, ad nauseum.

Have her try to track down the families of the Sleepers that Hermione's planning to wake up on Friday.

Excellent choice. Unless you think connecting family members when her own daughter is inaccessible would twist the knife.

For some people it would. I think less so for Molly.

Agreed. I think it'd make her feel useful, and it's something she's well suited for.
Was the PM from Rachel seeking your absolution?

No.

She's all right. She's just ... not used to caring about the people she has to let go.

Oh.

I see. Yes.

It's too bad that Bill's as distressed as Molly. I suggested that a brisk shag often helps the restlessness but I very much doubt he'll be in any frame of mind for it.

(Not that I'm suggesting she look elsewhere but I can also understand a certain feeling of confinement, when one's used to a more expansive range of possibilities, and only one's within bounds.)

Are you feeling confined?

Anyway I imagine you're right about Bill. She could take him to the salle for a training run,
that's another option for distraction. Does she drink? Getting pie-eyed drunk has a certain appeal.

alt_sirius at 2015-07-09 04:33:51
Re: Private message to Padfoot

Whot? No, not - that's not - No. I'm only saying that monogamy is an adjustment when you're used to shagging somewhat indiscriminately, without any particular strings attached. And sometimes if there's a stressful situation, but one's partner isn't available, it can be tempting. I mean to say, committed doesn't necessarily mean dead.

Not that I think she'd hurt Bill like that. I'm hoping he'll be in the mood later, or she can get him there. I almost offered her a blunt but I don't think she fancies any sort of chemical consciousness alteration.

Though I must say drinking, smoking or shagging sound particularly good right now. Are you available?

alt_lupin at 2015-07-09 04:35:06
Re: Private message to Padfoot

Yeah, I am.

Anything's better than inside my head at the moment
2015-07-09 11:14:00
Private Message to Ginny Weasley

Gin,

I'm hoping they let you read your book if they see someone's writing you. Because we're all thinking about you, and you need to know that.

I know you're being strong. You're one of the strongest people I know. Remember! You survived all those years with the twins, yeah? And the rest of us. I mean, anyone who's youngest of seven with six older brothers--you've been training for this your whole life.

Merlin, Gin. I'm so sorry. We're going to get help to you. I promise.

alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 00:25:50
(no subject)

Ron, do you remember that time when we were eight and nine, and listened in on that conversation down in the living room? When they caught us?

Did they let you remember? Or did they make you forget, too? I remember Mum was crying, but she didn't stop Bill from taking me. Or Dad from taking you.

alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 00:30:36
(no subject)

Look, you don't have to stay with them.

Do you trust me?

alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 00:32:57
(no subject)

And you're right. I'm strong.

Both of us are strong.

We had to be, to survive our family.
Hey. I don't really know how to answer, Gin.

I don't remember the time you asked about, but...

There's

I dunno

something

It's just right at the edge of my

But no, I don't remember anything. And now that makes me worried, y'know?

When I was eight and you were nine we took it in our heads to eavesdrop on Mum, Dad, and Bill. It was late at night and they were drinking firewhiskey and talking downstairs; we'd been put to bed but got up. I had my stuffed kneazle and we were both barefoot and in our pyjamas. They were talking about the Order, of course, though we didn't hear enough to know that at the time, and then they caught us. Mum was really upset because she knew what was going to happen but of course she didn't stop it. Bill took me back up to my room and Dad took you somewhere else. He sound-charmed the door and then he burned me, with his wand, over and over, and said this is what happened to eavesdroppers each time. And then he Obliviated everything because the goal was to make me terrified of overhearing but not know why.

I think Dad must have done something similar to you but I wasn't there to see. I just know you were different afterward. I probably was too.
Dad would nev

Dad?

...

Yeah, Dad.

No.

I don't remember that at all.

I'm trying, but I-

I mean, I do remember times (loads of times) when they all stopped talking when we'd walk in the kitchen. And those times when Mum would be going mad with worry and would try to hide it from us. When Dad was off somewhere. Remember? She would never tell us anything. And if the clock said something dire, she'd ward the kitchen so we couldn't come in. I mean, I didn't know why that was until later, but that was why, innit?

There were times they'd all stop talking but there were also times they'd Obliviate us. Or punish us and then Obliviate us, you'd think that would be pointless but the idea was to make us afraid to overhear even if we didn't know why.

That was why Bill was so convinced he could just Obliviate you
with no consequences, that time a few years ago. And probably actually why you knew to expect it and dodge. And why no one seemed all that surprised when he hit you. I mean, he'd been doing it for years and just obliterating us each time. Charlie, too, though mostly Bill was the one who was around.

alt_ron at 2015-07-12 14:05:04
(no subject)

Miss you.

And I'm worried about you. Are they hurting you? I can't stand thinking about them hurting you.

alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 14:28:04
(no subject)

Not anymore No.

alt_ron at 2015-07-12 14:58:40
(no subject)

You're really alright?

Brodie won't let

alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 15:07:52
(no subject)

What won't Brodie do? I'm okay Ron, really. Antonin thinks that maybe all the blocks are gone, we're going to talk more later. I had a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.
Be sure you eat properly.

I mean, if they're feeding you and letting you stay safe, Gin. I mean it.

It's hard to feel safe anymore.

I haven't been very hungry but they're feeding me and letting me sleep, yeah.

And of course you don't feel safe. You're working with people like Bill. And Rachel Brodie or Lamont or Weasley or whatever she's going by. We were NEVER safe around the Order, that was the thing. Our whole childhood we were unsafe and we never knew why. We weren't safe from our parent, or our siblings, or some of the people coming through our house, or any of it. No wonder Percy just about went mad; he was trying so hard to be the big brother we needed but he was under siege from every side.

Mum's saying she never let the Twins kill one of our pets.

You remember THAT, don't you?

Bludgered Pesky, didn't they? Who does that, seriously? Ugh. I can still see its little body all curled...
I don't remember if they even got in trouble for it.

Probably just had to de-gnome the garden, yeah?

@alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 15:09:02
(no subject)

Yeah, Pesky. I don't remember if they got in any real trouble. She says de-gnoming the garden is what she made them do that time they turned your teddy into a spider.

@alt_ron at 2015-07-12 15:14:11
(no subject)

Mordred! That spider!

Ugh.

@alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 15:35:47
(no subject)

I think the Twins are basically sociopaths. They might have turned out a bit less vicious if they'd grown up in a different household.
**2015-07-09 12:13:00**
*Private message to Ginny Weasley*

Ginny, dear, I'm so sorry.

I love you with all my heart.

---

**@alt_molly**

---

**@alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 00:24:02**
*(no subject)*

Just like you loved Percy?

---

**@alt_molly at 2015-07-12 13:50:54**
*(no subject)*

Every mother loves her children, but in different ways. Yes, I loved Percy. Even though he was cruel to me and hurt me in many ways, and turned completely against me.

And yes, I do love you.

---

**@alt_molly at 2015-07-12 14:06:53**
*Order Only*

It has always comforted me that Percy's spirit came back to me in the end.

I hope yours will return to me, too.

---

**@alt_ginny at 2015-07-12 00:28:36**
*(no subject)*

You didn't really love any of us. Your first loyalty was always the Order. Always! Maybe you weren't the one who drove the knife, but I heard you sign off on Percy's murder.
One thing that any experienced mother has heard before is ‘You don't love me! You never loved me!' And I had seven children, so I'm very experienced.

I promise you I can listen to it without my world falling apart. Sometimes the child needs to say it, and that's much more important than any hurt feelings the mother might have about hearing it.

I'm curious about one thing, Ginny dear: since you believe that my loyalty to the Order was more important than that to my family, what do you think my loyalty to the Order was all about? What do you now believe the Order trying to accomplish?

What is your opinion of the Order now?

How are they treating you, dear? Are you getting sleep, and enough to eat?

You let Bill Obliviate me and punish me. You let the Twins kill my pet, you let them turn Ron's teddy into a giant spider, you let them humiliate Percy over and over.

You told us that this was keeping us safe, protecting us, cherishing us.

Ron always knew he was the one you didn't want. You didn't hide it very well.

Well, now, some of those things are partly true, Ginny. The twins indeed did turn Ron's teddy bear into a giant spider, but it's not as though I let them do so. If you'll recall, I made them spend the next
entire day de-gnoming the garden. And the twins did play pranks on Percy, but I did scold them and punish them when they were too malicious.

But no, the rest of those things are not true, Ginny. Bill has never Obliviated or punished you, and Fred and George never killed any pet of yours.

I believe you when you say you remember those incidents, though, dear.

Of course you'd just deny everything.

I never forgot Pesky. I don't know why you didn't Obliviate THAT.

Even RON remembers what happened with Pesky. So if you really can't remember, maybe he can help you out.

This is another thing that is right--partly. The twins did kill Pesky with a bludger. The incident with Pesky had slipped my mind, Ginny, when I first answered you, which I suppose may appall you, but it's true. I didn't initially remember what their punishment was either, but the twins did. Vividly.

Besides taking their brooms away, and not allowing them to play Quidditch for the rest of the summer, your father and I made an arrangement with our neighbours, the Bakers. You remember, they used to own that farm south of the Diggorys, the one they called Chestnut Hill? They had an aging pony that had belonged
to their son when he was a boy, but the pony was dying.

We assigned Fred and George to spend the rest of the summer caring for White Star: nursing it, feeding it, trying to comfort it. We were trying to teach them empathy. And when White Star finally died, I think they truly understood how Ron felt.

Here's the odd thing about memories, Ginny. They can be very unreliable. I didn't remember all this at first. And yet I am sure that I was very angry with Fred and George at the time, and I don't think you can say that I stinted on their punishment.

Yet, you misremembered too, Ginny. Pesky wasn't your pet. He was Ron's. That's partly the reason why I didn't make the connection when you mentioned the name. You were too young to have a pet at the time.
2015-07-09 13:57:00
Order Only: Private message to Ron

How are you feeling this morning?

I saw you and your Mum both wrote to Ginny.

What did you end up saying?

---

alt_ron at 2015-07-09 19:06:14
(no subject)

I told her we're going to find a way to help her and that she should stay strong.

I reminded her she's made it through all these years with a load of older brothers... and some tosh about how that's got to've made her strong. I just wanted her to know we're all thinking about her and working to figure out how to get her out of there. Tried to make her smile.

I dunno. I reckon they might let her read it so they can find out whether I said anything they could use against us. I didn't obviously.

So far no one's shouted at me for being an eejit for writing it, but I won't be surprised if they do.

Mostly I just thought it was worth trying, yeah?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-09 19:07:31
(no subject)

Yeah. She can't read the Order posts anymore so maybe PMs will make her feel less alone.

And if they make her read it to them it's not like they don't already know you're her brother and you love her.
I know, right?

I don't know how she'll feel about 'stay strong,' though.

Erm.

What do you mean?

She's not a natural occlumens or an animagus and that means that to get information from her, Bellatrix would've just had to break down her occlumency and read it out of her mind. She's probably done it by now and Ginny probably hates herself for it. And thinks it's because she's weak.

I mean

Gryffindors, you know? You value strength a lot. The internal sort of strength. When she joined the Order she said that she'd keep our secrets no matter what, but realistically she probably hasn't. Most people give up under torture and say whatever they think will make the pain stop.

And if they let her read her diary it's even more likely that's what happened.
Oh.

Oh, no.

Damn. I shouldn't have said that stuff, then. I just-

Damn. I'm such an idiot.

You're not an idiot. I think it's good you wrote to her, I think it'll make her feel less alone.

But you're right. She probably did tell them everything she knows already. I mean, it won't have taken long for Auror Lestrange to have got through her occlumency. And she will feel awful about it.

I'd be trying to kill myself by now if I were her. I hope that's not how Ginny thinks, but-
Yeah, me too.

Don't they take precautions, though? To make sure people don't? She'd already been taken to St Mungo's, if she carried poison they had probably already taken it away from her.

If you were Bellatrix's prisoner and you didn't have any way to kill yourself and she'd made you tell her everything you knew about the Order and she lets you read your PMs in case there's information in them she wants to know is there anything that would actually help?

I think if I were in that place I'd want to know people hadn't forgotten about me and weren't giving up.

I don't know what else.

Yeah. I mean, pretty much everything I thought of at first was just completely wrong. I mean, I thought about telling her that everyone had come, Charlie, even, and that we'd all been with Mum last night and that she's going to be alright, but...

Yeah, no. Don't make her worry about Mum. Or think about all of us safe and together.

Guess I didn't really end up doing a lot better.

I was just trying to tell her the sort of things that people said to Harry when he left the school that afternoon. You know:
Don't give in to threats. Do what you know you need to.

That sort of thing.

What did you write to Harry?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-09 19:54:39
(no subject)

I didn't actually write to Harry. I pretended I was writing to Harry but explained in the Order-locked postscript that it was actually to Headmaster Dolohov.

And when you asked to take him something I sent him an origami lion. So you know. Not words.

alt_ron at 2015-07-09 20:04:10
(no subject)

He liked your lion.

I can't remember if I told you that, but he did. He carried it around with him all afternoon.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-09 20:15:58
(no subject)

I'd send Ginny a lion if there was any way to get it to her.

Or something that's a good survivor. A coyote, maybe, though that would just look like a dog if you folded it out of paper.

That's all she really needs to worry about, you know? Surviving.
I know it.

I hope she does.
2015-07-09 15:30:00
Order Only: Private Message to Ron

Ron,

We're up. I've just spotted Dyson, coming out of the Elysian. I say, it looks like he's decided to walk back toward Westminster.

Can you Apparate to that corner by the embankment? Near the great ugly statue on the park side. If we can cut him off there, we can Apparate away and they might not immediately connect that we picked him up from the club.

Let's see what he can tell us before we do anything else, what.

-Justin

alt_ron at 2015-07-09 20:36:33
(no subject)

On it.

Will broadcast a Confundus over the footpaths there to prep the area for our ambush.

alt_justin at 2015-07-09 20:38:14
(no subject)

Jolly good.

I'll front and follow to make sure he doesn't take any odd turnings.

See you shortly.
We have Dyson.

Got his poison away from him--a button on his collar. Stripped him.

Justin's having a go with him now.

I'll give him some time and then interrupt.

We'll get you updates when there's anything to share.

---

**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-09 21:07:42
(no subject)

Good.

Where are you? Do you want anyone there to watch your back?

---

**alt_ron** at 2015-07-09 21:16:41
(no subject)

Former safehouse at Hogsmeade.

So, yeah. Actually, you could do what you can to be sure no one from the castle wanders down here and walks in on what we're doing. For sure don't let Mum or- yeah, a watch might be a good idea.

---

**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-09 21:23:03
(no subject)

I'll come

I'll send one of the Enforcers to keep people away.

Do you want Hydra, once she's free? I'd rather not pull her from
her current assignment but if you think you need her help I'll send her down when I can.

alt_ron at 2015-07-09 21:26:39
(no subject)

Well, when she's free, why not? Helps unstick things if they bog down.

Reckon it's time for me to interrupt F-F, so he may have more to tell you in a few.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 21:29:00
(no subject)

I've left her a note, so she'll see it when she's back.

Keep me posted.

alt_justin at 2015-07-09 22:24:16
(no subject)

Rachel,

Ron's having a turn. I've spent my time trying to prime Dyson for that, but as expected this is likely to take some time. He's well-trained, of course. However, in his haste to express his contempt for us, he did strongly imply that they know Auror Peel was in the crowd that started to riot, the day we eliminated Virgil Crispin.

He also insisted that he's perfectly content under Bellatrix Les--

Oh, dash it, stand by--

alt_justin at 2015-07-09 22:32:48
(no subject)

I've good news and bad news, I'm afraid.

The bad news is, Dyson's dead. He had a backup suicide method.
The good news is, Dyson's dead.

I'll see if there's anything he can tell us in his possessions and then arrange for the body to be found.

-F-F

🌐 ⬇️ alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 22:34:18
(no subject)

Poison again, or something else?

🌐 ⬇️ alt_justin at 2015-07-09 22:37:33
(no subject)

I believe it was an Unbreakable Vow, a nonsense phrase or a few key words.

He must have decided to do it before we could bring in our Legilimens.

🌐 ⬇️ alt_rachel at 2015-07-09 22:39:21
(no subject)

I'm coming down, don't go anywhere till I get there.
We've still heard nothing further on Ginny's fate. I've been mulling over making this journal entry all day, and it makes me rather sick to write this down, and I'm sorry, but I think we're going to need to talk about it. Bluntly. Make some plans, so we'll be ready to respond to whatever happens next.

My first desire and priority, as a member of the Weasley family, is to rescue Ginny if at all possible. If not now, later. If that's not possible, and I realise it may not be, I want to give her as much support as we can, whatever way we can. Through surreptitious means, if we can manage it, without endangering either our personnel or our sources. Through the journals, doing what we can to give her hope and courage, despite the fact that Bellatrix will be privy to anything she reads there. Through any other avenue we can figure out.

At the same time, I want to protect this process we're undergoing, to rebuild Albion. I want us to continue to work on winning hearts and minds, to convince both magical and non-magical folk not to be frightened of us, to protect the people for whom we have accepted responsibility. To behave in an ethical manner, as much as we can, so it makes an actual difference to people which side succeeds in winning this war.

Bellatrix Lestrange, obviously, wants to scuttle both these hopes. Getting her claws into Ginny has opened several opportunities for her, and she won't hesitate to use them. Assuming Ginny isn't already gone--I'm sorry, Mum, but it has to be faced--Bellatrix won't hesitate to use this development in any way she can to thwart our goals, whether by killing or capturing any of us who attempt a rescue, getting the people of Albion to turn against us, or egging us into fighting with each other.

Last night Rachel outlined for Mum some of the ways she thought they may try to use Ginny. There are at least three possibilities, frankly, all of them ugly, and they will require different responses. (It may be that Bellatrix will pull something even more diabolical out of her arse that hasn't even occurred to us yet, and we'll be scrambling
to catch up, but for now let's start here.) Personally, I think that Bella won't keep the fact that they're holding Ginny a secret. It makes me almost physically ill, as I said, to actually put this down into words, but capturing my baby sister is a public relations coup for our enemies, and I expect them to do their best to exploit it.

One: Ginny could be put up for a show trial, maybe even publicly killed, as a warning example to anyone else thinking of resisting them.

Two, she can be kept as an unwilling hostage, and they'll use the fact that they have her in their clutches to influence our movements or decisions.

Or three, she can be kept as a hostage but presented as someone who's seen the light and returned to the pureblood fold, ostensibly joining them willingly. I don't think that we can discount that third possibility, as it would obviously suit Bella's purposes beautifully and at the same time be a huge blow to us. We know perfectly well that they have no scruples whatsoever about lying the press.

In all three of these scenarios, I imagine they will try to strip her of any information they can gain from her regarding our tactics, our security procedures, our plans, our allies, or anything else that Bellatrix thinks she can learn.

I want us to spend some time thinking about how we can respond to or counter each one of these possibilities. (Even better, I would strongly like to get out of the role that Bellatrix seems determined to stick us in, to be reactive rather than active.) Again, I hate this like poison, but it must be said: whatever we decide to do and however we choose to respond to the situation publicly should probably be coordinated between the family, the Order leadership, and our communications/press staff.

If Ginny is allowed to read any private messages we send to her, obviously they can't be kept private from her captors. Despite this, it's my personal opinion that we should still write to her, but we should be cautious about what we say to her, and those messages should be kept on a private lock. Bella may legilimise my sister's mind but I'll be damned if I'm going to give the bitch any opportunity to chime in with helpful written comments to what I might say to Ginny.

I'm going to suggest a meeting tomorrow morning after breakfast to discuss these issues. We can convene in the work room just off Mum's quarters. I understand that not everyone may be able to make it, but
leave a written comment if there is anything you want us to consider. It's probably going to be an ongoing conversation.

Thanks.

---

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-10 03:41:46
(no subject)

A couple of things.

First of all, if there's an opportunity to rescue Ginny, it's likely to happen under very tight security. That means no one who doesn't absolutely need to know will hear about it until it's over. Alice, Remus, and Sirius will know, and whichever Aurors are personally involved. Not the Weasleys, other than possibly Ron, since he's an Auror who might be involved.

Second, I'm not going to tell you not to write her private messages. But even if you write them solely to Ginny, you need to imagine yourself including 'and Bellatrix Lestrange, Barty Crouch, and Antonin Dolohov' on each and every message. And if you get a reply, you need to understand that it might be dictated at wand point.

---

@alt_bill at 2015-07-10 12:13:27
(no subject)

On number one: agreed, absolutely. We don't need to know, and I don't want us to know if that would compromise the security of the operation.

On number two: understood. Some of us discussed this yesterday already. I will probably run whatever I say to her by you, first, just to get a more detached professional opinion about it: I don't want to say anything in the journals that would rebound to make her situation worse, and you may see things that won't occur to me. Mum has told me that it's her intention to limit herself to telling Ginny that she loves her. She doesn't want to add more that Bellatrix can use to twist Ginny's head around.

The only hay I can think of that Bella could make of that is, 'If they love you, why haven't they rescued you?'
Also, a few things I learned today.

They've restricted themselves to cruciatus. Interrogations in the past have certainly relied on it as a core technique, but Truncheon and Bellatrix would frequently switch it up with more damaging physical assaults, things that might leave scarring or permanent disability. With Ginny, it sounds like it's been exclusively cruciatus, which suggests some public use for her. Maybe a trial, maybe that third option. This may also indicate they're planning to keep her alive for a while.

It also sounds as though they're still cruciating her even though she's told them everything she knows.

Also, Crouch's Aurors have apparently got some of her old magazine spreads on hand. Which also points to a plan for some sort of public use.

Thank you for telling us that.

While it's hard, please don't be afraid of telling me things. I'd rather know the worst than agonise in darkness. Knowing this gives me a little hope that yes, they'll keep her alive for awhile.

Bill,

Understand that no one misjudges how difficult this is for all of you. But coordinating this effort is not your job and it shouldn't be. The best thing you can do, besides supporting one another, is focus on the work to be done and let the other communications experts help decide what should or should not be said. Naturally they'll come to you when they want or need any of you to take specific action.
We all want to get ahead of Bellatrix, of course. It's part of the same problem we face with the False Phoenix attacks, and it will be addressed appropriately.

We all want Ginny back with her family. She knew there was a risk in going to talk to the Puceys and she thought it was worth that risk. I'm so sorry that you're having to go through this, truly. I know the hardest thing to do is nothing.

---

@alt_bill at 2015-07-10 12:17:36
(no subject)

Well, I don't want to coordinate it, Sirius. Yeah, the communications people absolutely should take the lead.

I wrote the post exactly because I don't want one of us hot-headed Weasleys sabotaging things for either the Order or Ginny in our anxiety to get her back. I'll step back entirely from this point if Alice, Remus and Rachel thinks that best. Someone else can run the meeting, too. But I do think we should have it.

---

@alt_bill at 2015-07-10 12:36:00
(no subject)

OH, and I just realised: something Fu once told me sprang to mind. There's another excellent reason for us Weasleys to step back out of the picture as much as possible.

Ginny's a soldier. She fought at the Battle of Hogwarts. I believe there are protections, international protections, for prisoners of war, and the Order should absolutely state that, as publicly as possible. They can't be tortured, and they cannot be used for propaganda purposes. If we Weasleys publicly leave statements and decisions to the government of Albion, that will mean that Bellatrix is forced to deal with you as a government. That will give the Albion government legitimacy. And if they violate those protocols, well: bystanders will notice, particularly the older, Muggle ones who lived through the second muggle war.

I would suggest Fabius as a person to lead the communications team on this, by the way.
Although--come to think of it, that cuts both way, dammit.

I don't want negotiating with them to give *them* legitimacy.

Sorry, correction: not Fabius, since he hasn't thrown his lot in with us publicly, yet. He'll be good for brainstorming behind the scenes. Arca or Lee, possibly.

Heading to the meeting room now.

You're speaking of the Geneva Conventions when you say she's a prisoner of war, yes? This is a rather more complicated issue than I think Furealises -- or rather, whether Ginny is in fact a 'soldier' is a complicated issue. These laws were written for muggles, and focus on issues like whether the captive was carrying a weapon and wearing a uniform. Ginny was carrying her wand, obviously, but she was not, to my knowledge, wearing any sort of uniform when she visited the Pucey's.

In any case, this is largely academic given how few wizards are even familiar with the Geneva Conventions. Wizarding Britain was never a signatory. We had our own set of accords, which in fact is how the Cardinals were declared Unforgiveable, among other things.

Anyway -- rattling on about the Geneva Convention is just about as likely to be persuasive to the wizarding community as pointing out that Bellatrix uses Unforgiveable Curses. And do the muggles really need to be talked into staying on our side vs. Bella's?
Well, we had our own set of accords and I guess they noted that the Unforgiveable Curses were unforgiveable. In any case, they're not all that relevant since they got tossed with the Statutes of Secrecy.

I looked this up after you brought it up at the meeting.

I'm not agreeing to treat their side as Prisoners of War as defined in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 (that's what we're talking about? I found a book that explains it.) No way.

The intel came from Nick Dyson.

Justin and Ron got hold of him and questioned him. Which in retrospect was a mistake, I should have gone to take care of the questioning, but I'm overwhelmed I didn't want them to think I didn't trust I didn't. Dyson realised that Ron was Ginny's brother -- not hard, given the hair -- and apparently told him that Ginny offered him sexual favours if only he'd stop cruciating her.

He definitely knew Ron was an animagus, and turns into a snake -- he threw that out as proof that he wasn't bluffing about Ginny spilling everything she knew.

In any case, Dyson killed himself shortly thereafter -- it's not just our side that carries the means. So I didn't get the opportunity to have Hydra legilimise him.
**alt_rachel** at **2015-07-10 04:01:25**

*Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, and Sirius*

Also, I think I would prefer being offered in trade to Bellatrix for Ginny over going to that meeting tomorrow. Is that an option?

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-10 04:07:36**

*Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, and Sirius*

Sirius, you were spot on earlier.

I will strongly recommend that Arca, Astra, and Lee take point.

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-10 04:10:02**

*Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, and Sirius*

And no. I do not anticipate it will be particularly pleasant for anyone.

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-10 04:03:17**

*Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, and Sirius*

I see.

You're certain he killed hims

I assume there will be changes in protocol for the future.

I agree with your assessment -- that they're possibly going to set an example by her, or use her for public relations purposes.

---

**alt_rachel** at **2015-07-10 04:20:41**

*Re: Private message to Alice, Remus, and Sirius*

I examined the body afterward; it was definitely a suicide. He had taken an Unbreakable Vow that he could break without much difficulty, in a pinch. (He also carried poison, but that was found right off and confiscated.)
Oh, and forgot to mention this bit -- they know Arista Peel was involved in Crispin's abduction. And they're going to get her and make her pay, etc. I've passed the word to her so she knows to watch her back.

The thing I think we need to be doing right away is doubling down on security at all locations we hold. Particularly ones Gin's been to. So, the castle, obviously, but I know she's been making trips out and about, too. Did she visit any of the Fidelius communities? Or any of the clinics?

Thing is, we rely on people knowing a protocol for coming onto the grounds here, but once they've read Gin's thoughts, DEMLE will know that as well as we do.

How close are we to having our own anti-polyjuice device? Anti-glamour charms aren't going to be enough. And we need to be on the alert for animagi. If we can use that advantage against them, they can as easily use it against us, and these grounds are full of animals all the time, so recognising an animagus when you see one won't be easy.

We're changing all the security procedures. That's in process. Not as quickly as I would like. She visited some of the Fidelius communities but as long as nothing happens to the secret keepers, those remain secure. I need to talk to Honoria and make a proper list but that's been a lower priority than the security for places like Hogwarts.
I heard that passwords are already being changed in the camps; they're distributing new ones on the button network and elsewhere. Fidelius communities are safe within the boundaries, but yes, the word's out to be on alert coming and going.

We can start casting the Animagus reversal on animals, particularly any animal that's too close to our perimeters.

The device is trickier.

We can resort to hour long waits for incoming visitors to all camps if necessary.

I was trying to think about this last night and I kept thinking about the Map, instead. How much fun it was to make.

If we had five minutes to breathe maybe we could come up with something. Though part of me thinks we need five minutes to breathe, and James. And maybe that miserable bastard Peter.
Private Message to All MLE Loyal to the Council

Operation Cleansweep = GO.

Command = IPS 417Gt
**2015-07-09 23:34:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Alice, Rachel, and Sirius*

Just got word from someone monitoring the button network -- Brighton's under attack.

---

**alt_rachel** at **2015-07-10 04:36:22**

*(no subject)*

Hell.

Rounding up my people. We'll be there as fast as we can.

---

**alt_sirius** at **2015-07-10 04:37:57**

*(no subject)*

If I have to rebuild that pier again I shall be very put out.

Well, I suppose we won't be getting much sleep tonight. I'll meet you on the other side of the Floo grate.

---

**alt_alice** at **2015-07-10 04:48:36**

*(no subject)*

Right.

Rachel, Sirius, I'm going to send Frank and Tonks along too -- please let us know if you need more wands, I can have Sherwood people on standby.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Rachel, Sirius, and Remus

We need a viable strategy for taking New London definitively.

We’re chipping away, but at this rate, it will take years, and they’ll only become further entrenched.

The general populace is slow to warm to us as we’re former ‘traitors’ asking for a great deal of change, and in very short order we will need to move our non-magical population into integrated communities without leaving them completely bloody defenceless. We need time without constant fear of attack.

Yes. We’ve just lost one of our own to the enemy, which is devastating and heartbreaking, but Merlin above, Brighton was a blow that cannot be repeated, and we will not be able to move forward if we spend all our time focusing on how to respond to the capture of one person. I hate that Ginny is in their hands, but the best possible way we can move forward is to hit them hard and finish this.

