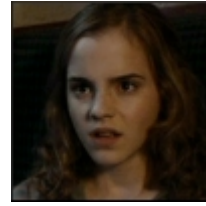


**2010-05-01 09:38:00**  
***HARRY HARRY HARRY***

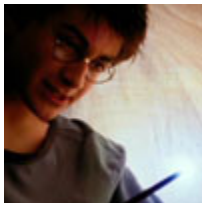
I know you're already in the lockers and getting ready for the Quidditch match but please, if you're reading this or if anyone on the Slytherin team is reading this, may I go to the library instead of watching the match?



**alt\_hermione**

I think I may have figured it out, but I need to be sure!!

---



**alt\_harry** at **2010-05-01 13:42:32**  
*(no subject)*

What is it Hermione!?

Fine, Granger. Just be back as soon as you can to help me with my gear after the game.



**alt\_hermione** at **2010-05-01 13:42:58**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you!!



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-05-01 14:15:34**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Hermione, what is it? Do you think it's Carrow?

**2010-05-01 09:46:00**

*Game Days*

Everyone love a good quidditch match. It seems to have taken the edge off that people have had over the last few days. Dean and I are getting ready to leave in the next couple of minutes.




 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Luna- I talk to Dean more than I talk to my brothers, he is a great listener, and if you want come find us at the ma....

Oh, what was i writing, oh yes, every one loves a good quidditch match, see you ther....

Oh No...



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-05-01 15:06:03**  
*(no subject)*

Mum, I'm sure you'll see this sooner or later, but don't worry, Ginny's already in the hospital wing.

I can't tell you any more at the moment. I don't know much myself, but we are in the midst of rather a...a crisis, so please, I'll write to you as soon as we know what's happened.

**2010-05-01 10:00:00**

*Ron- Percy- Its Ginny! Madam Pomfrey!*

I told Ginny to snap out of it but she has gone all weird again. I am taking her to the hospital wing (Kicking and screaming, literally), I am not sure where you all are.




 [alt\\_dean](#)

Madam Pomfrey-

I am on my way with Ginny. She was writing in her journal, when she sort of froze. Her eyes glazed over and she would seem not there. This happened two or 3 times before she went completely unresponsive. She looked like she was trying to remember something or that she was seeing something she didn't want to see. I stopped her from leaving the common room by herself when she got up to leave. She also got really defensive like i was going to hurt her or hex her before she started kicking and screaming.

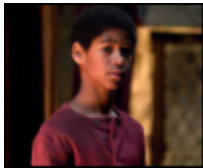
She was murmuring something about a snake and moving bathroom sinks. Nothing made since.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-01 15:04:17](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Thomas. I'm sure Madam Pomfrey will sort her out. I certainly hope so, at any rate.

Please remain in the hospital wing until a Prefect can collect you. It is not safe to be in the corridors alone at present.




 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-01 16:37:22](#)  
(no subject)

No problem Percy, I don't mind waiting here. I just wanted you to know something though. I am not sure how significant this is, but I have been looking back through my journal today, and every one of Ginny's episodes have happened just before, but on the same day as, an attack on a student.

I just thought you should know.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-01 16:47:43](#)  
(no subject)

Thomas, are you accusing Professor Mr Carrow of perpetrating some kind of, of, *violation* on my sister?


This is a serious charge, Thomas. Are you certain?



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-01 16:58:48](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not suggesting that, but I am saying, based on the journals each one of her episodes are on the same day as the attack. I don't know how anyone can have done anything to her because she was in the common room with me when this last one happened this morning




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-01 17:05:09](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Thomas.

I will inform the Headmistress of this at the earliest opportunity. Perhaps it will help to understand what has been happening to Ginny.


Meanwhile, things are still rather intense, but I should be able to come to the hospital wing to see Ginny ~~and Penn~~ shortly.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-01 23:58:01](#)  
(no subject)

My goodness! I was out of the house all day and didn't have my journal with me...is Ginny all right, Percy?



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:00:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I've seen her, Mum. She seems to be just fine now. I've talked to Dean Thomas, too.


She's still the Hospital Wing for now. I think Madam Pomfrey wanted to keep her under her eye as a precaution for a few hours. I don't know if she's planning to keep her over night. But Ginny's sitting up and talking and seems as normal as ever. And she's chafing a bit because Madam Pomfrey's making her stay in bed for now.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:01:23](#)**  
(no subject)

And the rest? Merlin, Percy, what a shock when I read what's happened!




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:02:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Things have quieted down for the time being, although of course people are still...concerned.

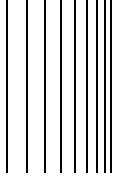
Forgive me, Mum, but I need to turn my attention to my Housemates for the time being. I'll write again once I know more.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:04:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, my boy. The next time you see Ginny, give her our love.

(Do try to check in with Luna if you can in the next day or two. I imagine she will be worried about Ginny as well.)



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:04:46](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Of course, Dad. To both.

**2010-05-01 10:29:00**

*Attention: Headmistress*

Headmistress! You are needed urgently.

There's been another attack here in the castle. Two st victims have been petrified. We're taking them to Madam Pomfrey. Please hurry.



 [alernity](#)  
 [alt\\_lana](#)




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-01 14:32:36](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin -

Miss Sandoval, by no means move them! If they are Petrified, the Hospital Wing cannot help them, and we must examine the situation. I shall dispatch a professor to help you keep the area clear.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-01 14:36:11](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, Headmistress.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-01 14:37:08](#)  
(no subject)

Where, precisely, are they?



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-01 14:48:22](#)  
(no subject)

Near the library! I'm sorry. I was distracted and didn't think to say. Please hurry.

**2010-05-01 10:32:00**

**QUIDDITCH MATCH CANCELLED**


The Quidditch match has been cancelled.



There has been another attack. Please return to your common rooms in an orderly fashion, and leave only on the most serious business, with a Prefect's permission. Your Heads of Houses will keep you updated on the situation, and I imagine the strictures on movement shall end before supper-time.

 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-01 14:49:05](#)  
(no subject)

It appears we have not arrived in the nick of time, Minerva. Pity. I did tell Fudge that speed was of the essence, but he insisted on Sedgwick's signature - unanimous vote, be cursed.

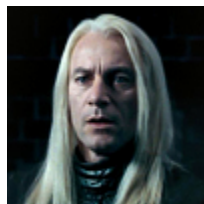
I had just gone down to wish Draco and Harry well on the match when you made the announcement. We are on our way back up to the castle.


Where ought I to meet you and the Minister?



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-01 14:51:24](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Malfoy. Please, if you have Marvolo with you, you might best come here to the corridor near the library.



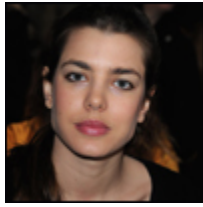
 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-01 14:53:58](#)  
(no subject)


Miss Sandoval, do I understand you correctly? You are asking me to bring Harry to the scene?

What possible--




Ah. Yes, we shall be there directly.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-01 14:54:50](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. Please hurry, sir.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-01 16:03:43](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

Is he saying what I think he's saying? Minerva?  
Has Hermione .. Is Hermione all right?




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-01 16:09:57](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

She's been Petrified, Remus. Fortunately no  
worse than that, but nevertheless...

At least she's out of harm's way, now.




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-01 16:14:58](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

You're right. Of course, you're right. It could  
have been much worse, especially if Carrow was  
genuinely behind these attacks.

It's a small comfort though.

I don't suppose you could be convinced that this would be an  
excellent opportunity to fake her death, and that other boy's -  
Boot? - and sneak them away to the safety of Moddey Dhoo?



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-01 15:01:14](#)**  
*(no subject)*

We're accounting for Gryffindor now, Headmistress.

**2010-05-01 10:41:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Ron I hope you appreciate what I did. And if you and Pansy get yourselves killed by Carrow I will NEVER forgive you (either of you!) now TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON if you think you can write without Pansy seeing you!

I heard it was Hermione who got petrified, he MUST have seen what she said in the journals and gone after her because of that, and Clearwater just got in the way.

Anyway, I'm up here in the girl's dorm and it's so crazy no one's noticed yet Pansy's not here. They're more worried about the fact no one knows quite where Harry's gotten to, someone thinks he went off to see Hermione but no one's quite sure. Draco's not here either.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-01 15:54:59](#)

*(no subject)*

Real quick. Pansy's trying something on the door to Carrow's office. He's not here. Don't know if he's coming back, though.

Hermione?!!! That makes total sense, then. Doesn't it?

Um, hang on



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-01 15:58:03](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, HERMIONE got petrified. It makes TOTAL sense -- after what she said in the journal, Carrow knew he didn't have much time.

And Penelope Clearwater, but like I said they were found together. I'm sure he was in a hurry and didn't think he could afford to wait for her to be alone.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-01 16:11:49](#)  
(no subject)


RON DID YOU SEE WHAT THE HEADMISTRESS JUST SAID? She said Carrow's been arrested. You lot didn't even NEED to go look for proof it was him, they'd already decided it was him and

wait

You were in his office when this

ARE YOU IN TROUBLE? DID ANYONE SEE YOU? HURRY UP AND ANSWER ME.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-01 16:30:57](#)  
(no subject)

Professor Amycus Carrow has been arrested. But what about Miss Professor Carrow?

I don't think it's all that safe with her still here.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-01 17:53:27](#)  
(no subject)

True.

But it's one fewer evil git at the school, and she's on notice, surely she'll be the next suspected if anything more happens.

**2010-05-01 10:47:00**

*Pansy*

Pansy, please let me know you're okay when you can. I'm not too worried yet as only about half of Slytherin is back in the house yet -- it always seems like everyone's at the match but really they're not, there are people in the library and off in the hospital wing and there's a study group of OWL students who apparently go up to the top of the Astronomy tower and yeah, anyway, everyone's saying 'don't worry! they're fine!' about the people who aren't back yet.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

But I'll feel better once you check in. You know, once you see this. Of course don't do anything silly like come rushing back on your own; there are prefects and teachers roaming around and everyone's moving in groups, so just stay put if you're somewhere safe and they'll get to you eventually. And if you see this but don't have your quill don't feel bad about not being able to reply. It sounds like it could take at least an hour to have everyone rounded up, maybe two, so just sit tight. Siobhan agrees it's more important to stay safe than to get back to Slytherin quickly, so it's not just me saying that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-05-01 15:56:04**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Ron, in case you're all too thick or distracted to get it, I'm saying here you've got an hour or two before anyone REALLY notices you're gone. Don't get caught by a prefect, I won't be there to distract them next time. AND DO NOT GET CAUGHT BY CARROW NO MATTER WHAT.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-05-01 16:07:54**


*(no subject)*

If you see Harry or Draco, let them know to sit tight, too. They're not in Slytherin and no one knows if they went to the hospital wing or what, they're trying to find that out but we were told not to send anyone OUT of Slytherin once we were back, so.

Blaise is also missing, they think he's probably in the library, and

Hydra, and Samantha Montgomery and Elizabeth Stevens, and Terrence Higgs, and then a bunch of OWL students like I said.




 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-05-01 16:22:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Professor Sprout said some of our House were in the library too. I'm sure Eloise was over there because she said she had to get some book for Potions, and I haven't seen Hannah for a bit, but she might just be upstairs. And there are some fourth years who aren't here in the common room definitely, and I think there's at least two sixth years missing, and a couple of firsties.

I think Madam Pince is looking after them though, like the prefects and Heads of House are looking out for us, so I reckon they'll be fine, especially if Mr Professor Carrow has already been taken away by the Ministry.




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-05-01 17:08:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm there now, with Eloise. We're all right, and yes, Madame Pince is here.


She looks quite fierce, actually.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-05-01 17:09:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Good show, Sue. You two stay safe over there!  
We'll see you in a bit.




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-05-01 18:29:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks Ernie.

I still cant believe it happened right here, in the middle of the day.

...I think we'll both feel better when we're back in the Common Room.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-05-01 18:22:46](#)  
(no subject)

No, I'm right here.  
I'm back.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-01 16:19:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's mad over in Hufflepuff, too. The Bobolises are trying to make everyone organise by our year and it's not really working. Coote and Darst aren't here, for one, which doesn't help. Hopkins has been saying that he's known all along it was Carrow.

And there's a whole bunch of girls all crying together in the corner. Why do girls cry when they're happy?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-05-01 16:23:52](#)  
(no subject)


I don't reckon they're happy, mate.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-01 16:28:37](#)  
(no subject)

But the Ministry took him away. So it's over, right?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-05-01 16:33:12](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, but you know what girls are like. All hysterical and that. One of them starts crying and then they're all off, howling like banshees and trying to outdo each other with how upset they

are.

Sorry Sally-Anne! I don't mean you, I mean other girls.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-01 16:36:59](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I suppose.

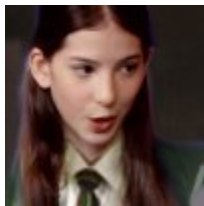
And you're right, MacMillan. Perks really isn't like a regular girl.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-01 16:38:06](#)  
(no subject)

I mean.


Yeah. Not like a normal girl that cries at the drop of wand.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-01 17:51:24](#)  
(no subject)

Do keep talking, Smith. I do admire it when people dig themselves a really DEEP hole.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-01 18:01:38](#)  
(no subject)

Wot?

It wasn't.

I meant you're ... well, you know. You're not all squealy or anything.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-01 18:10:32](#)  
(no subject)

Well alright then.





 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-01 16:22:16](#)**  
(no subject)

right. I'm fine. so far. So's Harry and Draco. no worries.

~~just a little~~

~~oh now, that's just weird.~~

~~we'll try to be sit tight. I'm sure someone will find us in an hour or two.~~



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-01 16:26:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear you're all alright! Stay safe!

**2010-05-01 11:54:00**

***AMYCUS CARROW APPREHENDED***

I regret to inform the Hogwarts community that Professor Amycus Carrow has been apprehended. He is under suspicion in various of the shady goings-on that have plagued our dear castle this school year.




 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)

I shall cover Professor Carrow's classes while he is in the Ministry's custody. I expect that the Ministry shall do their very best to determine the truth of this horrible situation.

I would like to remind you all that the victims of the attacks are, by and large, perfectly well - or will be when the potion to un-Petrify them has been administered. This includes the prefect Penelope Clearwater and the mudblood Hermione Granger, who were the two most recent victims. The attacks are not any the less dangerous and horrific; however, we may all console ourselves that those afflicted are merely sleeping and shall awake happy and strong as ever upon the maturation of the mandrakes in Professor Sprout's greenhouse.