Enough.

An all-out attack would be costly – and they could scatter and regroup – but we can muster significant numbers if need be. Would this be a viable approach? Are they too deeply buried in Buckingham? Can we bomb the hell out of them, or put a null zone around them? Can we cut them off from the rest of New London, or pull them out into a fight? Use their tactics from Dover and clear a perimeter around their headquarters, pin them down with anti-apparation wards?

Rachel, what could you do with a hundred wands? Between the fighters Frank’s trained in the free zones and Sherwood’s remaining members, you’d have a fairly disciplined group – and we could double or possibly triple that number with less experienced fighters if we send out the call.
I think I could level Buckingham with a hundred wands.

Mind you, I don't think we could take out everyone in it, and it's the people who are the problem, not the building itself.

I'd have to think about productive goal I could accomplish. And how many of those hundred I could expect to bring home.

Yes. I'm not expecting an answer tonight, mind. Some analysis would be to our benefit.

Merlin knows, significantly reducing their numbers in one sweep would be useful even if it didn't take down everyone all at once -- but I wouldn't want an utter slaughter on our side for the chance at twenty of theirs.

I'm not averse to using a more subtle approach either.

We've been whittling away their numbers, one at a time. It's going to take a while this way, though.

What about strike team of six or so who could do significant enough damage to make it worth what would most likely be a one-way trip?

Or not.
Never mind that.

Bloody hell, I need a drink.

[@alt_rachel](https://twitter.com/alt_rachel) at 2015-07-11 05:41:42  
*Private message to Alice*

Does drinking help?

I've been thinking about taking it up.

[@alt_alice](https://twitter.com/alt_alice) at 2015-07-11 05:50:26  
*Re: Private message to Alice*

I'm married to someone who's trying very hard not to, because when he did, it proved rather massively unhelpful all round, really.

Smoking an occasional spliff can do wonders, though.

[@alt_rachel](https://twitter.com/alt_rachel) at 2015-07-11 05:57:16  
*Re: Private message to Alice*

When I was undercover I didn't dare drink, I was too afraid I'd let something slip, or not be able to defend myself when I needed to. Or off myself, if it came to that.

Now... now I'm too busy.

This is an absolutely terrible job, you know. Managing a bunch of teenagers who've been trained to kill, but not trained to think, at least one of whom has a death wish. A passel of turncoats who spent years torturing people on command. The only person I'd managed before I came here was Jason Montague. I am completely unqualified and really not very good at this.
Welcome to my world, love.

I spent an odd decade taking care of dozens of babies, and got very good at growing kale and animal husbandry.

Believe it or not, you are the best possible person for this, because you can bridge the divide with the former turncoats and bring them into the fold, and those surly teenagers actually will listen to you for the most part, because they know you've sacrificed and respect you for it.

You are the only person who could've brought in our asset on the inside.

You are doing an amazing job with what you've been given, which hasn't been much at all.

Every single other person who's ever lived would have a difficult time managing it all. This is an utter pile of dragon dung, it's awful and unpredictable, and we're hanging on by our fingernails.

I asked Jason if he could let us know before the next false Phoenix attack. No dice. He says he wouldn't have time to write, he doesn't get enough notice.

I also asked him what they're planning to do with Ginny. He didn't know that, either, but he saw her today with Dolohov. She was terrified, but found his presence reassuring. I think he's probably the 'nice Auror,' but I don't know any more about what their actual goal is. I have some theories and they're all awful.
They are a particularly imaginative lot, aren't they?

Perhaps we could have locals keeping watch in communities of a certain size -- designated volunteers who are prepared to at least put up a bit of a fight until we can get there?

I fear it wouldn't buy us much in the grand scheme of things, though. The button network is a fast alert system, and even that wasn't much use with Brighton.

From the reports we've gotten, you'll likely fall victim to the false Phoenix attacks if you've gotten on the wrong side of the DEs somehow. So maybe we could try a lure. Work with someone who's willing to make themselves bait.

That would be small potatoes, though. Not like what you're talking about here.

I think a small scale victory is just that -- a victory -- and could be quite good for public relations by continuing to pull the masks off of the attackers. One small mercy is that we've been able to spread the story about the false Phoenixes from Ginny's attack -- that's done some real good.

Large scale action takes time to properly plan out -- we can have multiple cauldrons in the fire, as it were.
Well, I'll talk to a few others about likely targets of our imitators, and see what we come up with.

I know you're beyond over extended. I know I've been asking a lot of you, and this adds more to your plate.

If you need to delegate, know that Frank and Davidson are completely at your disposal.

Oh, they are?

Okay. I'll bear that mind. I've been having fantasies of getting hold of a time turner so that I really could be a dozen places at once.

Yes, please, lord, take these men and order them about.

I do it all the time. They're very good at listening and going off and doing what you tell them without the need for follow-up.

And if you need to plan a full scale invasion of New London, Davidson would be particularly useful at tactics.
Okay. Let's set up a meeting with Davidson and figure out what a full scale invasion of New London would look like. We can't break this stalemate without shifting the Death Eaters out of control there; it's too important to the Protectora Albion. There are certainly places where we COULD get a foothold, and should consider doing it, like St Mungo's. Draco's been doing reconnaissance, and his next report might give me some more thoughts on this. The fundamental problem is that London is big. You know? It's just a big place. And our allies are thinner on the ground than a month ago because Order sympathisers have headed out to more congenial locations.

I'm going to talk to Frank today about what happened with Nick Dyson, see what his thoughts are. One of the complicating factors with Dyson was that the Unbreakable Vow suicide method is a hard one to see coming. Especially since he also carried poison, mostly so that captors could confiscate it and would be off their guard. I don't know if that's standard these days? There are workarounds, obviously, but I'd prefer not to over-rely on Hydra to interrogate people.

Good.

Keep me informed as you go.

Sally-Anne just came by my office. You might have seen her PM Dolohov earlier this evening; apparently she asked him what's being done to Ginny, and to what end. He claims she's been well-treated, 'has suffered no lasting harm,' and offered up for bona fides a message from Ginny that at least makes it clear she's still alive as of a few minutes ago.
right.

near as we can see they bombed the hell out of the pier and left.

Rachel's notified the healing network and tonks and me are setting up a triage station while the enforcers go home to catch some shut-eye. once that's done we'll lend a hand and keep an eye on things in case they decide to come back and pour some salt. don't expect us back until tomorrow.

---

**alt_sirius** at 2015-07-10 11:22:39
* (no subject)*

It wasn't bombs, it was worse. They caused a tsunami to overflow the shore. I found survivors on the other side of the Pavilion who were carried in on the wave. Miracle they weren't dashed to pieces or drowned.

Reckon we lost about a fifth of the population.
2015-07-10 07:10:00
Private Message to Barty Crouch and Antonin Dolohov

Perhaps you missed Nickleby Dyson when he failed to respond to your clarion call last night.

If you are looking for him, try Number 84 Camden Road, Walthamstow, NL77.

It's just at the corner where Camden turns onto Brighton Avenue.

You'll find him waiting. I say, at least, what's left of him.

-Finch-Fletchley
2015-07-10 09:00:00
Private Message to B Lestrange and A Dolohov

Contracted with Ashton-Scripps to collect corpse. Understand Pelton has it now. Expect a report soon. Obv no real reason to doubt id.  

Have Corbyn in my office now. Reconstructing what's known of D's movements yesterday (and prior).

You're welcome to join in if you've time. Otherwise, suggest we meet at noon.

Batya. Open to any new thoughts you may have re. eradicating the French pox.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-10 14:14:42
Private Message to Bella

Baddock did well managing the Prophet's coverage of Brighton, I thought. Struck the balance. Kept the sensational at a minimum, including the visuals.

---

@alt_bellatrix at 2015-07-11 01:46:29
Re: Private Message to Bella

Does this mean his value has gone up?

You've seen Pelton's report by now? The injuries were sustained postmortem. Dyson must have found a way to end it himself, which means he (likely) avoided being seen to by Hydra.

---

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-11 02:46:27
Re: Private Message to Bella

No, not particularly. In my book. But credit where credit is due.

Have seen the report, yes. Agree.
Least Dyson could do after opening himself to ambush. Proved himself in the end.
Two questions.

First, those 'Phoenixes' out burning farms and businesses. I would appreciate it greatly if you could give me a heads up about planned targets. With enough lead time that we can pull out any non-combatants that might be in the line of fire, and arrange for some other type of welcome.

Second. What are they planning to do with Ginny Weasley?
Dolohov was feeling quite... it's hard to put a word to it. "Helpful," maybe?

 Helpful. Helpful? Can you elaborate on that at all?

 Minx. Did you not just read what I wrote about the limits of my ability?

 He was glad to be helpful. To be helping. That's the only way I can put it.

 Thank you.

 I've got another question for you.

 Nick Dyson killed himself after being captured. He carried poison, but he'd also taken an Unbreakable Vow that he could easily break.

 Is this something Aurors or Councilwizards are being instructed to do from higher up, or was Dyson taking precautions of his own accord?
This is probably a stupid question, but I was wondering just now -- who controls the Buckingham house elves? I mean, it was the Lord Protector, but Harry was his heir, and you were Harry's heir, and that's how we got control of the Treasury. Do you command the Buckingham elves? Or is it Bellatrix, since she actually controls Buckingham?

I was talking to Ron about Ginny yesterday and today I started thinking whether there was a way to send her something. I mean, I could give it to a post owl but I might as well address it to Bellatrix.

I hadn't even thought of that. See, in all the many, many times I went to Buckingham, I really never saw an elf. You knew they were there and doing impeccable work, but his Lordship definitely forbade them from showing themselves to wizards and witches. Presumably Bellatrix runs the same kind of show.

Harry never had his own elf, either. He had Mrs Baylock, and then he had Dennis, and then he had Hermione.

If I knew any of the names of the Buckingham elves, I could try summoning one and see what happened, but unfortunately I don't know a single one.
I went and looked at all of Dennis's old entries but although he talked about the Buckingham elves pretty regularly he never mentioned any of their names, either.

I wonder if they ever go on errands? If you could talk to one face to face, maybe you could give it an order and see if it worked?

How do house-elves even know who their master is? Kreacher loathes Sirius but obeys him. Sort of. Mostly.

How would I know it was a Buckingham elf, though? I don't think they walk out the front door. I'll come up with a list of places the Palace elves might feasibly be sent to and keep them in mind. Once I'm on my next assignment I might actually be in a position to find out more.

I really don't know anything about how house elves work. But I suppose I could ask Heddy, Gibby, or Shilly. Those are the Malfoy elves that are still at the Manor.

Maybe they dress in livery? The Hogwarts elves dress in tea-towels with the Hogwarts crest. livery. And they must get the food from somewhere.

I don't ever remember seeing them come round the Strettons but that was before the Order controlled Dover. They can't be as picky now as they were.

I don't know if there's anyone in the Order who knows much about house elves. Hermione, maybe. (Because she knows things about everything, if there's a book about it.)
alt_draco at 2015-07-11 03:42:22  
(no subject)

Well, a lot of the posh shops don't just let the elves wander around. They have to pick up the merchandise in a separate area.

And yeah, Hermione knows a lot about everything, but it stands to reason that house elves know the most about house elves.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 03:47:03  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's a good point.

Anyway if the Buckingham elves do answer to you, and you can figure out a way to talk to them, that would be useful for way more than sending something to Ginny.

alt_draco at 2015-07-11 03:53:41  
(no subject)

Not to diminish Ginny or her family's situation, but we could do more than just send her something.

Daphne was able to get a horcrux because of house elves. With the right plan they might even be able to get us into Buckingham.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 03:56:26  
(no subject)

Right. Exactly.
**2015-07-10 19:48:00**

Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Um. I can't tell which of you is down at the Quidditch shed at the pitch, but I don't want to get close enough to find out.

If it's George, then Fred, I think you'd better come down and talk to him. Same thing if it's the other way around.

---

**alt_fred at 2015-07-11 00:53:24**

(no subject)

Must be George. I'm Fred.

Why? What's he doing?

---

**alt_terry at 2015-07-11 01:04:08**

(no subject)

Uh, I think he's beating bludgers against the wall. Or maybe kicking the crap out of the equipment in there.

---

**alt_fred at 2015-07-11 01:04:29**

(no subject)

Seriously?!

---

**alt_terry at 2015-07-11 01:07:20**

(no subject)

Uh huh.

Now he's back outside and

Yeah, he just smashed a broomstick through the window.

Look, I'm afraid he's gonna hurt himself. Can you come?
Shite. On my way.
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Today's been ugh.

So Fred sends me this patronus earlier this evening, which immediately sends me in to a tizzy because last time I got a patronus from Fred you know.

Anyways. Turns out George went to the quidditch shed because he really wanted to hit some bludgers around and he couldn't, and it all sort of came crashing down into a giant thing where he was furious about not being able to help Ginny and ended up breaking half the things in the shed. It's a bloody miracle he didn't cut himself on broken glass or break something in his hands (I checked), and he'll be stiff as all get-out tomorrow.

It was like

Well, he's always been so even-tempered about losing his magic. You know George. Upbeat and "we'll sort it out." But he was just so furious and helpless for the first time about it, because of Ginny, really, and Fred yelled at him for a bit and Terry got all Terry because boys are idiots, but I managed to talk him down and we all sat there for like a solid hour crying about it, and then chucked things at the lake and threw sticks for the Professor for ages and ages.

I've never seen him that angry before.

I don't care if he gets his magic back, and I know that he's already found all sorts of things that need doing that don't need a wand, but rescuing Ginny will. If we ever manage to, that is.

How's Ron? Still wound tight?

I hate this.
Wound tight. Yeah.

I don't think having magic is making Ron feel less helpless. Or any of the rest. Because we can't get to her.

I could read that post from Bill last night. It's clear he wants to rescue Ginny but knows it's not actually going to happen because we can't get to her at a cost we're willing to pay (or maybe not at all) and also he thinks Bellatrix is going to use her against us somehow.

Rachel said Ginny's told them everything she knows, and they were still cruciating her.

It's like Neville all over again, only he wasn't, you know, tortured continuously.

It's awful.

I wonder what Dolohov thinks about all of this.

He must be okay with it. If he weren't, he'd do something about it.
Yeah.

I thought about writing him and asking.

You could. Call him on it.

It couldn't possibly make things worse.

Yeah, okay. I suppose you're probably right it couldn't make things any worse.

Well, he wrote back. He said, 'Miss Weasley is currently enjoying a bath, a meal, and the opportunity for a good night's rest, in fact. I'm certain you'll understand that we cannot allow her to write to you, but she has suffered no lasting harm.' And then something in Russian. And then, 'your lot does not precisely have the moral high ground. Is Mr Finch-Fletchley operating under orders, or is he simply freelancing?'
You could ask Justin what it says. Or Evelyn.

Moral high ground. Hah. I'm not privy to everything he's been up to, but you can bet it doesn't involve torturing children or killing loads of innocent people in Brighton for purposes of public relations.

Okay he added something. (After I yelled at him about -- it doesn't matter.) He said, 'I've asked Miss Weasley if there's anything she'd like to pass along to you to assure you that she is alive and well; she said to tell you that while accommodations are not ideal, they are better than the floor of the Great Hall, whether in her own body or her brother's.'

So

Well, she's definitely still alive.

That's not terribly comforting.

I think I should probably go show this to Rachel or Mrs Longbottom, if they're still up.

Yeah.
I asked Rachel about this once.

She says that to cruciate someone into madness, the key is that you cast the curse and keep it on them continuously for a long period. They teach Aurors to do a ten-second burst but of course in an actual interrogation they don't do just ten-second bursts. Still, if you keep it on someone for ten minutes without respite, fifteen, twenty, it injures their brain badly enough that the person's basically gone. That's what Hydra did to Neville.

Rachel said she'd seen it done. They had one of the Aurors come and demonstrate on a prisoner they didn't need anymore, when she was in training.

Anyway they won't do that by mistake to Ginny. If they did -- there'd be no point in keeping on torturing her.

But what is the point then?

Ugh. Ugh ugh ugh.

Do they even really need a point? Bellatrix likes torturing people the way some of us like back rubs or kittens or mugs of hot chocolate.

Here's what Bill said about what he thinks they might be planning for Ginny.

'One: Ginny could be put up for a show trial, maybe even publicly killed, as a warning example to anyone else thinking of
resisting them.

Two, she can be kept as an unwilling hostage, and they'll use the fact that they have her in their clutches to influence our movements or decisions.

Or three, she can be kept as a hostage but presented as someone who's seen the light and returned to the pureblood fold, ostensibly joining them willingly. I don't think that we can discount that third possibility, as it would obviously suit Bella's purposes beautifully and at the same time be a huge blow to us. We know perfectly well that they have no scruples whatsoever about lying the press.'

I can't imagine it's the second. It wouldn't work and Bellatrix knows it.

I doubt it's the first because they've never bothered much with trials. We care about looking fare and just. Why would they start now?

I think it's probably the third. They're going to make her pretend she's seen the light and returned to the pureblood fold.

---

alt_pansy at 2015-07-11 05:04:59
(no subject)

They could do that, yeah.

Or worse. They've got Rigel, remember?

They could make her actually believe it. Not just pretend.

---

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 05:09:53
(no subject)

Well apparently (I didn't see this one) when Bellatrix wrote to Mrs Longbottom and the Weasleys about how she'd swap Ginny for Hydra, she said Ginny was playing with Rigel.

But if they want her to like them, cruciating her for days seems like it would be counterproductive.
Oh, well, I suppose they have to find some way to amuse themselves.

Playing. Right.

That might have been true, if Rigel was in the room. He likes people playing with him, Hydra says. Remember that time she played with him for four days straight because he wanted her to, and it felt like the most important thing in the world?
If I'd had any expectations of what would happen after His removal--and to be honest, I had no expectation it could ever be brought about, so I had no expectations for this eventuality--but if I had, they would have been disappointed by what has followed and continues to unravel day to day now.

Because it is unraveling. A bit shorn off here. A bit shaved away there. And order unspools with each loss.

And yes, we make them pay daily for their incursions, but we need to find a strategy to stun and then destroy them absolutely. Each gain of theirs has the bonus of undermining confidence in Rowle and Bella's leadership, and in our ability to protect and enforce. Our wins gain only the territory or infrastructure at stake, but fail to re-secure the goodwill and loyalty of the people.

I know you've always seen that we cannot win this through terror and force, but we know nothing else. Our rule's been built on that, and there's no time and no sufficient means for changing that.

It's not that Bella is failing. In fact, she has shown remarkable talent for orchestrating and creating and communicating vision. Authority is her métier.

And MLE is more cohesive than it's ever been.

But that's not enough.

Hope your project is going well. Or at the very least that it's proving enjoyable.

Oh, darling. I know; we are losing ground bit by bit, and the minor victories have not sufficed to make up the ground we've lost. I would cheerfully sacrifice half of Buckingham for a ten-year time-turner to go back
and root out every last one of the fools and idiots who treated the Protectorate as their personal plaything; we would not be in such dire straits if so many of the citizenry had not been taught to fear us. It's making it damnedably difficult to win goodwill now.

I am at least somewhat hopeful Miss Weasley will prove an asset there. I'm on the brink of a breakthrough; she's proving quite inventive in the memories she's manufacturing, and by now I barely need to nudge her in the right direction for her to spill the next piece. I'm giving her a break and a meal right now, in fact -- earned for good behaviour -- and at least I am confident there will be no repeat of last night's suicide attempt. (I am not, mind you, relaxing the monitoring charms; I am not stupid.)

We ought to have a strategy meeting sometime in the next few days. I am having an equally hard time thinking of what might produce a path to victory -- or indeed what victory might look like -- but if we all put our heads together we might think of something. **Even if it is just a plan for an orderly retreat.**
I really, really wish I could talk with Severus right now.

After living with Dementors for so many years, he would be the best person to ask about what to say to a prisoner who must be living through the worst fear and despair she's ever faced. And he taught Ginny occlumency, didn't he? He'd know the inside of her mind and maybe could give me a fucking hint about what I could say that could make a damn bit of difference.

I want to say something to reassure her that no matter what she's been forced to spill, we won't blame her. But I can't figure out how to say it without coming off as either selfish, judgemental, oblivious, or fucking condescending. And all the while that I'm struggling to put this down on parchment, she's going through cruciatus. Again and again and again.

Dammit. I'm supposed to be good with words.

Whatever choices you've made, or even whatever actions you've taken or words you've spoken because you had no choice, we know they're the right ones. Because they're yours.

Argh. Any suggestions, I'm all ears.

Edited to add: And that includes blowing the forces of old MLE to smithereens. Fred was talking wistfully today about wishing he could get a hold of his old store of fireworks to use where it counted. If only we could.

You know, I was thinking the same thing last night, about Snape. And how good he was at giving you things to do without asking you anything daft like "are you all right" or "do you want to talk about it". I didn't quite realise how much I missed him. I guess all the people we've lost haven't quite sunk in yet.
Merlin, I'm praying Ginny's not going to be one of them.

I don't know what we could say to her. I really don't. Maybe something simple like "we know what they're probably doing to you, we're not giving up on you, nobody's going to blame you for anything you have to do to keep yourself alive", but then I think, do we really want to tell Bella fucking Lestrange and the rest of the monsters who have her that we're not writing her off? I don't know. I really don't.

And nobody has any idea about how we could rescue her, and I'm no different. I'd go storming right in there this minute if I thought there was even the slightest chance of getting to her before I got killed, dammit.

Fred stopped by before turning in to tell me that George lost it this evening. What did Fred and George always do to deal with the stress whenever they were hacked off about something? Play Quidditch, right? So George went down to the Quidditch shed, dying to get up on a broom and hit some bludgers around, and then he destroyed the Quidditch shed when it sank in--again--that he couldn't. Fred thought that extra helplessness was just too much for him to bear. Terry saw what George was doing and yelled for help, and Fred and Pansy managed to calm him down eventually. Fortunately.

I've been surprised at how well Mum is holding up. She said that she went and held Adam for awhile this afternoon, and I guess that helped.

Maybe I'll have my tantrum tomorrow.

I dunno. I think I'll sleep on it overnight and post it in the morning if I can't think of anything better. I ran it by Rachel. My big fear is saying something that will backfire on Ginny somehow, and Rachel said she had absolutely no idea either.
I think it's important that we say something to her. I really do.

I don't want her to think we're being silent because we think she's betrayed us. She's had to face more than any of us have had to face.

Yeah.

Well, all right, let's think about it logically for a bit. If she's being tortured, she won't have her journal, and they're not going to read out messages to her that sound like "we love you, hang in there". They'd only read her things that will make things worse for her. So maybe write her something that hides the real message in a bunch of garbage that they'd think might hurt her? Except then we couldn't guarantee they'd read the bits that have the real message in them, or she might be tired and in pain and fucking stressed and might miss the real message, and that would just make things worse. Nevermind, dumb idea. Especially since if it's a PM just to her, they wouldn't let her read it without knowing what it said.

Maybe I should make a public post talking to everyone about how much we love her and believe in her and somebody else, not one of the family, can write a PM about how disappointed we are in her and we can hope she sees my post when they show her the PM. I don't know. Every idea I have is a dumb one.

What makes it so difficult to think through is that it's always been our worst fear, you know? Being in the hands of the enemy, and they know the truth about your loyalties, and you're utterly at their mercy. And they don't have any. I realised that tonight as I was talking with Rachel. It was my worst fear, her worst fear,
and how can you think around that? It primal, it shuts your brain off.

That's why Voldemort and now Bellatrix have managed to stomp around mowing everyone down for over a decade. If something's unimaginably horrific, that's right where they'll go.

Gah. Well. My message to her is that she doesn't have to be perfect. So I guess my words don't have to be perfect, either.

I wish you could lend me a dragon to roast Bellatrix Lestrange and Barty Crouch to a crisp.


date

Yeah. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be something.

If I thought I could aim a dragon properly I'd've done it a long time ago.
2015-07-11 00:21:00
Private message to Antonin Dolohov

What are Bellatrix and the rest of you doing to Ginny Weasley?

She was one of your students. She's not even of age, you know.

alt_antonin at 2015-07-11 05:42:05
(no subject)

Miss Weasley is currently enjoying a bath, a meal, and the opportunity for a good night's rest, in fact. I'm certain you'll understand that we cannot allow her to write to you, but she has suffered no lasting harm.

В чужом глазу соринку заметно, а в своём, бревна не видать, anyway; your lot does not precisely have the moral high ground. Is Mr Finch-Fletchley operating under orders, or is he simply freelancing?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 05:51:11
(no subject)

Yeah, funny thing but when we took Maebh Drumgoole prisoner we didn't torture her for what little she knew and then go on torturing her for days after she spilled everything. Also, I'm pretty sure whichever side DOESN'T have Bellatrix Lestrange on it wins the moral high ground by default. Not to mention the side that didn't spend almost twenty years propping up a vicious, insane tyrant.

alt_antonin at 2015-07-11 06:23:53
(no subject)

Keeping one prominent person unharmed does not virtue make when that captivity exists solely to distract from what one is doing in the dark, you know. I know that I have taught you about the halo effect and how seductive a cognitive bias it can be; take a very good look at what is being done in your name and by those with whom you've chosen to ally.
I've asked Miss Weasley if there's anything she'd like to pass along to you to assure you that she is alive and well; she said to tell you that while accommodations are not ideal, they are better than the floor of the Great Hall, whether in her own body or her brother's.

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 06:38:57
(no subject)

Are you seriously trying to make me feel guilty about the fact that we're fighting a war against you?

You spent years -- decades! -- serving Voldemort. You watched him torture and kill Dominic Selwyn, you helped him make Seamus Finnigan kill his own mother, you stood by when he took my entire year at Hogwarts hostage, when he killed Sophie Fleet and her younger siblings, when he ordered thousands of muggles murdered in Ireland, or maybe you helped with that one, I can't remember.

But I'm the one who ought to take a good look at what's being done in my name, by my allies?

Are you giving me the good advice you wish you'd taken fifteen years ago?

@alt_antonin at 2015-07-11 06:59:19
(no subject)

My dear girl, my own regrets are not the topic of discussion here. (And if I thought any of you lot would take the good advice I wish I'd taken a decade and more ago, I would deliver it, but as I judge the chance of that happening somewhat lower than the chance of Bella deciding to renounce all worldly concern in favor of religious vows, I'll save us both the lecture.)

And no, I am not attempting to play on your guilt. Simply reminding you that the world is not so black and white as your side might hold it to be. Have you ever wondered why each of us found he-whose-name-shall-never-again-be-written to be worthy of following? Or have you simply decided that we are all, each of us, the monsters who live under the bed?
Do sleep well, and be thankful for the clear conscience that allows it.
2015-07-11 06:05:00
Private message to Ginny Weasley

Whatever choices you've made, or even whatever actions you've taken or words you've spoken because you had no choice, we know they're the right ones. Because they're yours.

I love you. We all love you.

alt_bill

2015-07-12 00:21:59
(no subject)

Go to hell, Bill Weasley. I remember exactly what you did to me, both when I overheard you and the rest of my so-called family plotting to kill Percy, and that time when I was eight when I needed that 'lesson' on eavesdropping.

If that's love, I want nothing to do with it.

alt_ginny

2015-07-12 03:09:21
(no subject)

Gin,

You're telling me something you obviously very firmly believe is true. I know there's no point in me trying to argue you out of believing it. You know why? Because, if you'll think back to what Dad taught us about logical fallacies, it is absolutely impossible to prove that something didn't happen.

Since you want nothing to do with love, do you hate me, then?

alt_ginny

2015-07-12 03:13:46
(no subject)

I can't believe that even now you're STILL trying to mess with my head.

Antonin was right.
Following the rules of logic is messing with your head? Interesting, if you think through the implications of that.

You didn't answer my question, and it's a very easy one. Do you hate me?

Yes.

Excellent.

Here's what you do, Gin. Go ahead and hate me. Hate me with every fibre of your being. Hate me with all the heat of a thousand blazing suns.

Once you understand why I want you to do this, then perhaps you'll realise something important about me and the rest of your family.

Talk to me whenever you like, and whenever they let you. I promise you I'll listen to everything you have to say.

Because once you realise that I want you to hate me so that they'll have a reason to keep you alive...

You'll understand how much we truly do love you.
Seriously, how dare you write to me after what you did?

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW. Those memory charms are GONE.
Dolohov passed along a message last night that he said was from you. And it sounded like you, so that's good, because it means you're still alive. And maybe he'll let you read your journal, so I thought I would write to you.

Your brothers and mum have been writing to you but they're all Gryffindors and sometimes Gryffindors are idiots. (I don't actually know what they said. I'm just making assumptions based on a lot of prior exposure to Gryffindors.) So here's the input you'll get from a Slytherin: do whatever you need to do to survive. Our job is to rescue you. Your job is getting through this alive. That's really your only job. Just stay focused on that.

Your concern is noted.
Order Only: Private message to the Weasley family

I'm not sure whether updates like this do anything for your peace of mind, but I told Bill I'd tell you anything new I found out.

Ginny was seen yesterday in Buckingham: alive, terrified, and in the company of Antonin Dolohov, who has apparently made himself a source of comfort to her.

Sally-Anne wrote to him later, and he told her, 'Miss Weasley is currently enjoying a bath, a meal, and the opportunity for a good night's rest, in fact. I'm certain you'll understand that we cannot allow her to write to you, but she has suffered no lasting harm.' He later added, 'I've asked Miss Weasley if there's anything she'd like to pass along to you to assure you that she is alive and well; she said to tell you that while accommodations are not ideal, they are better than the floor of the Great Hall, whether in her own body or her brother's.'

Sally-Anne thought the message probably really did come from Ginny. I concur.