---

 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-01 16:10:31](#)  
(no subject)

To think we could have resolved this before this morning's attack had Sedgwick only seen reason.

I shall owl you, Minerva, and Peakes as well, when the MLE have obtained Carrow's confession.

In the meantime, I trust that Mr Marvolo and my son will rest easier knowing both that Carrow is in custody and that the girl will be all right, in due time.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-02 15:29:45](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Lucius.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-01 19:17:33](#)

*Order Only*

Minerva, do you really think it's Carrow?

Somehow I doubt he'd have stopped at petrifying people, if he'd really been behind it.

Merlin, it can't somehow be Reg? No, that's just not possible.

Just so you all know, I've come up for air one last time here, before I go check the house. I hope to post an 'all's well' in about four hours.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-01 21:01:16](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I don't know. But there are other things on my mind at the moment.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-02 01:45:58](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Love?

I know you said "about" four, but it's been nearly six. Do us a favour and scribble a word or two, for my piece of mind. Have you checked the house? Is it clear?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-01 19:48:19](#)

*ORDER ONLY*

damn.

Al just told me.

damn.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-02 00:13:22](#)

*Order Only*

Oh, dear!

We just saw. Oh, Minerva--Hermione!

Is Ginny all right, truly? Are all the other students accounted for?

(Poor Percy, that girl Penelope...I think he was starting to like her.)

But at least you're rid of Carrow!



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-02 15:31:57](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Ginny is all right, truly - I trust you saw Poppy's entry about it. But yes, Hermione, and all the other students are accounted for now - your son in particular decided to go off on a utterly brainless adventure with the Marvolo boy and two others, and nearly killed me with worry! But I imagined it was merely youthful high spirits, and concern over his sister, or even perhaps over Hermione on Marvolo's part; and there they came back, in spectacular fashion. I shall have to save an entire entry for it, however - it is quite the lengthy tale.

**2010-05-01 19:22:00**

*(no subject)*

My heart simply aches for the poor Patils. I hadn't realised so many people would attend the funeral this evening, though I suppose it's understandable. Good or ill, the story has captured the heart of the country.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

It was good to see Revati bearing up so well. I hope she can find comfort in the outpouring of sympathy from so many loyal citizens. Before I go further, however, to the young man from *Warlock's Quarterly*: Yes, I was wearing one of Mrs Patil's creations. It seemed only proper. I can forgive you not knowing, but to make an issue of it in their time of mourning strikes me as rather insensitive, don't you think? I hope when the article is published, you will bear in mind the significance of today's sad occasion, and not dwell merely on the superficial.

Regulus, I was surprised to see you, as you no doubt guessed, but I'm glad you made the effort. Though I do hope you'll think about my offer. Truly, I think it would do you a world of good! Regardless, promise me that you and Barty will come for supper tomorrow? If you expect to alert him to any of my tells, you'll have to coach him at the table; it's only fair. I will brook no refusal, cousin.


Isobel, I'm sorry we also did not get a chance to finish our conversation about the Daughters of the Protectorate ceremony. Of course, I understand you have been in the throes of rescheduling your daughter's introduction, but she is not the only one in this year's class for whom we must plan. No-one will think twice about the dates, believe me. There's certainly no question she qualifies - and think of the additional prestige she will have to enter society as a member already in her own right! But if you wish to discuss it, by all means, contact Mariposa and she can find a time for us to lunch.

Finally, Draco, your Father tells me he found you well, apart from the immediate distress of the day's frightful events. I'm sorry he didn't have more time to spend with you - had things gone otherwise, I'm quite sure that he would have preferred to watch you and Harry in the match and then meet with you afterward to discuss your latest letter. But I think you can deduce from your Father's efforts what his opinion is on the matter you asked us, and how he hoped to address it before anything else happened.

However, now, I am sure that the troubles will be quite at an end. And soon the quarantine will lift and we will be able to visit you in earnest. Take care, my son, until then.

---



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-02 00:44:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I'm afraid my plans have changed since we saw you this evening. I've been called in, and it's likely I'll be here all night at the very least.

I'll leave Regulus to answer for himself; I hope he'll agree to join you, though he found this evening's trip out exhausting and slunk off to his room as soon as we arrived home.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-02 01:13:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, it's certainly understandable - and as the wife of a Councilwizard, I know too well how the demands of the state can interfere with a perfect evening's plans. If you do decide to join us, however, you're welcome, even if it's only as a break to get you out of the office for an hour or two.

Still, on the other hand it's a good thing, isn't it? (You don't have to answer that, dear boy. I'm not asking you to betray strategic secrets!)




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-05-02 01:09:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Speaking for myself, then. Barty's right, of course, and you: I should come.

What time would you prefer I arrived?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-02 01:15:29](#)  
(no subject)

Good.

Neither of us will be home before five, but you're welcome to come when you like.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-02 01:22:41](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-02 02:00:55](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and, cousin? I should have thanked you when I saw you this afternoon. For the letter. It was

Thank you.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-02 02:11:43](#)  
(no subject)

Not at all. You ought to read it as the measure of how determined I am to raise a smile from you. This mood of yours is really most injurious.

**[2010-05-01 22:03:00](#)**

*Order Only: Molly, Arthur*



I know you share my wish that I did not have to send you such frequent bulletins, and I'm afraid I don't have a great deal to tell you about Ginevra's condition. She reports having periodic episodes of distorted perception and loss of consciousness.

 [alt\\_poppy](#)

I've been back through my notes of her previous episode, and young Mr Thomas's report today is similar in nearly all details: her incoherent talk, loss of awareness of her surroundings, hints that she 'saw' things that were not physically present. She has exhibited no lapses of consciousness this afternoon or evening, so while I will keep her overnight, I was able to reassure her that I will not force her to keep vigil all night. (She was relieved but made no effort to hide that she'd hoped I would release her this evening, and I'm afraid I can't oblige.)

All of the tests I've performed so far have shown little of relevance; they show that she is tired, has been living with low-grade chronic stress, and that her diet is not as replete with vitamins as we would like (which, I'm afraid is down to the transfigured elements of our food stock here, not a sign that she refuses her vegetables or overindulges in sweets at the expense of more nutritious food). I've dosed her with VitaMite to address the dietary deficiencies, and I've run tests to determine that her alimentary system is in perfectly good shape, so it's not that her body is not absorbing nutrients correctly. Her circulation is good, her reflexes are normal, her balance and vision are fine. I've done what tests I know to evaluate the physical structures of her mind, and have consulted with St Mungo's, who urge us to wait and watch rather than transfer her there immediately. (I believe they are making a calculation that it is better to keep her in the school than to send her there while there is still any danger of exposing her to the so-called Scourge. I do wish they'd settled on a proper name for that; 'scourge' sounds so Medieval. Of course, the other thing they do call it is repugnant and will never pass my lips or quill.) They do recommend that we send her there for specialist care if there is any further sign of symptoms this term, and that you take her in for a consultation during the long vacation.

A further piece in the puzzle is, as Mr Thomas accurately reports, that her episodes have corresponded with the petrification attacks, but I have no idea what, if any, significance lies in this coincidence.



I know you've racked your memories for any precursors to these events. Do let me know if anything new occurs to you that might help us in our search for a cause.

---



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 03:32:22](#)**

*Petrifications*

I know that it's been said elsewhere. Miss Granger and Miss Clearwater were victims of Petrification today. I can assure you that they are as well as can be expected under the circumstances, and they are fortunate (if such a word can be used in this regard) that the wait for an antidote should not be much longer.

I wish I knew whether there would be any after effects of long term petrification. We--Pomona, Horace, several colleagues at St Mungo's, and I--hope there will not be any, but we won't know for certain until we administer the Potion.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-05-02 17:14:32](#)**

*Re: Petrifications*

how much longer till the potion is ready?

first Terry Boot, and now our Hermione. and Dennis too. it's the last thing those kids needed or deserved. they had enough to deal with, and it hacks me off something fierce to think on it.

right up that sick bastard Carrow's alley too. taking it out on people that couldn't fight back, just because he could.

the sooner they find out how it happened, and shut him away where he belongs, the better.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 18:42:46](#)**

*Re: Petrifications*

Pomona assures me that by the end of this month the Mandrakes will be ready for harvesting. The brewing itself should not take long at all.

I am going to miss having Miss Granger here to help me. (And the fact that she and Mr Boot are, in fact, right here where I must care for them makes it all the worse.) We'd reduced her hours at Mr Marvolo's request so he could escort her here and collect her again. He did appreciate the dangers to her in this castle, and I believe he will miss her intensely while she's in this state. I don't mean only because he will miss having her do for him, though I'm certain he will find his life less easy without her, but he does seem to view her as a bit more than merely a servant. Not a confidant, precisely, but a resource. I'm judging merely on what I observe and on what I am able to read between the lines in her conversations with me.

Are you keeping well, Frank? And safe?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-02 19:23:54](#)

*Re: Petrifications*

we're safe as houses here. we ran through evacuation protocol this morning, actually, and got the whole lot to our off-site safehouse in seven minutes flat -- could always be better, but it's not

bad.

we've made good enough use of our time waiting for the camps to reopen, and all the work we've been doing will pay off, which is a good feeling to have. the kids are handfuls especially this time of year, but I don't mind. part of being a kid is climbing the walls when it gets warm out.

I'd hang 'em by their toes if they tried to pull what Harry and them did last night, though. Not that I think any of them would, mind -- they've got a lot more at stake if they aren't careful, and don't they know it.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-02 19:29:14](#)

*Re: Petrifications*


that's good to hear about our Hermione, too. she said as much to me the other day, but it's good she wasn't putting anything on for our sakes.

I'd still rather she was with the school than him. I know how Sirius feels about Harry, hell, I was friendly enough with James

and Lily after they joined up, but he does seem to get into trouble and it puts her in greater danger than she'd be otherwise.

it's one thing for Ron Weasley, but at least he has a bit of choice in the matter.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-02 21:14:14](#)

*Re: Petrifications*

I suppose that is one consolation about what's happened to Miss Granger: she avoided being dragged along into this latest rash adventure of his. It's not a year ago yet that she was so very nearly sacrificed to his recklessness--and the price her family paid!

I do agree with you. I don't like that she's in service at all, but I especially worry about having her at the mercy of the whims and thoughtlessness of a mere boy. (And, yes, of course, I can imagine many worse masters for her, but that's not the point.)

I suppose that what I regret really is that we cannot have her in our care.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-02 21:23:55](#)

*Re: Petrifications*

she's a smart one, our Hermione, brave too, and she's handled herself well enough so far given the bludgers that've come her way.


but she shouldn't have to be in that position in the first place and it's a right shame.

have you given thought to what Remus said? about pretending that Terry Boot and Hermione don't pull through when it comes time to give em the potion, so they can come here instead?

might be tough with Hermione, given that there'd be some folks we wouldn't want looking too close, and they'd look pretty closely if something went pear shaped with her, and blame you for it too, which is the last thing we'd want. but Carrow seems

out of favour, so perhaps it wouldn't be quite as risky if we pulled it off with Terry.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-02 21:51:34](#)

*Re: Petrifications*

You've answered your own question, I believe. I don't see any chance of persuading Malfoy or the governors, let alone those who would be sent from St Mungo's that either, let alone both of them, died and left no corpse behind.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-02 22:31:58](#)

*Re: Petrifications*

pity.

wish we could do more.

wish that pretty much every day, actually.

**2010-05-02 08:38:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



Alright Ron.


I've been very patient since you got back. Pansy told me a few things (Carrow saying something about the Forbidden Forest, and spiders, giant spiders, and a muggle car) but it was hard to speak privately stuck in our house and anyway, I want your version too.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

WHAT HAPPENED? Why did you go running off into the Forbidden Forest because of something CARROW said?

---



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-02 18:57:09**  
(no subject)

Yeah. We were there in Carrow's office, y'know. Well, we'd just got the door open and it set off an alarm, right? So we figured we were dead. But then all of a sudden MarHarry's head popped out from undwhere they were hiding 'cause it turns out he and Malfoy were there, too. So they budged up and let us hide with them.

And just in time, too, because Carrow came crashing in right then. I was just barely out of sight. And actually, come to think of it, he probably saw me.

But he didn't have time to do anything about it, 'cause right behind him was Mr Malfoy and Minister Fudge and some really scary blokes that Harry reckons were Hit Wizards or Enforcers at MLE or something. And they arrested him right there in front of us, and he was furious and said Malfoy and Fudge didn't have the right kind of loyalty or weren't really doing His business, meddling in the great mysteries of I dunno, he wanted to say a load of stuff, but they cut him off. And then right before they were going to take him out, he turned around halfway and said something about his rats and then said 'If anyone wanted to figure out what's really happening here, they'd follow the spiders.' It was a bit like he meant they were pulling the wrong end of the stick, arresting him. Like it wasn't him at all but someone using the spiders to do bad stuff. And, y'know, once they'd all gone and we could come out. We all just looked at each other and

thought, well yeah. The spiders. Every time somebody's got attacked, the spiders have acted completely queer and then they all leave. Like they were sent here out of the Forest and then they go back.

So, yeah. Then we slipped out and went out there.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-02 20:17:45](#)  
(no subject)

GIANT SPIDERS.

There are GIANT SPIDERS in the Forbidden Forest.

I still want to go there but I'm definitely taking a Gryffindor with me, preferably one I don't much like who runs more slowly than I do (Finnigan would do, I reckon I could outrun him if I really wanted).




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 20:32:42](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, there were spiders. Didn't Pansy tell you that part? They were horrible. Big as houses, y'know, but with bloody great tree trunks for legs. And hairy.

with pincers


and eyes



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-03 02:49:26](#)  
(no subject)

Blimey. Hope you won't have nightmares tonight. The last time you had 'em, it was about spiders, wasn't it? I know you hate them.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-03 03:25:36](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, mate.

Yeah.

Not that I have nightmares a lot, y'know. Only, when I do, it's pretty much always spiders.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-02 20:34:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Well. You could take Lavender.


She could shout limericks at them and pelt them with ink pots while you run away.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-02 20:57:07](#)**  
(no subject)

For that I'd need Lav-possessed-by-Peeves and I don't think she'll make that mistake again.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-02 21:21:42](#)**  
(no subject)

You don't know: she might do. She's not really all that clever.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-03 03:27:50](#)**  
(no subject)

No, you're right. She rather thoroughly lives up to what they say about Gryffindors, actually.