So: as of last night she was alive, experiencing some sort of respite, and in the care of one of my favourite people (Molly, please don't take it into your head to write to him; he'd only delight in taunting you and I doubt he'd tell you any more than he's already told Sally-Anne.)

Private message to Molly

Should I ever have Antonin Dolohov at my mercy, he knows not to expect much.

Re: Private message to Molly

No mercy from me, either. If he's ever in my wand sights, I won't hesitate to kill him myself.

I won't write to him. Trust me. I'm not going to do
ANYTHING to give Antonin Sodding Dolohov an opportunity to fit in any kind of wedge.

alt_molly at 2015-07-11 17:08:04
Re: Private message to Molly

And thank you for telling us.

alt_fred at 2015-07-11 17:02:03
(no subject)

That's a huge relief. Thank you.

And bully for you, Sally-Anne, for asking.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 17:02:21
(no subject)

It's not that I don't want you to take comfort from this, but I don't think you should find Dolohov's statements reassuring.

alt_fred at 2015-07-11 17:11:37
(no subject)

... Yeah.

But she's alive. That's a plus over what we were fearing yesterday.

(Why can't that psychotic menace Crouch just off that slimy git? He apparently enjoys offing everybody else.)

alt_fred at 2015-07-11 17:14:43
(no subject)

(Sorry, Mum. Hopefully Crouch is being kept busy away from Ginny. Causing tsunamis and so on.)
Yeah, that's about as likely as Pansy smothering me in my sleep some night. They're best friends.

Dolohov asked me if I've ever thought about WHY he and the rest of them followed Voldemort, or if I think they're all monsters under the bed. I don't think Dolohov's a monster under the bed EXACTLY but Crouch more or less is.

Mm.

When I see a boggart, it turns into Antonin Dolohov. (After a fashion. Others probably wouldn't recognise him, as it's not so much Dolohov now as the Dolohov I remember from my childhood.)

So he literally IS a monster under the bed. In a sense. He's the one under my bed, if not the one under yours.

Because of the time he killed that person in your kitchen?

I know there are a lot of people who see the boggart as Bellatrix. Or ... you know, the results of Bellatrix.

He killed a man in my kitchen. He killed both my parents. He thinks he deserves my gratitude for not killing me, when I was so young I didn't yet have a wand.

He killed Fabian and Gideon Prewett, Molly's brothers.
If he's not the one torturing Ginny, that's by design to invoke her trust, to make it easier to manipulate her, not because he's actually protecting her from anything.

@alt_bill at 2015-07-11 17:04:06
Private message to Rachel

It's meant to be a relief to Ginny, too, isn't it? So he's the one they've chosen to do her conditioning. Makes sense, really, since she's used to treating him as an authority figure as her Headmaster.

That bloody bastard.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 17:16:10
Re: Private message to Rachel

Yes, that's more or less exactly what I'm thinking. They're trying to induce Stockholm Syndrome.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 17:16:57
Re: Private message to Rachel

And, from what I'm gathering from my source, succeeding.

@alt_bill at 2015-07-11 17:25:42
Re: Private message to Rachel

Fuck. Okay. We discussed it as a possibility, and we've already faced it, so it won't be a surprise. It gives them another reason to keep her alive at least.

If we ever manage to get to the point of attempting rescue, we'll have to be prepared for the possibility that she'll resist coming with us.
Very prepared.

I've been thinking about everything I can remember about my lectures on interrogation techniques, when I was an Auror. I think she's being brainwashed, Bill. Not just intimidated. You can coerce most people, even Gryffindors, into saying whatever you want them to say, by cruciating them if they refuse. Give it enough time, and you'd publicly swear eternal loyalty to Salazar's pet basilisk, if that's what the person with the wand were demanding.

Actually feeling loyalty to the basilisk is different. But if they're reading your mind, and you have to *feel* that loyalty to make the cruciatus stop...

And that's really what they'll expect would kill us, you know? Ginny not just saying what they want, but really believing we're her enemy.

God. Yeah. I bet you're right. What a Bellatrix triumph that would be, too. And I can't think of anything more perfectly calculated to break our hearts.

All right. If that's what it's going to be, then we just damn won't *let* it break our hearts. If Bellatrix turns Ginny into our enemy, then we'll just keep going until we can hopefully capture her and then do whatever it takes to break the brainwashing and make her ours again, dammit. We'll talk her ear off until she sees the light again. We Weasleys can outtalk anybody.

And don't tell me it's not going to happen. Let me have my fantasy.
WHY do so many Order members LIKE Antonin fucking Dolohov? I want to round them all up and make them watch some of my memories in that pensieve we lost track of, give them some fucking perspective.

Well, I don't, trust me. Neither does Mum. So you don't have to worry about her inviting him 'round for Sunday dinner. She'd rather serve him up as the roast.
So after two weeks of research, I've put together a profile on who I consider the most promising candidate so far. He's Russell Faust, who works as the bartender and manager of Elysian's on-site cafe and lounge. 31-years old, 'mostly pure,' owns a modest flat in Holborn.

There are a few things that make him particularly ideal for this assignment. His job allows him regular access to Death Eaters and DEMLE in an environment that they consider more or less secure. He is well-regarded by the clientele, even friendly with them, but from what I've seen he never oversteps any boundaries. He's good at anticipating their needs and knowing his place; his presence is calm and reassuring, not offensive in the least.

He has very few friends, only a handful of acquaintances, most of whom he works with. His parents are dead and he has no siblings, nor is he in any kind of relationship. When Hydra did her read on him, she noted that he's gay but not openly so, and that he has some shame and past trauma that makes him keep people at arms-length. This lack of close friendships and relationships means that there are few people who know him in any intimate way, which means there are fewer people to hoodwink.

But what makes him most ideal is the other piece that Hydra saw. Faust wants badly to get out of England. He has family in Austria that have already offered to take him in, he simply has no way to get over to the continent. He has a lot of growing doubts about the future of England and he also fears that the next time Bellatrix comes in, she might see those doubts and punish him for them.

If we offered to smuggle him out of the country, I think he would gladly hand over his identity, along with all the hair and fingernail clippings we need.

As far as whether or not Elysian's security wards will allow me access to the club, I already entered the establishment under my cloak and nothing happened. My guess is that my membership was never officially revoked, but Faust could probably tell me for sure, along with providing any information I would need to know about anti-
polyjuice measures the club has in place.

I haven't approached him yet, but I will if you give the go-ahead.

---

**alt_rachel** at *2015-07-11 17:26:55*
(no subject)

This sounds perfect. Alice, can we smuggle him out? Austria is conveniently remote, too; he's unlikely to be spotted by a Council informant in France.

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**alt_draco** at *2015-07-11 18:06:25*
(no subject)

By the way, I don't know if she told you, but Sally Anne brought up the possibility that I might have actually inherited Buckingham and its elves, in addition to the Treasury.

Unfortunately I don't know any of the elves names, so I can't try to summon them. But I'm working on it.

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**alt_alice** at *2015-07-11 18:35:57*
(no subject)

That might be something your fox friend can help with, Rachel.

Good.

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**alt_rachel** at *2015-07-11 18:42:58*
(no subject)

Yes. Good thought.
Yes.

We'd have to be careful, but it would certainly be possible.

Very well done, Draco. I think this sounds quite viable.

Very well done indeed. I'll talk to Dover and make sure he'll have help on the other side.

The former Protectorate employee in Calais -- I believe he's a Mr Kristoff -- he's no longer sending missives to Rowle over the journal, which is something, but we must make it patently clear to Calais that he is to be utterly left in the dark about this.

Maybe we should send Faust through under polyjuice, or with some other disguise? Would that work? Create an actual false identity to get him past the initial arrival point, with instructions to stay in disguise until he can get out of France?

Yes. And perhaps we could field a few other requests for people to voyage abroad, so he's one of a crowd.
With everyone so worried about Ginny (me included), I thought we could use some good news. We woke up over fifty Sleepers yesterday.

It was slower going than I anticipated because, well, mainly because they're very disorientated and we didn't want to move on to the next patients until the Healers had checked everyone and the helpers had had a chance to really help them. I think we'll be modifying that in future to have more Calming Draught available, and in some cases, give them a (regular) sleeping potion so that the helpers can circle back to them later, so we don't hold things up too much.

Three patients also had an adverse reaction on waking, but the Healers were on standby and they were able to put them right fairly easily. My notes don't suggest it was an allergy to the Potion, necessarily, although I suppose at this stage, that can't be ruled out. Two of the cases were of cardiac infarction and Healer Patil thinks the third probably had medical problems before she went into stasis, and she had a stroke. He thinks she'll recover in time.

That said, there was a minor side effect observed in about 5% of those we awakened. They complained of feeling bloat, or gastric distress, and several shortly thereafter suffered diarrhoea. (Which considering they weren't necessarily able to get to a bathroom was--well, it wasn't pleasant. Luckily that didn't happen to many of them, but if this is a realistic sample and it is a side effect, we'll need more bedpans when we wake the rest.) It's not clear whether it's really the potion or an effect of how long they were in stasis compared to their last meal before sleeping, or other constitutional considerations. Nonetheless, we'll be collecting notes on similar cases in the event that the potion will need to be modified further. (I hope not, since we've already made up over a thousand doses at this point, but we've many more thousands to go, too.)

I'd really hoped to move a little more quickly through the stasis population but at least this way we'll have plenty of production completed before we need it--the only thing is that at this pace, it'll take about six years to wake everyone. So we either need to assign more people to help or tell relatives they'll be on the waiting list for
some time to come.

Anyway. I know it's not much compared to Ginny being in the hands of Bellatrix and Dolohov, but it's a small move toward restoration.

I wonder if we should organise a little something tonight. Cake or whatever the house-elves can throw together.

I remembered but I didn't have time to make her much more than a card. I think she had the day off, at least, and so did Justin, so hopefully she had a nice day. Despite everything.

I'm always in favour of cake. Even if it's a day late. It was her coming-of-age birthday.

You know what I realised yesterday? Ginny's not seventeen yet. They took her out of the Order, so she can't read those posts, but if she'd ever been on the ISS lock she'd still be able to read those. Except, I don't think we told her about that, because we'd all quit using it by the time she found out about the Order, so there didn't seem much point (plus you didn't like her all that much).

What do you mean, I didn't like her? I barely knew her.

All right, I suppose what I did know about her didn't much impress.

But yes, we'd almost all aged off the lock by the time she decided
what side to take, and then it would really have only been her, Evelyn, Luna, Colin and a handful of others. And by then those secret room meetings were happening and it was simpler to just explain anything that might not have already been on the Order lock, which I think wasn't much, anyway.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 19:15:11
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

She was convinced you loathed her and she found you completely intimidating.

She confessed this to me the next time I saw her and asked how things were going, whether she had any questions about the Lock, and so on.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-11 19:15:45
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Of course, she also told me that she didn't know why you didn't believe her when she said she'd keep the Order's secrets no matter what.

alt_draco at 2015-07-11 17:27:23
(no subject)

Well done, you.

He would be proud

alt_hermione at 2015-07-11 18:40:42
(no subject)

I miss them both, too.
That's brilliant. There are all sorts of tonics for gastric distress, maybe we could just give everyone a bit of that once they wake up?

I think the more people we can wake up, the more helpers we'll have, right? In theory, at least.

That's a good point!

Oh, and Rachel likes the sound of Russell Faust, so if Alice approves, I'll probably approach him tomorrow - which works out perfectly since it's his day off.

Oh, all right. I was going to ask if you thought you'd be leaving soon. So, you'll be in New London for a while, then, won't you? I mean, you won't be able to just come back in the evenings or anything.

I guess I haven't been around all that much, either. Sorry about that.

No, I'll be able to come back. He lives alone and has no social life to speak of, so whenever he's not working I can do as I please, more or less (excepting any regular appointments he keeps).
You know, sort of how Snape was sometimes Milland but sometimes he was Snape?

Don't apologise, silly. You've been doing important work and you have an enormous capacity to toil without rest.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-11 18:08:19
Re: private message to Hermione

Doesn't he have neighbours or anything? Well, you'll know best what sort of routine to keep, I'm sure.

I don't know about the not resting part! Mostly when I do get back to the room I'm about to fall over in my tracks. Did I nod off in the middle of something you were telling me last night? I remember your voice and I honestly have no idea what you were saying, just that it was a comfortable sound. And the next thing I knew it was the middle of the morning!

alt_draco at 2015-07-11 18:12:05
Re: private message to Hermione

Oh, probably. I can disappear into his flat and leave from there, though.

Yeah, you fell asleep and I didn't want to wake you. You were so tired. But I was telling you about the Buckingham elves. How Sally Anne wonders if I might have inherited them? She wants to send something to Ginny that way.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-11 18:38:58
Re: private message to Hermione

Oh, well, the thing is, usually house-elves associate more with a place than with a particular family or owner. I mean, the elves who left the Manor to follow your parents? That's actually rather rare. I mean, it happens, but--well, they must have decided they would rather give up your home than serve a blood traitor for a master. Or something. And remember Kreacher never left Grimmauld, either, even when he had the chance, because he felt too strong a responsibility to maintain
the place. And then when Sirius took up residence, he had no choice but to obey Sirius, you know?

So I think it's really highly unlikely that the elves who are still at Buckingham would consider themselves in service to anyone other than the people at Buckingham, and specifically your aunt. That's if she didn't do anything to make sure of their loyalty, which if I were her, I'd have done right away. Like Sirius did with Kreacher, only probably with, I don't know, more threatening.

I don't know, it depends on what she's ordered them to do or not do. I wonder if Rachel's contact in the palace could find out what the terms of their enslavement are.

Oh, I'm sure the elves are obeying Bellatrix and serving Buckingham as well as ever. But it'd still be worthwhile to see if I have the ability to make them listen to me. If I can't, then we don't lose anything by it, anyway. We're just as barred out of the palace as we've always been.

Not sure about the contact. It seems like a potentially dangerous thing to look into, because why would any guest of Buckingham ever need to know?

Hm. If you want to try summoning them or talking to them, I'd start with Nebly. He's really old so you'll have to speak slowly and loudly but he was in charge of all the guest quarters. Or maybe Ribly, he's Nebly's offspring. He manages the table settings. Or managed, anyway.

There was a female who worked in the cellars, too, who was generally a little less snooty. Er... I think her name was... Selby? Sibby? Selby, I think. I didn't see her very often but she was also a bit barmy.
Alright, I'll give it a go.

Nothing happened.

Well, like I said, it's not surprising. Then again, you're awfully far away. Maybe try the next time you're in NL.

It's a wonderful achievement.

I wish so much that Arthur could have seen this day. He would be so incredibly proud of you, Hermione, and so glad that his faith in you has been repaid thousandsfold.

I have been speaking with someone that Davidson connected me with, who has been at the Abingdon camp in Oxfordshire. Her name is Jen Arachne, a muggle, and she was a university research librarian at Oxford before the Protectorate. She is going to help me with organising the information we need to connect all the Sleepers with their families.

I'm glad you're taking that on, Mrs Weasley. Like Sally-Anne says, the task should get loads easier as we start waking them. So far everyone's
geographically organised, which makes perfect sense, from the Death Eaters' point of view, so neighbours and so on. We did find that our first group included two sets of siblings (two sisters and a brother and sister), four married couples and a set of cousins, so they already had the comfort of being with a family member, but it's also important to connect them to people who've been living through the last fifteen years, who can catch them up on all the things they'll want to know.

And thank you. I wish he were still here, too. He was always very kind.

---

@alt_frank at 2015-07-11 18:47:05  
(no subject)

that's brilliant, hermione.

the helpers we tracked down working out so far?

---

@alt_hermione at 2015-07-11 19:59:11  
(no subject)

Yes, and as Sally-Anne said, we'll have more as we wake up new people. Though I expect we may lose helpers, too, when they have their own families back.
George and I have been kicking ideas around since we got up this morning.

Look. Both Bill and us have managed independently to create secret locks piggybacked on the journals' magic. We want to figure out a way for Ginny to be able to communicate privately with us. If she's allowed to have her journal. If we can figure out away for it to happen without Bella harvesting her mind afterward. We realise those are big 'ifs.' Still...

We can't use the Order lock for her anymore. Ginny was never on the I Solemnly Swear lock. Both of those groups would have security issues because of all the knowledge stored under those locks which mean we can't allow Ginny to use them. Bella will order her to read to them any message that they see has a journal entry that's headed 'Private message to Ginny Weasley' or 'Private message to the Weasley family.'

But what if we set up a lock, just for her to use, with no secure secrets on it? An age-defined lock would be good, like the I Solemnly Swear lock was. That way Ginny's hosts wouldn't be able to see the journal header. (That's why we're including Luna and Evelyn on this message-they could write to her.) Or maybe a group that it wouldn't occur to Bella and Dolohov she's a part of, and so wouldn't think to order her to read it to them. 'Gryffindor Quidditch Team' or 'Rising Seventh Year Prefects' would be obvious. Something more off ball. I dunno: Redhaired Purest Sparkle Ex-Models. Honey Hive Tenders. Something.

Maybe we could figure out a way to set up some way that she could write securely? Even if we never talk to her, and so there are no incoming messages for her to report to them?

If we did something like the I Solemnly Swear Lock, with a password, I don't know how we could get it to her. Anyone might be there if we sent her a Patronus, and I doubt Pig could get to her. Maybe someone has another idea?

Look, we know you all have loads of other things to do, and we're not asking anyone to drop whatever they're doing to work on this. Maybe
everything she reads they're gonna know. Maybe this is hopeless. But we want to be able to noodle around a bit on this and we thought some other devious minds might be able to help, if anyone is interested.

Anyway, it gives us something constructive to do other than sitting around imagining everything awful that's happening to her. And keeping the Weasley twins busy and out of trouble is always a bonus.

---

@alt_fred at 2015-07-11 20:11:33
(no subject)

We wanted to add Sally-Anne and Pansy to this message but couldn't fit them on the journal entry header. George and me will talk to them privately.

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-11 20:15:53
(no subject)

Are you asking permission? Go right ahead, I say, provided it's not getting in the way of assigned tasks for Albion. If you need someone to test the spellwork, I'll look it over when you like.

@alt_fred at 2015-07-11 20:35:46
(no subject)

We'll keep up with our regular tasks. We promise.

@alt_fred at 2015-07-11 20:44:31
(no subject)

We've already been out to the camps this afternoon.
By all means, Fred. See if you and George can come up with something.

You're thinking what I'm thinking? It channels their frustration without actually harming anything. It's also not going to work, even if it works, if you follow me. But we can address that heartbreak if and when it becomes applicable.

They do not understand what 'brainwashed' means. They don't. They think she'll be faking, saying what she's ordered to say without meaning it.

I don't know how to explain this

I don't know. Maybe they're right and I'm wrong.

You're not wrong. They're simply Weasleys.

Anyway yes, it channels their frustration in a way that doesn't involve trying to physically break into Buckingham, which would be suicidal, which is why I didn't let Ron do it on Thursday.
They need to understand that they cannot tell her secrets, though. Any secrets. EVER.

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-11 20:36:32
Re: Private Message to Rachel

I just don't want them prioritising this over jobs that need doing for everyone, as much as I understand why they'd want to do.

But then, that's not my call to make. Alice and Remus can send that message, though.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 20:48:09
Re: Private Message to Rachel

Right. That, thanks to every god ever worshiped by any wizard, is NOT my job.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 20:51:01
Re: Private Message to Rachel

Of course, it sounds like I may be on the hook to check each message before they send it. Surely there's someone I can delegate that to. Are there any Slytherins on our side who aren't currently gainfully employed?

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-11 21:01:01
Re: Private Message to Rachel

Rachel, isn't that why you have an entire MLE department at your disposal? Put an enforcer on it. What about Carrie Logue? She seems the right sort.
She's got an assignment...you know, she's got fewer things on her plate than I do. Carrie it is, then. I'll be sure to tell her who recommended her.

See if I ever do you a favour again.

How long were you Bellatrix's prisoner for? When she got you, that time in France?

Not very long. Hours.

Forever.

Did you hold on to hope of rescue, or hope of escape?

It's been seventy-six hours for Ginny. Unless I mucked up the maths.
Escape. Or sheer stubbornness, I'm not sure.

I never expected the rescue I got. And if Bella hadn't been determined to bring me alive to be tortured in front of the whole Protectorate, I wouldn't have got that, either. Moreover, I lost a lover in the process and I still nearly died after I slipped away.

I'm not saying rescue's hopeless but--you know as well as I how unlikely it is we'll get a good opportunity.

Yeah, I do.

Not so sure about the Weasleys. But convincing them it's hopeless isn't my problem, either.

And it's not hopeless. Exactly. Especially if Antonin and Bellatrix think Ginny's more use to them alive than dead.

It's not hopeless. But even if we're able to extract her, you know it's going to be a long, long time before they'll have Ginny back.

They got her back from Voldemort. They can get her back from Bellatrix. If we get her back from Bellatrix. Which we might or might not be able to do.
alt_sirius at 2015-07-11 21:58:16
Re: Private Message to Rachel

I hope you're right. Anyway, we agree that it does no harm for them to try whatever it is they have in mind.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 20:18:45
(no subject)

It doesn't matter how secure it is, though, you can't assume Bellatrix won't read it out of her head. I guarantee you that she is no longer occluding.

alt_fred at 2015-07-11 20:43:34
(no subject)

Look, we get that. You think we want to give them any excuse to punish her? We don't. We're not stupid, honest. Even though you must wonder sometimes.

Obviously, we haven't figured this out. That's why we're opening up the discussion. Obviously we will run everything past you first. EVERYTHING. Anything said or received on this lock, if we manage to actually pull off something brilliant that we can't visualise yet.

Consider that an iron-clad promise, Weasley to Weasley.

alt_bill at 2015-07-11 20:49:11
Private message to Rachel

Do you want me to pour cold water all over this? Because I can, given the fact that I know the magical architecture of the journals as well as anyone in the Order.

On the other hand, they actually did dream up a lock once before that was something I hadn't ever imagined. AND they diligently tested its security, repeatedly, in a way that couldn't get them into trouble, before they ever used it.
Look, it's fine if your brothers want to try to figure out a way to write truly private messages.

I don't think it'll matter. That's all. I think whatever you send her, by whatever method, she will immediately report to her captors, and read in full.

If you could send her a vial of poison, she might drink it, but we don't have a way to do that or we'd have done it on Thursday.

Mmm.

It's not just a matter of journal security, yes. It's a matter of the nature of what's going on in Ginny's mind, of her loyalties, and what they're going to do to twist her around. And we fear that'll convince her to circumvent any security safeguard we can dream up and blab directly to Bella and company. So. Part of this problem, the problem of Ginny's mind, the twins are familiar with, as Weasley family members. Shared family history and the like. A sliver of it you might understand with your knowledge of interrogation tactics.

But I think a large part, enough to sink this project, is what springs from the utter reprehensible twistedness of her captors' thinking. Ginny's mind, we think, is going to change into something utterly unfamiliar, given her captors' determination to destroy every tie that binds her to us.

See, the thing is that George and Fred have become rather used to the idea that they can solve anything by applying their wits. And it's at least partly true: they've managed to solve some amazing problems. Fu's raved to me about the originality of their thinking, which he finds rather rare. They're not going to let go of this, because Ginny's family, and really, under normal circumstances, we Weasleys have as fierce a loyalty to each other as any Hufflepuff. That's why Percy's defection hurt so badly.
But I've been thinking over what we talked about last night, and so I'm waiting for a bomb to drop, something in the journals from Ginny, renouncing us. Something that she'll really mean.

Maybe Bill and George and I can approach this project not as giving us an opportunity to talk to her. If you and I are right about their intent to brainwash her, we can't tell her anything.

Maybe what we need to figure out instead is a way to give her an opportunity to talk to us. Maybe Fred and George will pull some brilliant trick to find a way for Ginny to be able to do it without Bella realising it. Even if she wants to tell everything to Bella. I can't think what that could be, as of now, but don't underestimate the deviousness and doggedness of a Weasley on a mission.

And we'll just listen.

Maybe she'll use it only to rant about the glories of purebloodedness and about how much she hates us. Fine. But it will give us a window on her mind, one with maybe a better chance of being a true reflection of what she's really thinking, not something that Bella or Tosha is dictating.

And then maybe we can put that knowledge to use if we ever get her out of there and have a chance to turn her loyalties back to us.

Look, I want to reassure you. If I work on this with them, I am going to keep them on the shortest choke chain possible. If Ginny rants at us, I'm going to assume she really means it, and I'll keep that strictly in mind, however we proceed. All right?

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@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 21:42:22

Re: Private message to Rachel

Look. I'm not trying to talk you out of anything, honestly. Give it a try and see what happens.
@alt_bill at 2015-07-11 22:02:07
Re: Private message to Rachel

Love you. Thank you for putting up with the family madness.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 22:04:31
Re: Private message to Rachel

I love you, too, Bill. And your mad family. And your little sister.

@alt_evelyn at 2015-07-11 21:08:34
(no subject)

I'll give a hand if you need it age locked, of course.

@alt_luna at 2015-07-11 22:05:09
(no subject)

I will, too.

@alt_molly at 2015-07-11 22:03:47
(no subject)

I don't want her hurt any further, through our actions.

@alt_fred at 2015-07-11 22:04:38
(no subject)

That's a given, Mum.
@alt_molly at 2015-07-11 22:20:43
Private message to Fred and George Weasley

And we mustn't be selfish.

Yes, it's awful that Ginny's been captured. Yes, it feels like just about the worst tragedy that we can imagine. But there are people all over the Prote Albion who have endured far worse.

We have work to do, work that Alice has assigned to us. Your work is to ensure that enough people will have food and shelter this winter. I don't want to hear that you're slacking off on your assignments. Understand? You can work on this, but ONLY if you do ALL your other work.

@alt_fred at 2015-07-11 22:22:15
Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Right-o, Mum. We'll keep our noses clean and our job reports filled out. Promise.

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-11 22:05:32
(no subject)

I can't promise you that attempts to communicate with her secretly won't result in her being punished. Even if she immediately reports them.

@alt_bill at 2015-07-11 22:09:28
(no subject)

All right, let's put our heads together.

I'm with Mum, though, gents. I'm not going to assist you with anything that makes things worse for Ginny.
And for the sake of my marriage and the Order, much less the citizens of New Albion, let's not do anything to make things more difficult for my wife if we can help it, all right? She's feeling rather harassed at the moment...

Sucks all around, doesn't it?

We promise to do all we can to avoid giving her nightmares.

Thank you for that very touching statement of support.
So, there's this risk that Aurors were warned about, when I was in MLE training, with interrogation. It's possible to break through an Obliviation with cruciatus, but if you're going to do that, you need to be extremely careful not to hint to your victim what you expect them to remember. Because if you do, they'll manufacture the memory for you. They'll start by just saying they remember whatever you want, but if you're checking with legilimency -- which is standard in their interrogations, to make sure people aren't just lying -- they need to actually remember. So they will.

If your goal is information, you want to avoid doing this. But that seems to be what Antonin has been doing to Ginny, deliberately, probably with a mixture of cruciatus and leading questions, to turn her against the Order. She now 'remembers' overhearing the rest of the family plotting to kill Percy and being Obliviated by Bill, and she 'remembers' an incident from childhood where she overheard the Order and Bill punished her (and then Obliviated that, as well). Or so she said in her replies to their private messages. (I guess the good news is she's being allowed access to her journal.)

We can probably expect her to tell these stories, and others, possibly worse, as she explains in the most public possible way why people should turn on the Order and trust the Protectorate.

We need our reporters to tell Percy's story as soon as possible, in the right way, so that it's in the public's minds before Ginny's version.

I wonder if there are ways to catch her out in 'memories' that we're concretely able to contradict?
Percy died at Snowdonia. Can we locate those staff members we released, and see if any of them saw anything?

I can put Frank on that easily enough.

Padma Patil was there. Would Haruman allow us to talk to her about it?

...I'm wondering just how hard we ought to work on counteracting her specific memories, or just simply be blunt, state that she's being brainwashed, and that no-one can trust a word she says?

I think probably the latter. Some people won't believe us, just as some people are convinced we're burning down houses. Some will. I'm not sure how much else we can do.
I've been thinking. Perhaps one of the things we might do is to publicly describe exactly how it's being done. Perhaps she'll be able to question the process a little.

The problem is not coming off as utterly paranoid, or risk being accused of the same thing. 'How can we believe anything anyone tells us,' all that.

Everyone knows MLE uses torture, and we can certainly point out to people that nothing a prisoner says should be taken at face value.

Regarding publicly describing the process, to get Ginny to question things: would your goal be to make her useless to them, so that they would kill her?

Simply stating that prisoners' statements can in no reasonable way be taken as truth is a good tack to take.

We'll save the rest for after.

I'm willing to talk to any reporter writing the story, if it would help.

I wish I could prove that Antonin Dolohov took Percy's tooth, but I can't. Even if we found it, I'm sure that plenty of
people would be willing to believe we planted it in Dolohov's quarters.

Damn it all.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-12 04:02:51
(no subject)

The tooth would prove exactly nothing even if we had it.

alt_molly at 2015-07-12 04:14:45
(no subject)

I know.

It just that it doesn't quite fit within the story that for some reason I arranged Percy's death.

alt_bill at 2015-07-12 03:35:41
Private message to Rachel and Charlie

All my sins are rebounding on my head, I think. I knew I'd made a mistake trying to obliviate Ron the moment I pulled out my stupid wand. I had to work at it for almost three years before it seemed he'd finally forgive me.

But this...

So it's my stupidity that Dolohov is using for the foundation of his lies.

Now I wonder if I'll ever be able to forgive myself.

alt_rachel at 2015-07-12 03:40:41
Re: Private message to Rachel and Charlie

Bill, Dolohov didn't know about that incident. He almost certainly told Ginny she'd been Obliviated and he was trying to break the memory charm. She fastened on you because of that incident with Ron,
but she could have done it anyway because you're the oldest, and a safer person to wholeheartedly hate than your parents.