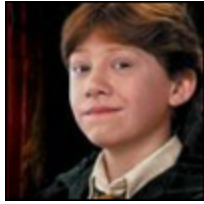



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-03 03:29:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Which of course is **TOTALLY UNFAIR** to you and Neville; no one would ever, ever say that either of you have more guts than sense.

I mean, unless they were thinking about you running off into the Forbidden Forest because Carrow suggested it! (And yes yes yes it was ALL Harry's idea not yours but of course, he was originally sorted into Gryffindor and I'd say this sort of thing shows why!)



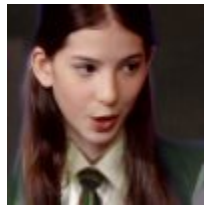


 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-03 03:32:32](#)**  
(no subject)

You know, I really shouldn't tell you any more about what happened.

Since you OBVIOUSLY don't approve and don't find it exciting AT ALL, and don't wish you could have DONE IT YOURSELF.

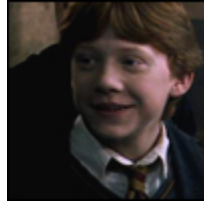
Slytherins.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-03 03:34:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Well maybe you can just count me out the next time you need someone to DISTRACT THE PREFECTS for you, Mr Brave Excitement-Seeking Forest-Exploring Almost-Spider-Dinner


Gryffindor.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-03 04:25:47](#)**  
(no subject)


Heh.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-03 02:50:02](#)**  
(no subject)

She had pretty good aim with 'em, didn't she? The ink pots, anyway.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-03 03:23:19](#)**  
(no subject)

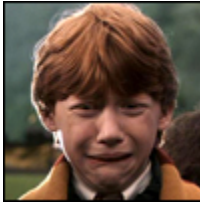
Yeah. You can say that again.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-02 20:18:59](#)  
(no subject)

Did you spend the whole day talking to the spiders?  
You were gone a LONG time.

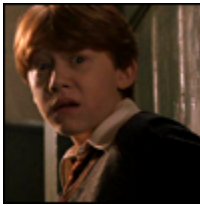



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 20:43:20](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah. It took a long time to get out there. I  
mean, we were following this whole herd of

of spiders all through the forest. And they didn't  
exactly care about following the paths, y'know, cause they can just  
scurry up a tree trunk to get round something in the way or just  
hurtle under or over stuff. Merlin, there were thousands of them. I  
mean, you couldn't see where the line started or ended and they  
just kept coming and it was just thick with them, y'know. All  
rushing over each other and

and us



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-03 03:22:48](#)  
(no subject)

I can't believe you're making me tell you this. It  
was horrible. I couldn't sleep last night because I  
kept feeling them on me. Ugghhhhhhh.

Anywiz, yeah, so it took a long time to get to where they were all  
going. And then, um.

Okay. Harry said not to tell some of this stuff, so you've got to tell  
me if you want to know it if it means keeping it secret from him  
and Malfoy and Pansy that I told you.

And the rest of you lot had better not tell either, but it's Sally  
Anne's call cause she has to see them all the time and not let on  
some of this stuff.

So. Do you want me to tell you the whole thing?




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-05-03 03:26:23](#)  
(no subject)

Well

How secret is it?

I mean is it a secret because it's embarrassing to Pansy? Because if that's what it is, don't tell me.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-05-03 04:12:02](#)  
(no subject)

No. Y'know, Pansy was really brave about the whole thing. I mean, Malfoy was completely wet about even going out there. Like he thought the forest might hurt him just taking the first step in.


Oh, he tried pretending that he thought it was just a daft idea to go in there, but you could totally see he was scared squib about it. His hands were shaking, and he kept looking around behind him all the time, like something was about to attack him. And there almost was--Pansy and me, because we were behind him and he kept stopping all of a sudden so we kept running into him. It was ridiculous, really.

But, um, okay. I was totally as scared as he was when the big spiders started crawling out of holes and dropping down out of their gigantic webs in the trees and--

So, no. It's nothing bad about Pansy at all.

The thing is, it wasn't just spiders we met out there.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-05-03 04:13:14](#)  
(no subject)

And it wasn't just because of the car that we got away, though that helped a lot because at the end, they were going to eat us anyway even though he said not to and their king said they

shouldn't. A bunch of them said, 'it's not everyday we get to eat wizards,' and they would've, too, except for the Ford roaring in just then.

But the really big thing, heh, yeah, Big. There was this giant out there, living with the spiders. Or anywiz, he was there, talking with them. He said his name but I didn't really catch it and, anyway, he had a kind of, well, common accent and so it was hard to tell what he was saying some of the time. But his name was something like Harkrim or Harmrid or I dunno. Something like that.

Anywiz, he knew we were from Hogwarts. Said he used to be a student here and then he worked here, too. Until the war and all. And he knew the Headmistress. And when he found out who Harry was, he knew all about him. Except he knew his other name, and knew all about his parents and how they died. And he told Harry how he'd gone that night his parents got killed and tried to save Harry, but the Protector had taken him. Except he called Him 'You Know Who', and none them knew what he meant except for me because sometimes my parents call him that, the Protector. And so I had to tell them it was something people called him before he was Protector--people who were afraid of him, I guess. Oh. And then he figured out who I was, cause I'm ginger, I guess. Anywiz, he knew my parents and he said they're the nicest people in the whole-- said he liked them. And he said it made perfect sense that we'd be friends, Harry and me, because our parents knew each other and were all friends with the same people. But then he guessed who Malfoy was, too, and you should've heard what he had to say about Mr Malfoy! It would've been hilarious, except it made Harry cross, and he started asking why he should believe anything this giant said.

And so then he calmed down, Harkerd did, and he told Harry some stuff about his parents and what good people they were, and how they fought against You Know Who and wanted the Ministry to be fair to everyone, not just give everything to purebloods. And he said he was friends with Sirius Black, and that it was Black's motorcycle that he flew the night he tried to save Harry. And then he started crying about how he found their house all ruined and his parents, y'know, and Harry was gone cause he'd been taken away by You Know Who. And he'd had to go back and tell Dumbledore--oh, yeah. D'you know about Albus Dumbledore? My parents used to talk about him some, too. I guess he was a really important wizard and also the Headmaster

here. Anywiz, he said it was Dumbledore who wanted to save Harry and that he'd meant to have Sirius Black raise him because he's Harry's godfather.

And I think he wanted Harry to see that he's not the Protector's son, and he was pretty surprised Harry already knew that and was still living with him and all. And he was trying to tell Harry some of the really terrible stuff the Protector's done, but Malfoy told him he'd better stop saying that stuff and Harry told him to stop, too, even though he'd really wanted to hear what Harkrim could tell him about his parents and their friends and all.

I dunno. There might've been more than that, but I can't remember all of it. He was a talker, that giant bloke.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-03 04:34:18](#)  
(no subject)


There was a giant who was a student here? and then worked here? and was friends with Harry's real parents and your parents?

Was he REALLY a giant or just really tall? I thought giants were supposed to be pretty stupid, like trolls but bigger.

Why didn't the spiders eat him?

Dumbledore I've heard of. I looked up the old annuals last year to see pictures of my parents, and of course he was headmaster back then and his picture was in the annuals. Did you know he used to be on Chocolate Frog cards?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-03 04:47:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I dunno. He was big. Like three times bigger than me? or maybe four times. But he was normal, y'know, brain-wise. A little excitable, but normal.

And the king spider or whatever. He was the giant bloke's friend. Said they went way back to when he was a student. And, oh! That was something else. So when we asked why Professor Carrow would've said to follow the spiders, they had

no idea. The giant knew about Carrow and said he was a Death Eater, said he was the worst of the worst. And Harry asked him if he knew anything about the Chamber of Secrets, and he just sort of stopped and his mouth dropped open. He didn't want to really say much about that, I guess. Except when we said it was happening again and we thought it was Carrow doing it, he said that couldn't be right because he wasn't even at school when it happened. The first time, he meant. And Harry asked him if he meant he had been. The giant, I mean. And he said, yeah. He had. And Carrow didn't start school till later. So we were talking about it, and I guess Carrow could just have got the idea from that first time if he'd heard about it, and he could just have been copying it to throw everybody off suspecting him.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-03 04:59:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, if you want to look him up, you'll have to do it -- if I looked him up Pansy would want to know why.

I don't see why Carrow would have to have been around the first time. But if you looked up the annuals you could maybe look through the students and see who else was there, you know, at the same time.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-03 13:45:07](#)**  
(no subject)

And, oh. About the frog cards. Yeah, I've seen Dumbledore's card. My brother Charlie's got a full set from back when he was little. And I think someone gave him the Dumbledore card, but anywiz, he's got it. He reckons it might be valuable someday, but I think it makes Mum nervous he's got it just in case anyone ever finds out he does, y'know. They might think he was in league with Sirius Black or something.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-03 04:40:14](#)  
(no subject)

Also, if you wanted to work out the giant's name you could look in the annuals. I expect his picture would be easy to spot. You might have to look in a lot of them, though, unless you know when it was he went to school.

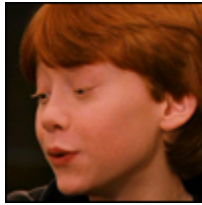



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-03 03:33:14](#)  
(no subject)

Also, here's something else I'd like to know:

Of you, Pansy, Draco, and Harry, who was saying 'yeah! let's go into the forest and see about spiders!' and who was saying 'are you mad, it's forbidden for a reason; let's go back to our common rooms and tell our mates Carrow's been arrested!'

I mean Draco's saying it was all because YOU wanted to go into the forest and Harry's saying it was all because HE wanted to go into the forest and Pansy's actually been rather cagey about that bit, but we've barely been out of sight of a prefect all day and it's hard when you know you might be overheard.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-03 04:23:25](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well. I wasn't too keen on the part where it was spiders we were following, but I totally thought we ought to go see what he was on about. And it made sense that all those spiders had something to do with it. I mean, every time there's been somebody attacked, there they go again, don't they?

And Pansy agreed. Because we all agreed that there was something Carrow'd been hiding. And if it had to do with the spiders, then we should find out about it. And when else were we going to get to go. That was Pansy's point. That we should go right then, while everyone was someplace else and we could just go cause no one would see us.

But I actually don't know whether we'd have gone, if it'd been just Pansy and me. Cause, for one thing, we knew you'd want to kill us if we did. And we'd have wanted to do it when you could come. But it was also that Harry had his has got really good at duelling and his wand works where, y'know. Pansy said she felt better going in there with somebody else who could use their wand and know what it would do. So, yeah. So, we probably wouldn't have if it hadn't been for how much ~~Ma~~ Harry wanted to.

The only thing Malfoy told the truth about is how hard he tried to talk Harry out of going.

**2010-05-02 09:49:00**

*Order Only: Nope.*

Not safe. Nigel ID no good.

Can't take time for proper entry.

Gregoire (nearest neighbour) dead.

BUGGER.

More later.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-02 15:07:22](#)  
(no subject)

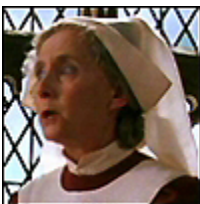
If there is anything that may be done -?




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-02 15:21:59](#)  
(no subject)

Good God.

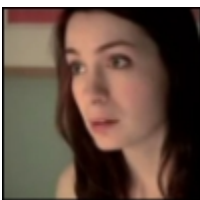
Please be careful.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:17:12](#)  
(no subject)

I know you are keeping your wits about you.

Carry on.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-02 16:42:05](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for checking in, love.

Please stay safe.





 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-02 23:59:04](#)  
(no subject)

Sun's going down; I think I can risk a few minutes to bring you all up to speed.

Whenever I'm coming back to my place, I always check in with Gregoire first. But the minute I approached I could tell something was wrong. The door was unlocked and Gregoire had obviously been in some kind of firefight. Hex marks and broken furniture everywhere. I couldn't tell if they'd bothered to raise a Dark Mark over the house, but Gregoire was in the back of his house. He'd been dead for a while.

I got out quickly and skirted my own place as Padfoot. I figured I'd take Frank's advice, grab the essentials and check them for tracking spells. Nothing was obviously disturbed - my locking charm was still in place, even. But I think they must have Apparated in and out, instead, because the moment I changed form, I saw that they'd been there. Subtle things - nothing obvious to anyone who hasn't left things just so - but they'd definitely been in the house.

Well, I risked five minutes to gather up a few items. And before I could even stuff my rucksack, I saw someone outside. Then I heard someone else in the house.

I Apparated into Monte Carlo, into a queue outside a club I know there. Merlin, I've not Apparated in a long time. I wound up using my two minutes to throw up in the alley - but at least I remembered to take the left alley, Frank! - and by then I didn't have a choice about disabling the tracking charms. I ran as best I could to the train station.

I changed back into Padfoot to hop onto a boxcar heading north. Once on board I tried to deal with the charms. But before I could, they found me. I Apparated away again (not easy, Apparating off something moving) to a farm nearby, nothing too far since I didn't want to lose the advantage by being sick again.

I hid in the farmhouse and dealt with one of the charms before they caught up again. I'm fairly certain I Stupefied one of them at that point - there were about four, by the way - but I got hit with a burning hex on my arm and nearly lost my wand. I fired off a few spells to give myself cover, then took off on foot into the fields. Once


I was out of sight, I changed to Padfoot again, but I knew by now that the charms stayed active even while my possessions were concealed in Animagus form. As soon as I came to come credible cover, I changed back, ran a check and found two more charms. I just dumped the items - no time to do anything else - and changed again. I found an obliging barn to sleep in for the rest of the night.

Then I wrote the above, and took off again. I didn't want to give them any chance to find me.

I dunno. I think I've shaken them, but we'll see. I'm going to follow the main road to figure out exactly where I am - I think I'm near Lyon but I'm not certain - and to test whether they're still on my tail.