**alt_bill** at 2015-07-12 03:44:28  
Re: Private message to Rachel and Charlie

Maybe you're right. But it sure made it easy for him, didn't it?

I wrote back to her, just very briefly. I told her I wasn't going to try to argue her out of her belief. That Dad taught her about logical fallacies, and so she'll remember that it's impossible to prove that something didn't happen. I baited her into telling me that she hates me, and when she did, I told her to go ahead and hate me, to hate me as hard as she possibly can.

That's what they want. That's why they're keeping her alive.

**alt_bill** at 2015-07-12 03:45:02  
Re: Private message to Rachel and Charlie

I think I'm going to go see if Hermione has some hideously gunky cauldrons that need scrubbing out.

**alt_rachel** at 2015-07-12 03:46:24  
Re: Private message to Rachel and Charlie

If your transgressions meant that she 'remembered' more quickly that you were the one who Obliviated her, then you should be glad. Because they cruciated her until she remembered.

**alt_bill** at 2015-07-12 05:20:49  
Re: Private message to Rachel and Charlie

Thank you. By all means, please keep continuing to whack me over the head with the fact that it's not about me anytime I seem to be forgetting it.
I think I'm going to try writing to her and seeing if they've made her remember anything about me. They probably have, but on the off chance they haven't, maybe I'll be able to sneak something through the cracks.

Just keep telling yourself, this is actually a good sign. It means both that she's alive, and that they have a very good reason to keep her that way.
This is definitely one of those weeks I think I'd be a lot happier if I could opt out of human form and all thought, altogether. Or at least if I could do it on my schedule rather than the moon's.

I had dinner at my desk. Did you go to the great hall?

You need me to come up and distract you again? Or are you looking for a faithful hound to curl up at your feet?

I did. There was cake for Hydra, her birthday was yesterday. I didn't know. Nice surprise but, maybe I ought to have had supper up there with you instead.

I missed cake?

Also Hydra's birthday. Did she come of age? I guess she must have.

The elves might still bring you a slice, if you need pudding. Or a midnight snack.

And yes, I suppose she is now. Hardly seems to matter - after all this time and everything she's done and is doing, married, serving as chief Legilimens and also maintaining presence in the field - it's difficult to realise she's only now 17.

Though she looks more like Andie as she gets older. I've noticed that much.
She does look like Andie.

Mind you, I always thought Andie looked like Bellatrix would if she were a human being with a functioning heart. So it's not surprising Bella's daughter would have a similar look to her.

I was thinking recently about my time at Hogwarts as caretaker. The people who arrived as eleven-year-olds while I was working there. They're all adults now. The ones who lived.

I know. He'd have been 18 in three weeks.

Well, now, I really hope your goal is to snuggle with Padfoot tonight, Moony, because if you keep on that way, I'll be the one who decides to sit things out as an animal for a while.

Anyway, one thing I've learned in the 20 years since we left this castle, it's that there are always newer, younger people to take one's place.

You don't say.

Just how young was that Enforcer you were flirting with at lunch?

Oi! I wasn't flirting with her! She was flirting with me.
Maybe you need your eyes checked. I'm sure we could prioritise Hermione waking up an oculist.

She was definitely the one to initiate the flirting but you certainly seemed to be enjoying the banter.

Possibly because it makes you feel young and spry having some barely-past-her-NEWTs young lady bat her eyelashes at you.

(Do you ever get hit on by barely-past-their-NEWTs young men?)

I get hit on by all sorts, actually. I'm just naturally magnetic. And it only occasionally crosses my mind to flirt back.

Anyway, Carrie's not that young, surely. And I think I came up with an appropriately nasty assignment for her; I told Rachel she should assign Carrie to keep an eye on any communication between Ginny and her family.

Are you still worried about that comment I made? Because it's really not a factor. Well. We never did have that conversation about three 'freebies' but believe me, Carrie Logue would not top my list.

No, she can't actually be that young; she wasn't at school while I was working here. And you didn't! After flirting back? You monster!
Anyway, traditionally the three freebies are people you find attractive but who you're unlikely to ever have the opportunity to actually sleep with.

So yours need to all be outside the wards, and we're good.

Ha. Well, what about when we (eventually? ever?) drop the wards and reconnect England to the rest of the world?

Don't worry. I've had more than my share and done all the philandering I'll ever need.

Now, do you want cake, or not? Because you've made me hungry for another slice, if there's any more to be had. I was thinking of bringing it up to our rooms.

You raise a good point, but at least in France or Canada or New Zealand you won't be Sirius Black, National Hero.

Anyway.

Yeah, bring me some cake, if there's still any.

Your wish is my command.
I love you, Ginny-bean. I always have, from the moment when Mum first handed you to me and told me I had to be careful not to drop you, and I always will, no matter what happens.

I know you're confused and in a lot of pain right now, and I know they're making you remember things. I believe that everything you've remembered is real for you, and I'm so sorry you have to go through all that with nobody there to talk to except for Professor Dolohov. It must be awful to have all that swirling around in your head without any way of putting it all together. Is there anybody else there you can talk to?

I'd really like to know what you're remembering, in fact. You know I haven't always been home when things happened or people got into fights or arguments got started, and there are a lot of things I only hear about well after the fact and I only hear certain people's sides of things. If something horrible was going on and I didn't know about it, I'm so sorry that I failed you. Will you tell me what I missed, so I know what to look out for and I know how to help? I know I can't rewrite the past, but if horrible things are happening to you and I missed them, I want to know now so I can make it stop.

No matter what, I hope you remember that for your whole life you've been able to tell me anything and I've always kept your secrets when you do. If you need someone to talk to, I promise you that I won't try to explain it away or tell you that you must have misunderstood. I really feel awful about what you're going through and I want to help any way I can.

I love you and I'll do whatever I can to help you. I always will.

---

Don't talk to me.
I don't remember doing anything that hurt you, Ginny-bean. If I did, I'm so sorry. Will you tell me what it was?

I don't for one minute believe you don't remember. YOU aren't the one they constantly obliviated.

And I wouldn't even know where to start.

Okay, kiddo. I'm sorry, I'll shut up now.

I've been combing through my memories to see if I could remember anything, and I couldn't. I do believe you, I just don't remember anything myself. But I don't want to make you have to go through it all, so I'm just going to keep trying to remember.

I love you, and I'm so sorry that you're hurting right now.
2015-07-12 10:09:00
Order Only: Private message to Ron

Is it working, do you think? Or at least is she still writing back to you?

alt_sally_anne

alt_ron at 2015-07-12 15:37:30
(no subject)

Yeah. She's writing back.

Hope I'm not mucking this up.

Are you really busy or can I come down there? You could tell me--

Any wiz, I'm going to stop writing back soon, I think. For a while. I don't want to overdo it. Let it take, yeah?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-12 15:41:03
(no subject)

I'm not busy. But if she's writing back and not telling you that you once took her fishing and then tried to drown her, you're probably doing okay.
Sally-Anne, how's everything going with Ginny?

So, Draco's going to be going on this extended mission in New London where he'll be under cover. I won't bore you with details, I mean, I don't think they're secret but you can ask me later if you want, but what he's doing isn't the thing I--

Let me start over.

How do you both cope when Justin and Ron are out in New London? I know it sounds ridiculous, Draco goes down there all the time, but under the cloak, you know, and he stays hidden and he's not trying to trick people so much as avoid being trod on. But this time-- I mean, he thinks he'll be able to come back every night but I'm not so sure, even if the person he's pretending to be lives alone, he'll still need to know what's going on in his neighbourhood when he's supposedly there? And there are loads of other reasons I can imagine he'll have to stay on longer than he anticipates.

And I'm not even all that worried about him impersonating someone. Well, I'm a little worried, only because this person has to be somewhat obsequious and that's...not Draco. But he's doing his homework, I know that, and he has enough experience with subordinates that he knows what's expected of one.

It's...it's more that...I'm still worried about him doing something rash or foolish because he thinks he sees an opportunity, and not having enough backup, and not caring if he makes a bad trade, if that makes sense.

And even if he doesn't--I'm worried I'll--that I won't actually miss him all that much, while he's away. Oh, that's a horrible thing to say, isn't it? But it's sort of true. I mean, lately he's busy and I'm busy and, I don't know, maybe it's just because there are too many distractions. Still, sometimes I almost feel like--like if it weren't for losing Harry--

Well, that's just it. Obviously it takes time, and it's going to be especially hard for the next few weeks, so maybe it's all to the good.
that he'll be occupied for so much of it. And maybe that will help in the long run, too, and not just for the short term. So it'll be better after that.

Anyway. I figured you two face this sort of possibility all the time, now. It's oddly new for me.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-13 04:50:36
(no subject)

Ginny. Ugh. Things are utterly awful with Ginny. They did something to her that involved cruciating her for hours until she came up with horrible stories about her family and believed them, to make her turn against us, and now she's writing to Mrs Weasley and Bill and the rest of them and saying they did horrible things to her and she hates them.

The good news is I guess they've probably mostly stopped torturing her. So that's good even if the reasons for it are awful.

Oh and I said 'they' but actually it was Antonin Dolohov. Probably. No, honestly. It was definitely Dolohov.

I see the posts to the Weasleys when it's Bill or Mrs Weasley or Charlie or Rachel but NOT the one from Bellatrix. Isn't that weird?

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-13 04:58:55
(no subject)

Anyway. Coping. Yeah. So, I know exactly what you mean about possibly making a bad trade. Ron's not stupid, though, and he's pretty good at strategy. And so's Draco. Of course, there aren't any guarantees, look at Ginny, no one even thought she was doing something particularly risky. And it's not Ron or Draco who wound up in Buckingham.

I guess the main thing I do is to try not to think about it. There's nothing I can do to protect him and there's nothing I can do that would stop something bad happening, and it's not like I'm going to ask him to quit being an Auror any more than I'm going to quit being a Healer (Trainee). And it's not like -- I mean, I hardly ever worry about my own safety when it's me going out for some reason, you
know? If Mrs Longbottom asked me tomorrow to go with someone to chat people up about joining the Order, I'd just go and assume it would all be fine. So some of it is just kind of training yourself to think about your friends' safety the way you think about your own. Maybe.

When they took Ginny I pretty much couldn't stop thinking about it for two days, though.

I think the worst would be if he got captured. That really is worse than dead.

---

alt_hermione at 2015-07-13 05:14:36
(no subject)

No, it's not about--I mean, I'm not necessarily worried he'll be killed in action or caught or any of those things that might happen in the course of him carrying out his duties.

Well, there are two things about it.

The first is that ever since Harry, since what happened, Draco's been really depressed. I mean, understandably! of course. But I mean sometimes really pessimistic and--and sometimes I think he doesn't care if he dies. So there's that.

And the second is.... sometimes I wonder if I'm staying because I know that if I don't, he'll take that just as hard and it'll be even more likely that he'd throw himself away. But then I wonder if I'm only questioning my relationship with him because of the way he's grieving, and then I feel twice as guilty because it's not his fault he's still so upset (I mean, I am, too, but I didn't have to cast the spell that killed Harry), and I'm being really unfair to question how much I do or don't want to be with him. Do you see? And then I think it's just awkward because we're both pulled in such different directions right now and it won't always be that way, and maybe I should just wait and see what it's really going to be like when things are normal.

But they're never going to be normal, are they? And so am I supposed to stay out of...loyalty? Support? Do I really think either of us needs the harm of upsetting our lives by breaking up? Do I really want to break up or is it just my own malaise?
Oh, I should never have said anything. I'm not going to shake anything up, not now, anyway.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-07-13 05:24:31  
(no subject)

Oh. I see.

Hermione, I think Draco's strong enough that if you break up with him, he'll be sad, and probably annoyed at you, but I don't think he'll throw himself in front of the next DE Auror's wand he finds. He'll get over you. He survived losing Harry. He survived *killing* Harry. He'll survive being dumped.

But you could also just give it some time. I mean Harry died less than two months ago. Of course Draco's still grieving, and you, and all of us.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2015-07-13 05:27:16  
(no subject)

I mean I do kind of know what you mean about not caring enough about staying alive.

I do think you're one of the good things in Draco's life.

But it's not your job to be his girlfriend if you don't want to be.

Do you have fun together still? I mean do you enjoy his company and do you like snogging him and all the rest?

**alt_hermione** at 2015-07-13 05:41:07  
(no subject)

The reason I finally gave in and snogged him was--it just came to me in a flash, I know that sounds silly but honestly, that's how it felt--that I really do care about him more than just as a friend. And yes, I enjoy his company and it's comforting to know how well we know each other. It's not like it was with Tim, where we were
attracted and he was interesting and we had some things in common, but we weren't...we just didn't click, not really.

And we were, before. And we do, now, most of the time. But some of the time I'm we're both just so tired and there's always work to do and things to think about. I don't know.

I haven't--I still haven't ever said to him that I love him. I mean, I haven't used the word, precisely. Maybe that means I don't love him as much as he loves me. And maybe that's always the way it is, one person loves harder than the other.

Time. Yes, we still need more time.

Maybe he's not the only one who's already dreading the end of this month and what it will do to us all.

Well, about saying 'I love you' to the other person, I didn't say that to Ron until about fifteen minutes before we made vows to each other in front of Pansy and Justin. Because I was afraid he was going to die when he went away to meet Harry, I was afraid he wouldn't come back.

And I think Pansy and George say it to each other all the time, you know? For some people it's easy but for some of us it's really hard.

Anyway it sounds like what you really need are some days off together. Are you getting your days off together? You're at least getting days off, right? And you're taking them properly and not spending them recreationally researching the wards or one of the other projects you're not on?
I might do light reading, what about it?

Well, it's not like we can go to Brighton but all right, the next time we have a day off we'll spend it doing something that doesn't have anything to do with the war or the rebuild.

If your 'light reading' is American Witches novels, then fine. It's probably even fine if it's books that aren't related in any way to Sleepers or Wards or the war or the rebuild, even if it's four inches thick and written in 1750 by the world-renowned expert of the age on numismatic prismology or whatever.

Anyway, yes, for Merlin's sake take a day off the next time Draco has one and go have a picnic by the lake or go back to your room and snog or something like that.

For that matter, you should probably go to bed! (As should I.)

Yes, it's late. All right. Good night, and thanks.
Fred and George and I went to the Burrow this morning to re-set the wards.

We altered them the night Percy testified against Mum at the hearing over the WWW licence, so that they wouldn't admit him, even though he shared our blood. We re-set them in the same way again today, this time to keep Ginny out.

I hope to Merlin this will only need to be a temporary measure, and it's an unnecessary precaution besides. Rachel doesn't think that Dolohov is going to be taking Ginny out of New London for any expeditions. Still, I didn't want them to make it easy for them if they had the bright idea to let her go inside her old home and burn the place down as an impressive way to cement her newfound loathing for her family. If we ever get her back, we will need the Burrow, so we can help her recapture her happy memories of home, and build her family ties back from there.

The house is looking okay, although I'm afraid the gnomes have been having wild parties in what's left of the garden.

I brought back one of the family photo albums, and all the framed photo portraits of Ginny I could find. They're in Mum's room. I think there are enough framed pictures for everyone to have to keep for now.

Thank you, boys. Maybe Rachel's right, and it's an overabundance of precaution, but I'd rather be sure.

(Bill, thank you for thinking to bring back the pictures. I've put that lovely one from her last Purest Sparkle shoot right next to my bed.)
Mum talked with us about some of the stuff Ginny's writing to her. Guess we're being written off as villains, same as Bill and Mum. But it sounds like she isn't quite as hacked off at Ron, from what Mum has been able to glean.

Charlie, has she written back to you?

It seems to be a mixture of things that are true and things that aren't, that put us in as terrible a light as possible.

Rachel, do you have any idea whether it is wise to challenge the memories which aren't accurate? Will that just make her dig in her heels more, and make the false memories more difficult to eradicate?

What's your goal, exactly?

I mean, you do understand what will happen if you persuade her that her memories are inaccurate?

Well, I'll admit that I hope, in the long run, to rescue her, and to bring her mind back. And I suppose that my question about being able to undo the memory damage is with that hope in mind. AFTER we rescue her.

But we may never be able to achieve that. I must keep reminding
myself of that. Right now, I think my goals are twofold: to keep her alive, or at least, to make MLE think it's worth their trouble to keep her alive so that we can rescue her later. In order to do that, I think, she has to have some propaganda worth to the old MLE.

On the other hand, I don't want her value as a propaganda tool be so great that it causes unrepairable damage to our attempts in establishing Albion.

Oh, dear. The problem is that those last two goals are so contradictory.

If it will protect her, I'm willing to let her hate me. But I just want there to be enough left of her for us to have a chance of bringing her back if we can ever get her out of there. Does that make sense?

If she becomes too damaging to us in their hands, and there is no hope whatsoever of bringing her back to herself--

I'm trying to think what Ginny would have wanted. If she could have foreseen this, and she could have let us know her wishes. I did already give permission--when we thought--but we couldn't reach her.

But if we could reach her now, if only to eliminate her?

Rachel, I'm sorry. I'm trying.

We can't reach her at the moment, so you don't have to put yourself through that particular grim thought experiment. If her captors put her within reach I'd be inclined to attempt a rescue. But that's not going to happen anytime soon.

Here's the thing. If you succeed in reaching her, if you persuade her that what she's remembering wasn't real, Antonin Dolohov will cruciate her until she 'sees' that you are lying and manipulating her. Cruciatus is an incredibly persuasive tool for getting people to do whatever they think will stop you from
using it, and if they have to believe that up is down, black is red, and two plus two is eight-six, they will.

Long term, I don't know much about undoing this sort of brainwashing. We saw some demonstrations as part of Auror training, when I went through it, but the victims were not rehabilitated. You might ask Poppy and see what she thinks.

Okay, I tracked down a Healer named Ellen Hadresham, one of the ones who recently joined us. She spent time working at the Vale of Health, among other locations, and is something of an expert in the lingering after-effects of cruciatus.

She thinks that if we can get Ginny back, she'll likely sort through the real and false memories on her own, given time. However, we should expect her to be hostile and difficult; her sense of self may never be quite what it was, nor her relationships with all of you, but if we can get her back, she will eventually be able to understand how those false memories were created. (She literally cannot understand that now; she can't afford to.)

Healer Hadresham wasn't sure what sort of messages right now would be helpful or unhelpful. She kept going back and forth. If you send her messages, she will see that her family is neither forgetting her nor giving up on her; however, the risk is that if she wavers, she'll be subjected to more cruciatus, which does damage even if it's not at the level of what happened to Neville; the physical damage makes the psychological damage harder to heal from; moreover, she may blame you afterward for the additional torture she was put through, even after accepting that some of what she remembers was the result of brainwashing and not real history. However if you don't write to her she may feel abandoned; it will feed the narrative that her family never truly cared about her, and even as the fabricated memories fade and become less real to her that sense of abandonment when she was a prisoner may linger.

Ellen also noted that this is an unusual situation as most prisoners of MLE historically have not been handed their diaries
and encouraged to correspond with their families.

And once again I'm not sure if that was at all helpful.

**alt_bill** at **2015-07-12 20:10:48**
(no subject)

Is she responding better to Ron? That's good news, at least.

It's a guess, but I'm thinking that worrying about undoing the false memories when and if we rescue her shouldn't be our primary concern.

Ron, feel free to blacken my name as much as possible if it helps build any bridge of trust with her.

**alt_charlie** at **2015-07-13 03:44:53**
(no subject)

Yeah, she wrote back to me. I went for "I believe you, but I don't remember anything, so will you tell me what I missed" and tried reminding her that she's always been able to talk to me about anything, but she told me to leave her alone and that she didn't believe that I didn't remember, so I'm guessing I'm also on the list of people who've done horrible things to her. She was incredibly vague, though -- no specifics, nothing more than "you know what you did" type talk.

At least Ron doesn't seem to be on the shit list. I wonder if they haven't tried turning her against Ron, or if they tried and she just wouldn't do it so they picked a different story instead.

**alt_sally_anne** at **2015-07-13 04:01:21**
(no subject)

I wrote to her, too, and I got an answer that was sort of cold but didn't accuse me of anything.

So I could keep writing to her. But if she started thinking I was her friend does that mean Dolohov would make her come up with reasons I wasn't?
I don't know. On the one hand, you're Ron's wife, so you might be all right. On the other hand, you're Ron's wife, and if you push she might turn that into you having married him to control him or influence him or something and it could get ugly.

Fuck, why is this so fucking hard.

I'd say that maybe we should all make a roster of everybody in the Order writing to her regularly to remind her that we love her so they'd have to spend all their time keeping up with making up new horrible things to convince her of, except the way they're convincing her is to torture her until she agrees, so that's right fucking out.

Well, maybe we should encourage anyone who's friends with her, at least, just to write every now and then and say 'hello, thinking of you today, hope you're okay.' I mean if they're not asking questions or pushing for a response maybe Dolohov won't care. And she'll at least have people writing.

Yeah. Maybe if it's not us, they won't care as much. And if it's not trying to convince her that she's wrong and needs to listen to us, just saying "thinking of you" type things.

Maybe people who aren't in the Order, even. You had that group of people who were sympathetic but not Order members, maybe you could ask a bunch of them to write her occasionally. If it's not people in the Order directly, maybe Dolohov won't bother trying to isolate her from them.
Hell, maybe you could get Patil to write her, even. Although that might get Ginny's captors more interested in trying to get something out of her.) I just think it'll be important to keep lines of communication open, so they can't isolate her completely. Anybody over and above Dolohov and Crouch and Bellatrix that she talks to might be a potential way in someday, because if they manage to keep her completely isolated, she'll only get their perspective on things.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-13 04:40:29  
(no subject)

I don't know if Patil would be a good idea. We aren't brainwashing her (are we?) so I think she probably still hates us and prefers the other side.

But yeah, the other Galleon holders could write her notes.

alt_charlie at 2015-07-13 04:45:28  
(no subject)

Yeah. I was just thinking of the least likely person possible.

Some of the younger kids in Gryffindor, maybe? People who looked up to her? They wouldn't be threatening.

alt_molly at 2015-07-13 12:12:26  
(no subject)

You know what you should do, Charlie?

Write to her about Adam. Just about Adam. Because he's never done anything to hurt her, so what terrible things can Dolohov make her believe about him? That he's spit up on her?

But it will give her news about at least one member of her family, and remind her that she's tied to us.
Russell Faust is interested, but he doesn't want to commit until he's spoken to you two, Alice and Rachel. He also has a few additional requests, like three months of his current salary in advance - which doesn't strike me as unreasonable.

When can I bring him in?

I'll clear my calendar. Anytime. Alice?

Likewise.
I've been practising my sketching.

Love,
Luna
2015-07-14 17:54:00
Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

I hear that you've made great progress on your latest acquisition. Do you anticipate she'll be ready for a public appearance soon?

We can ease her into things, of course. Control the circumstances, maintain final editing privilege, that sort of thing.

But thought you might be ready for a little test which may merit reward for success. And we could certainly use a fresh perspective on the Phoenix organisation.

alt_antonin at 2015-07-14 23:01:25
(no subject)

One is always tempted to keep fiddling with one's work until it is perfect, but she's come further than I expected despite the occasional (expected) setback. Part of me says we should give her another day or two, just to make certain the conditioning won't fail under pressure, but that would put us into the weekend news cycle, and I don't want us to appear as though we have anything to hide in obscurity.

Do you have a particularly sympathetic interviewer? Ideally one as physically similar to me as possible, come to think of it, but any suitably non-threatening and non-confrontational ought do.

alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-14 23:05:14
(no subject)

Absolutely. I'd be willing to send you briefs on my recommended personnel and you may have your pick of the lot.

If you believe she's not ready, then by all means, take more time. Merely thought a field test, under carefully constructed conditions, would be advantageous. If we have to scrap the results and you must return to the drawing board, then good to know that now rather than later, no?
Yes, send me the dossiers. I'll look through the lot tonight and get back to you with my recommendation.

Early detection and failure is a solid plan for architecture, not always so for something so delicate as this -- the mind is an odd place, and when one asks it to step outside its usual pathways, results are often unpredictable. But yes, as long as the interview is not sent out without review, it ought be low-risk enough. And as much as I am enjoying the thought of the anticipation they must be feeling as they wonder what our next move will be, I'll admit that at this point I'm mostly tinkering.

I wonder if it might be best to put her in the room with your interviewer without telling her what's going on -- say that he's one of our investigators looking for intel on how the Phoenixes operate, and then hope we get a useful response. Although -- no, too hard to keep the knowledge of the programme having aired from her afterwards, and rather a lot hinges right now on me always appearing absolutely truthful to her.

What about presenting it to her in a way that reminds her of her modelling, previous magazine work, so on? She was rather a sensation for about ten minutes, surely she'll look forward to a comeback of sorts. Might that make her feel more comfortable?

There's no worry about reviewing the final copy (or cut, depending on whether you think radio or print will suit better). All of our reporters are acutely aware of the consequences of publishing without release to do so.
Radio, I think. Print is far too dry and distant; better to let people hear the emotion in her voice.

And yes, good idea about the modelling. We are fortunate; she's done interviews before. Tapping into that memory -- and convincing her it was one of the few times she was making her own choices -- ought to resonate fairly well.

Wireless, then. We can be in the room with her, if you prefer--strictly to keep the interviewer on point, of course, protect her from any tricks, as far as she's concerned.
Lee,

Mum decided she's rather not listen, but Bill and George and me think the broadcast on Percy's story was really well done. Charlie, hope you were able to hear it, if you wanted to, but if not, we heard from Arca and Saul that all the stations are going to run at least one repeat over the next day or so.

I'll be curious to see if there'll be any letters of reaction about the print version.

Hey, that reminds me: one of the questions we're asking now on camp visits is whether there is any local press who want to throw in their lot with us. We've heard of two local newspapers who're planning to ask to join the Albion press consortium this week, and that's on top of the three who joined last week. One of them, *The Press* in York have decided to lay it all on the line by rebranding as *The Phoenix Press*. I guess the staff still has to be vetted before they can join the masthead, yeah? But assuming they pass muster, they're ours.
I wanted you to know that even though I've been helping Draco with Russell Faust, I haven't forgot about Rigel.

But before I can think through the possible ways to lure him out of the Palace, I need to know a few things, and maybe your contact at Buckingham could find these things out for us.

First, does Rigel wear any magical jewellery? For the last few years Mummy has used one of Daddy's artefacts - a bracelet - to track Rigel's movements. I had to wear something similar when I was little, because I tried to run away from home a few times. In Rigel's case he just has a tendency to wander off, I think.

Second, are there any enforcers assigned to him? Mrs Baylock is his nanny, but he can control her if he chooses too. If he's been assigned an enforcer, though, it might give us an idea of what kind of people can resist Rigel's influence.

I'll see what I can find out. Can you tell me more about the bracelet you wore when you were little? Could someone remove it?

Well mine was a necklace, and it was different than Rigel's. If I tried to run away it would cause some nasty side effects. As far as I know only Mummy and Daddy could remove it.

But I've had to alter my father's artefacts since then. He gave me a chastity bracelet a few years ago and Sally Anne helped me with that.
Order Only

Turn on WWN now.

Ginny's being interviewed.

It isn't good.

Bugger.
2015-07-15 14:05:00
Private message to Reynard

There's some information I'd like about Rigel. Surely Bellatrix doesn't keep him by her side night and day; she's not very maternal, outside her own press releases.

First, who watches over him? There's a nanny named Mrs Baylock; anyone else? If there's an Enforcer, which one? (Or which ones?) Anyone else regularly spend time around him?

Second, does he wear any jewelry -- a bracelet, say?

I listened to Ginny Weasley's broadcast today. She sounded ... sincere. Almost like herself. It's a bit unnerving. Her family's hoping this means she's no longer being tortured. Have you seen her at all?

---

@alt_jason at 2015-07-16 03:05:45
(no subject)

Hullo, Minx. First time I'm cracking my journal today. Been on assignment since the AM, haven't I?

If you're hoping to get back Ginny Weasley by snatching Lady Lestrange's son, I wouldn't advise it. No one sees much of the boy unless his mummy's using him for one thing or another. He's also Palace-bound. Doesn't venture beyond the gardens.

And yes, he's got his nanny but he's also got Hartley and Kennard, too. You wouldn't know Kennard--he joined after your dramatic departure. Oh, and there is a bracelet (more like a cuff, say). I assume it's some kind of minding device so that Lady Lestrange can find him if she needs to.

---

@alt_rachel at 2015-07-16 03:08:23
(no subject)

I remember Hartley. He's a registered animagus. Wolf, if I remember correctly. Is Kennard, too?
Timber Wolf (it makes him grouchy if you leave off the "timber").

Kennard's a wee cute squirrel. But yeah, I assume Lady Lestrange plucked him from the registry.

Oh, and they're always in animal form when they're with Rigel. People are saying that animagi have some resistance to Rigel's gift, but only while in their animal state.

A wee cute squirrel? Grey or red?

Interesting they can resist Rigel's gift but only in animal form.

Red.

Yes, it is, isn't it? Seems legilimens can resist him, too. That's the only reason I can see for Lady Lestrange being completely immune when pretty much no one else is.

I'm surprised they haven't sent you in to keep an eye on him. Or at least to see if you'd be an option for Rigel-sitting.
I mean, if Hydra can't read you, that means Bellatrix can't, either. It's close enough quarters I'd have thought she'd have guessed you're either an animagus or a legilimens.

Or she thinks I'm just good at occluding around her. Everyone who knows how to occlude makes sure to do so around her, even if they have nothing to hide, per se. Makes them feel safer.

Now, if she actually knew me as a legilimens I'm sure she would have attended to me more closely by now, one way or another.

Probably true.

Or she'd have put you in charge of watching Rigel, and you'd be dying of boredom minding a five-year-old all day.

I've seen Ginny, but I can't tell you what's being done to her, exactly.

I did make it to the Palace for lunch and she was in one of the dining rooms with Dolohov. Her wireless interview was just over, I think. They were both eating and both appeared to be visibly just fine. Ginny also projected feeling fine, too, though when Dolohov reached for his wand to mop something up, she flinched. I could see it from where I was sitting.

Her mind also had a huge burst of terror, and there was an image of
Dolohov inside of it, a memory from earlier in the week. He was standing over her, wand in hand, looking utterly mournful about something.

And then Dolohov (the one who was eating, not the one in her memory) put his wand down and she relaxed and was fine once more.

As to what Dolohov was thinking and feeling: he was tired. Not just physically but in spirit, too. But when he looked at Ginny his thoughts became satisfied, then calculating. But in a non-threatening way. I think he might've been deciding how to reward her because he was replaying her oh-so-successful interview in his mind.

Yeah, that was quite an interview.

Soz. Badds is rather good at what he does. Learned a lot from Crispin.

By Badds do you mean Ptolemy Baddock?

None other.
This one turned out rather well, I think!

Adam's changed a bit even in just the little while since you've been away. He can sit up on his own for a whole thirty seconds now! Unfortunately, this often gets him quite excited which makes him start waving his hands--and then over he goes. Bonk! Tonks has learned to cast a cushioning charm in a circle around him on the floor, which means there are less tears.

He was smiling at me ever so much as I drew this. I told him I was drawing it for you, and he giggled and blew bubbles, so I think he was pleased to hear it.

He's looking more like you around the eyes every day.

Love,
Luna
I've just received word from WWN that they'll be re-broadcasting today's interview in the evening programme. Menken told me they're already teeming with owls and expect that if people tune in after their suppers, we shall have no shortage of ready donors by week's end.

Once again, Miss Weasley: Very well done, indeed. It's plain to see you've not forgotten your lessons learned while modelling. I've rarely known a witch of your age so poised. Even Menken was impressed by how quickly they could turn the recording round for broadcast.

Thank you, Mr Baddock. I'm glad to do my part.

No, truly. You did a marvellous job. Possibly better than Finnigan, and that's saying something.

By the way, Karo's asked me to ask if you'd like to have supper with us some evening in the next week. It's her habit to get to know everyone in the palace so she can help arrange the niceties to individual preferences.

Assuming that's all right with Antonin, and he judges you recovered enough to mix freely.
Yes, that sounds very nice, if Antonin agrees. Thank you for the invitation.

Yes, certainly. It will be good for you to socialise more freely with people closer to your own age, my dear.
Draco,

I hear from Hydra that you're about to embark on an assignment under cover at the Elysian. I say, jolly good show, finding that chap and convincing him to go along with your plan.

I've been thinking about the job I'm to do here in New London, too. As you know, Rachel has me picking off the Death Eaters in not-entirely random order, what, but I've got to admit it's a more difficult business than I'd hoped. Not that one assumed it would be simple, of course, but this week it's been dashed near impossible to catch any of them letting their guards down enough to successfully target anyone, let alone the one I'm meant to catch. At this point I'd consider myself lucky if I could get a sniper spell off if ever he as much as sets foot outside the Elysian or Ouroboros Club doors, what.

It's far more likely that they've simply called for Floo and Apparating protocols whenever practicable. Though Rachel's contact hasn't (to my knowledge, anyway) given her any information about an order to stay off the streets, one has to assume that since Ron and I nabbed Dyson, they're being extra careful.

But once you're inside the Elysian, what, and you've established that they believe your impersonation, then do you think it might be possible to send me a Patronus or a button message or some sort of signal if and when you know that someone's going to be vulnerable? I asked Rachel and she said to talk to you about it, as it's not your primary goal but you'll have the best sense of what's possible or not.

I shouldn't want you to do anything that will compromise your own mission, naturally, and if you've got the opportunity to take care of any of them on your own--well, I say, don't stand on ceremony, old man! Take your shots, what. But it's my understanding that you don't want to squander your cover, either, by taking action that might bring you under direct suspicion. That's why it occurred to me that if you can pass along pertinent information or warnings, I might be able to act on them with no one the wiser.

Of course, I'll keep looking for opportunities that have nothing to do with the Elysian, what, but once you're embedded, why not press
every advantage we can get?

-Justin

---

℗ alt_draco at 2015-07-17 14:44:11  
(no subject)

With or without the confirmation of Rachel's contact, if none of them are being seen on the streets then it can probably be assumed that they've all been told to operate as if under target.

And yeah, dropping poison in their brandy will be easy enough from my position, but neither I nor Rachel want to blow my cover that quickly.

Anyway, no worries. 'Course I'll pass on anything useful about your targets.

---

℘ alt_justin at 2015-07-17 14:56:01  
(no subject)

Oh, jolly good, cheers.

How is your preparation coming along? Confident you can pull it off? Has he any affectations or habits that you've mastered?

-J

---

℗ alt_draco at 2015-07-17 15:05:21  
(no subject)

I've spent so much time practising that very slight sniff he makes to himself that I'm worried I've picked up the habit.

Mostly I've moved on to memorising every member's 'usual' order, because while they'll probably not notice if I (Russell) stop sniffing, it will certainly get their attention if I bring them a lager instead of their expected sherry.
How long has he worked there? I must admit I never took any note of him, but then one wouldn't when one's there as a guest, what. If he's had the job for years, then I suppose you can't get away with posting a reminder behind the bar. Perhaps there's a way you can keep a list under your sleeve cuff. Or claim a mysterious memory-affecting malady? Ha, best not or they'll pack you off to St Mungo's for evaluation.

I'm well sure you miss Mr Snape for a variety of reasons, what, but I imagine not least among them these days is the opportunity to talk with someone who spent a great deal of time starting every day with a dose of polyjuice. I can't think it's entirely healthy in prolonged use. Though there's an enforced break from it while you're sleeping. I say, do you have to wait until your last dose has worn off before you go to bed? I should think transforming back would wake one up.

Oh, I say, I've run on rather a lot, what. Don't mind me. I'm just passing the time while staring out this window.

-Justin
I think all the practise is working. I've been starting to see things when I concentrate on certain people's thoughts. It's rather like an image will just suddenly be there, where it wasn't before.

First time it happened I thought someone might've dropped a hallucinogenic into my tea, didn't I?

The whole thing's entirely peculiar at times because the meaning of some images is beyond comprehension. For instance, why's Quilp keep thinking about a pair of black leather gloves?

Does he intend to buy some new ones, or did he lose a pair in the field?

Perhaps he finds wearing them some kind of exotic, sensual experience?

So many questions.

Anyway, I'll tell you more after your training exercises.

Maybe get a pair of black leather gloves to drop on the table next to him, and if he reacts visibly you can ask him what that's about?

Anyway this sounds interesting but also a little disorienting. And less applicable to Auror work than everyone assumes, when they talk about legilimency.

Ha, that's an idea.

The disorientation makes sense--I mean, do you really know what's going on in your own head at any
given time?

I can tell you that the contents of my own brain hardly resemble a Shakespearean soliloquy. More like Pint? Shag? Duel? Tea? Shag? Sleep?

≡ alt_seamus at 2015-07-17 21:04:44 (no subject)

Yeah. Not to mention you change what people are thinking just by being in the room. If it were Bellatrix Lestrange legilimising me, she'd see a lot less of the 'shag.'

≡ alt_jason at 2015-07-17 21:52:15 (no subject)

Good to know, cos I'm pretty sure role playing as Lady Lestrange isn't in my repertoire.

≡ alt_seamus at 2015-07-18 02:19:38 (no subject)

I'm sure there are people who are into that sort of thing. Not on my 'must do' list, though, or anywhere near it.
2015-07-17 21:03:00
Private Message to Ginny Weasley

Say. I heard you on the wireless, and you got me thinking about all kinds of things I'd forgotten.

You sounded alright, anyway. And it was a good interview.

You doing anything tonight?

alt_ginny at 2015-07-18 02:23:34
(no subject)

Oh, hello Ronald.

I'm not doing much. Headmaster Dolohov gave me some of the American Witches books to read, and I've been reading them. And Karo Moon gave me some fashion magazines.

alt_ron at 2015-07-18 02:26:41
(no subject)

Y'know, I heard that people are asking amazing prices for your Purest Sparkle issues. Over the journals, y'know? I guess there are journals where people sell things like that all the time.

And you're dead famous now!

American Witches, eh? I remember when everyone was reading those.

alt_ginny at 2015-07-18 02:29:51
(no subject)

Maybe I'll get back to modeling now. They'll have lots more, in that case.

And yeah, I was bored and asked if I could have
something to read and I guess Antonin reads them when he wants something light and diverting so he gave me a stack.

Why'd you give it up? I mean, do you wish you hadn't?

Seems an odd sort of thing for Dolohov to be interested in reading. I mean, aren't they written for, er, younger people? And witches, mostly, yeah?

I think modeling was the only thing I ever decided to do truly on my own.

But Mum didn't like that, so she took it away from me. I mean, you remember how I went into an 'exhausted collapse' and there was gossip I was pregnant (laughably enough)...that was because Mum had Madam Pomfrey give me potions to trigger it, to make me think I was giving it up on my own.

So yeah. I miss it. And I miss making my own choices.

About the book, well, you know, we all have some dumb thing we like reading, right? Like Professor Vector reads fashion magazines. I guess for Antonin it's American Witches books.

I remember you were dead exhausted, yeah. And everyone was worried. And before that, you were cross at everyone a lot. Me, especially, I think. Reckon I must've been annoying.

Sorry if I was.
So which of the magazines would you want to work for? Or are you hoping one of the designers or shops will ask you to work for them?

Yeah, I probably was cross a lot. It was confusing, being Oblivated so much by our family. It left me not knowing who I was or what I wanted.

I don't know which magazine I'd work for. I guess at this point... how many are still publishing? It's kind of awful right now, with the Order running around murdering people. Even sometimes right in New London (like poor Virgil Crispin, you must have felt awful about that given he was your Sponsor, wasn't he? After Avery died, anyway.)

Well, there was the tiara, too.

Are things closing in New London, then? Because of security?

Huh. I was just reading about there being a festival planned for Little Venice for the weekend. D'you think that's not going to happen, then?

You know, I haven't been out of Buckingham much, so I'm not really sure how much is open and what's closed. I can't imagine they'll let me I'll be attending the festival. It might be a small enough area that MLE can keep a proper watch over things.
Are they not letting you go places?
Why?

I mean, I thought

I don't want to go anywhere the Order might be able to get to me.

You know Alice Longbottom won't like me telling the truth about them.

Oh, say. That reminds me.

When you were talking about that time we got caught listening in to Mum and Dad talking that time? It made me think about the twins and their extendable ears, y'know? And how hacked off Mum was about those? But that was actually sort of hilarious, yeah? Since no amount of shouting Mum could do would ever change the two of them.

Is that how you remember it? Just a lot of shouting?
Yeah.

Yeah, that's what I recall.

Why? what do you remember?

The Twins already knew about the Order by then, so those ears were for them to eavesdrop on us, not for them to eavesdrop on the Order, only we found them. The Twins were just furious. They cast some sort of hex that made it feel like my ear was going to explode, I think they cast something similar on you, and then Mum caught us all and blamed them for possibly exposing the Order, not that I realised at the time what she was so furious about it was ugly. Not just shouting.

Huh.

I don't remember that at all. Just Mum shouting.

And Dad coming to talk her round and smooth things over.

I guess it figures you remember Dad always being perfect.
What do you mean?

That's how they wanted us to think about him, you know.

They just erased anything that would've made him look bad.

But, Gin, Dad would never-

I never-

I don't remember any of that.

He was kind. Anyone would say that. He worked for everything we had and always wanted the best for all of us.

Well of course you don't remember it. They Obliviated you.

Don't you hear how you sound?

This is what they wanted us to believe.
I really don't know what to say to that, Gin.

That's actually, I'm dead tired, y'know? I think I need to go to bed and sleep on it all.

I'm tired, too.

Good night, Ron.

Yeah, g'night.
Say. Have you seen the quill sharpener?

No. Should I have?

Well, it's not in the stationery box. And it's not in the desk drawer.

Did you check your bag?

It's not in my bag. Obviously, it belongs in the stationery box. Or, okay, sometimes it's in the drawer. But it's not in either of those.

You didn't put it in the cupboard, did you? I mean, if you did, which shelf should I look on? There's so much rubbish in there, I don't even know where to start.
Well then maybe you should have put it back in the stationery box, or possibly the drawer.

I always put it back in the box.

You do not. Last week you left it over on the window sill, probably because you were sharpening a quill while looking out the window.

I never- No idea what you're on about.

The last time I used it, I found it in the drawer, and I put it back in the box, and by the way, 90% of the rubbish in that cupboard is yours!

Well now somebody's put it somewhere else. I've hardly got anything in there. I mean, there're the sheets and towels and the extra blankets, but then
it's all bottles of this and sachets of that and phials of something else. And boxes of ribbons and jewelry and hair thingers. And who knows what?

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-18 03:16:53
(no subject)

There's the sheets, towels, and blankets

and the four potions you came home with from the infirmary after you got hexed in the field last week

and then, yes, there's a box with my charm bracelet and hair thingers, and another dozen or so medicinals that we BOTH use, like the dittany that I hope you re-supplied yourself with after you needed it in the field.

alt_ron at 2015-07-18 03:22:28
(no subject)

What, am I meant to put my jumpers somewhere else? I mean, I can't help it my things are a bit bigger than yours. I mean, I haven't got that many. It's just that one of mine is the same as three of yours--it's not fair to hold that against me.

I thought you were getting more dittany. I mean, you're the one who actually works in the hospital wing.

And what's in that box on the next to top shelf, anywiz? The one with the brass corners and the hinged top. That's taking up loads of room.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-18 03:25:59
(no subject)

I'm not saying you can't store them there, I'm just saying, don't blame me for how crowded the cabinet is! About that box, I have no idea
what's in it, it's not mine. I was assuming it was something of yours.

alt_ron at 2015-07-18 03:28:25
(no subject)

You were?

I thought it was yours.

And, um.

Nevermind about the sharpener. Found it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-18 03:33:32
(no subject)

Oh, so where was the sharpener?

alt_ron at 2015-07-18 03:36:17
(no subject)

Doesn't matter. Now I've found it.

alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-18 03:41:05
(no subject)

But if you don't tell me, where am I going to tell you to look the next time you're convinced I've misplaced the thing?

Also, do you want to see what's in that box? Unless you do know what's in it.
Eh. It was in the drawer in the table by the bed.

So, y'know, it was in a drawer. Like it's supposed to be.

I really have no idea what's in it, so yeah, we should definitely have a look! I mean, it could be something really amazing. Like sacks of galleons. Or racy witches' underthings. Or, y'know, something or other.

Actually I was thinking it might just be someone else's box? I mean everyone was moving around, out of dorms and into guest quarters or whatever, and someone else's things might have wound up here.

But we can have a look, the galleons might come in handy.

I'm writing to Gin again, so if you wanted to come up and keep me from saying something daft to her, that'd be dead useful.

I keep having to remind myself not to tell her what she 'remembers' is wrong.

And she keeps turning things in really awkward directions.

But she's still talking, so I'm taking that as good.

Anywiz, that's why I needed the sharpener.
She's talking to you, at least?

That is good. I can come up.
To the loyal subjects of the Protectorate:

Have no fear, the Little Venice festival is ready and waiting! Take a gondola trip up the Thames, under bridges that for this weekend evoke the City of Canals. Stroll along the Embankment and delight in the food and drink available for purchase. Stop for a time at the outdoor piazzas where entertainment has been arranged.

It promises to be a beautiful day today and tomorrow looks just as fine. Our Department of Magical Law Enforcement has been working diligently to ensure that all those who are loyal may enjoy the pleasures to be found in the world's greatest city. We shall not let the Phoenixes ruin our freedom, nor shall we allow them to spoil our opportunities for celebration.

---

Private Message to Barty Crouch

Who've you put on the checkpoints at Victoria Emb, Blackfriar's and the Tower? Think they've taken an unscheduled break. I was just popping round all the points to make sure the gates are ready to open, metaphorically, and there was no one on duty at those three spots.

All doing their jobs, keeping out of view.

Visible presence is at the registration checkpoints. As discussed: goal is not to frighten people off, but usher them in and keep order. All proceeding quietly and to plan.
Private Message to Ginny Weasley

We greatly enjoyed your company the other night.

Karo says you're rather bored. I must say, I can't blame you. I've asked Antonin and he believes you deserve an outing. We'd be pleased to escort you through the streets of 'Venice,' if you care to join us.

If you're worried about the Phoenixes, you will be in our party the entire time. MLE are prepared for an attempt, in fact, expecting one. I promise no harm will come to you.

Re: Private Message to Ginny Weasley

Oh, yes, thank you. That sounds lovely.

Re: Private Message to Ginny Weasley

I couldn't help but notice your brother wrote you again. And... Miss Lovegood? She's been sending you messages now and then.

No doubt you've already discussed the contents with Antonin, as is appropriate, but if you wished to talk about anything with someone nearer your own age... well, I was Head Boy in my time, if you recall. I'm also experienced at negotiating the intricacies of sibling relationships which are, shall we say, less than ideal.

Only if you desire it, of course.

Looking forward to it.
**Private message to Ptolemy**

It'll be interesting to see who shows up, won't it?

---

**Re: Private message to Ptolemy**

Yes, and who does *not*.

---

**Order Only**

Hullo,

There are rather many people venturing out, what, but also a number of archways that seem to have been erected specifically for the purpose of examining the attendees. Shake-down stations, most likely.

On the other hand, it seems most of their people are committed here. If there were any job that needed doing elsewhere, today might be a jolly good time to do it.

-J F-F

---

**Re: Order Only**

Quite right.

Rachel, Poppy, Siz, are there any sensitive errands on your to-do lists that we can tackle? Sirus, any grand ideas?
I was going to say nothing just yet - I'm working up final notes for things in the next few weeks, will get those shared this afternoon. We've made a lot of progress in about five directions at once this week.

But then I had a thought. Any chance we could secure any of the other Octoboros points? They may have Fideliused them by now, mind, in which case securing them wouldn't help (we can still manipulate the system with the two we control, at least enough), but if they haven't, that'd be a nice thing, and not tip our hand too much.

I have maps, and some notes about the protections we've observed from a distance, the last couple of times people have been near them.

Also, while writing up notes. Possibly also the Floo Control station in the Forest of Bowland. We got some information this week about how to get in, and Gilly's contact rather thinks Bellatrix may not have realised how critical it is.

Everyone assumes that the central station was in the Ministry, or at least near, but no - the actual controls are centred on one of the major leys, because they're much more effective there. Limited access, but we think we've got the codes for it sorted now, and someone who's willing to assist with the actual technical details.

That sounds particularly promising.

I've been there, actually, more than once, though without realising its significance as the control
point for the system. Of course, it makes perfect sense, but is also perfectly counter-intuitive. The best magic always is.

@alt_alice at 2015-07-18 21:30:42
Re: Order Only

Yes. Let's put together two teams, then -- we'll prioritise the floo control station, but if we can manage to take hold of one of the more vulnerable octoboros sites as well, it'll be well worth it.

@alt_poppy at 2015-07-18 19:53:03
Re: Order Only

I'm available this afternoon, Alice.

@alt_rodolphus at 2015-07-18 21:02:01
Private message to Barty

I've asked Bella if the evening is shaping up to be relatively quiet and secure, but she hasn't seen fit to give me an answer.

Lana wants to come out and see the fruits of her planning, of course, but her condition still needs to be considered. Particularly after what happened with Crispin and Corbyn.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-18 21:11:31
Re: Private message to Barty

All quiet so far. Good participation. The leafletting seems to have done its business of conveying that appearance = displayed loyalty = obligation.

Have made circuit of checkpoints and registration appears to be going well. A reasonable start on restoring records lost at MoM.

As for this evening: if I were going to stage an attack, I'd aim for dusk/suppertime to maximise confusion and terror. Suggest you come a bit later, providing that all remains quiet.
Glad to hear it's running smoothly so far. Know that I haven't misplaced my trust in your MLE, old friend, but one rarely reads a sincere and earnest "have no fear."

We'll take supper here and come for afters.

Still has a great deal to learn about public messaging, doesn't he? Apparently Bella chooses to read potential where I see weakness.

How irritated was Lana re. the change of venue? Know Burdett-Coutts was furious. Regent's canal is too difficult to protect. Too many vulnerabilities there, and too cramped in spots for adequate crowd management.

I believe Bella feels she can no longer indulge in the sort of choosiness that she no doubt longs to indulge in- which I'm sure is causing her great displeasure.

If nothing goes awry, then it will turn out that there was nothing to fear, indeed.

More disappointed than irritated. And not so disappointed about the change of venue than what it represents. Things simply don't come as easily as they once did. It's a difficult transition for someone who has never known an England that was not the Protectorate's England.
I'd forgotten. Her family immigrated as the war was ending, didn't they? By invitation, I know. So, yes, I'm sure she does feel attachment to what we built.

Does she not see the opportunities now to build anew? And better?

Her delicate condition does have her idealising her own childhood at times, and comparing it to the period of uncertainty that her own child may face. And then there's the feelings of over-protectiveness that all those hormones produce to account for, as well.

But Lana is far too tenacious not to persist in the face of disappointment, and has plentiful faith that this period of transition, rocky as it may be, will lead us to a stronger future.

Of similar note, I thought to suggest to Bella that the Burdett-Coutts event scheduled for July's end conclude with a public demonstration that overwhelmingly severs any association between us and the former lord protector.

I know the intent is to put a new spin on "Freedom Day" altogether, so why continue ignoring the erumpent in the room that he now is?

How do you find the notion?

Think that is an excellent idea and a logical time to make the gesture.
Renouncing him is both politically pragmatic and a needed cathartic. I'll support the idea if you present it. If she should object, I expect it would be on the grounds that one doesn't like admitting to having been so misled. Not sure whether she'd let that stand in the way. What do you think her reaction will be?

@alt_rodolphus at 2015-07-18 23:34:08
Re: Private message to Barty

Bella doesn't like to be wrong. She likes admitting to being wrong even less.

If I craft my message so that it's less about her being wrong, and more about how a bastard halfblood managed to yoke us to his cause without fulfilling all the promises he made, she will be more receptive.

Think of the wards and other magic that went into disarray after his death. He did not want the Protectorate to survive him, and in fact went to great lengths to ensure that it would not. That she is left cleaning up his mess should enrage her. She need only be reminded of it.

@alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-18 23:41:10
Re: Private message to Barty

You must know you can count on Tosha for support in this, as well.

@alt_rodolphus at 2015-07-18 23:43:51
Re: Private message to Barty

I do.
I'm less happy with this one of Sally-Anne than the one I did of Adam. I think her lips look a little too big. What do you think?

(I can just hear you giggling that they're probably so big because Ron's been kissing them so much.)

Love,
Luna
The Wards and Odd Magic committee has made progress on several fronts.

**Wards:** We believe that removing the Irish wards soon is both possible and desirable. Ideally, we'd like to remove the Irish wards no later than August 3rd, and make some adjustments to the 83 wards and Octoboros wards on astrological Lughnassadh, August 7th.

(I am sparing you all a lot of detail about why this timing, the relative power of the folkloric date for Lughnassadh versus the astrological one, the calculations for ritual magics, and so on. If you're curious, come find me in the workroom and I can show you charts and models.)

Alice, obviously, opening up Ireland has all sorts of other implications for everyone, but the timing is much better soon than it will be again for about a year, and I am very unhappy with the most recent readings from the 83 wards. Charlie, there will be some stress on the dragons, but less than most of Rookwood's plans. Possible we might lose one or two, but equally possible we won't lose any.

Notes below about what we'd need from other people to make this work, but it's basically security to do the ritual, some potions and other supplies, and the presence of at least one Healer, preferably two.

**Odd magic:** We've made some progress on something we think should work as an anti-polyjuice measure, at least eventually. It still needs a lot of testing to be effective, and it throws a lot of false positives right now. We're fairly sure we can refine it once someone has time to do extensive testing, and someone outside our committee can do that, so please let me know if you're interested.

Our progress so far is thanks to some excellent research from Irma, my reading something in a particular frame of sleep deprivation that turned out to be actually useful, a few people asking questions they thought were stupid but were exceedingly helpful, some extended modelling from Evelyn, Katrina Fitzgibbon, and Linus, and some of the notes from Albus on the altered Fidelius. Also sheer dumb luck.

**Floo and other transport:** Undoing the effect of the Ireland Dark
Rite will almost certainly affect the Floo and other coordinate based magics. The shift to the Octoboros will affect things as well, so more reason to do them close together.

A few conversations with people in my Guild who've done consulting work on Floo network issues make me think that if we can secure the Floo Monitoring station in the Forest of Bowland, we can make the necessary adjustments, arrange portkeys again, and so on. I have people willing to help with that part, we just need to get them in there. (Rather large 'just', I know.)

Notes on specifics below, making them so you can all see, in case there's other useful comment, and so we can keep discussion of different pieces together.

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**alt_sinistra** at 2015-07-18 19:48:44

Security

Rachel and others,

For the rite itself, we need to get about a dozen people access to the ritual site on the Isle of Barra plus have people who can provide security for the duration without interfering with the ritual itself. (about twelve hours total, afternoon to the following dawn).

The big complication is that I have reason to believe that's where Augustus Rookwood is. (We have a source who's provided some information, we're not entirely sure about the reliability, but it's possible there are other people with him.) I'd prefer Rookwood not die in the process if we can avoid it: there are lots of odd things in his head we might want later. We shouldn't try to take the location until close to time for the rite, and we need a bit of adaptation depending on when that is.

For the Floo Monitoring station, the security is standard Ministry precautions, plus a series of arithmantical passcodes and cross-checks, with an individual component. We have the calculations now, and someone willing to help, a contact of my friend Gilly's.

I'd recommend ideally securing it and putting it under Fidelius before we attempt the Ireland rite, so that we can redirect floos - for example, those the other side are using. Between the reversal rite and the 7th, floos will likely not work (though we may be able to
redirect some individual ones - Hogwarts to a secure floo at St M's, 
for example). Once we've shifted the wards we can make the long-
term adjustments, and also manage portkeys again. As I just said to 
Alice, we could maybe try for that today, I just need twenty minutes 
to coordinate and confirm the equations.

alt_charlie at 2015-07-19 18:52:28
Re: Security

Obviously I'm in favor of anything that will minimise 
the risk to the dragons.

Let me know if you think you'll need any of them at 
the Isle proper or no. I've got two I think I can transport. (One 
definitely, the other if he's not in a strop.) Or if it's going to be you 
doing the work down there and us taking care of the dragons up 
here, we can do that, too -- just give me and Dree as much warning 
as you can and we'll make sure we have all hands on duty, with the 
steadiest and most experienced ready to wade in if we need.

alt_sinistra at 2015-07-18 19:53:55
Healing and potions

Short version: original rite involved blood sacrifice, 
ours needs to use a lot of blood, but not necessarily 
death. (Sean Finnigan's willing, but we'd really like 
him alive: it's actually more potent magic in some 
applications, besides the ethical part. Number of sources Irma's 
handed me recently indexed 'Blood magic -- Willing Particpant', 
rather large.)

Poppy, I'd really like your eyes on our plans, to double check. Both 
my cousin Mel and Jack Chadwick think we're in the limits of safety 
with precautions, but it's not really either of their areas of expertise.

Hermione, we've a list of potions that might be very helpful, but a 
couple where there's some choices and I'm not sure which would be 
best. I've got a handle on what I think we have supplies for, but the 
uances are decidedly beyond me.

For example, we need a fixative, and one source suggests 
Allingham's Active Agglutinant. Another likes Forsby's Fixative, but I 
found a note saying it's not reliable near saltwater, which Barra 
obviously is, and we need it to hold until the following dawn. Beyond
that, the best blood replenishment we have ingredients for, possibly something to increase blood volume in advance, and perhaps something for increased focus for the people creating the design, since we really only get one chance at this.

I can come find both of you with my notes at your convenience, please, if you can spare a few minutes.

---

**alt_poppy** at **2015-07-18 23:15:12**

*Re: Healing and potions*

I'm quite willing to have a look at whatever's needed. Obviously, I am in favour of a solution that preserves Mr Finnigan's life and will do anything I can to help you evaluate those options.

I'm extremely impressed with the work your committee is managing to produce, Aurora. This is clearly work for many more minds than we've been able to provide you, and yet, you are more than making do.

---

**alt_sinistra** at **2015-07-18 20:04:10**

*Anti-Polyjuice field*

As above, it does identify things, but it's over identifying things (giving us positive reactions on the test, without it being polyjuice.) Right now, it reacts to a lot of different kinds of lasting magical effects: potions, charms, charmed items someone's carrying, all that.

On the other hand, it is giving us reliable negatives, so if you get someone go through without any warnings, you can be certain they're not polyjuiced. (We haven't tested for animagi yet.)

It needs lots more testing to be more useful, but with the committee needing to focus on the wards for a bit, it's now at a stage where someone else can test it - it'd be a great task for two people good with details, but maybe who aren't very mobile.

We have lists of combinations that should be tested, plus whatever else they can think of. For example, it reacts to ongoing potions effects, but we're not sure what it does with charm-mended clothing, or items with charms that aren't currently active, or slow-acting potions, or all sorts of things.
Creating the stones for the field is time-consuming and fiddly and requires some highly specialised materials - large chunks of high-quality jet and some specific kinds of mirrors - so it's not something we could do easily in lots of places quickly. But we could arrange maybe three or four sets within a month or so of finishing the testing. There are likely some further refinements possible, too - we were focusing on getting something effective and stable first.