Also to rest. I haven't done this much running as Padfoot in a long time. And Apparating twice in one night? I could crawl into bed for three days after that.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-03 00:19:16](#)  
(no subject)

good job, mate, that was no easy thing. couldn't have done it better myself. course, you had a few tricks up your sleeve they didn't know you could do. the hardest part's done. you'll be fine long as you still keep your head about you.

don't go to a large hotel. they'll have your picture passed out to all the big places, and your description is probably out on the local wireless too, so keep a sharp eye out. best to avoid hotels in general, unless you've got a disguise you're sure about. if there's a reward, doesn't matter what someone's politics are, they'll turn you in. so don't assume anyone's a friend unless you really trust em.

al and me had camping gear -- don't suppose you could go that route? got enough spare cash to get a decent tent with a nice feather bed, and some food? it wouldn't matter if the shopkeeper recognized you even -- you'd be in and out, and all they'd know was that you'd be in the countryside somewhere -- which is an awful large place to look, and near impossible to find you if you've got your wand on you. if you get enough food and don't mind the isolation, you can heal up, hide out for weeks if you want until it


calms down enough.

it's a thought.

are you sure they didn't see you change?

and it's your wand arm, is it? that's not ideal, but burns'll heal up.  
hope it doesn't slow you down too much when you're padfoot.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-03 00:24:29](#)

*(no subject)*

I agree with Frank, my love, sleep and food and a chance to tend to your arm in a truly safe place will serve you best now that the initial chase is over.

Let the trail get cold, and make sure you're rested up for another go-round. It's when you're tired that you're the most likely to make silly mistakes that cost you.

I wish you could just come here, and have that be your safe place. I'll be thinking of you tonight.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-03 01:38:49](#)

*(no subject)*

Sirius. I didn't realise your trouble with Apparition was so debilitating or I'd have mentioned this before. There is a remedy for this ailment, a mixture of hawthorn flowers and leaves with ginger (and several less important ingredients); it is commonly prepared either as a tincture you could apply to your wrists and the skin behind your ears, as a lozenge to be held in the mouth and dissolved beneath your tongue, or in its mildest form as a decoction to be brewed fresh and drunk as needed.

You should not, however, count on walking into an apothecary's and finding any of these preparations ready made. It is not commonly kept in stock because it is specific to this use, and, as you must realise, your condition is quite rare.

What you need, however, is merely the two main ingredients. Do you know a hawthorn bush when you see one? They should be in

bloom just now and my sources tell me France is full of common hawthorn, so you should almost certainly be able to find it along the roadsides or in the fields. Its blooms are white with five petals and they appear in clusters; the deep green leaves are deeply lobed and reminiscent of oak leaves; the bark is a dull brown with orange cracks that run vertically along the trunk. What you want is flowers and leaves, and if the birds left any of last season's haws (they're bright red and quite tasty, so it's unlikely), collect those, too.


A bit more difficult will be to find a piece of ginger root, but it is commonly available for sale, and you could probably appropriate a chunk from someone's cupboards--I should think a fair few French kitchens keep a bit on hand.

Once you gather these two things, brew a tea from the hawthorn. Given the severity of your symptoms, I would not recommend brewing the ginger into the tea (though ginger tea is an excellent stomach settler). Instead, you ought to cut a thin slice of the ginger and chew or suck on it while the hawthorn tea brews. This will take some getting used to: ginger is a hot plant, and it will require steeling yourself to keep it in your mouth long enough to get the benefit; hawthorn also has a warming sensation, and it tends to have a sweet and sour flavour.

One warning: The scent of the combined ingredients is distinctive, and I imagine that Aurors may have training to recognise such scents. Should your trackers find evidence of what you've consumed or smell its presence at a scene you've vacated, they will quite likely deduce your difficulty with Apparition.


I needn't tell you that this knowledge could give them a terrible advantage.



 **alt\_molly** at [2010-05-03 13:09:37](#)  
(no subject)


So very glad you made good your escape.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-05-03 13:10:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, indeed. Well done.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-05-03 13:13:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Ouch. Narrow escape.

Well, if your Nigel identity is useless now, you'll need another, that's clear. Do you have the parchmentwork in place to establish yourself as someone else? My forgers can run something up; the problem would be getting the documents to you. I'm not sure if you want to risk owls right now. But do let me know if you think this would be some practical help.



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-05-03 13:15:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I hope you took one or two out for all your trouble, my friend.

**2010-05-02 11:01:00**

*I hate being in discrase.*

That's what Father said anyway in his owl this morning.



What I want to know is has there been anyone who didn't want to see the Forbidden Forest?

 [alt\\_harry](#)

And Father also tells me I have to take care of my things. Hermione counts. It seems like it's mean to punish me for that. But it isn't very Sly is it.

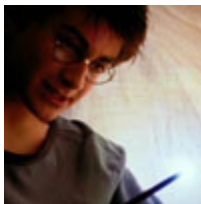


 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-05-02 15:10:43**

*(no subject)*

I'm sorry about your mudblood, Harry. Sorry I wasn't able to write anything yesterday, but we were, well. We were really busy.

Why did you go in the Forest? What happened?




 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-05-02 15:28:10**

*(no subject)*

Well, we overheard something about the spiders all over the castle and that they had to do with the attacks. So then we went and followed them. They went into the forest. It was me and Draco and Pansy and Ron Weasley. Only then there were lots of huge spiders, and Ron's really scared of spiders. So we all thought we were going to die. The big spider talked to us and everything. I suppose we spent a long time talking to him. But then the CAR came and flew us away!! The one we came to school in!! I guess that the Forbidden Forest made it grow a brain. So we didn't get eaten. Only when we finally got back, all the professors were really angry. So like I said now I'm in disgrace and so is everybody else.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:30:55](#)**  
(no subject)

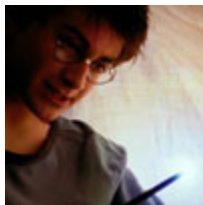
Wait.


You went into the Forest to hunt spiders? With WEASLEY???

But I don't understand. I thought the Ministry arrested Mr Carrow. So why did you go into the Forest in the first place, anyway?

And then you almost got KILLED. Marvolo, you are having us all on.

What really happened?




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:34:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I don't know. I thought Carrow did it but I'm not so sure. Maybe they had the wrong person. Anyway, while they arrested him he yelled about following the spiders. And so we did. I mean it seemed like maybe he had an acomplise.

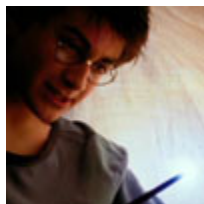
We're not having you on. Ask Pansy or Draco or Ron Weasley!




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:35:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, wait a minute, why were you there when they arrested Carrow?


Did Mr Malfoy let you come so you could see it?



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:36:15](#)**  
(no subject)

No, he didn't. I was sneaking around. Nobody really notices you if you scrunch way down low and hide good.



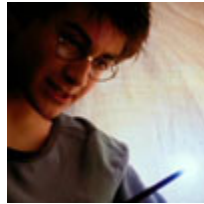
 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-02 15:41:37](#)  
(no subject)


Harry Marvolo, you should know better! You just can't go running off into places with people and monsters that will get you KILLED!! What do you think you're doing?

I don't blame your father for being really really angry at you. You probably worried a lot of people and it wasn't just your own danger, it was Malfoy's and Parkinson's. And even Weasley's.

You just CAN'T do that kind of thing. What if Professor Carrow was just sending you out to die? What if that horrid muggle car hadn't come to save you.


Besides, TALKING SPIDERS? Good grief.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 15:46:31](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, Mum!




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-02 15:48:24](#)  
(no subject)

I DON'T CARE IF I DO SOUND LIKE YOUR MUM!

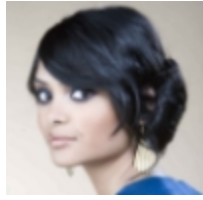
YOU CAN'T GO RUNNING INTO PLACES WHERE YOU'LL GET KILLED!!!!




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:34:08](#)  
(no subject)

Patil Padma, we're not killed, really, I promise. And it was a completely idiot thing to do.






 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-02 19:59:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you better not get killed, Draco. Because you don't want to be dead. Trust me, you really, really don't.


I know you know it, too, because of the things you said after your mudblood died. But maybe you need people to remind you once in a while, so you don't forget and go do something daft.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:41:25](#)**  
(no subject)

He's telling the truth.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-02 15:42:23](#)**  
(no subject)

And you WENT OUT THERE?

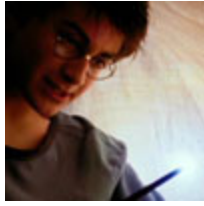
You're all mad.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:14:41](#)**  
(no subject)

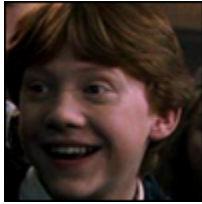
I didn't really want to go into the Forest, because it seemed like it obviously was some kind of trap - which it WAS, I should add - but Harry thought it was important. Which it also was, I think. At least, the giant..  
the giant spiders, they're important somehow.


It's rather touching, though, to see that you're so worried on our behalf.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 15:49:23](#)  
(no subject)


It was pretty wizard, wasn't it?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 15:52:25](#)  
(no subject)

It was totally wizard!




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 15:53:12](#)  
(no subject)

Even the part where you got scared?

You were definitely the best driver though.

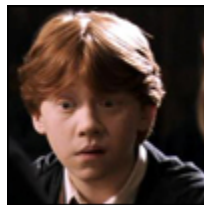



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 15:59:00](#)  
(no subject)

Well.

The spiders not so much.

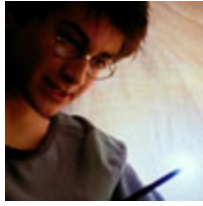
But yeah!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 16:08:35](#)  
(no subject)

You'd be scared of spiders, too, if you'd grown up with the twins torturing you.


Yeah. It's too bad about the car. I mean, flying it is really wizard.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 16:09:56](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't know that things could grow a brain all on their own, though. Well I suppose not really a brain, where would it go? But it came alive anyway.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 16:21:09](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, my dad always says that you should never trust a magical thing if you can't tell where it keeps its brains.

But I always thought he was sort of joking. Not about being careful with magical stuff, but about their having brains.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:22:49](#)  
(no subject)

It seemed to be nice enough, though.

It remembered you and Harry, after all!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:24:50](#)  
(no subject)

You got off some pretty good shots while we were getting away.


I guess that duelling club is really paying off!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:16:23](#)  
(no subject)


Not really. If we'd just had our brooms we could have escaped much more quickly, without needing that idiot car.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 16:19:59](#)  
(no subject)

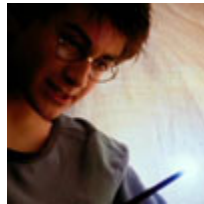
I suppose. Only, I mean, the spiders were pretty fantastic. We'll never see one of those in Care of Magical Creatures!




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:24:20](#)  
(no subject)

Of course not! They'd make the floor all slippery, on account of some people wetting their trousers in fear.


Do you think Professor Macnair knew about them? And the other ~~thing~~ thing out there?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-02 16:26:05](#)  
(no subject)


I don't think so! I mean if he did he'd have warned us about them, right?



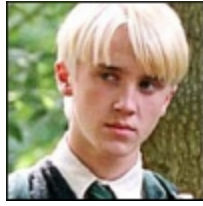
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:35:40](#)  
(no subject)

Well, he wasn't particularly interested in your safety, now, was he?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:26:18](#)  
(no subject)

Well, Professor *Carrow* knew. About the spiders, at least. And he wasn't even in charge of the grounds.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:28:42](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, which is why I told everyone that it was clearly a trap.

If Macnair knew I reckon he would have tried to set one on Harry last year.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:31:48](#)  
(no subject)


Ooo.

Can you imagine *trapping* one of those?

Well, if *we* could find them, I suppose he could've. But we had a trail, sort of, didn't we?

And I had the feeling the second part is hard to find unless it wants to be found.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 16:30:22](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

And he totally knew what he was doing, sending us out there. He was trying to get us killed. I mean, the more I think over what happened and what he said. Yeah.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:33:52](#)  
(no subject)

Well, so Draco *did* have a point, there.

But at least we got to find out what it *wasn't*.


Do you still think it was Carrow? That he's guilty, I mean?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 16:36:26](#)  
(no subject)


I hope so. And I hope they find out for sure now they've arrested him. I mean, they've got potions they can use to make him tell the truth, right? And spells, too. So we should know for sure. Soon, I hope.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 17:03:23](#)  
(no subject)


~~I also hope~~ I don't know, now.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-02 18:22:55](#)  
(no subject)

What do you mean? You don't think they'll find out if Carrow did it? Or you don't think he did do it?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:22:08](#)  
(no subject)

When it started talking, the giant spider, I just...  
it was *so* wizard.

I wonder if Professor Brutka knows they can do that?!?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-02 18:44:26](#)  
(no subject)

But you're all right?

That was extremely foolish, my son. I thought you promised Mother you would not go rushing off like that again. After last year's incident?


I think you know your Father is most vexed. I know you've explained your reasons, dear, and I've read Miss Parkinson's

justification, but you must understand how very foolish and dangerous your excursion was, regardless of why you thought it necessary.

Your professors are there to help ensure all your safety, son. You cannot disregard them simply because you take a notion, certainly not in ways that are directly in the path of mortal peril.

But you *are* all right?




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 22:14:22](#)  
(no subject)

I'm very all right, Mother. I'm sorry to have worried you. I know what I promised, only I don't see how I can really get away with letting Harry run off without me into these dangerous

situations, either.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-02 16:14:46](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Marvolo.


Am I to understand that after the Minister himself apprehended Mr Carrow, you and my son *and* my god-daughter took it upon yourselves to ignore the instructions of your professors, evade those entrusted with your care and venture into an *expressly* proscribed and highly *dangerous* arena of the grounds? And that once there, you attempted to engage Acromantulae in large numbers?

Exactly what possessed you to decide that this was a wise course of action? Why did you not inform Professor Slughorn of your suspicions, unfounded as they were?

I detect in your faulty logic the influence of the fourth member of your party. I know that Pansy has placed her trust in him, but I had not known you shared her views. For Draco's part, I am sure I know why he felt it his obligation to accompany you, despite the peril. I have no doubt that Professor McGonagall has already addressed your transgressions - but that does not alter my extreme disappointment in you, Harry.






 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:18:24](#)  
(no subject)


I did try to talk him out of going into the forest, Father, but Weasley thought it a completely grand idea. Otherwise, I'm sure Harry wouldn't have been so rash.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:21:04](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, *honestly*.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-02 16:25:41](#)  
(no subject)

I did phrase it as honestly as I could, yes. Thank you for noticing.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-02 16:26:03](#)  
(no subject)

What do you mean, Miss Parkinson?

I see that Mr Marvolo is attempting to be noble. But if you have evidence to give on your behalf, kindly provide it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-02 16:30:06](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, Lucius.

It's true that Draco didn't want to go to the Forbidden Forest, and thought it a bad idea.


But he shouldn't put it all on Ron, is all.

Because even though it was Harry's idea to go in, we all came to the decision together that it would be dangerous if only one of



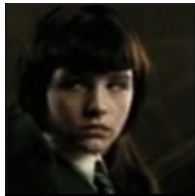
us went in by ~~him~~ ourselves, so we ought to do it all together if we were going to do it.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:32:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. Four unnecessarily dead children is *infinitely* preferable to one.


How inane of me not to see that.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:34:56](#)**  
(no subject)


I'm sorry, sir.



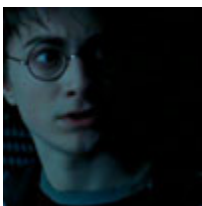
 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-02 17:04:05](#)**  
(no subject)


As am I. Sorry, that is.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:22:01](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Nice.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:20:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, sir.

It was really my idea. I mean, it wasn't Weasley's fault. He sort of just came along because he was

there.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-02 17:06:44](#)  
(no subject)

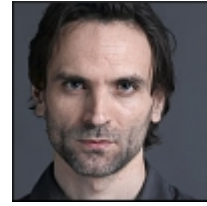
Harry, I appreciate your attempt to assume responsibility as the ring-leader of this incident. But it is precisely because of your status that you must be careful not to pressure others into something that sits poorly with their better judgement. I say again: Why did you not tell a *teacher* your concerns?

For that matter, how did you come to 'sneak around' to witness Carrow's arrest in the first place? Anyone listening to him could tell he was merely trying to throw us off the track.

This is a serious matter, Harry. I have never heard of any Acromantula giving quarter to human prey, much less *conversing* with it. You cannot afford to be so reckless with your safety and particularly not if it leads others to follow you.

**2010-05-02 11:34:00**

*Entry*



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#)

- Quite the rabble. First curious news is that of Amycus Carrow's arrest. News is incomplete on my end, since the Missus has been indisposed of late - on missions of which I dare not breathe a word - but if I am understanding, the thought here is that Carrow went so far as to render his own mudblood, and others', as completely un-usable? I do find that logic hard to follow. Say what you will, but the man has dedicated much time to discovering an array of uses for that end of the populace.

- Head Girl Sandoval: I have completed my analysis of Item #702, also known as your earrings. With Owls back in the air I will have the official report off soon, but as it's very official indeed, allow me to translate by telling you here that your earrings were adorned by a male who injected polyjuice potion in order to transform himself into a female: into you, specifically. I shall leave it to you to speculate on who would want to do such a thing, and why. The earrings are now perfectly safe to wear, however, and very pretty baubles they are.

- Duckie, you should have got an Owl by now. Make sure that the surprise I tucked into the envelope lasts a few days, but know that there's more where that came from. As soon as we're allowed to send parcels you'll get a load of sweets to rival that of the hamper your Auntie Narcissa sends to Draco. That way, he won't have to worry about you nicking all the nicest things to satisfy your sugar tooth.

- Boys still get up to as much trouble as ever, I see. Is this what I have to look forward to when my youngest is near to thirteen? I suppose so. Best to have a stiff drink now.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-02 18:14:54**

*(no subject)*

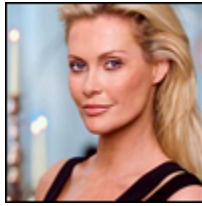
You'll find much depends on the company your son will decide to keep.


It's such a relief that Hydra is so rarely a worry.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-02 22:17:49](#)  
(no subject)

She's good at keeping company with herself, having been an only child for so many years. But I'm beginning to think that she doesn't miss her Father one little bit; yet then I imagine the castle and chums and schoolwork are more exciting by leagues.

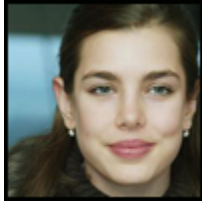



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-02 22:20:27](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure that's not at all true and she misses you terribly.

Our Hydra is simply very stoic.

How is my nephew, then? Still an angel? Or as he nears the one-year mark has he finally discovered that crying can be a tool for his benefit?



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-02 18:30:34](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you very much for taking time with such a minor case as mine. The results, I confess, are a bit disturbing. I've really no idea what to make of the notion of someone's having transformed himself into me. Let alone that it should have been a boy (or, oh)--

I know your time is valuable, and I'm very grateful for your help.

Lana

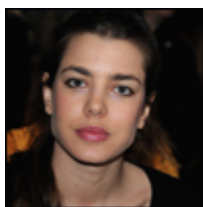



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-02 22:20:14](#)  
(no subject)

Being Head Girl does have privileges one might want access to, but then why not transform into your male counterpart, instead?

But I shouldn't carry down this road of thought; if you are half the

aspiring Auror I think you'll be, I'm sure you'll ascertain the truth, one way or another.




 **alt\_lana** at [2010-05-02 23:05:06](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. That's the sticking point. I suppose that of the two obvious explanations, it's most likely that there was some particular advantage to be gained by impersonating me rather than Moran. I've had time now to combine your evidence with my recollections of the night I was assaulted, and the circumstances suggest a hypothesis or two.

Certainly, I feel considerably closer to the truth of the matter than I did before.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-02 21:05:25](#)  
(no subject)

One hardly knows. I confess I was in the midst of composing a precis of the week-end's events, but learning of this latest escapade of young Marvolo's, an episode into which he insisted on dragging both Draco and Miss Parkinson, has sent me to other tasks, until I can learn more from the Headmistress regarding the details. I trust her ability to mete suitable punishment, but what concerns me is that they seem not to learn from one year to the next how to avoid putting themselves in the thick of danger - particularly when, in this case, it seems wholly pointless that they should do so.

As for Carrow, there has been mounting evidence that the man is unhinged. We believe the rumours of the Chamber and the attack on his own mudblood to have been early attempts on his part to direct suspicion elsewhere. But as the incidents have progressed, it has seemed more clear that his petty obsession with vengeance - while leading on the one hand to admittedly valuable research - has prompted him to disrupt the school's routine through these nonsensical acts. Of course, his precise reasons will not be known until the MLE ~~extract~~ procure his confession.

But for the moment, there should be no reason why any student at Hogwarts ought to feel compelled to disregard professors and prefects to dash out of bounds in a misguided attempt at playing detective.




 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-05-02 22:25:19](#)**  
(no subject)

He always did have a flair for experimentation, of a kind. Perhaps this is tied in with that particular predilection. With impulses like that, he should be better suited to some position of import at the camps, I would think. Thought naturally, it's not for me to say. Which is why it is good that I only write.

Sounds as if you could use a stiff drink, too.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-02 22:34:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I will not deny that his skills are of benefit to young minds, and that for this reason he has maintained his position for years with no real cause for complaint. However, I do believe his natural disposition has caused incremental damage to his ability to maintain suitably professional conduct. It is, I believe, something that has grown more noticeable in recent months. But I have long maintained that the camps or pure research are where he would have prospered; it may yet be that he will be commuted to such a position, if Our Lord wills it.

And yes: An occasion for fortification, if ever I have seen one.

**2010-05-02 11:50:00**

*Order only: fifteen years off my life.*

Normally, Molly, I would tell you that your son was a troublemaker, but in this case I believe it was the Marvolo boy's fault entirely.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)

Yesterday afternoon I was quite busy with the MLE and it took several hours for anyone to realise that four of our students were missing: Ron Weasley, Draco Malfoy, Pansy Parkinson and Harry Marvolo. Of course, I turned the castle upside down looking for them; just at the moment that I began to suspect that they were not on the grounds, they returned, riding in that ridiculous contraption!

It seems that they had somehow got it into their heads that the spiders in the Forbidden Forest had something to do with the Petrifications, so they decided to reconnoiter themselves rather than involving any adults. Of course, they quickly discovered that the spiders are the primary reason why the Forest is Forbidden. I gather that they had quite a scare, and were almost certainly were in very real danger of being eaten - but fortunately, the automobile has taken on a life of its own, I suppose as a result of the intense magical energies of the Forest itself. It seems to have some kind of protective instinct, and it saved them from the spiders.


In any case, I was quite glad that I had chosen to keep the matter silent, for it would have been truly terrible for the Lord Protector to have seen it unfold throughout the evening. As it was, I was able to mitigate the worst of it, make it seem like merely a childish adventure. He is still quite angry, of course, but primarily with young Harry - and I cannot say I regret that!

Of course, I sent the children to bed without their journals. It isn't right for them to brag about such flagrant rule-breaking. They have lost more House points than they could ever hope to earn back; Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff have quite the shot this year. But I do see that Marvolo is describing his exploits gleefully - so perhaps they've not learned a thing.

Molly - a Howler would be perfectly appropriate, I think.

---




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-05-02 16:57:53](#)**  
(no subject)

why does spring seem to always make everyone nutters?

sorry, Min.

seems like it could've been a good deal worse, and that it'd have ended badly if he'd been alone. so at least there's that.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-03 02:34:56](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry I haven't answered more quickly, Minerva. But Arthur, Bill and I have spent a good part of the afternoon discussing what to do.

As a matter of fact, I had an inkling when I saw Ron's hand on my clock pointing to 'Mortal Peril' for a good part of an hour. Merlin, I swear my boys will be the death of me.

After some agonised discussion, and as much as I want to hand him his head, I've decided not to send him a public Howler. Don't worry-- I'll blister his skin off in a letter, but it will be a private one. And he'll be getting further punishment when he comes home for the summer. But he reacted so badly to the Howler I sent at the beginning of the year, over that last incident with the car. And as long as young Harry is prepared to take the blame, we're not eager to draw any more public attention to Ron's misdeeds, particularly where Lucius Malfoy is reading.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-05-03 02:38:26](#)**  
(no subject)

I was never this bad, was I, Mum?






 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-03 02:41:10](#)  
(no subject)


Don't be silly, dear. You gave me quite as many grey hairs in entirely other ways. I'm sure you don't want me repeating that story about that business with the staff table, the cauldron, the ax and the bowl of trifle. Halloween Feast, wasn't it?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-03 02:41:53](#)  
(no subject)


Bloody hell, I was counting on you forgetting all about that.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-03 02:42:07](#)  
(no subject)

A Mum never forgets.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-03 02:36:54](#)  
(no subject)

Harry went into the Forbidden Forest? ~~Good on him~~  
Yeah, somehow I'm not surprised. The, er, the spiders weren't as bad when we were there. Particularly the last couple of years.

Did they - I mean, not for nothing, but Malfoy's brat was with him, so, is there any worry they met anyone *else* in there, who'd rather have remained hidden? And if so, do you think they'll reveal that to anyone?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-03 14:09:26](#)  
(no subject)

It had not even occurred to me - another concern.

**2010-05-02 13:26:00**

*(no subject)*

Now what d'you make o that?

What, indeed?



 **alt\_wagstaff**

[2010-05-03 18:11:00](#)

### *Letter deliveries*



 [alt\\_molly](#)

It was very exciting to receive the first letters from Hogwarts in so long. Several of Ron's friends agreed that if any of their numbers for a school owl came up, they would send their letters in a packet to me, and I would take care of delivering them. So today I stopped at several homes to drop off the letters, and I want to assure you that all of them were delivered.

First, I took the letter that Ron's roommate Neville Longbottom wrote to his family. Neville, I had quite a nice chat with your Grandmother, as well as your sister Evelyn. (The village school she usually attends was suspended due to the sickness, but there are plans for lessons to reopen it sometime in the next week or two.) I have letters from them both that I include in my next packet I'll send via Errol (unless Percy's Hermes shows up first, that is).

I also delivered Pansy Parkinson's letter to her mother. Pansy, your mother was exceedingly gracious and served me a lovely tea. She says she's glad that Pansy is feeling better. She is quite brimming with plans about her upcoming wedding--we chatted about the flowers she's ordered, the colours, and so forth. It sounds as though it will be quite a special affair. But I expect you'll hear all about that when you get home.

Finally, I stopped to pass along Sally-Anne Perks' letters, to both her foster parents and another to her foster sister. Sally-Anne, Gemma was thrilled to receive your note. I believe it was even more exciting because of the novelty of having an actual person deliver it, rather than an owl! You truly did make her entire week and she was so very touched that you thought of her. Mrs Stretton very kindly gave me some of her jam as a thank you to me for stopping by with the letter.

Thank you, Ron, for your long letter as well. (Your penmanship has certainly improved in the past year. I took out one of your notes from last year to compare, and there is quite a noticeable difference.)


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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-04 02:36:11](#)  
(no subject)


Thank you very much, Mrs Weasley.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-04 03:40:37](#)  
(no subject)

You're more than welcome, dear. As I said, all the recipients were very glad to hear from you.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-04 03:49:27](#)  
*Order Only*

Poor girl. I do wish I could give her a clearer message than that. She had included a letter to her parents, too, and I delivered that as well.

They were certainly more appreciative than the Strettons! The daughter, Gemma, was glad to hear from her at least, just as I said, but it was clear that the parents hadn't given the child so much as a passing a thought in months. Why, they had difficulty even remembering who she was! They were even a bit testy with me, wondering what business I had delivering mail to them--until their daughter's reaction shamed them a bit, I think. I had the distinct impression the jam they pressed upon me to take was rather a guilt offering.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-04 03:28:32](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks a lot, Mrs Weasley.

I know it must've been a little weird, taking a letter to my mum when you'd never been properly introduced before, and we've only really met the one time last summer. But it was really nice of you to do that for me, and it meant a lot that I could get a letter to her. I hope it wasn't too much of a bother.

And I'm glad you could meet her, and that ~~she was nice~~ you were able to talk some.


And I'm sorry we didn't ask you before, but we figured of everyone, you'd be the most okay with it, because of that nift trading network you do ~~and because you're the most depend~~. I know my mum would never

Well, it was awfully nice of you, and I'm glad she was able to get my letter.

So thanks.

Did she say anything about what happened the other day? In the Forest? Was she very cross?




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:39:56](#)**  
(no subject)

It wasn't a bother at all, dear. The boys will tell you that I'm a rather sociable person, and there's nothing I like to do better than sit down for a chat over a cup of tea. And I love receiving mail myself, so I'm happy to make sure that other parents get their mail from Hogwarts, too.