---

@alt_sirius at 2015-07-19 02:13:46  
Re: Anti-Polyjuice field

Let me and Remus take a look. We've been tinkering on our own a bit but hadn't got as far as installing anything yet.

---

@alt_sinistra at 2015-07-18 20:05:43  
Larger politics

Alice, Remus, Cedric, others: Obviously, there are political and logistical implications to opening up Ireland, and you know better than I do about those. Our best guess is that after the rite, people will be easily able to pass from Ireland back to the rest of Albion by whatever means - apparition, boat. Maybe not floo, depending on if they did anything to the network there.

Once the 83 wards fail or are removed, Ireland won't be covered by the wards - Moddey Dhoo is, because of the angles of the Octoboros, but not Ireland and not some of the Scottish islands (Stornoway yes, Barra and the Orkneys, no). We could add additional warding (I have several possible proposals) or - well. If anywhere needs humanitarian aid in vast amounts, Ireland would be it right now. It occurred to me it might make a good staging ground for initial greater interactions with the outer world. Maybe.

I do think it'd be preferable, even with all that, to do this sooner than later. It would allow us to make the shift to the Octoboros wards on the 7th, and that should give us much greater ability to balance energetic shifts, while still having some measure of controlled access from the outer world. I'm afraid if we wait too long, the 83 wards are going to fail entirely, and leave us wide open to everything (with a fair chance of energetic backlash, earthquake, or other damage when they actually fail) and that seems like a bad idea.
Also, we have not managed much on the Azkaban adaptation problem, but expect to make more headway in something useful once we get the country wards better sorted, if you can wait a couple of weeks.
2015-07-18 21:35:00
Private Message to Sarah Yaxley, Rothko Moore, Jason Montague, Ptolemy and Karo Baddock

It's all just splendid, don't you think?

Have you got out on the water yet? The gondolas are perfect and it's absolutely as romantic as I expected, gliding along between the fire sculptures with the music floating on the breezes. The fires have attracted fairies, too, which I think was unexpected, but perhaps Gabriel brought them in as a final touch, out there flitting about, their reflections glittering on the waves.

We're on the South bank now, looking in at all the stalls. We've put in for a table at the Rialto Café at the foot of Westminster bridge. Come join us?

alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-19 03:24:57
(no subject)

We went out a little earlier, but yes, we're already thinking of returning tomorrow to go again in the firelight.

I know some people were put out by the change in venue but it has all worked out, hasn't it.

Rialto sounds perfect. I think we could all use a pick-me-up about now. Oh, we're three for the party, by the way, we've Ginny Weasley with us. (In fact we might have made a day of it before now, if she weren't so keen to stay out and see as many sights as possible. Well, you certainly understand the concept of cabin fever, I daresay!)

alt_lana at 2015-07-19 03:39:45
(no subject)

Oh, do bring her!

Unless she minds that the photographers are buzzing around.
Mind? I think it might give her her third wind!

She enjoys the attention, does she?

Oh, that's right. She did have a bit of a whirl in Purest Sprinkle, didn't she? Back when she was still pert, pubescent, and pristine.

It's so encouraging to see your maternal instincts flowering into fullness.

My understanding is that she's still pristine. As for the rest....

She's enjoying the feeling of being free from any other Weasley influence, of course. And Rod's charmwork, doubtless, has its part to play, as well.

Yes, well...

Are you sure about that? Rod heard otherwise in his visits to the back corridors of power last week.

At any rate, she's every right to celebrate her liberation from that appalling clan of hers. And I admit she's got a bit more promise than Percy ever did. (Such a ridiculous snob, that one!)
Rumours only. Talk to Antonin if you doubt it.

Percy was an irritating tit whenever he was left to his own devices. Have to admit he was at his best when working for Lucius. The moment he got inflated ideas about where he belonged--well. We all know where that got him.

Almost there. There's a great throng of spectators near the pavilion where the fire jugglers are performing. Have to work our way round.

Brilliant timing, Lana. I was just relieved of my post, and I'm busting for food and ale.

Haven't been out to the water yet, but it all looks terribly romantic indeed.

Who's 'we,' by the way? Have you come with Orion?

Don't play daft, Montague. I'm with Rod Lestrange, of course. Do come join us. And bring someone if you've got someone to bring!

If you're actually looking for him, Orion's here somewhere--squiring Susan Spinx.

Ah yes, he of the generous spirit. And you of the tremendous luck. Rub some off on me, will you?

I'll catch up with Orion later, no worries. But I think
I shall bring a friend to Rialto, so long as Sarah is being sweet. Is she?

alt_lana at 2015-07-19 03:55:36
(no subject)

She says she'll be sweet as you like. (And, between us, if you play your hand properly, I expect you could get her to rub off on you before the evening's over. If you're not terribly attached to whomever you're being friendly with at the moment. She's not particularly attached to Moore. Only, don't tell her I said!)

alt_jason at 2015-07-19 04:02:31
(no subject)

Rod led the team that did the charm work tonight, didn't he? I'll have to give him my compliments. It's very subtle, yet clearly effective.

Poor Moore. A fellow artist, isn't he? Must not be very good with his brush.

alt_lana at 2015-07-19 04:06:11
(no subject)

It's brilliant, isn't it? Putting just the right glow on everyone's evening!

Mine included. (I'll admit it before you point it out.)

He's handsome enough, Moore. Just a bit full of himself. Like all the other ones she takes up with. (No offence intended, you understand.)
So you've glimpsed through my well-maintained façade of self-deprecation to the massive ego lurking beneath? Well done, you.

Ah--I've found my friend, and now I shall find you.

Do. We've just been called for a table. We'll see there are places for you.
The castle's secret room has conjured up a full bar and I've been practising making every cocktail that Russell Faust himself has ever served at the Elysian.

This includes the members' favourites, like Cad Mulciber's Vauxhall single malt (neat), Cal Pummel's lager, Pandora Baddock's vodka martini (up with a twist), and Rowle's pimm's cup (in summer, hot toddy in winter), and on and on and on.

I'm going to start living as Faust tomorrow, so this evening I'm running a final test of my bar skills and memory. If anyone wants to come by the secret room and pretend to be a thirsty pureblood twat, I'm sure it would help me out a great deal. I should note in advance that I'll be in full polyjuice or the occasion, and Russell Faust will be standing by to observe.

I'll come.
I'm curious, though, what does Faust say my parents' favourite drinks are?

Your father enjoys at least four different brands of whiskey, of which the Elysian usually on has two of in stock. He prefers it on the rocks if he's just run the course, and neat if he's just there to socialise.

You mother only ever orders soda water on ice with three parchment-thin slices of lemon. I've been told that making the lemon slices very thin is crucial.

Faust's notes indicate that your mother hasn't been in to the Elysian in months, though, while your father still comes round weekly.
Sort of makes me wonder - does she ever leave Buckingham at all? Maybe that's the sort of thing I'll learn once I'm undercover.

alt_hydra at 2015-07-19 16:14:03
(no subject)

I can see why she wouldn't want her movements followed by the public. She knows that her presence is still associated with the Lord Protector and other generally awful things.

But I suppose its good that she's not coming into the club these days. I know you can occlude around her but she's probably in a hyper-vigilant state.

alt_draco at 2015-07-19 16:16:43
(no subject)

Faust says she was terrifying whenever she came in to run the course. Always looked like she was ready to commit a murder or two. So he always kept very thin lemon slices on hand, just in case.

alt_hermione at 2015-07-19 16:02:17
(no subject)

Do we have to taste them? Because I could pretend to order something but I don't think I could tell you if you made it right.

alt_draco at 2015-07-19 16:07:40
(no subject)

You don't have to if you don't care to. But Russell will be looming in the background, ready to correct me if I add too much simple syrup or something.

You might like watching, anyway. Some of it's a bit like a very simplified form of potion-making. Like muddling oranges with a pestle or measuring out just a few drops of bitters. And then there are some members who actually request a restorative potion alongside their drink - I won't be expected to prepare those, though. Just serve them.
As Albion's resident corrupter-in-chief, Hermione, I highly recommend you go and take at least a taste of every sort of cocktail we can conceive. You might discover what you like in the process. Besides, it's likely healthy to test Draco to his limits by coming up with all the drinks he might be expected to prepare and then some.

We could set out a spittoon, if people are worried about getting utterly pissed. You know, like they have at wine tasting events.

I'll come by, Draco. Not to drink much but I can volunteer to play some of the Elysian members (the ones I know the most about) to give you an opportunity to practise your impersonation.

Thanks for taking this project on. I've no doubt you'll do it spot on.

Cheers, it's appreciated.

I'll come and drink the cock-ups.
alt_draco at 2015-07-19 18:51:26
(no subject)

I'm actually aiming for zero cock-ups, seeing as I have to do this at the real Elysian tomorrow night.

alt_charlie at 2015-07-19 18:53:43
(no subject)

Sorry, joke. Bad timing.

alt_draco at 2015-07-19 18:58:11
(no subject)

I'll make you a cock-up if that's what you really want.

alt_charlie at 2015-07-19 19:03:34
(no subject)

Let's just say I'll drink anything nobody else has claimed.

alt_pansy at 2015-07-19 18:52:22
(no subject)

I'll be there! I'm sure you'll do fabulously.

alt_draco at 2015-07-19 18:58:48
(no subject)

Cheers, though I'd be satisfied with 'competently.'
I'm in. If Pansy's getting pissed, I want to be there!

D'you know how to measure a Morgana's Merkin?

Is that an actual drink or the opening of a filthy joke?

Probably both, now you mention it.

It's a real drink some of the Auror blokes liked. Smells manky, but gets you proper pissed.

Really? It's not on Faust's list. What's in it?

Or you can just show me tonight, if that's better.

Bunch of different kinds of bitters and some sort of digestive that looks like chocolate syrup but smells of feet, mixed with vermouth and brandy.

All I know is it tastes better than this other thing Catchlove was always ordering called a Manksy Hanky.

Gives you an idea what that training was like.
Lad's humour, you mean. Yeah, I reckon I'll be party to loads of that at Elysian, despite the fact that there are women who are members. And from my position as Faust, expected to respond with quiet and nearly undetectable approval.

You know, I don't have the slightest worry about you pulling that off.

Me, they'd find out in the first half hour.

We don't have much of our WWW stock left, Draco. But anything we do have that you think might help, just say the word and it's yours. We have Extendable Ears, for example, with extra long cords. Run the cord underneath the bar, and you can eavesdrop on a conversation down at the other end. Peruvian Instant Darkness powder, if something's gone bugger-all and you have to make a quick getaway, that might be useful, too. We'll bring a kit up--Russell might have an idea whether any of it could be helpful to you.

Extendable ears sound risky. If they were glimpsed the whole club would be turned upside down. Darkness powder could be useful, though.
We won't push anything on you that you (or Russell) think would be too risky, promise.
Good news: Of course, many of the Sleepers waking up know each other, because they were from the same area and so were in the same family or near neighbours. We've passed another milestone, however: Jen Arachne is working miracles, and we've made several matches of newly awakened Sleepers with people already in the Reunification Registry. Yesterday we had our first reunion. Mrs Janki Bhattachayra's daughter and son-in-law thought she had died back in 1983, when the Sleeper project began. Mrs Bhattachayra was shocked at how much her daughter had aged and astonished at how old her grandchildren are now, but there were happy tears all around.

Hermione, the potion has improved noticeably in the past week with your tweaks. And there are less hiccups with the whole potion administration process, and we've polished our orientation process somewhat, so there is a bit less trauma with awakening for everyone concerned than there was in the first couple of days.

Several of the awakened Sleepers have recovered enough that they are beginning to do simple jobs for us. We have organised a few teachers who are giving the newly awakened catch-me-up orientations for a couple of hours every morning, and then their time is spent either sleeping/recovering, doing interviews with the Reunification team to give them data to help track down families, and light tasks for those who are willing (knitting socks is something that some of the women can and are willing to do even the first day). We are trying to get everyone out of bed after two days at the most. New people are awakening to fill those bed every day!

The two warehouses of cloth that Jeremy's team found for us last week was a big help, but we are going to need more clothes. Quickly. All we have for their feet, until we manage to get our hands on a good supply of leather, are the paper slippers that were found in that old hospital warehouse, but we're quickly running through those. They don't offer much protection, even transformed. I've had two newly awakened cobblers volunteer to help, but again, we need leather.
I've put out a call on all our economic networks for clothing. We're barely keeping ahead of the demand.

It's a very good thing it is July, and we don't have to worry about cold weather coats, hats, gloves and boots as well.

alt_sirius at 2015-07-19 18:09:25  
(no subject)

I'll talk to Terrie, if you like, Molly. They may have ways to increase cloth production.

Anyone know how Aldrich is fixed for aging cattle?

alt_molly at 2015-07-19 19:21:47  
(no subject)

Thank you, Sirius. I do like, very much.

alt_alice at 2015-07-19 18:51:34  
(no subject)

I can put in a request at Dover as well, to see if that'll move some things forward with our trade connections.
draco, that one thing you made with the cherry in it was *really* wiz.

and the other thing? the thing with gin? that was pretty nice too, but the cherry thing was the best thing. Clearly.

you are going to do just great, I know you will.

---

*alt_draco* at **2015-07-20 15:36:51**  
*no subject*

Cheers, you.

That was a Rob Roy Sweet - Rye, vermouth, s.syrup, bitters, cherry (as opposed to a Rob Roy perfect, which is rye, dry vermouth, s.syrup, bitters, cherry, and lemon).

Just in case you want to recreate it for yourself later.
Still no sign of Corbyn? I'm sure you're going stir-crazy by now.

Rachel sent me, Ron, Peel and Farthing to some villages not far from Glasgow. There's been some nasty firefights and disputes in the area and it's affected the dairy industry there and other things. Apparently the locals suspected that some newcomers were actually working for the old MLE as spies. I checked them all out and they were just ordinary people, but they were English, not Scottish, and that's what had the locals worried.

Funny that there's still some bad blood around here that has nothing to do with actual blood purity. We ended up calling Mr Macnair in to speak Scottish at them and that seemed to help smooth things over. Afterward he told us that Voldemort did a lot of damage in that area around the time of the first war, and ended up killing off several of the old Scot wizarding clans who tried to stand up to him. So now they're all quite mistrustful and didn't even seem to truly believe that the wizard they knew as the Lord Protector is dead. But I think Mr Macnair saying it was true made them believe it.

Anyway, I don't want to distract you if you're concentrating. I hope you're able to return to the castle soon, though.

Hullo, you. Good to hear from you.

There have been signs, what, but no good opportunities. I almost had one Saturday but he was too close to the festival area and I didn't want to chance going through their security measures.

Then last night, very late, as they were clearing the areas, I thought to follow him home but he Apparated before I could sneak up on him. And by the time I got there, he was upstairs in his daughter's bedroom, checking on her and behind heavy wards.

I'm glad you're getting some exercise, though. Did you help Draco
with his bartending rehearsal? Try anything you liked?

As for the village, I don't know, it seems oddly comforting in a way that people can still take note of differences like that, as opposed to it all coming down to magic. I doubt those political histories will ever entirely heal. Gives one hope for a future career in diplomacy, what.

I do have some candles here in this bedsit and a quite comfortable sofa. It's not quite the honeymoon suite in Brighton but if you wanted to distract me, I'd not complain. There's nothing much to concentrate on, this time of night.

-J

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**alt_hydra** at 2015-07-21 02:20:11  
(no subject)

Do you think he knows that you're following him? Or is he just being very careful?

Oh, yes, a few of us pretended to be members ordering drinks. It was a bit fun, but also strange because Draco was polyjuiced and stayed in character almost up until the very end. And Russell Faust is a bit of an average looking man, not really shy but quite reserved. It was hard to believe it was really Draco.

I should think it would be confusing to live as someone else for an extended period of time. Though I suppose up until a few months ago, most of us were living that way in one fashion or another.

You saying you want a visitor?

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**alt_justin** at 2015-07-21 02:41:23  
(no subject)

They seem to be observing a number of protocols to avoid situations where they'd be easy targets. I've not seen anyone walking on the streets (apart from at the festival) for nearly a week.

I agree, I think I'd be jolly well useless at undercover work. Remember the play? That was bally well difficult enough, what. I said to Draco that I'm sure one of many, many reasons to regret losing Mr Snape is the ability to speak to someone who's used
polyjuice on a prolonged basis. He never answered; I say, I hope he didn't take that amiss.

Anyway, if you want to come visit, I'd welcome it. But it's also quite far from the castle, if you don't fancy Apparating all the way down.

---

@alt_hydra at 2015-07-21 02:53:12
(no subject)

That will make things difficult, then.

As to Draco, he was pretty busy preparing for his assignment, but I can also see him not really wanting to talk about Mr Snape. I've barely heard him do so at all. Nor does he really say much about Harry, except every now and again. And I can't even tell you if Draco thinks about either of them very often because he's almost always occluding. I'm sure he must, though.

I can visit, but I should find where Jack is, first, and let someone know that I'm going, just in case.

---

@alt_justin at 2015-07-21 03:05:10
(no subject)

Well, I understand his reticence, of course, and one doesn't want to push, but...I wonder if that's entirely healthy. Harry's birthday is a week and Friday. Are there any plans to mark it? And Neville's, the day before. Of course, Draco will be embedded by then. Perhaps it's his plan to bury the date's significance by focusing on his adopted persona. Still it seems at some point, the dam will break. I hope it's not all the worse for his having held it close so long.

Oh, speaking of things that might not be healthy.... Was Ron at Draco's practicum? Was he drinking rather more heavily or did he seem to be moderating his intake?

-J
I don't think there's anything to do except give it time.

It seems something should be done for Harry and Neville, of course, but it's hard to say what's appropriate. Daphne would have known what to do. Maybe Pansy and Sally Anne will have some ideas.

Yes, Ron was there and so were his brothers. They all had something to drink, but I didn't notice whether Ron or any of them were drinking heavily. But I suppose it wouldn't be terribly surprising given what they've been through lately.

Oh, I've found Jack asleep on a window seat. He'll be alright, I think.

Shall I bring you anything?

I doubt fanfare would be useful or indeed welcome. Perhaps a quiet sort of memorial.

If Ron had drunk too much, I daresay you'd have noticed. He generally grows even louder than usual.

If you would, please, that lighter set of trousers, the linen ones, I mean, and a few more short-sleeved shirts? The cooling charms can only do so much.

-J

Yes, a memorial. Perhaps we can discuss ideas tonight.

And I've got your clothing. I'm bringing
biscuits, too, because I'll want them even if you won't.

See you in a bit.
This was Daddy this morning, dozing in bed in the Hospital Wing.

I've changed the face of the Healer sitting with him. He's a very kind and competent Healer, and Daddy likes him quite well (when he's awake and aware, which is happening a little more often), although he keeps confusing him with your father, someone else who isn't living anymore.
2015-07-21 21:18:00
Order Only: Private message to Draco

How goes the bartending?

All my favourite drinks are the sweet fizzy kind, the one where you almost can't even taste the alcohol. Didn't sound like those were mostly what people at the Elysian order.

They've moved me to the night shift in the infirmary so now I'm going to be awake and asleep at completely the wrong times. Last night was my first night. I'd have thought night shift would be quiet but NOPE. Just as busy as day but in different ways. I'm supposed to wake a senior Healer if anything dire turns up, obviously, but everyone seems to think I can be trusted to check record sheets before handing out sleeping potions.

Anyway I hope things are going well so far.

alt_draco at 2015-07-22 01:03:23
(no subject)

Hi Sally Anne. My shift just ended at 7 - it was first shift today, 11am-7pm, but last night it was third shift, 6pm-close, so when I haven't been Russell I've been sleeping, more or less. I have third shift for tomorrow so I'll have most of my daylight hours free.

Careful with those sweet fizzy drinks, they encourage fast consumption and usually bring about wicked hangovers. I'll give you that they're more interesting to mix than just measuring out a glass of whiskey, though.

I haven't picked up any revelatory intel at my new post, but I suppose it's early days yet. I haven't given myself away yet, either, so if that means things are going well, then I reckon they're going well.
I actually learned that lesson about fizzy drinks the hard way! I've been careful(er) ever since.
Heya. Hope you do better sleeping today, yeah?

I'm off already. Not sure when I'll finish, either, but if it's early, I won't bludge in and wake you. If it's late, I'll come see you on the ward.

Oh. Left you something on the pillow.

Thanks. I ate it for breakfast. The elves are bringing me food when I ask but it's taking time to catch on to the fact that I'm wanting breakfast food at really odd times of day. Anyway, I slept better today, probably because I was so tired after two hours of sleep and a full shift that I was just about cross-eyed.

And I really hope this doesn't have to be permanent? Right now they're saying it won't be, but who knows. Sometimes doing a good job at something no one else wants to do is the surest way to get stuck doing it forever.
Sorry I kept nodding off last night - I was utterly knackered from working those two shifts back to back. Funny, seeing as I've worked much harder and longer without sleep in the past and didn't feel so exhausted afterward. Maybe it's because I had so many details to keep track of in my head, because the work itself isn't overly difficult. Though it is different than what I'm used to. My hands are actually aching from washing so many glasses by hand.

So far Russell's descriptions of his co-workers has held true - mostly. The Chef is rather tyrannical but some of the insults he lobs are so creative that I have to fight the urge to laugh. The only other bartender I've worked with is Corbet Pugh, who's an alright bloke despite his Welsh accent that sounds so unnervingly like Teddy's. Oh and the gossipy waitresses, Tamsin and Felicia? Turns out they're Tamsin Applebee and Felicia Green, who were ahead of me at Hogwarts by a few years. Based on their work uniforms and minimal duties, I suspect that they were hired mostly for ornamentation. They deliver drinks out to the reading room or other parts of the club, and the suggestive comments that some of the male clientele make... well, I'd say that I find it shocking, but it's not so different from what I remember hearing in that circle back when I was part of it.

Anyway, I didn't really get asked about much other than what I thought of the Little Venice festival, to which I gave them Faust's take on the event: "It was highly enjoyable, particularly the sight of so many New Londoners come together in loyalty and harmony." That got some nods of approval, though you could tell they didn't really care what Faust thought of the festival, they just wanted someone to parrot back their own perceptions. I'm prepared to endure a lot of exchanges like that.

You'd think the club would be quiet earlier in the week but it's actually been busy. Everyone wants to get a run on the course in after the weekend. Starting tomorrow, more people will be coming round just to socialise. My shift doesn't start until 6 today so I have the afternoon free to do Russell's shopping and reading.

Speaking of, I have Thursday and Sunday off, so I was thinking of
sleeping at school tomorrow night. I already miss the smell of the
castle, and the view of the lake, and especially you.

It's only been two days, you nit. But I miss you, too.
It's odd to sleep alone again, when I've got used to
you pressing your forehead into my shoulder.
Although, Crookshanks has already laid a claim to
your side of the bed. He curled up behind my knees last night and I
could only get him to move by putting some catnip on your pillow. I'll
try to remember to have the case changed.

He would say that the essence of disguise is being what they expect
you to be, so it sounds like you're doing all right on that score. So far.
Don't lose your temper, though. Just ignore any of the stupid things
they say. I mean, not ignore *altogether*, you'll have to at least pretend
to appreciate the jokes, but--well, you know what I mean.

We should really get ready to move back to Grimmauld. I know
Professor Vector's already talking about hiring new staff for
September and the Order are on notice that we can't stay here
indefinitely. If we can get the Floos back online it won't be so hard on
Sirius, anyway. It seems like it's a long way off, but it'll be here
before any of us know it.

Oh, I'm going to Cheadle tomorrow with 200 doses of potion. So I
might not be back for supper. But I'll try to leave early, as you're
coming home.

I don't think catnip on my pillow will harm me in any
way.

Right. Yes, I've been keeping what he would say in
mind. And tempers, well, I've never been good at holding my
tongue, but I had lots of practice at it when I was younger.

Do you *want* to live at Grimmauld? We could do, at first, but we
don't have to stay on there. A fresh start has some appeal.
Don't hurry back tomorrow if it inconveniences you. I can always wait to eat til you've returned.

@alt_hermione at 2015-07-22 17:21:19
(no subject)
Catnip won't, no, but I don't think you'd fancy him stretching himself out over your face! Or having one of those crazy dreams of his. Plus his breath isn't all that pleasant.

If we didn't go back to Grimmauld, then where? I'm not living at the Manor. You can do whatever you like to it, keep it or sell it or make it a museum. Maybe somewhere coastal?

@alt_draco at 2015-07-22 19:55:54
(no subject)
It would be a whole new level to our relationship, yes. All thanks to the power of catnip.

Not the Manor. I still don't know what to do with the place but there's no hurry to decide.

Westcliffe-on-Sea? Or maybe somewhere in Devon, like Ilfracombe or Salcombe. Could be fun to look around at the options, anyway.

@alt_hermione at 2015-07-22 20:10:03
(no subject)
I suppose we really ought to wait, though, until either the South is more secure or at least until most of the Muggles have been awakened and are able to go back to their homes. I wouldn't want to accidentally go and live somewhere only to have the actual tenants or owners come round expecting to move back in. That's one thing about Grimmauld, we know we're welcome there as long as we like.

Though. I guess it's also somewhat comforting to not pass a chair or a doorway and think 'That's where he preferred to read' or 'If Harry had come to live here, Sirius would have wanted him
to have this room' or anything like that. (I think I might reserve a space for Harry, though, no matter where we live. Mentally, I mean.)

So, do you have to eat things Russell would eat and not have things he doesn't like? When you go shopping, do you have to buy things he normally buys? He doesn't have any nasty habits or anything, has he? Or rashes or allergies? I can just picture you at an apothecary picking up some sort of embarrassing salve or ointment. Do you have to get hair tonic for his balding spot?

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**alt_draco** at **2015-07-22 22:43:11**

(no subject)

There's probably a legitimate way to determine which homes are actually vacant, but security - who knows how long that will take. Do you know where Ron and Justin and Hydra and Sally Anne are planning to live? Maybe we could all be neighbours, or something.

And that's precisely the problem with 12G. Just when I start to think of how comfortable it sounds, I realise all the ways that it will be different. Who'll do the late night baking? And who - it just won't feel like it did, before. That's all.

Funny you ask that about Russell, as I've just got back from doing his shopping. First off, his flat is a small bedsit but has quite comfortable furnishings because they came from his parents (who are both dead, as you recall). His mother must've made quilts because he has a trunk full of them, all ornate and well made (he packed up two of them to take to Austria, when he leaves). He's also got a small but decent library of all the wizarding classics, which he says he reads so that he can converse properly with the club members. He takes all the papers for the same reason. For food he mostly eats tinned things on toast, so I bought a load of tinned things at the shop. Beans, tomatoes, and these sausages that are probably mostly made out of some kind of transfigured starch - turnips or parsnips, maybe. And a loaf of wholemeal bread, some eggs, a wedge of fairly tasteless cheddar, and tea. When Russell works a full shift he gets one meal from the kitchens, but nothing too fancy, just sandwiches, soups, and pies, but at least it's made from fresh ingredients.
He's not fat, but he's got no exercise regimen whatsoever, which makes it peculiar to transform back to my own body at night. It always feels very light and strong by comparison, like that of an all-star Quidditcher. I think on his Sunday off I'll be sure to get some training in, because it's a little concerning to think of what's happening to my own body when I'm not using it.

So you're telling me that when your boyfriend is absent, you think about him having a rash or picking up an embarrassing salve? Have you yet thought about the fact that when I go to the toilet I am, quite literally, wiping another man's arse? This really is a terribly exotic assignment, isn't it? Oh, but I'm ignoring the bald spot, though, since Russell seemed rather insistent that he didn't have one.
Hullo,

Draco, how are you settling in to your impersonation?

Gents, Hydra's heard part of this already but: I don't think I'm going to get to Corbyn this way. For one thing he's too careful. Always Apparates directly where he's going, never eats in public restaurants, and when he is in public he's never alone. Moreover I can only maintain surveillance on one location at a time. Now that Draco's at the Elysian, I may change over and find a place to set up outside Ouroboros, instead.

What I think is needed are some good strategies for creating circumstances in which it's possible to take him unawares--well, anyone, really, but in particular Corbyn for right now. I don't want to ask Rachel to commit ever more resources, what, as you and the others all have quite enough to do already. But it's clearly going to be necessary to change one's methods every time, as their people are dashed effective at adapting and tightening security. Not that that's surprising, but it does make things rather inconvenient.

If he lived alone, I'd chance trying to dismantle his wards, or bluff my way in. That might well work for another sort of target. Corbyn has a family, what.

Diversions or commotions requiring them to respond is a trick that can only work so often. Perhaps I should take a leaf out of Draco's book and find a barber, masseuse, aesthetist or other service employee to replace who can get me within arm's length of the chap.

-Justin

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Sounds reasonable.

I don't know where Corbyn goes, but a barbers' called
Sharps on Aldwych was popular with the Aurors. That may've been just because it was convenient, but it might be worth trying.

Not sure they'd keep records on their customers, except in the barbers' heads, y'know. If they do, then maybe with the cloak you could get in there and find out if he's one of theirs. I mean, it could take loads of time and for nothing, staking the place out if it turned out he doesn't use them. Even if he does, if he's just been in, who knows how long you'd have to wait before he comes again. Unless he's the kind that goes for a shave every morning, but I reckon that's not Corbyn.

alt_justin at 2015-07-22 18:13:00
(no subject)

Good thought.

I say, what about tailors? Bootmakers? There must be places where they're either alone and vulnerable, or at least less heavily protected.

Draco, do you know which shops the Council preferred for that sort of thing?