(She hadn't yet looked at the most recent journal entries, and so she didn't mention it at all. I thought, under the circumstances, that it would be best if I didn't bring the topic up myself.)




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:43:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you.

I sort of figured. But I'm sure I'll hear no end of it once I get home.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:52:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, that won't be for awhile yet, which will give people's reactions a chance to...die down a bit. If you know what I mean.

(In fact, I suspect Ron's rather counting on that!)



 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-05-04 04:26:42](#)  
(no subject)


Hah! I guess you're right about that. On both counts.



 **alt\_molly** at [2010-05-04 12:06:02](#)  
*Order Only*

Rosa Parkinson...now there's another case where I feel sorry for the child. What a snob that woman is! It was quite clear that she considered herself quite my social superior. It was all that I could do to keep my tongue between my teeth at some of her snubs. I was also quite shocked at how little thought she seems to have spared for her own daughter. The arrangement of her wedding bouquet seems to her to be vastly more important.




 **alt\_molly** at [2010-05-04 04:05:54](#)  
*Order Only*

Frank and Alice, I had quite a good long talk with Augusta. She is doing very well, and has enjoyed good health this winter for the most part, although she has had a bit of flare up of her arthritis. We condoled about Neville and Ron of course, but more importantly, I let drop a strong hint that I had recent news about several absent members of her family, and they were all doing quite well. She was obviously quite relieved to hear it.

Evelyn is just a lovely little girl. She is beginning to resemble you, Alice, particularly around the shape of the mouth, I think. Augusta said that she has been quite restless and bored with the shut down of the village school, although with her great uncle Algie's help, she has cobbled together the parts for a home telescope and has been busying herself with some amateur star chart observations. Augusta says that she has shot up three inches in the past several months.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-04 04:36:59](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, thank you ever so much, Molly.

It's so good to hear about my sweet little girl (not so little any more!). And Augusta too. Frank will be pleased she's doing well. We usually send a note every few months, but with owls so carefully rationed, we couldn't risk it lately, so I'm sure she was anxious to hear we hadn't taken ill!

Thank Merlin the restrictions are lifting, though. We'll drop her a quick note soon, and we're so glad to be able to send word to Neville again too -- as soon as we've a free moment to sit down and write anything, that is.

I do wish Evelyn were old enough for us to write. Thank Merlin Neville's proven discreet enough for us to continue regular contact with him. He's really been so good about it, and I'm so proud of him. I'm hoping he'll take his sister under his wing when she's at Hogwarts, and it may be easier for her than it was for Neville because she'll be able to share with Neville about it instead of keeping it all to herself.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-04 04:15:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Mum. I'm glad you got them, and it was great you could take them round to everyone.

**2010-05-03 21:08:00**

*Order Only: Back to the camps, Charles Vass*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

Today was a day I've been dreading for weeks. I entered one of the camps for the first time since they were closed due to the epidemic.

Spring is often a difficult time in the camps, as food from winter storage runs out, and there isn't much in the way of new harvest. Asparagus, dandelion greens, the first of the new peas, that sort of thing. This year, food isn't so much a problem. That's because so many have died in the past few months.

Today I stood at the grave of young Charles Vass, the boy at the East Hertfordshire camp that we had tried to rescue last October for Moddey Dhoo. But the epidemic hotted up before we could pull him out, and so young Charles died, along with his father, mother and three sisters.

Minerva, I suggest you add Charles' name to the false Hogwarts book that you show to Lucius Malfoy. Let him officially be declared a Mudblood. He's dead now, and beyond caring.

I will care enough for us both. For every single one of them.


Alice and Frank, do give your youngest resident, young Melanie Ambak, a special hug tonight. Molly has been trying to comfort me, saying that at least we saved her. I'm so bloody sorry we couldn't have saved Charles at the same time, too. They should have grown up side by side, taken lessons together. They should have honed their hexes and charms by practising on each other. Maybe even fallen in love. Too late now.

Bill, damn you for filching the rest of my Firewhiskey. I really need it tonight. Molly's cider is good, but I can't get as pissed on it as I want to do.

---





 **alt\_alice** at [2010-05-04 03:27:12](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for letting us know, Arthur.

I'm so sorry.

Frank is...

well, he's joining you in spirit. And spirits. He was up in the nursery earlier, but Jacinda kicked him out, as it was past everyone's bed-times. So now he's off on a good long walk, and he'll probably be back come morning.


We'll plant him a tree.

That sounds so silly, that it's all we can do for him. People he never even had a chance to

if I dwell on it too long, I truly shall put myself in a place I shan't get out of for a good long while, and I can't afford that right now.


But I'm so sorry, Arthur.



 **alt\_kingsley** at [2010-05-04 03:31:28](#)  
(no subject)

Want me to go after him, Alice? If he wants someone to scream at and hex, I can do that. I'm sure he'd rather it be me than you. Or would it be better to just let him be until he decides to come home?



 **alt\_alice** at [2010-05-04 03:36:25](#)  
(no subject)


He

It's best to leave him alone. Truly. He knows enough to keep away when he's like that, and wait til it blows over. I really wouldn't want you getting in his way. And he'd feel badly after besides.

Thank you, Kingsley.


I could use some company, though. If you don't terribly mind. Judith's been quite nice to stay up with me, but she's yawning and I can tell she needs to get her rest.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-04 03:28:17](#)  
(no subject)


I can bring it back, if you really need it tonight. I think there's still some left.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-04 03:33:49](#)  
(no subject)


I think we'll stick to the cider tonight, dear. But could you come to see your father, perhaps for lunch tomorrow?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-04 03:34:24](#)  
(no subject)


Sure, I can do that.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-04 03:38:53](#)  
(no subject)

And how are you holding up, Molly?




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-04 04:11:16](#)  
(no subject)

I've been drinking pots of tea. Soothing, but my kidneys are about to float away with me. I don't want to go to bed before Arthur does, but I think he's about done for the night. It is difficult to see him this distressed. Fortunately, we do seem to naturally take turns at this sort of thing, if you will. He'll have a terrible week at work and be in absolute despair and I'll buck him up. And then I'll find out that someone on my barter network has been arrested or

died or something, and he'll be my rock of strength.

We truly do depend a great deal upon each other. As you and Frank do.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-04 04:23:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Truly.

Sometimes, all you can really do is hang on to them for dear life and ride it through as best as

you can.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:56:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Bad business, Arthur. I'm sorry if I've been distracted lately. It's .... I know we're sore overdue for a post on all this rot.

Right. Arm me up. I'm staying hid for the moment, but that doesn't mean I can't put something together for as soon as my hand is up to a lot of writing again. Give me facts and I'll put them to parchment. It's high time I started carrying my load again.

**2010-05-03 22:39:00**

*Order Only: Sleep Does Wonders*

First off: I was right about my position, I'm in Lyon at the moment. I'm sticking to Muggle areas if possible, but still spending a load of time as Padfoot just to throw things off for them.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I'm sure I got rid of the tracking charms; I haven't had a hint of anyone on my tail (no pun intended). Consequently I managed to cast a rather weak healing spell with my left hand (thank Merlin for that month when I had to go left-handed!), and found a place to kip for the day. I feel miles better.

I've been catching up on the journals, but I wonder if you'd all do me a favour, those of you who read the papers: Could you keep an eye trained for anything that might relate to what Regulus is getting up to? If I read Narcissa's journal right, he's licking his wounds for the moment. But it's only a matter of time before that maniac sends him out again, I think. For what it's worth, I agree with Frank that he'd rather not commit all these heinous acts - though that doesn't excuse him, or mean his politics have changed, but it does mean that if it's possible to somehow stop him, I don't think he'd be all that sorry about it.

I've risked coded owls to Marguerite and Fatima, so they know for sure that Nigel's gone on the run. I don't think I can chance going direct to either of them for now. Maybe in a week or two, if all continues to stay quiet. For now, I'm laying low.

Poppy, I took note of your remedy for the Apparation. It's curious they don't know it, as Regulus suffers the same problem. But I will try it at my next opportunity. One question, though: You said to chew the ginger while brewing the hawthorn. Am I to assume that I should drink the tea with the ginger still in my mouth, as well?


Last thing: Bill, I know it's risky, but anything you can learn about MLE's movements in my chase would be invaluable. Just to be on the safe side, I'm going to start carrying the journal transfigured into a pocketknife. I know you've said the Order entries can't be read by anyone not in the Order, but the last thing I need is to lose the thing to hit-wizards or bounty hunters!

Anyway. As I said, I think the immediate danger is past, but don't

worry, I'm staying alert. I don't fancy getting caught with my knickers down again.

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 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:30:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, love.

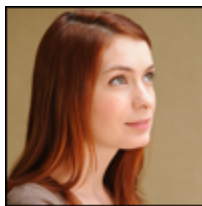
Yours is the first truly good news of the evening, and I'm so glad you're able to rest up.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-04 03:46:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, I dunno, Allie, it's not all bad. I mean to say, yeah, Arthur's post was devastating, but Molly's news wasn't horrible. And it's not raining.

Or is it?




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-04 04:20:03](#)**  
(no subject)

No, it isn't. There isn't a cloud in the sky.

And we had excellent pudding tonight. Victor can do wonders with dried apples and honey.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-04 04:05:05](#)**  
(no subject)


To answer the question you put to me: yes, do keep the ginger in your mouth as you drink, or if you've pulled most of the heat from it, you might then add it to the brewing tea and allow the hot water to coax the rest of its essence from the fibres. But do give it time to work at full strength directly in your mouth first.

If you're able to get hold of enough ginger root to keep it on hand, you might chew some before and while Apparating. Ginger is very effective against nausea and might help some with the dizziness and disorientation you must be experiencing, as well.

As for the fact that your brother suffers this condition, that merely corroborates the prevailing theory in the field that Apparition Shock, while rare in the general population, runs strongly in certain families, particularly where there has been intrafamilial pairing. Yours is the only case I've encountered, but there may well have been children in this school who had the condition but did not discover it until after they'd left us. There are no symptoms beyond those that manifest themselves in the act of Apparating, so one wouldn't know until one began to practice the skill.

Do take good care, Sirius. I shall give the Prophet a thorough going-over for you every day, and I'm glad to do it. I hate that there's so little we can do for you.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-05-04 04:23:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'll be sure to pass along anything I learn.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-05 15:08:19](#)**

*(no subject)*


Did you see what that awful Crouch wrote?

Seems to me like both he AND Bellatrix LeStrange are working on your case, love. Merlin help us.

And for all his strutting about and posturing, he really does seem fairly confident that there's something in store for you that you haven't encountered yet.

So please, please, be careful. Don't assume you're safe. And please, for me, check every scrap of things you have on you for tracking charms one more time. They could be waiting to lull you into a false sense of security before striking again.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-05 20:05:49](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I read it this morning. I'll give you that he's a dangerous little viper, and now they've got access to the house as well, they can check it more thoroughly if they like. They shan't find anything, though. I took a leaf out of Archer's book last time I was home for a while and rigged the really incriminating stuff to protect it from confiscation.

I've gone over all my kit with a fine-toothed comb, though, and seen nothing suspicious. But let's focus on the important question: Has the price on my head gone up?


Joking aside, yes, I'll be paranoid enough for even Moody's satisfaction.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-05 23:23:04](#)  
(no subject)

Constant Vigilance!



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-05 23:06:09](#)  
(no subject)

Sirius, I've gone over the Prophet today with a fine-tooth comb, and there are only one or two things that could in any way have had to do with your brother. (I take it, by the way, that he's been convalescing with your cousin, Narcissa Malfoy, for several days, but I suppose that could merely be a cover for nefarious activity. Of course, there's also the chance we missed something earlier this week or last.)

There was a bridge collapse overnight in Newcastle, which the Ministry is blaming on shoddy Muggle construction; there were two fatalities, but I doubt this is to do with him.

There was a house fire in Upper Windlesham. The owners were a Mr and Mrs Fellsworthy, and it was apparently a very fine house taken over in the last several years. The article doesn't say directly, but I'd say there are hints that it's a matter of jealous neighbours who think Fellsworthy got more

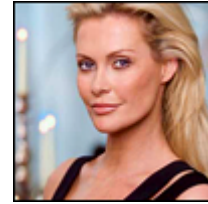
than his due when he was given that house. Still, it could have a source Higher Up.

I will look again tomorrow.



**2010-05-04 09:36:00**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Congratulations again, Mother, on your excellent showing in the TransBritannia Broom Tour. I think fifth is really quite respectable, considering you and Pascoal only began training in March. I must admit it was lovely to gather the family for a happy occasion, rather than a funeral. I'm glad Bella took the time to come if only for an hour or so; as I told Rodolphus she is *marvellously* dedicated to her mission.


But I was delighted to see Rigel! He was pulling himself up on the furniture all afternoon. I shan't be the least bit surprised if he takes his first steps within days. I do hope Bella won't have to miss it, but I know that she would say her priorities are quite in the right order. I can't disagree. I merely hope providence will take a hand so she may both witness her son's first self-ambulation *and* achieve her all-important victory.

Meanwhile, I have been quite vindicated in my own suspicion that the country would much improve Reg's health. Nothing against Marlborough, Barty, but the air here and the gardens in bloom, and of course the change in light from New London, have made a significant improvement in him, I think. I even made bold to broach a subject which has been on my mind for some time, and the prospect, or at least, the thought of it, has also made an impression on him. At the very least, he seems more receptive to the comforts of the Manor.

Oh, and Lucius, I meant to tell you yesterday, but it slipped my mind until just now when I happened upon the receipt: It's sweet of you to want to surprise me, dearest, but the robes you had held at Cliodna Carmichael's boutique really will never do. When have I ever worn that cut? And they're far too short, for another thing. Lucky I happened in yesterday between *Witch Weekly* and Mother's party, or just think, your gesture would have been wasted.

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 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-04 14:42:04](#)**  
(no subject)

What robes are these?

Oh, yes, now I remember. I'm surprised they still had them on hand. I hadn't seen them in person, actually; it was something Madam Carmichael wanted you to see. I can't think why she came through me in the first place, as you know I've no idea what does and doesn't translate from the design to the form. I told her I would get back to her on them, but that was some time ago. I'm not surprised they don't suit you. You mentioned a receipt. She didn't have the temerity to charge you, if you didn't fancy them?