-Justin

alt_draco at 2015-07-22 22:43:48
(no subject)

For cobblers, there's Lobb's or Fairwick's. High-end tailors, you might try Tunis Twilfit, Plumford and Nickle, or Hardy's. Then there's Asprey's and Garrad's for watches, jewelry, and such.

Not sure every last one of those places is still open nowadays, but I'm sure at least some of them are.

alt_ron at 2015-07-22 23:42:09
(no subject)

Sort of the same problem with those, though.

I mean, at least he probably goes to the barber's
once a month or once a fortnight, even, if you're lucky. But how often does any particular bloke go to his tailor's? or the bootmaker's? They'd be terrific places to catch him if you knew he'd be going there before November, yeah?

Maybe there's a way to plant the idea he needs something from one of them, but if you've got that close to him, you could probably take him down there then and there.

@alt_justin at 2015-07-23 03:19:36
(no subject)

Perhaps, though one might be able to cast a spell to plant the suggestion when he's not alone, what, whereas if one cast the Killing Curse under those circumstances it might be more difficult to successfully get away.

Another option might be to have the shopkeep contact him to bring him to the establishment. For example, if he were asked to come in to clear up a question of billing, what, or because an admirer has gifted him with a pair of boots and the cobbler requests a fitting.

If nothing else, the shops might provide additional insight. Proper research is so helpful, after all.

J

@alt_justin at 2015-07-23 03:22:31
Private Message to Ron

I say, how are you and the others holding up?

I see Luna keeps writing to Ginny every so often. Has she replied at all? To any of you?

Perhaps we could devise some sort of invitation to Ginny to a shop she particularly likes, and rescue her from there? If it would work, I'd use that in favour of catching a Councilwizard with the same ruse, what.

-J
My sources tell me you went up for a nap after lunch. Don't want to wake you if you're getting a good rest. I think I've made some progress on the Polyjuice detector, though. It doesn't seem to mind Animagi anymore, at any rate. I've asked Sluggy for a bit of Polyjuice and I think some of the trainees will be volunteered to take it when we're ready to try it out.

I've been thinking about where we go from here, when it's time to go. Too bad Septima won't let us all stay; it seems like it's good to be round younger people, for one thing, and besides that we can't really beat the castle for its position, defences and amenities. Space for everyone and all that. Have you had conversations with Alice about it? I've been avoiding asking but I suppose we ought to talk. I don't think it's wise to pull back behind Moddey. Grimmauld's in the heart of London, so that's not very feasible. Given what you told me about the farm that lifted Fidelius only to be attacked the next day, we certainly can't advocate for removing any of the protections on Bedford, Aldrich or anywhere else currently under the spell. So.

Probably too much to hope that Draco, Hermione and all the others would want to take over a small village somewhere so we can all continue to live and work nearby. Well, there's a little time to think about it, though it's only a month til they chuck us out of here. They'll have a quality Polyjuice detector installed by then, right across the main entrance, too. What do you reckon we could convince her to hire us on as teachers?

Anyway. Come down when you're ready and double-check the runes on this frame?

(And, you know, next time you're having trouble sleeping, you don't need to leave. If I'm that desperate to sleep, I can always change. Padfoot doesn't care if the light's on or off. He might help you, too.)
Teachers? What are you imagining we'd teach, Fomenting Revolution?

I haven't talked to Alice, no. I like the idea of taking over some village, one with enough houses that everyone could have their own. I suppose it could get awkward if the muggles turn up and want their houses back, which they could do given we're waking them.

Anyway, I'll be down in a few.

I thought you'd make an excellent Defence teacher. Me for, I dunno, Transfiguration or Muggle Studies or perhaps we can propose an all-new curriculum. Not Revolution but practical topics, perhaps. Magical Tinkering?
2015-07-23 23:41:00
Private Message to A Dolohov

Know I said I'd be home tonight, but I'm wound tight. Am going to make the rounds of our 'friends'. Check their wards.

Want to be sure of them.

Don't wait up.

Unless you're up anyway and want to come with.

---

@alt_antonin at 2015-07-24 12:36:34
(no subject)

I'm sorry, lapushka, I fell asleep the minute I got back home -- I didn't even take the time to bathe, and believe me, I am regretting that most intently this morning.

This is far, far more exhausting than it was made to look.
Assessment via owl post now?

And yes I knew you were there, but I don't know how you have the time, or why you bother.

How do you force someone to ripen? How can you be sure that this isn't the best I am capable of?

I have more questions that aren't about me.

I'm not going to ask them because it's time for me to stop caring about what you think.

You should at least want to put up a respectable fight before you die.

Looks to me as if they've assigned you too much sedentary, legilimantic work. Insufficient training. Selfish of them. And foolish.

Whose respect am I meant to be earning?

Back when you were training me, did you think that I would one day come to worship at your altar as you do at Antonin's? That I would make you the centre of my life? Maybe you didn't think that far at all. You didn't choose to train me, I was your assignment.

I know that we will fight, sooner or later. I don't plan on dying when that happens.
2015-07-24 18:46:00
Private Message to Batya

Am coming home early.

Bringing take-away curries. Ale in bottles.

Dust off the chessboard, Dedushka. We're staying in for the evening.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-25 00:24:50
(no subject)

'Dedushka'? Either you're trying to tell me something or you're trying to goad me into losing my temper and playing badly, светлякжа.

I'm so close to a round three thousand it would nag me to leave the milestone unreached, so I'll be somewhat behind you, but after that you have me until I pass out in my curry. Say another forty-five minutes?

I hate this so much

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-25 00:41:59
(no subject)

You've done more than anyone could expect. Even if you're not here in 45, I'm coming to collect you.

alt_antonin at 2015-07-25 00:47:36
(no subject)

No, don't, you'll only rile them up and I've just got them down for their naps. I'll be home shortly, I swear.
Holding you to that.

Want a bath before I feed you? (And drive you to your knees at the chess board.) Will have the elves prepare it.

By all the saints and gods there ever have been or will be, I would murder a regiment for a bath right now, yes. Please. And these robes will almost certainly need to be burned, as well.

You are a comfort and a joy eternal. (That won't, however, save you from a thrashing.)

Bath and retiring robes ready, Batya.

At the chessboard, however, prepare to die.

If you say so. Хва́стать, не коси́ть, спина́ не боли́т.

And I'm only ten minutes past when I said I'd be done. I'll be there shortly, darling.
This was an experiment in trying to draw a portrait in snatched glances, over a period of several days, and then trying to put my memory of those glances together into the picture. Hermione is so busy these days, that I certainly couldn't have her sit for me.

I suppose that's why it's blurry. I had to fudge the details because I was drawing from memory, rather than because she was sitting right there in front of me.
While Berry was going through the attic today, she found a box containing several things I’d thought long lost, including Kolya's ritual knife. As he very much would have liked for you to have it, do you have some time tonight? We can rededicate it into the family's service.
You know I've been drawing sketches for Ginny in the private messages I've been sending to her. I was hoping...I don't know. If I just drew a picture of someone she cared about, or she used to care about, but without saying anything about them, without arguing with her about what she thinks they've done, it would allow her to think about them, but maybe without all the lies she's been made to tell herself about them.

But she hasn't said a word about any of them. Not one. Not even about Adam.

I suppose there's no point in being hurt about it or anything--after all, I don't even know if they're letting her have her journal anymore, so perhaps she hasn't even seen them. And if she has--I imagine they want us to give up on her, or to be hurt by what she does--or doesn't--say to us.

So I won't give up on her. Not yet. (And at least I'm getting some sketching practise in.)

Daddy still doesn't recognise me most of the time.

Can you come find me? I think I would like some alone time with you, perhaps out on the big rock overlooking the lake. If you're willing?

It's been a rather sad day.

Of course.

I think a picnic is in order.

And if she can see them and isn't saying anything... that might be a good thing. I don't think you should give up.
**2015-07-26 17:10:00**

*Private Message to Lana, Jase, Sarah and Ginny*

Having a small card party tonight in our apartments at Buckingham. You're all invited and bring who you like. Monty, assuming you'll have Seamus in tow; Lana, not sure it's Rod's sort of entertainment but if he's interested he's surely welcome. Orion, too, if he wishes. Sarah, same for you and Fleischer.

---

**alt_jason** at **2015-07-26 22:26:36**

*Private message to Badds*

In tow? Like a toddler, you mean?

He might be short but, you know, not where it matters.

Bet you a galleon that Rod shows. I get the impression that he enjoys the whole 'gadding about with the younger crowd' thing.

---

**alt_ptolemy** at **2015-07-27 13:26:06**

*Re: Private message to Badds*

More like a puppy, I think. His admiration of you is more than evident.

---

**alt_ginny** at **2015-07-26 22:28:51**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, I would enjoy that a great deal.
alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-27 03:17:36
Private Message to Ginny

You're quite the darling of the party, you know.

More messages from Miss Lovegood and your brother, I see. Out of curiosity, has he remembered any of the incidents you've described to him?

alt_ginny at 2015-07-27 20:56:52
Re: Private Message to Ginny

Am I, really? You're very kind.

And no, he hasn't. I suppose that's not surprising, given how difficult it was for me to recall them.

alt_ptolemy at 2015-07-28 01:55:42
Re: Private Message to Ginny

No, not surprising. I don't suppose he'd be willing to turn himself in to receive treatment? Pity.

If you're still awake, we've managed to scrounge some hot chocolate. No need to reply; just come by if you'd like.
Hey.

I thought maybe you'd've written me, but you haven't. You alright there?

I'm fine.

Just busy.

Really? You promise?

I've started having dreams you're in. (When I get to sleep, that is. Our schedules are a bit mad at the moment.) I dreamed we were in Cornwall last night. Have you ever been to Tintagel? My YPL cohort went there in the summer after first year and I flew out there with the twins once when we couldn't get enough people together to play Quidditch and were looking for something to do. I don't think you went with us then, but in my dream, it was the two of us, walking along the clifftops towards where the coastline curves and runs down towards the castle.

It was stormy and the waves were high. And it was morning, and we hadn't had breakfast. We were hoping there'd be something good when we got there. Only we didn't. I mean, I woke up before we got there.

Something was off about it, though. Something that made it feel queer.
Yeah really, I'm fine. Everyone is taking very good care of me.

I don't know what to say about your dream. I've been to Tintagel, yeah. I don't think I ever went there with you, though who even knows. If there's one thing I know not to trust, it's what I think I remember.

You don't trust any memories at all now? Or... how do you know which ones?
Order Only: Our kid's a wizard!

Guess who did his first accidental magic just now?

I was meeting with the Elders, and you know they like it when I bring Adam along with me so I had him wrapped up in the sling, and we were deep in the part that's yelling about things, which woke him up, and he must have decided the Galleons on the gold-table were shiny and he wanted to play with them, because the next thing I knew he had one in his hand and was chewing on it.

Griphook says that summoning gold for his first magic is even more of a reason for them to steal Adam and raise him as a Goblin. (He keeps threatening that. Trust me, it's a joke. And a compliment. He loves that kid.) And Elder Tcharg said that a wizard's first magic is like a Goblin's first creation, even if it happens earlier for us than it does for them, and since they were there for it, they want to hold a Forge-Blessing for Adam, which is huge -- it's not exactly like Adam being adopted by the Goblins, but it's like, oh, when Melli took Ragnik as an apprentice, something like that, only a bit more mystical.

(Tonks, I told them I couldn't say yes until I'd talked to you, but it would be the first time any human has ever been given a Forge-Blessing and it would make him a friend of the Goblin nation for life. Sort of like giving him a set of fairy godparents, only without the way that usually turns out in the stories.)

Whoa. That's major!

I know!

I told Adam I wasn't going to make him live up to "winning favour with the Goblins before he was even
a year old". He seemed unimpressed, so who knows what he'll get up to next.

@alt_ron at 2015-07-28 00:17:54
(no subject)

Try him out on the Centaurs next, I say!

@alt_ron at 2015-07-28 00:19:10
(no subject)

I mean, we can definitely use his help with that lot!

@alt_charlie at 2015-07-28 02:33:46
(no subject)

Too right!

Although if my kid succeeds with the centaurs after, what's it been, three years of me trying to get a straight answer out of them, I'm giving up.

@alt_ron at 2015-07-28 02:46:45
(no subject)

I don't know... Adam's kind of like a project you worked on. I mean, you made him, right? So if he goes off and wins over the Centaurs, isn't that just sort of like you finally figuring out the right approach to use with them?

I think you should still get the credit.

I mean, I'd give Dad credit if I ever managed to do anything worth celebrating. Seriously.
Oh, bosh, Ron! As if helping to free Hogwarts wasn't worth celebrating! Except your Dad wouldn't try to steal credit for that; he'd just be happy to bask in your reflected glory!

Seriously, Ron, dear, he'd be so very proud of you.

And of Adam!

I'm going to speak to the house elves to see if we can't arrange a cake tonight at dinner to celebrate.

I think that sounds marvy. Seeing as Bea can make her nose look like a cat's, it's only fair.

And isn't he the cleverest!

He is!

He is! And Bea is, too. You make good babies, madam.

I'll get together with Tcharg and figure out a time
that works for all of us for the ceremony. And see if they'll let us invite the rest of our family, or if they want it to just be us.

alt_bill at 2015-07-28 13:31:45
(no subject)

I love that his first magical manifestation just happens to be an excellent diplomatic gesture. (Makes me think that Albus knew what he was doing when he gave you and Tonks that Beltane assignment.)

I have no doubt that the excellence of both of your parenting also helps!

alt_fred at 2015-07-28 13:44:46
(no subject)

Well, we think that it's a good sign than Adam's begun his career as a wizard by filching something. Good for you, kiddo. Stick with your uncles, Adam. We'll get you started on the great Weasley tradition of pranking the world.

alt_charlie at 2015-07-29 02:29:46
(no subject)

Not until he's at least Hogwarts age!

alt_charlie at 2015-07-29 02:26:50
(no subject)

It was a tense moment at first! I saw him reaching out and then I saw him gnawing on a Galleon and for a minute I thought, oh fuck, this is going to end badly, and then everyone was staring at him and I was getting ready to fall over myself apologising, until Griphook started laughing and suddenly everyone was cheering for your nephew the gold-thief. And then I realised, oh! His first magic! But boy, it took me a good thirty seconds to start breathing again.
I nominate Adam for the position of Treasurer of the Order of the Phoenix.

Hear, hear!

We'll just have to wash the Galleons first, he's at the age where he demonstrates approval of something by chewing on it!

How exciting!

Do you think it would be all right to tell Ginny? Without mentioning the goblins, of course, but just saying he's done some accidental summoning?

No matter what she thinks about us now, it might do some good if she could learn her nephew's a wizard. You know, like we're telling her because we still consider her a member of the family?

That's a good idea. I'll write her tomorrow or Thursday and let her know.
Well, he does come from excellent stock. On both sides. Well done, Adam!

Ta, you!

Just remember, neither you nor the twins are allowed to start teaching him to prank people before he's at least Hogwarts age.

Hogwarts age is too late, Charlie. He'll be fodder for the third-years if we don't start him by at least eight. But no, that's not nearly as important early on as flying.

And now that France is opening up trade with us, we can get in some of the really ace training brooms. Duclair or La Précipe, maybe. I'll have to have Aleks include a few current catalogues to see what's trending as the best continental model these days. By the time he's two, we'll have him sitting like a pro.

Only if you let me play, too!

Or, we can race for it. Winner gets to be the one to take Adam out flying next.
Why compete? Plenty of training to go round. Bea's going to need a broom yesterday, we can start with her.

Because that gives us an excuse to race, of course!

And, you know, I hadn't even thought about all the things we'll be able to get from France now. It's a bit dizzying to think of it, actually. All this stuff that you lot have been missing for twenty years and we've never known enough to miss.
I have some rather good news.

As of August 1st, the Magical government of France has agreed to formally recognise Albion as the official government of the United Kingdom. We’ve also hammered out a formal trade agreement after many long hours of negotiation. Our next step is to appeal to the International Confederation of Wizards, and to send a delegation to speak directly with the Muggle government of France and the United Nations, which will no doubt be another lengthy process indeed, but will be a necessary step in our reintroduction to both the magical and non-magical international community at large -- and what a relief to be able to make some initial forays before the wards come down. France's formal recognition help greatly with our appeal to the ICW (and it doesn't hurt that the current Mugwump is French, either) Regardless, we can now expect a far more free-flowing exchange of medical supplies, food, and other necessities. We'll be coordinating with the Communications committee for full coverage in the newspapers and radio.

It has been a lengthy, often frustrating process – Mr Foote, MP Birdwhistle, Cedric, and Stebs deserve a rather large round of congratulations for their tireless efforts.

Excellent news, Allie. So, we can expect the first shipments as of the weekend? Or early next week?

I've got a list for Aleks, assuming we can get word to him, and that he hasn't completely given up on the sideline.

We've managed to pass him and the rest of our allies in France a few brief messages -- assuming they were going to be read by multiple parties beforehand, of course. Now that this silliness is over,
we'll be able to talk much more freely.

I expect we might be able to put in some rather large orders in anticipation of receiving them on Monday.

---

**alt_alice** at 2015-07-29 02:02:49

*Private Message to Siz*

I know your team has been burning the candle at several ends, and are gearing up for the upcoming actions around the wards. Please be utterly honest with me. Can you spare Evelyn on Thursday, for the entire day? If not, I understand.

---

**alt_sinistra** at 2015-07-29 02:46:24

*Re: Private Message to Siz*

Already factored it in.

We're still sorting a final date for trying for Barra, but it won't be Thursday, or probably Friday.

Between the ritual at Barra and the 7th, we'll need all hands in to sort out details and implications for the Octoboros shift, once we can get measures of the effects, but we're sort of in a holding pattern right now.

I mean, we're developing as many models as we can in advance. In a perfectly modulated cosmos, we'd take a dozen measurements, they'd fit perfectly into an existing model, and we could relax. We do not have a perfectly modulated cosmos, we have a very scuffed up bit of world, but I am hoping that advance planning now will mean fewer adjustments when we're rushing toward the 7th.

At any rate. I'm babbling, because yes, of course, I'll make it clear to Evelyn she should take the time she and all of you need. And I'm not expecting to be much good on Friday myself.
alt_alice at 2015-07-29 06:28:02
Re: Private Message to Siz

Thank you.

alt_justin at 2015-07-29 03:47:50
Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

Mrs Longbottom,

I say, good show, indeed. Does that mean it's possible to send messages through to other countries now, as well?

-F-F

alt_alice at 2015-07-29 04:54:55
Re: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

Yes, of course!

alt_poppy at 2015-07-29 04:28:22
(no subject)

Excellent news. And not a moment too soon.

We've an updated list of necessary medicinal imports. I'll see it on its way to Dover tonight.

alt_jeremy at 2015-07-29 05:23:20
(no subject)

Cheers all around!
Private message to Alice

Every time I go looking for you, you're surrounded by people who all need a minute of your time, so I'll ask here -- how are you holding up?

If you need a shoulder, just say the word. Or a cup of tea. Or somebody to fob off all those people who need a minute of your time onto, I can do that too.

Re: Private message to Alice

Thank you, love.

We're headed to the cabin at Moddey for a day or so.

I'm very nearly afraid of not having anything to do.

I've a feeling I might need a little bit of all three when we get back this weekend.

And you?

Re: Private message to Alice

Me, I'm fine. I mean, there's a shitpot of things that are going wrong here and there and I miss my baby sister every time I let myself think about it, but none of it's insurmountable, just your garden-variety awful. (And it's kind of sad I have a ranking system of awful, but, well.) And my kid scored a diplomatic coup with the Goblins with his first magic, so.

Shoulder's yours anytime you need it. And I'll try to sweet-talk Em into baking you some scones or something, to go with the tea. And you can always fob people off on me, I never mind.

Really, though, I'm worried about you. I remember Dad's first birthday after he died, it was miserable. I'm glad you're going to have the rest of the family around you to lean on, but promise me
you'll try not to do that thing where you spend all your time taking care of them and not any time taking care of you, okay?

@alt_alice at 2015-07-29 13:32:27
Re: Private message to Alice

All right.

@alt_poppy at 2015-07-29 07:19:03
Private Message to Alice and Frank

I've done up a hamper for you to take with a number of things you might need whilst you're at the cabin. With very clearing dosing instructions on the bottles/phials/packets/pots.

You are absolutely to call me if I'm needed for whatever reason, though. At whatever time.

All will be well here, I promise. Only take care of yourselves there. Each and every.

@alt_frank at 2015-07-29 15:21:25
Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

ta very much, poppy.
All. I also have some progress to report--this, on the admittedly fraught conversations regarding St Mungo's neutrality. I've represented the Order; Cornelius Jugson's represented the post-Protectorate government; Socrates Kosta and Armenius Fletcher have represented the St Mungo's administration; and we've managed to bring Osiris Sinclair (New London, Bath, Hogsmeade, etc.) and Eurydice Scripps (Bristol, Leeds, Edinburgh) to the table, representing the morticians' guild.

We've inked and signed a treaty of neutrality that reiterates the Healers' Oath to treat all patients to the utmost of our abilities, and further promises that no Healers affiliated with the Order or with St Mungo's will breach any patient's privacy by alerting authorities of an opposing side of that person's presence within a hospital, infirmary, or triage centre in our (the Order's or St M's) control. Additionally, there are promises that Coroners affiliated with the Order or with St M's will release bodies to next of kin without prejudice and without any collaboration with hostile parties, which might lead to entrapment of bereaved families seeking to collect remains. The independent morticians have likewise subscribed to these promises.

It's been a difficult undertaking, and the result is far from a perfect document. I feel certain you will all immediately see that it does not and cannot ensure anyone's safety should one find oneself transported to St Mungo's (or should one be forced to deal with a mortician in New London or elsewhere for whatever reason). I suppose that makes it all sound absurd.

And yet it was not a wasted effort.

The talks did produce some positive results. My contacts within St M's tell me that Kosta and Fletcher appear increasingly under pressure from without and that their command within the hospital is slipping. I can report that they appeared to have orders directly from Rowle and Lestrange to take these negotiations with due seriousness, which hints at the state of things outside the hospital. (For that matter, the choice of Jugson to represent the government is also a signal; they could have sent an underling, but they sent a Councilwizard.) And I'm told that Fletcher and Kosta are at least giving lip service to enshrining the articles of the treaty in hospital protocol.
One happy revelation from our people on the inside: we have more friends at St Mungo's than we knew, and it's their impression, in fact, that the numbers have now turned in our favour.

That's hearsay, of course. And the sort of thing one wishes to hear, at that. But it's hopeful.

---

@alt_charlie at 2015-07-29 05:26:20
(no subject)

For all that it sounds like you did an incredible job -- and seriously, cheers for that, I know how hard it is to get more than two people agreeing on anything -- I think I'll keep on hoping that if anything happens to me, it's somewhere you can take care of me instead of risking St M's.

Still -- it's progress.

I wonder what they're thinking, to agree to it. Because with the one reading, I can almost believe they believe things are going badly enough for them that they might need that treaty in place, and then I squint at it again and think, no, they're just that damn overconfident.

---

@alt_poppy at 2015-07-29 07:25:30
(no subject)

Quite.

And yet, I do believe they saw the need. They've had people in our hands, and of course we've treated everyone with equal care, but we've also taken people from field triage tents into custody and still have them prisoner today. Thankfully the matter of prisoner exchange was not any part of my brief. I doubt we could have got this agreement if it had been. Can't say I'm surprised there's no report on that front yet.

---

@alt_bill at 2015-07-30 18:30:14
(no subject)

Thanks, Poppy. I mean, it probably wouldn't have made a difference with Ginny, since their side brought her into St Mungo's in the first place, so
the healers realistically couldn't have hidden her. Still. It might make a personal difference to one of ours, soon.

I know it must have been immensely difficult to hammer out. My family and I are grateful.
Dear Ha,

Harry.

I almost wrote the PM to you, but changed my mind. Not sure I want the others to see that.

I'm writing this over cold tea and burnt toast. I've got better at *not* burning toast, but there's still a learning curve, apparently. This is what comes of having house elves wait on you your whole posh bloody life, and then having Snape do all the cooking after you exchange that posh life for another. It's not such a big deal, though. It's just toast.

I'm living in a bedsit in Holburn, polyjuiced as a bloke named Russell Faust. He's the bartender at the Elysian's lounge. It's an intelligence-gathering mission, though I've yet to pick up on anything devastatingly useful. Just a lot of tidbits here and there. Gossipy things that are no use to us (though Cal Pummel did come in and walk Tamsin Applebee home after her shift. She thinks he might really truly fancy her, poor girl).

Last night I worked the third shift. By 11pm the place was mostly empty. Will Montgomery and Rudyard Marks were the only ones in the lounge, chatting and having a nightcap. I overheard their chatting, though, and they were chatting about you.

It was sort of like having a Dementor brush by me.

I didn't flinch, I don't think. I just froze to the spot for a few seconds, then went back to what I was doing. It's the first time I've heard your name spoken outside of the castle. *Harry Marvolo*. They don't know you at all. Not even your real name.

They were talking about how Freedom from Tyranny Day was coming up and were wondering what DEMLE had planned for the occasion. They said it was too bad Harry Marvolo was gone, because you could have put a good face on things and got morale up.

Gone. As if you went on a seaside holiday. As if they don't even know what happened to you, what you did for them and for us.
They were just being idiots, but I think I wanted to kill them.

Don't worry, I didn't.

When I'm not working (like right now - I'm scheduled third shift again, later tonight) I'm sitting around with my own thoughts. Which I suspect is probably what I need and exactly what I don't want.

I'm still not I don't feel like

I suppose that's all there is to say for now.

Hermione misses you. So do I.

If there's any part of you out there that is able to read any of this can you just give me a sign. It doesn't have to be much. Just something
Hullo.

I miss you. What have you been working on?

Mine's virtually unchanged, what. I know it seems as if this is taking forever but I remind myself I really am making some progress. I've been to a number of the shops Draco mentioned and from there I got leads on a few more. I've even managed to turn a few neighbours into informants, of a sort. That is, I've given them a parchment which they're to burn if they spot my chap. I've a corresponding rune in the back of my field notebook and it will notify me the name, time and approximate location. With luck I'll be able to get there before the quarry leaves again.

I'm also learning a great deal more about his routines, since I'm leaving Draco to tell me if he stops in at the Elysian. I've gone round his home several nights now, to get a closer feel of the wards. I say, I do think I could break them, given time. Easier to bluff one's way in with the wife, what, but I'm well loathe to sink to such methods as to threaten his family.

Speaking of family, you saw Mrs L's announcement, I presume. Or heard about it, I'm sure. I say, I think it's about time I sent that letter I've been thinking about. I don't want her to think it's safe to come home just yet, what, but--well. It's high time she heard she has a daughter-in-law, at least.

I say, I don't think I'll mention just what it is we do for Albion, however. I'll simply say we're like Police, that will make enough sense to her for now. Would you read it, before I send it off?

Oh, and I think they are planning something here, for the weekend. Over the last few days I've seen some areas around County Hall being cordoned off, as if they're erecting a stage or some stalls or similar. I say, I'm sure there will be security measures but perhaps that's another opportunity to finish this assignment and move on. I've included it in my latest report to Rachel, by owl this morning, what. Perhaps she'll have an idea how to use it to advantage.

Otherwise, I'd surely come home. One rather wishes we could declare a cease-fire for Harry's remembrance, if nothing else.
I miss you. Did I mention? And I love you and hope to see you soon.

Always your

-Justin

---

@alt_hydra at 2015-07-29 15:43:35
(no subject)

Just settling some minor skirmishes here and there. And training. Whenever I've got free time I'm training.

It sounds like you're making a good deal of progress, considering how slippery your target's been. Gaining informants isn't too far off from gaining allies, either.

Of course I'll read your letter. Though you know that I don't know much about how to talk to mothers, let alone mothers-in-law. I'll do my best, though.

I've felt more anxious lately. I'm not sure why. Maybe it's to do with Neville and Harry's birthdays so close. Maybe it's something else.

I'm sure I'll feel better once you're back to the castle again.

@alt_justin at 2015-07-29 16:12:58
(no subject)

Good for you. I feel as if my own training may be slipping, shut up in little bedsits all day. Walking round the city has done some good, what.

Yes, I was rather pleased by the responses I got to my inquiries. Though one had to dodge some questions about the nature of my business with Councilwizard Corbyn. Owes me money, what, I find that seems to garner the most sympathy without actually giving anything away. In some cases I've made it seem as if I want him to sponsor me and he's giving me a cold shoulder.

Then there are some people who see right through all that, but when they ask straight out if I'm a Phoenix, they seem eager to tell me they know perfectly well that the attacks on shops and
neighbourhoods are all done by DEMLE's own, not by us at all. So allies is not too far off a description!

Anxious? I have noticed that they're writing to each other more, what. Crouch and Dolohov. Could that be part of it? He's still pestering you, isn't he. I know you don't want me to fuss over it, so I shan't. But that doesn't stop me worrying, love.

-J

alt_hydra at 2015-07-29 17:56:47
(no subject)

Anxious because I don't know what they're up to, anymore. Anxious because he's still following me. Anxious because I really don't know how I could ever get the best of him in a fight.

And then there's knowing that the fight is coming, but not when or where.

So, you're not the only one who's worrying.

alt_justin at 2015-07-29 18:54:03
(no subject)

Would Rachel's contact in Buckingham be able to tell us anything, about their activity?

I know what you mean, about worrying over winning a direct confrontation. I think about the same problem, if I ever came up against Ant Dolohov, what. There's a...a trick to being confident enough in one's abilities to get the job done, without being overconfident and letting that lead one into error. I suppose one hopes that they'll make the latter mistake, what, and luck will be on our side. One can't hesitate, for example, while it's just possible our opponents might. Well. Mine might do, I'm not as sure about Crouch. But he's not as infallible as he'd have you believe. I wish I'd had the chance to duel him more, so I could offer more specific advice.