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-04 14:46:57](#)**  
(no subject)

That's strange. The shopwitch mentioned they were just done up recently. Perhaps she wasn't aware of the circumstances. She seemed new to me; at least, I don't remember her from when I've been in before.

And no, not at all; I had them cancel the sale. I was there to pick up robes I had ordered myself, back in January when Clio showed me her new line for spring. You see, when the witch went to the back for my robes, she noticed the ones held for you.

I was tempted to wait and let you pick them up yourself. I don't think you've ever set foot in Clio's shop and it might have been amusing to drag you there. But I simply hadn't the time if we were to get to Mother's yesterday in anything like a timely manner.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-04 14:51:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you said she was new, so perhaps she was confused. Or perhaps they only recently got to the project, I've no idea.

In any event, I'm sorry you didn't care for them and you're quite right to refuse them. I'm sure someone else will take to them if they put them on the rack.

Are you joining us for tea this afternoon?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-04 14:52:44](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm quite sure they'll be to someone else's tastes, my love.

As for tea, no, I'm taking Reg out for a picnic on the grounds. I think he needs the fresh air and sunshine, now that we have it.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-05 03:31:17](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I'm glad to hear he's improving, and I know you've done your best, seeing to that. But surely your schedule has been overthrown by his continuing there. You aren't running a bed and breakfast inn, after all.

It's entirely up to you, of course, but the guest chambers here are available whenever needed. Don't hesitate to send him.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-05 03:37:41](#)  
(no subject)

Regulus knows he is always welcome to stay as long as he wishes.

But as it happens, he left a few hours ago, by Our Lord's summons.

I hope it's a sign of His returned favour. I may at least be assured of Reg's renewed energy to carry out any of His commands.

And you? Still working round the clock? Is there any hope we shall entertain you as well, once Reg has finished his errand and has leisure to return?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-05 04:11:43](#)  
(no subject)

Ah. I share your hope.

And, yes, I'm still working extra shifts. That's an excellent thing under the circumstances. The net is closing around our quarry, and we are pulling the strings that will snare him.

There is always hope of that. You know, don't you, that I appreciate your invitations, even if I must sometimes decline them?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-05 04:24:37](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I've heard something similar from other sources as well. How exciting, for you all.

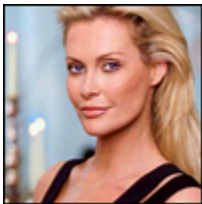
As for appreciating my offers, I should hope you do. But for declining them, well ... I suppose my appreciation for that shall depend entirely on the quality of your excuses.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-05 04:09:58](#)  
(no subject)

Dedicated she is, and as important as Rigel's milestones may be, there are even more pressing things to attend to.

Druella looks younger each time I see her, and I suspect that much of that is a credit to Pascoal. A Broom Tour looks like a pleasurable way to spend time together. Perhaps the Missus and I will have opportunity for such a venture in our later years.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-05 04:13:51](#)  
(no subject)

No one wishes her success more than I, Rodolphus. If it comes to a choice, of course, her duty is clear. But as you know, these moments come and go so quickly, and once missed, they cannot be regained.

The good news is that unless I am mistaken, little Rigel may well

surprise us and get on with his progress at the most convenient moment for you both.




 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-05-05 04:18:35](#)**  
(no subject)

I in fact have a pensieve set aside for such purposes, and Mrs Baylock has agreed to submit any memories of significant moments that she might witness. We did something similar when

Hydra was a tot.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-05 04:27:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, there you are. Very practical. Though it pales to the reality, at least it provides a perspective on the occasion.

**2010-05-05 23:16:00**


*Narcissa*

Cousin, I owe you thanks once again for your many kindnesses, most especially your thoughtful Christmas gift, which continues to serve me and to serve Our Lord in endlessly ingenious ways.



 [alt\\_regulus](#)




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-05-06 03:25:57**  
(no subject)

Hello.

Did you get my letter?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-05-06 03:37:04**  
*Order only*

Bugger. What does that *mean*?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-05-06 03:53:33**  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I have him at St Mungo's. There's not much I can tell you yet. The Healers are with him.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-06 04:01:50**  
(no subject)

St Mungo's?

What's happened?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:05:03](#)  
(no subject)

The elves found him. Sent for me.

He was a bloody mess, but we got here quickly.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-06 04:07:26](#)  
(no subject)

Drinking again? I thought he

But over-indulging enough for St Mungo's, really?  
How long had he been at it - and what sort of  
damage has he done to your wine cellar?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:18:20](#)  
(no subject)

No. You misunderstand. He's injured himself.

And it's not my wine cellar that's damaged. The  
guest suite looks as if it's seen a massacre. So did

Regulus.

Narcissa. He's tried to hack off his own arm.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-06 04:20:47](#)  
(no subject)

I

I don't understand - Barty - do you mean he's  
tried to repeat Our Lord's first test of his  
loyalty? Remove the attachment in some sort of penance?

Surely that's what you're saying. Not



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-06 04:21:10](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, God.


No.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:22:28](#)  
(no subject)


The good arm.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 04:31:13](#)  
*Order only*

BUGGER!



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-06 13:56:49](#)  
*Re: Order only*


Oh dear. I just read this morning.

It does look like he's pulled through, at least.

I'm so very sorry, love.

How are you doing?




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 14:50:05](#)  
*Re: Order only*

Well, I'm not doing as poorly as Reg, that's for sure.

Things have been quiet, but I don't like it. My hand is just about healed; I'm foraging for the ingredients to Poppy's tea business and then I'm planning to nip off somewhere anonymous.





 **[alt\\_alice at 2010-05-06 15:06:56](#)**

*Re: Order only*

I don't like it either.

Be ready for anything. Even if it means showing your hand a little, I'd rather they knew you were an Animagus any day over having you in custody or worse.

Did you see what that... awful man wrote? For all his talk of how much he cares for children, he's not above using them for his purposes.

And even without that, she's a dangerous little thing, Sirius. For many reasons. You were never a thirteen year old girl, love, so you wouldn't quite understand. But it's worth a little extra caution on your part, I'd warrant.



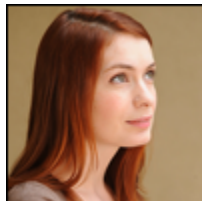
 **[alt\\_sirius at 2010-05-06 15:19:48](#)**

*Re: Order only*

What who wrote where?

Oh. I've just seen it. Yeah, what a prat. And daft, as well - who else would think my bit of fun last night was anything other than taking the piss?

Dangerous? How? Sorry, I don't follow.



 **[alt\\_alice at 2010-05-06 15:56:20](#)**

*Re: Order only*

Oh, my darling man.

For starters, she's a person. Yes, she's still a young person, but she's got very real (and very powerful) emotions to sort out at her age, and if she's anything like every teenage girl I've ever known, she's got a whopping dose of self-doubt too, and those shouldn't be toyed with. Or exploited. Any more than they already have been, that is.

I know you love your brother, dearest, but regardless of his intentions, he's twisted that girl into knots, and I don't want you making it worse. You're better than that. And regardless of what Lucius Malfoy says, I do not want you getting her in trouble, which is a very real possibility given your current title and her tendency to be contrary.

And it's hard to sort out what she's thinking behind it all too, making her a potential liability. I don't want you to underestimate her, or assume you know her. From what I've seen of her, she seems quite good at getting people to do what she wants -- and if she really is in Lucius Malfoy's right hand pocket, you ought to watch how open you are with her.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 16:29:07](#)


*Re: Order only*

Half a moment, do you mean to say you think she really does *fancy* Reg?

No. That's ... well, it's ....

Hm.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-06 17:20:43](#)


*Re: Order only*

I wouldn't say it's quite like that. Not in the way you think. And it's not quite that simple, either. But I wouldn't rule it out entirely.

Didn't you have someone totally out of your reach that you went a bit mad over when you were in school? Or is that just something girls do? Merlin, when I was only a year older than she was, I remember

Well, it's sort of embarrassing. But needless to say, I was very much wrapped up in it, and even though I wouldn't even say I *fancied* him, I certainly loved him very fiercely and deeply, in my way. It was all quite chaste, of course. But I would have been just devastated if he'd come to harm, and I couldn't claim the familiarity that she can.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 19:35:45](#)

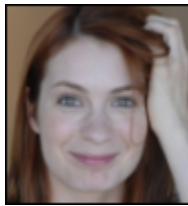
*Re: Order only*

Course I had, Allie. Trouble is, she was a rather swotty prefect.

And then she went and married an Auror, if you please.

Anyway, it's a bit on the refreshing side to see someone else give a tinker's what happens to him. But I can't imagine she's sweet on him. You don't know Reg that well; he's got this way that keeps you from throttling him even when he soundly deserves it. I'm sure she's just interested in his jokes and such, and yeah, I guess I'm a connection to that. And if she's got Malfoy as wrapped round her wand as it looks, he'll not do more than grumble.

But I did see the bastard's comment, and it's got me to thinking, that perhaps they have some way of tracing comments back to the ones who make them. So if for no other reason than that, it's worth not encouraging her.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-06 19:49:04](#)

*Re: Order only*

You really are too sweet for your own good, sometimes.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-06 17:24:40](#)

*Re: Order only*

And there's more than one way to be twisted about. Even if it's not like that at all, it's caused her no small amount of pain to see him suffer as he has.

I just want you to think a little before you speak, love. And tread carefully.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-06 04:23:03](#)  
(no subject)

Barty,


Narcissa's just told me. We are on our way.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:30:04](#)  
(no subject)

There's not much good you could do here, but wait.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-06 04:35:03](#)  
(no subject)

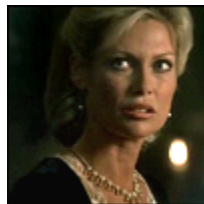
Nonetheless, Narcissa is adamant. She's just getting dressed and we ought to be there within ten minutes.


If I know my wife, she will insist on remaining nearby all night, if necessary.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:38:28](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure they will accommodate her as best they can. I've asked Winky to meet you and show you up. His elf is in with him. Couldn't be persuaded to let him out of his sight.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-06 04:37:55](#)  
(no subject)

Lucius is not underestimating me.

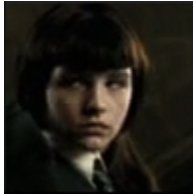
Thank you for acting quickly. We are his family; we ought to be the ones to keep vigil.


Barty, are you *quite* sure this was ... self-inflicted? Only, you know what trouble he has Apparating. It's not possible it's a Splinch?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:40:56](#)  
(no subject)

I'll tell you all I know when you arrive.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-06 04:38:07](#)  
(no subject)


no.

Oh no.

he was supposed to be doing better.

I thought



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-06 04:43:33](#)  
(no subject)


He was, but

Pansy, I'm sorry, we must go and find out his condition.

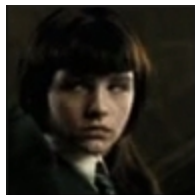
I promise I will let you know what's happened once we receive an update from the Healers. And Mr Crouch.


I will apprise you soon.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-06 04:45:42](#)  
(no subject)


please



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-06 04:39:18](#)  
(no subject)

how could he?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 04:50:39](#)  
(no subject)

Psst. Spider-hunter.

I guess we'll have to wait and worry together. Well, not together. I don't want to get you into trouble.


But. I'm glad someone else is as scared for him as I am. That's all.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-06 04:55:40](#)  
(no subject)

Sit tight, Black. We'll come for you.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-06 05:00:08](#)  
(no subject)

You're welcome to keep looking.


I'm happy to lead the diricawl chase as long as you like. Why don't you send more Death Eaters out of the wards to try to find me? That'll make setting England to rights much easier.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-06 05:19:16](#)  
(no subject)

Gryffindor.



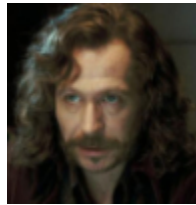
 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 05:13:03](#)**  
(no subject)


sounds like you have quite a lot to worry about already.

but yes.

waiting and worrying and scared.

I'm sorry.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-06 05:25:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, him? No, it's fine. Crouch's lads just tried to flush me into the open, that's all. Just a little excitement. Nothing to fret over.

Or. I suppose I ought to say: You should be very frightened! I'm going to come into your homes and steal your magic! They'll NEVER stop me! NEVER! (Evil laughter goes here, traditionally. Sorry, you'll have to imagine it for the time being.)


However, this situation with my brother is getting rather dire. On the whole, I'd rather be evading Crouch and Lestrange and their jackals than be where your friend is right now.

It's so much more difficult, I think, to save someone who doesn't really want to be saved. Who wants the opposite, in fact.

Well, you really ought to go drink tea with your dorm-mate and ignore the ravings of this dangerous criminal.

Chin up. I'm sure they'll put him to rights. Physically, anyway.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 04:53:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I feel so stupid asking about the stupid letter when he  
and thinking he was doing fine

stupid.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 04:55:21](#)**  
(no subject)

and I am scared.

very.

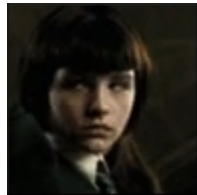
rather face giant spiders any day.


you can set a spider on fire or blast it to pieces. But for this you've just got to sit and wait. and that's the *worst*.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-06 04:58:16](#)**  
(no subject)


Pansy, let's go down to the common room. We can ask the elves for tea to drink while we wait to hear from Mr Malfoy.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 04:59:10](#)**  
(no subject)

thanks



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-06 04:57:49](#)**  
(no subject)

So, that's your answer, is it?


Merlin, you are a sad case, little brother.

I don't suppose you'll be reading this anytime soon, though, so, I can just write in here all I like and no one will be able to reply, as they're all at hospital and watching him like a hawk.

Oh, well, except Crouch, I suppose. Ah well, can't have everything.





 **alt\_sirius** at **2010-05-06 05:04:30**  
(no subject)

Oh, and, in case anyone's wondering, don't worry about Crouch. I'm sure by now he's far too distracted by my cousin's hysteria to bother picking up the journal anymore tonight.

**2010-05-06 06:46:00**

*(no subject)*

Sally-Anne and me fell asleep on the couch last night. She woke me up around 4:00 or so and we went up to bed. But I really couldn't fall asleep again for very long.




 [alt\\_pansy](#)

I know that you'll let me know just as soon as you are able, Lucius and Aunt Narcissa, and I know that you're probably either sleeping or keeping watch, and those things are both important. so I understand.

And I suppose no news is good news. sometimes.