-J
I don't know.

When I picture fighting him, all I can do is imagine myself doing whatever it takes not to die. I can't imagine actually being able to kill him. He's not infallible. Not even Voldemort turned out to be that. But he guards and minds his weaknesses so closely that not even my legilimency could see them.

The only weakness I can think of is his certainty in mine.

I wonder if a Pensieve would help. If we had one, I mean to say. You could watch a number of your memories of fighting him and see if you notice anything particular about his technique. Though I suppose it doesn't matter as we haven't got one.

I say, what about Draco's omnioculars? He isn't going to be using them in the Elysian. Poor chap, we're forever borrowing all his best gadgets, what, but he's a decent sport about it. Perhaps you could get new recordings of him, or there might be old footage Draco hasn't erased yet. Might objective analysis help remove your own doubts from the equation?

-J

I wonder if he left his omnioculars at the castle? I'll see if I can find Hermione tonight to ask her.

It's worth a try, anyway.
Order only

Frank, Alice, Evelyn, Kevin and Terry.

Thinking of all of you today.

Suppose you know this, but the first birthday's the hardest. Well, they all suck, but George and me have found it's not quite so desperately sharp after that.

Telling stories about him helps. Luckily, with Neville, you have a bunch of great ones to remember.

Damn, but he was a magnificent kid. And he'll always be remembered as one of Gryffindor's finest.

Again, we're all so sorry.

Wish we could be with you today, but we understand you're with the right people right now.

If you like, come find us when you get back to the castle. You can turn into the Professor, and we'll play fetch with you down by the lake as long as you like.

Thanks. I'm doing all right, I guess. As well as can be expected. Day's young, though.

The one who's really been crying has been Kevin. It seems to help
Evelyn to console him. I try, but, when I do, it just makes me think of the big brother he had, and that only makes me feel guilty again. Mum and Dad have been more quiet, but I know they stayed up late talking.

It's funny what you think about. I keep wishing it was the season for paperwhites; I'd like a pot of them to smell.

Smells are comforting for dogs.

alt_molly at 2015-07-30 14:16:20
Private message to Alice and Frank

All my love. Don't worry in the least about the rest of us. Remus is looking a little peaky, of course, with full moon tomorrow, but everything is running perfectly smoothly, so you needn't fret about anything.

alt_luna at 2015-07-30 14:52:43
Private message to Terry

I hope your day together with your family gives you some peace.

Please don't think you have to come back early for me.

alt_terry at 2015-07-30 15:01:43
Re: Private message to Terry

Oh...I was thinking in terms of the full moon on the 31st. The night of the 31st, as in tomorrow night.

When is full moon rise, exactly?

alt_luna at 2015-07-30 15:03:35
Re: Private message to Terry

It's tomorrow morning, actually. But I meant it; you needn't be there, since we know I won't transform.
alt_terry at 2015-07-30 15:09:53
Re: Private message to Terry

So your really uncomfortable time will be tonight then, I guess.

No, I'll be there, I promise, Luna. Today's the important day to spend with my family, so I can come back and be there tonight. Anyway, Colin would be plenty hacked off with me if I didn't show up!

How are you feeling?

alt_luna at 2015-07-30 15:11:26
Re: Private message to Terry

This is one of the meat craving months. And I'm really aching. Remus' tea isn't helping as much as it did last month.

Are you sure?

alt_terry at 2015-07-30 15:15:37
Re: Private message to Terry

Remember when I told you that you don't need to invite me each month, that I consider it a standing oblige date? It's fine. It'll be nice to spend the night as the Professor, actually.

alt_luna at 2015-07-30 15:16:17
Re: Private message to Terry

Then I'll see you tonight.

Thank you, Terry.
2015-07-30 08:23:00  
Order Order: Private message to Terry Boot Longbottom

Bugger.

alt_terry  

alt_terry at 2015-07-30 13:57:44  
Private message to Neville Longbottom

I was looking over old entries in my journal, and I read what I wrote to you on my last birthday, promising that I'd rescue you, and bring you home and care for you as long as you needed. I would have done it for you, if I could have, Neville. I would have cared for you for the rest of my life. I thought about it, about being with you when we were old and grey. If there was anything the git taught me, it was how to serve people. I would have gladly done it. Made sure my children knew you--if I ever have any. Evelyn and Kevin's, too.

But instead, you rescued us. Again. Even with your mind gone, you still helped Harry end Voldemort once and for all. And now you're gone for good, and there wasn't any way to lay you to rest. There's no grave for us to tend. But I suppose your tree in the Memorial Garden will be the fittest memorial for you of all.

I think one of my most vivid memories of you was the birthday that you wanted to know all about the Order, and I got to see you again and tell you all about Moddey Dhoo, and about how Mum and Dad had saved me. I'll never forget the joy on your face, and all the questions you asked. It had been awhile since I'd seen you, and I remembered how startled I was when I realised for the first time how much you resemble Dad.

It hurts something awful that you aren't with us, and I still feel guilty, like I took your place. But then I thought of something this morning, when I was thinking over what to write to you, and I didn't think you'd mind. As a matter of fact, I think you'd quite like the idea.

You gave me your family, Neville. I never understood why you didn't resent me counting your Mum and Dad as mine, and Evelyn and Kevin as my brother and sister, but you never, never did.
I'll continue to look after them, as their son and their brother, just like you would have done. I don't see how I can possibly do as good a job as you would have done, but I'll try. But I won't feel so bad about it because I'll give you mine. I don't know if the dead can find each other when they don't know each other, but if it's possible, then I just know that my own mum would be proud to count you as her son, given what you did for me. And I never really got much of a chance to be a brother to Sophie, but you'll do that for me, won't you? You're such a great brother that I know you would love her for me. Until we can all see each other again.

Love you Nev. We all miss you, but we'll be all right, because we have each other. And we're so proud of you and what you did for us.
2015-07-30 15:08:00
Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Are you a dog at the moment?

alt_lupin

alt_sirius at 2015-07-30 20:12:31
(no subject)

Er. No? I admit I've been tempted all day - well, all week, if I'm honest - but I've been resisting. Didn't want to make you feel worse for not being able to transform and forget about everything for a while.

Why, do you need me to be?

alt_lupin at 2015-07-30 20:16:01
(no subject)

No, it's more that if you WERE a dog at the moment I didn't want to waste my time writing to you.

I'm trying to add up numbers from some of the documents Alice left behind and I've done it three times and gotten three completely different results. Whose idea was it to make me Alice's backup, anyway? They were a lunatic.

It's not that I like transforming but this is the sort of month that makes me think it's the lesser evil. Poor Luna.

alt_sirius at 2015-07-30 20:21:35
(no subject)

Oh, maths. No, Padfoot won't be much help there. Pity, I was hoping perhaps there was someone you needed me to growl at, or something.

Just use the calculatus spell, do you remember it, from the map? It'll do the sums. Might give you more than you need, I suppose.

Or don't do it. It'll keep, surely.
I did it twice with calculatus and got two answers. Added it up the hard way and got a third. I think I'm going to have to leave this for Alice to deal with.

I don't need you to growl at anyone; I'm entirely capable of growling at people myself. If you want to come up here and be pleasant and personable so I don't have to talk to anyone, that might work.

Knowing that the entire Order is not in a conspiracy to irritate me is not making people less irritating.

We're in trouble if I'm supposed to be the reasonable, placating one. That's never happening today.

Anyway, you're not the only one itching. I wanted -

I don't know what I wanted. Want. I want people to tell me they're sorry but I want people to leave me the fuck alone. I want a big acknowledgement of his sacrifice and I want to spend the day in a form where I don't have to think about it at all. I want them to tell me what they remember about him, but not ask me to share my memories, because they're too few and too precious to squander.

I want him back. I want to be done with this stupid war. I want to resurrect Tom Riddle just so I can kill him with my bare hands this time.

See. Not very reasonable.
Those all sound reasonable.

Except for resurrecting Tom Riddle. Settle for killing Bellatrix Lestrange, instead.

Oh, well, if you're going to start down that path, there's more than Bella. Barty, Dolohov - that list could take us a while.

Maybe we'll be lucky and they'll poke their heads out of London where we can get to them.

I find myself wishing Draco and Hermione were both here.

Or that we could start receiving shipments from outside before the 1st. Or that I hadn't given Allie my last good spliff.

Hermione would be perfect. Let's have Alice leave her in charge next time.

Ha. Too bad she's entirely overtaken by the Sleeper project.

Where's she gone this time, anyway? I can't even keep track. Probably she and Draco are the lucky ones, getting
to consume themselves with work. Now that the anti-polyjuice barrier is finished, I haven't even got that to tinker with.

Alice left me a note telling me where Hermione is (and Justin, and Draco, and all the others on assignments taking them far from the castle).

Of course, I can't find it now. So I can't tell you where she is.

It doesn't matter, I wasn't really asking.

You know what would help us both? A ride. Fancy going out on the bike?

Yeah, I do, but then who's going to answer urgent questions from

You know what, they can manage without me for an hour. I'll see you in five minutes.
I have arranged to be available for all observational and recording duties at any point needed. I gather it is to be at some time period yet to be specified within the weekend, but I have gone ahead and blocked out the entire thing, and thus all you will need to do is inform me when the timing has been finalised.

Lav will adapt herself to the necessity of my being focussed on the important tasks at hand rather than to devoting myself to her as per usual, I am sure.

Thank you, Linus.

It's very reassuring to me to know we'll have someone I can trust to run observations and calculations here.

I'll let you know when we sort out the timing, so you might as well take time while you can. I may be out for a couple of hours tomorrow with my family, if it looks like we won't be attempting Barra tomorrow night.
Private Message to A Dolohov and B Lestrange

Batya: Just home. See you're not yet.
Productive day out there?

alt_antonin at 2015-07-31 04:02:03
(no subject)

Productive, exhausting, not much difference.

I'm nearing the end of what I can do without collapse -- this is wretched -- but having deputised the ducklings to do the prep work has sped things up considerably. I don't know that I'll be able to reach the full five thousand we wanted, but I doubt I'll be more than three or four hundred off.

I wish someone else -- anyone else -- had proven capable of working this quickly.

I'm sorry I missed this afternoon's parliament; have we got the updated intel on the remaining warehouse locations? We'll need a fresh supply of bodies soon.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-07-31 04:07:25
(no subject)

Some fresh intel on several unofficial sites that were never on Ministry lists. (Local initiative in the early days. Before there was coordination of efforts.)

Made plans to scour the largest on current list tomorrow evening. Gateshead, outside Newcastle. Welcome to come along if you want a change of task.

But only if you log proper sleep tonight.
I don't know that I necessarily can sleep, but you're right, I ought to try. See if Berry can conjure up some Dreamless? I'll still be another hour or two, but I'll see if a bath and a dose will at least give me a few hours down.

And yes, I'd like to join you tomorrow, but may need to keep working here. It all depends on the timetables.

Need more hours and more wands. Suppose it's always been the case, but feel it acutely now. And they wake more damned Muggles every day.

As soon as Gus is finished with the calculations for the adjustments, we ought pick his brain about what would need to go into an antidote for the Sleeper potion. If we can starve them of ingredients, it might slow the pace.

We're the ones being starved now they've got Dover. As you know when you're not dragging yourself through a third night in succession.
They can't be bringing in everything through Dover; surely there's something we can do.

Or maybe you're right. At this point, I doubt I could strategise my way out of a wet paper bag.

And we were but once a small band of so-called extremists who nonetheless re-shaped history as no wizards or witches have before.

Or is your memory so short?

Then we were the ones turning the tide. And not the established government people loved to hate.

But point taken.

It is essential that we reach five thousand.

I have Rod on the floo. If you are flagging, Tosha, he can take over for you while you rest. His skills aren't as industrious, but they are competent enough.
The caveat is that this isn't waving one's wand and chanting a spell; the process of creation involves wrestling the will of the dead and forcing it to obey, and those who are not as practised with that sort of imposition may not be able to succeed.

That having been said, at this point I will take whatever assistance you can find me.

He has experience wrestling with strong wills, at least.

Apparently Lana is eager to assist (or so Rod tells me). Perhaps together they can create some abominations. Rod has experience with that, too.

Touché.

I hate this. I hate this so fucking much, lapushka. Some of the best minds remaining and none of us could think of anything better than to desecrate thousands of corpses to provide cannon-fodder for a fight that is looking less and less likely we can win and dare not concede.

I am so fucking exhausted.
If we had another strategy with half as much promise, Batya-

A tenth as much, even.

Would not have asked.

No. I know; I know. I was there and I couldn't think of anything either. We've been backed into a corner, and there is nothing so dangerous as being backed into a corner while the consequences of decisions made decades before start arriving, one by one.

If I had it all to do over again

No, that way lies madness. I'll pay the debts as they come due, because the alternative is even worse. And may the gods have mercy on my souls.

I wish I had never dragged you into this

Believe I'll come join you. Have finished eating and need to work it off.

Bringing you a bite.

Have instructed the elf what to have ready when we return.
Thank you, dear heart. You make all this bearable. Food sounds less appealing than it ought to, but I'm sure it will perk me up.

When this is all over, we ought to take a week to laze about the library and catch up on our reading. The thought of a week of doing nothing is tremendously appealing.

I'm up on the platform with Rod and Lana.

If, once rested, Tosha is unable or unwilling to continue - I need to know.

Would have preferred to know two weeks ago.

I have already stressed to Rod that high yield is of the essence.

With rest, he'll be fine.

Even without.

What he needs is action. The taste of curses on his tongue.

And a clear view of what we're facing--the cold, bleak necessity of the matter. Then the Russian mulishness and the Egyptian bravado will reassert themselves, and he'll overshoot production by a third.

Then bring him tomorrow if you are so certain it will provide the necessary restorative.

If needed, Rod can fill in again.
Going out there now to retrieve him. Will see him to bed if I have to petrify him to keep him there.
Thinking of you often, Gin. I'm still here, if you want to rail at me. And like I said, I'll listen to whatever you want to say to me.

Everyone sends you their love.

You make me sick. There's nothing I want to say to you.

Thank you for replying, at least, because we wanted to know that you're still permitted to look at your journal.

Has Charlie written to you in the last day or two? I don't think he has. He has some good news, but I'll leave it to him to tell you, if you want to ask him about it.

I wish that you wouldn't write to Ron.

C'mon, Ginny. Bite. Bite that hook. Write to Ron.

Still hating me?

Keep on hating me.
The options remain the same, but we've refined the arithmancy a mite more. I trust I've explained it all sufficiently in the past that you can understand. The preferred options are unchanged, but the edge cases, if she wishes to be truly audacious and reach for the stars, are looking more promising. In all cases we need to strike at Stornoway, manipulation to get them to do exactly what we want, exactly when it must happen does not look promising. I recommend late on the night of 6 August, gives enough time to prepare prevents them from responding in time to attempt the disrupt the workings.

Claud, time is running out. Give me her response quickly or I will make the choice for us all and you blighters can follow my lead or die choking on the salt water of the rising tide.

Why in Merlin's name she wanted me to lay out all the fiddly, detailed arithmancy to you instead of her, I'll never know. Playing Owl Post with the entire realm's future seems foolish in the extreme.
How are you today?

I wasn't actually sure whether to write to you today, or if you'd rather not be reminded if you're busy and not thinking about Harry too much. But I didn't want you to think I'm ignoring you, either.

Did I tell you that Hydra talked to me a little while back about how best to acknowledge Harry's birthday? She said she and Justin had been thinking of maybe a candle-lighting or something, you know, a quiet sort of reflection. Solemn, not anything too flashy. But we got to talking about it and it just didn't seem.... I mean, you're in New London and so's Justin still, and everyone's busy and the Longbottoms have their own family to mourn, and it's a blue moon so Mr Lupin was feeling really very awful and so was Luna, and Sirius--well, I could tell Sirius either wanted to run off and remember Harry in his own way, or preferred to focus on Mr Lupin, and so it seemed like as much as we all wanted to do something, no one felt quite ready, either. Certainly not ready enough to organise anything. So in the end we thought, best leave it for now and let everyone observe on our own, and perhaps we'll find the right way to honour him at the one-year anniversary mark. Or his birthday next year. Or something like that.

Still, it seems as though someone ought to make some kind of statement. Maybe I should have asked them to put something on the wireless. Or maybe I'll think of the right words later. Though it's silly to expect they'll come today, when they haven't come in all this time.

Anyway.

Remind me again of your timetable for the next week? We've got a huge warehouse to wake up over the next several days and I ought to check in occasionally, but I can break free if I plan round your schedule. I'd like it if we could spend it not in the castle, either, just the two of us somewhere, maybe. That was good, last time.

Well, I should get back to it, we've set up a brewing lab here on site as part of our attempt to move things out of Hogwarts in preparation for next term. There's talk it might become a permanent installation, too, a sort of...St M's healing research outpost, or something like that.
But I wanted to say--that I'm thinking about you today, especially. And I miss him, too, and that I hope you're all right, or as all right as you can be.

alt_draco at 2015-07-31 15:50:10
(no subject)

You worrying about me? Don't. I'm all right.

I know it's not been easy - I know that I've not been easy. But I always find a way to hold myself together, somehow. I hope you don't think it's your job to do that. You do so much for me already.

Thing is, Harry wouldn't want us to make a big fuss. Not over his birthday, or his death. Not any of it. I don't think he'd fancy being forgotten, either, but you know how he didn't like fussing. It embarrassed him.

For the last few days I've found myself wishing that everyone else knew him as we knew him. Not as a hero or a villain or the LP's son, but as Harry. Just Harry. But they don't and that's just how it is.

I've got to put in a shift at the Summerfest tonight. I already went to the corner shop for a coffee and saw some fresh graffiti in the alleyway. Death to Tyranny. Staged, I reckon. From what I've gathered at the club the goal is to make New Londoners realise that they're free from that tyrant, Voldemort, with the implication that it's all thanks to Rowle's Ministry, somehow.

I've got Wednesday and Saturday free next week. I've got to put in training on at least one of those days, but otherwise I'm all yours.

Don't worry about finding the 'right words' about Harry, Hermione. Anything you say is right, if it's honest. And with you it always is.
Of course I worry about you. I happen to care about you, rather a lot, you know. And I knew today was going to be hard, no matter what anyone tried to do to ease it.

Summerfest, is that what they're doing instead of Freedom Day? Hydra mentioned that Justin said something was going on near the river but he didn't quite know what.

Anyway, I know just what you mean about how people perceive Harry but that's always been the case, hasn't it. He was never able to be just himself, to most people. But neither were you, neither was I--really, neither was anyone in the Protectorate, if you think about it. Only to a few very close friends. The Juniors all knew him for who he really was. And the Galleoneers, too, to some extent. The rest of the world--I don't think they'd really want to know. Not right now, anyway. Maybe in ten years' time when we're writing the history of what happened, we'll be there to make sure that his biography reflects the fact that he was really just an ordinary sort of boy who wanted to play Quidditch and wished none of this had been his fight, but who fought it anyway, because he was the only one who could do. That's not very glamorous, is it, but as you say, it's honest.

But you're quite right about what he would have wanted, which is another reason Hydra and I couldn't really come up with anything appropriate that felt true to his memory. All he would have wanted was perhaps a broom flight and some cake, and good friends. Can you imagine a huge Remembrance Day in his honour? He'd spend the whole day trying to convince people to give over and play Exploding Snap instead!

Anyway, let's try Saturday. I'll see if I can arrange a hotel or a cottage somewhere. We can fly out if it's not too far (yes, I'm willingly letting you take me somewhere on a broom!) or Apparate and picnic or something like that, and stay the night, before you have to go back.
If we're being honest, then the book we write about Harry and what happened should be titled *Never Again, You Sodding Idiots*. Though I suppose he wouldn't much like that, either (as much as I would).

Speaking of idiots. I didn't work third shift on Wednesday, but I had a peek at the ledgers yesterday and guess who dropped by the club? Seamus Finnigan. With ruddy Montague, apparently. So he's found his little niche amongst what remains of the council, I guess, nursing the illusion that he can still be one of them. It's a good thing I didn't have to serve him, but I'll be ready, next time he comes in.

And yes, Summerfest along the South Bank. Pumpkin-head Yaxley is running some kind of art show. Once Russell's shift at the concessionaire is over I'll probably wander over for a look.

Would you let me fly you to Strathglass? It's not too far from the castle by broom, and its the prettiest scenery in all of Scotland. Would probably look even better by broom.

Well, is it terribly surprising? I mean, Haruman Patil said Finnigan ranted at Padma when she even suggested he had options other than the Death Eaters. She was really upset about it. Not that I think she has any right to happiness, given how horrid she usually is, but I don't think anyone could deny that she and Finnigan were good friends to each other. I suppose it goes to show that even horrible people can bring out goodness in one another. But anyway, what I mean is that Finnigan's clearly made his bed and he's apparently all too happy to lie in it.

Strathglass sounds fine. If it's not *too* far. I'll try to see about a room for next weekend.
Finnigan's lying in Montague's bed, I reckon. The bloke's developed quite the reputation around New London. Always "up for it," they say. And that's the sort of thing Padma never could provide Finnigan with - a good shag.

Strathglass is just fine, you think? Would somewhere else suit better?

Oh, no, I didn't really have anywhere particular in mind.

And about Finnigan, well, I suppose it's dangerous to underestimate the persuasive power of a good shag. So you're saying he really is happy to be in the bed he's in, is that it?

You mean Jason Montague, don't you? He was done with school before you and Harry started, but I vaguely remember him from the year before. When I was working in the library. He wasn't particularly cruel, but he wasn't particularly nice, either. I mean, to other students. What else are you picking up?

Oh yeah, Jason. Not Alfred. Can't imagine that Alfred's got the charisma to build that sort of reputation, though he is working for the new DEMLE as a trainee Auror. So is Finnigan, along with Derwent and no doubt some others, too.

Jason made it onto the council despite the fact that he had no relatives or other connections already seated there. I heard Pumpkin-head Yaxley's dad was the one who pushed for his inclusion - before he died, of course. So Montague's ambitious, I guess, even if he's not particularly cruel. Rachel used to be
his boss back when they were working MEU. I suppose she must not despise him too much, if she hasn't assigned him to Justin yet. Or who knows, maybe she's just biding her time.

And really, if you could refrain from writing "good shag" in your own handwriting I'd... appreciate it. Things like that make it especially disconcerting to be in another bloke's body.
**2015-07-31 09:44:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne*

About to come home. Not going to wake you if you're sleeping.

Thinking of flying, actually.

If you're awake and wanted to, you could come. If not, I'll be alright on my own.

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**alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-31 15:30:34**

*(no subject)*

I'm awake! I'm awake. How long ago did you write this? I'll come see if I can find you.

---

**alt_ron at 2015-07-31 19:44:52**

*(no subject)*

Thanks. That was just-

How is it you always know what to do when I don't want to talk about things?

I'm glad you're sleeping now. Listen, if I'm not here when you wake up, I'll just be out by the lake, I think. Unless Rachel sends me off somewhere. But I'll leave you a note if that happens. I promise.

---

**alt_sally_anne at 2015-07-31 21:24:15**

*(no subject)*

I'm not sleeping very well.

I keep thinking about Harry and Nev

No one's actually saying anything, they're all

I guess I'll go back to bed and try again, I've got to get up in a few hours and work.
2015-07-31 18:38:00

Private Message to B Lestrange, A Dolohov

Bella. All unit leaders stand ready to issue orders at sunset. (9:09 pm, target site)

Tosha and I will be in position @ Ips 394.2 and Ips 393.8 to direct arriving units.
2015-07-31 21:27:00
Order Only: Private message to Aurors and Enforcers

Field Teams 1, 2, and 3 -- head to Gateshead, near Newcastle. There's a DEMLE target there. My source says they're sending Inferi. Expect it's a Sleeper site, but not one we've got records for.

Use all caution.

alt_rachel

2015-08-01 02:32:04
(no subject)

On it.

alt_ron

2015-08-01 02:44:30
(no subject)

Coming as well. Believe my primary target is involved as well.

alt_justin

-F-F
Just got called out.

Another sleeper location they're attacking.

I'll find you when I get back and let you know.
**2015-07-31 22:30:00**

 ORDER ONLY Private message to Albion
Aurors and Enforcers

Ta for having me along, folks.

We've got four of the buildings locked down and under guard, we've lost three, and we're still fighting for the last three. We could use more hands over here on the west side -- I've definitely seen Crouch and Dolohov, and Ron thought he saw Braithwaite, Montague, and Catchlove.

This complex is a fucking warren and we're never going to be able to hold it for long. I don't know what's involved in waking up Sleepers, but can it be done quickly? Or else we're going to have to Fidelius whatever we can get our hands on.

No sign of Inferi, by the way. Thank Merlin.

**2015-08-01 03:55:39**

(no subject)

Do you need more wands?

**2015-08-01 04:03:03**

(no subject)

Well, the problem is we keep having to leave people to guard the warehouses we've already taken so they don't double back, so we're having trouble advancing further. But if we bring in more, so will they, they seem really determined, and Ron says this is a shit place for a full-out confrontation and I agree.

Hang on a sec --

Okay, Ron says the current plan is to Fidelius what we're holding and then advance further. I don't think we need to use the Neo-F, we should be able to hold it long enough to run the perimeter. Lacing up my running boots now.
Run fast enough and your mother might not have time to look at her clock and see you've run into mortal danger.

Send someone with more salt.

Done.

Have back up units ready if needed.

What are you able to report?

Sorry. Right.

He's setting the last rune now. We've got him well covered. Once they made him, there was a hex barrage, but he's alright. Winded.

We've got five of the buildings in this perimeter, and Hydra's unit's got a sixth building protected up the northern end of the complex.
Finished.

Should have said: we've sent half our lot to Hydra already, and the rest of us'll work our way up there now.

F-F says to tell you he got his mark. Clean shot. I saw it.

Good.

Report as you're able.

Merlin, that's exhausting.

I'm in the Fidelius zone to catch my breath and make sure it's just us in here. We still haven't seen any Inferi, and I think they would have hauled them out by now, so

Fuck. Second --

Oh, those dragonfucking shitlickers, two of the warehouses just went up in a fireball. I can't see what's going on, but it sounded like an explosion.
alt_rachel at 2015-08-01 05:32:16  
(no subject)

What about the building Ron said Hydra's holding? Can you see from where you are?

If it can't be held, I want it abandoned.

alt_charlie at 2015-08-01 05:41:06  
(no subject)

I can't see. There's been at least one other explosion, but I'd have to leave the Fidelius zone to know for sure, and I haven't quite recovered yet.

I hear yelling, though.

alt_ron at 2015-08-01 05:49:21  
(no subject)

We've got it secured. Not Fideliused yet, but DEMLE are pulling back, leaving the anti-A boundary.

Think they're leaving the place to us.

alt_ron at 2015-08-01 06:00:14  
(no subject)

Have some people we're going to need to evacuate. Tell Madam P, we'll be sending some her way.

Delia Forney and Marek Volk are dead. Phelonius Kleptman's taken something seriously Dark. Some are bloodied up so much it's hard to tell.

Sending the injured first. As soon as we can get them to the A-point safely.

The rest of us will stay until we get things properly sorted.
Private message to Ron

I'm glad I was there when the call came in, you know. It's not like it was nice, but ... it was nice, getting a chance to fight with you. (Well. Next to you. You know what I mean.)

You're really good at it, too. Rachel was damn smart, snapping you up.

Re: Private message to Ron

Cheers for that.

You're right--it was nice fighting with you. Almost like fighting beside another me. I mean, I knew what you were doing and planning, and it was easy to read your movements so we could coordinate. Reckon it's like that for the twins.

It was amazing, watching you run that perimeter-you're proper fast on your feet! And then I realised you were a little brother, too. Just like me. You must've had to be fast to keep ahead of Bill when he wanted to pound you! I know, I got my speed, running from the twins! My eye for reading hexes before they're cast against me, too, yeah?

I saw you wrote Ginny. Is she answering you back? I guess you know she's-- She thinks Bill hurt her. For years. Thing is, Bill's made it easy for her to think so. But she's twisted everything and made all of you into monsters. You and the twins, too, actually.

It's horrible, what she thinks now. And no point arguing with her. I only hope something comes of it. Keeping her talking with me, I mean. It's too awful, otherwise.
Antonin Dolohov is making Inferi. Thousands of them.

So be alert. There weren't any last night but we'll be facing them soon.

If you're facing them -- taking out Dolohov will drop every last one of his creations.

Nice.

All right, then. Fire. Blasting hexes. Blow them to pieces and burn them. That's what we learned at Sherwood, yeah?
2015-07-31 23:30:00  
Private message to Travers, Braithwaite, and Barty  
I need wands at building five. Immediately.  
And we need at least one prisoner -- there's no gods-be-damned way they could have got here this fast if they didn't have a source, and we need to know who it was. Yesterday.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-08-01 03:07:26  
(no subject)  
On their way.  
Agree.  
Dammit.

alt_antonin at 2015-08-01 05:07:58  
(no subject)  
Motherfucking Fidelius.

alt_crouch_jr at 2015-08-01 05:11:34  
(no subject)  
Exit protocol.  
Tell yours.  
Incendiary blasts.

alt_antonin at 2015-08-01 05:14:31  
(no subject)  
Order given.  
I thought I had him on that last pass, damn it.
Couldn't see it from my vantage.

Not losing your aim, are you?

We'll have to compare notes later to see who hit more. I know I took down at least three, although I was aiming to wound instead of kill. Has your lot managed any prisoners? I want to know who tipped them off. (Not as much as you do, I'm certain.)

Four hits plus two outright kills.

Well done. I'll grant you one free shot at my age and infirmity.

We have #7 aflame now; I shall meet you at the rendezvous.