I'll keep waiting.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-05-06 12:51:37**

*(no subject)*

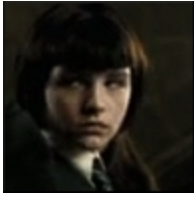
I had hoped that you would get some rest, rather than exhaust yourself for your lessons today.


In fact, I nearly wrote twice last night, but hesitated the first time in the hope you were sleeping, and was interrupted the second time.

The most important detail is that he will be all right. His elf discovered him and through his intervention they were able to convey him to the Healers in record time, though unfortunately not before doing considerable damage to himself and his host's home. But luckily, much that was ruined may be repaired.

As for Regulus himself, he is resting. He is not able to come to his journal, as in addition to the trauma itself, the Healers have him on decoctions to control his pain. But they are confident that once he heals, he will be as whole as he was before his rash action last night.

If you wish to send him an owl, one of the medi-witches will be able to read it to him in a day or so, once he is more recovered.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 13:35:07](#)**  
(no subject)


thank you.

are you sure

are you sure that'd be a good idea? writing him?

did my last letter make things worse?




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-06 14:14:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Why would you think that? I understand he was greatly happy to receive it.

Though, on that subject, I did note your rather unorthodox exchanges in his journal last night. It seems that despite your best efforts, the villainous Black will not let you alone. However, I discussed the matter with Auror Crouch and we agree that, since he seems to desire to speak to you, if he should make contact again, it might be useful to everyone if you could cause him to say anything that will help lead Mr Crouch's operatives to capture him the sooner. Any detail, such as the weather around him or what paper he is reading - any detail he leaves in the journals is a trace the Aurors may use to track him.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 14:20:37](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad you think so. I was just being silly, I guess. I'll write him then.

and with Mr Black, I sort of

well, we were both worried and it wasn't political or anything well at least not that I could see so I didn't figure any harm in it. I'm glad you're not angry, though. and I'll keep what you said in mind if he writes me again. but I'm certainly not going to seek him out.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-06 14:37:24](#)  
(no subject)

I agree that it's best not to encourage him, but he seems to labour under no such scruples. So we may as well use it against him, and in service to the Protectorate, yes?

But I don't wish you to feel any pressure in that regard, of course. If speaking to him makes you at all uncomfortable, then no one will fault you if you continue to shun him. And please believe that no harm will come to you in any way: We will not allow him or his supporters to make good any threats he issues toward you - last night or in the future.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 15:54:27](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I have been trying to work out why he would say this in the journals. Lucius Malfoy, I mean. He knows Sirius Black reads Pansy's journal. If he really meant for Pansy to draw him out he'd have told her by owl. I mean he was up quite late last night so maybe it slipped his mind we can get owls again but I don't think so.

I think he's trying to make it so Sirius Black doesn't trust Pansy anymore. He wants him to see her the way he sees Mr Crouch or Mrs Lestrangle.

I'm really tired today. We drank tea for a bit and then we both fell asleep on the couches in the common room. The elves kept the fire going for us.

I wonder if he'll still be able to do magic, if he hurt his wand arm so badly? Even if St Mungo's fixed it back on for him. I don't understand why he'd do that, I mean

Pansy thinks

I don't know.



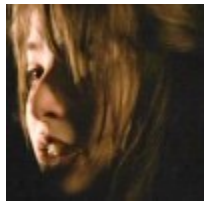
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-06 16:13:18](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah. You'd think it'd be harder to fix an arm than a snapped wand. But I guess Madam Pomfrey grew all Harry's bones back overnight after Lockhart vanished them. And he can still do magic.

D'you really think he cut his own arm off? Mr Black, I mean.

Why would anyone do that?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 16:44:04](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Pansy thinks they've been making him do things he doesn't want to do.

Terrible things.

She can't quite bring herself to say it but that's what she thinks.

Maybe he reckoned if he cut off his wand hand they wouldn't have a use for him anymore. They wouldn't be able to make him do the things he'd been doing.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-06 20:20:17](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah. That seems about right.

I mean, not that you can really tell just from reading what people write here, because they hardly ever say what they really mean. Or they can't just say right out what they're thinking or doing, but

yeah.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 16:48:59](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I mean I did think last night about whether the Lord Protector had someone else cut it off. Or if maybe he used Imperius to make him do it, because you could, you know, you could do that with Imperius.

But if the Lord Protector had it done, they wouldn't have let St Mungo's fix it back on.

It might have been Imperius from someone else, though. Like if he DID have something to do with Sanji's death, the Patils might have done it. Or one of their friends. Or maybe even Sirius Black did it, I don't think you can cast Imperio from so far away but I don't know.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-06 20:18:23](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No, I don't think it could be Sirius Black.

I dunno how close you have to be to cast Imperio, but that's not it. I just. He cares about his brother, and he wouldn't do that. I can't explain it, so don't ask. I can just tell.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 20:28:56](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah. If he could cast Imperius on his brother he'd make him run away again and hide.

Patil thinks Black used Imperius on someone to make them kidnap Sanji, but I've been thinking about all the other things he could do if he really could put Imperius on people from so far away. Like don't you think he'd put it on Barty Crouch and have him kill the Lord Protector? Or he'd put it on one of Mr Crouch's assistants and have that person kill Mr Crouch. Something like that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 16:53:23](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

And you're right, I have NO IDEA why it is they can fix a whole arm back on and make it work again, but the best they can do for a wand is to say 'try spellotape.'

Probably it's that you can't go buy yourself a new body in Diagon Alley and you COULD buy a new wand if you had the galleons so they've never worked out how to fix a wand because normally people just buy a new one.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-06 20:15:52](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah.

If you have the galleons.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 20:26:38](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I wonder what they'd do if I broke my wand?

The Strettons aren't supposed to have to pay my living expenses, they get money from the Ministry to feed me. And I don't expect the Ministry would fancy buying me a second wand.

**2010-05-06 09:15:00**

*Order Only: Sirius*



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

Sirius, I know you're concerned and more for your brother today, but please don't allow them to use this as a distraction to put you off your guard. Crouch's taunting you last night set off all my intuitive alarms. There is every possibility that they've staged this event (with or without Regulus's complicity--I don't know what to think about that) in order to stymie you and get you to wait where you are, watching the journals for news and not watching out for your pursuers.

All right. I've said what I have to say on that subject. I'd planned to write you in any case to tell you if I see anything as I read today's Prophet:

Except that the lead article assures me that Auror Hit Wizards have the arch-traitor Black on the run in France. I'd feel very much better if you were in Germany today. Or Poland. Or.

Never mind. I beg your pardon.

Here. There's a follow-up piece on that bridge collapse, and it does raise some suspicion of sabbotage to its structure, though they continue to blame its Muggle craftsmanship as well. I'm less inclined to think this is some plot of His--what purpose could it possibly serve?--than to wonder if there's some new resistance group making itself known or staging a diversion. I suppose I hope it's the latter.

New items include a minor scuffle yesterday morning between guards and inmates at the Ashfield camp in Nottinghamshire and other disruptions (mentioned in passing all in a lump) at Broxstowe, Fradswell, and Cheadle. You will take the blame, I feel sure. Whether your brother had a hand in it, I'll leave to your speculation.

Another house fire. This time in Chillington (not far from my childhood home in Devon, as it happens). This one's attributed to a dirty Floo, and the article focuses on reminding people of the need to have their chimneys cleaned after this long season when travel by Floo has been restricted and standard upkeep may have gone neglected.



In the personal notices at the back--I very nearly missed this--here's a note about two girls who've gone missing from Hertfordshire. Their worried parents placed the advert. The pictures show them to be nearly old enough to start here, both with dark, bobbed hair and dark eyes. One has a turned up nose, the other a dimple, but they could almost be sisters from the looks of it. Mandelson and Price are the family names. Susan Mandelson and Mathilda Price.


Oh, Sirius. I hope that's not to do with him. There's not a word about it in the main body of the paper, but then they may be halfbloods. Or the Minister may have warned the press not to repeat the drama it staged with the Patil boy. Or He may have. But, of course, after the Patil boy, one can't help wondering about missing children. I

I don't believe there's anything else here today that could in anyway be thought relevant to your concerns.

Do take care and continue to check in as you're able.

---



 **alt\_sirius** at **2010-05-06 15:08:06**  
(no subject)

Well, if it's a ruse, it's an elaborate one. I don't know. Narcissa's reply seemed genuinely distraught. I don't think I've ever heard her use that kind of language. Sounded almost muggle. Though it's possible it's a ploy, which would revise my opinion of Crouch's acting ability quite a bit.


And interestingly enough there's a story in *L'Étoile* about Nigel Cullenden's 'secret life'. Oh, and they've interviewed Sylvie, too.

Yeah, I think France is ... probably not the best place to be today. By nightfall I should be able to change that, though.

As for the rest - don't believe everything you read, Poppy. I'm sure I'd remember blowing up a bridge or inciting a riot in the camps.

But the missing girls. When did they disappear?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-06 16:07:09](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, let me see if I can tell.

Three days ago, perhaps, though it could be earlier. They say 'yesterday,' and speak as though writing late in the day after the children's disappearance. I don't know how long the Prophet takes to print these notices, though. It could be many days ago.

**2010-05-06 12:25:00**

*I still have trouble believing it....*

I guess everyone's probably either seen the *Prophet* article or heard about it by now.



 [alt\\_susan](#)

I just happened to be in the Common Room when Olive Coote paid the post owl and started reading and all of a sudden she called out "Everyone come here! They've found Sirius Black!" and then of course we all crowded around while she read it to the rest of us who were there. And it said something about Black being Nigel Cullenden and I said "What?" but there wasn't much more about that.

But later on I managed to scrouge the Sports and Games section, and there was an 'in-depth expose', and now I feel, I dunno, betrayed I guess. I grew *up* with Nigel Cullenden. I used to stay up late sometimes and listen to him commentate International Quidditch with my dad; it was a special treat, especially if it was a school night.

And *Quidditch Tonight* used to have him on whenever they covered the International Quidditch scene, and he was always dead funny, like an older and more grown-up Lee Jordan. That essay he read that one time about why Quad-Pot will never catch on in Europe is still one of the funniest things I've ever heard.


And all the time he was a dangerous criminal! If Nigel Cullenden could be Sirius Black, it sort of seems like anybody could be anybody. I guess I shouldn't overdramatise though; it's probably a lot easier to become somebody else overseas. My neighbors down the street probably aren't fugitives.

Well, at least if Black was in France all this time being Nigel, he couldn't have snatched the Patils little brother. Although that means there's another, *different* mad person running around England. Somehow I don't feel safer.

Mum's not letting Peter and Carrie out of her sight and I don't blame her; it's a bit rough on them though, since they've been cooped up so long. It'll be better when they finish the paperwork to let Dad and the rest of the halfbloods on the Cannons out of quarantine and he can come home.

---



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-06 19:46:29](#)  
(no subject)

We read it too! Dad says it's astonishing, considering how they had to go through all sorts of tests and fill out loads of forms to be able to carry the International programmes on the WVN. I don't think he could've got away with it if he'd been here all this time, though, too many people would have seen through his disguise.


But I still think it was someone he made take Sanji, you know? They say he's got all sorts of people, Imperius'd and all, to carry out his horrid plans.

Anyway, I didn't know the papers were coming to Hogwarts again, already. Did you see there was a bit in the back, about two little girls? Mum thinks it's the same person, the same thing as Sanji, and we'll have to go through all this over again.

Funny thing is that in the photos, the photos of the little girls, I mean, they look a tiny bit like Parkinson, did you notice? I mean their hair is cut sort of the same way and they both have pale skin, like they spend too much time inside.

And we still can't leave the house, but Mum says that Mrs Brown told her the neighbourhood is organising their mudbloods to keep an eye on the children here, so they can play but there's someone about who can raise the alarm if there's anything suspicious.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-05-06 21:01:03](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Ron have you seen those pictures? Borrow Finnigan's paper and look. Patil is dead right. Those little girls who disappeared, they look enough like Pansy to be her little sisters, if she had any.

Same hairstyle, same hair colour, same eye colour, same complexion. Mathilda Price, she even smiles like Pansy does.

What do you make of that? I'm awfully glad Pansy's here right now, you can't get much safer than Hogwarts. (Provided you stay out of the -- oh never mind, I guess I've given you enough grief about that.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-06 22:26:58](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oi! No lie they look like Pansy. That's dead creepy if you think it's to do with Patil's brother, and then if you think that Regulus Black had something to do with that.

Has Pansy seen them? If not, don't let her. I mean, you can tell her, but don't let her see it. Know what I mean?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 23:52:07](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well I'm sure she saw what Patil said, and she hardly needs me if she wants to see a paper. Four or five of the older students in our house get the Prophet, and one of them usually leaves it lying around in the common room when she's done with it, for the people who like to check the quidditch scores.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-06 20:36:08](#)

*(no subject)*

We've been getting the paper for a couple of days now; I suppose it took awhile for the *Prophet* to get their post owls sorted.

Black seems like he might liable to do anything, but I don't think anyone's powerful enough to cast *Imperio* from across. I've never heard of it anyhow.

So if it was someone connected with him, it would have to be someone he met on the continent, who then went back to England, right? But I'm sure that MLE is already looking into that; there can't be too many people who would fit.


That's a good idea about organising the mudbloods I guess, but couldn't a really powerful wizard just oblivate them?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 20:41:47](#)  
(no subject)


They're SO careful with the people they allow over from the continent. Professor Brutka got to come because he rescued Draco, didn't he? On top of all the background investigation. It's not as if they just say 'oh, you're a pureblood wizard and you want to come to the Protectorate? make yourself at home!'



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-06 20:58:54](#)  
(no subject)


I don't know much about it, but that's kind of what I thought. I wonder what sorts of charms and things they use in their investigations--I'll bet they dose them with Veritaserum.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-06 20:43:19](#)  
(no subject)

Of course they spent YEARS thinking Nigel Cullendan was just Nigel Cullendan! But he never tried to move here. Probably because he knew they'd find out when he applied to come.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-06 21:00:04](#)  
(no subject)

It's so weird to think that he was just a made-up person, not real at all.

Unless there *was* a real Nigel Cullenden, and Black killed him or bribed him to go away or something.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-06 22:45:52](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno, because if you think about it, didn't Black do the commentaries at Hogwarts, years ago? I thought I saw in photos in the annuals, he used to call the matches.

So it makes you wonder how he kept people putting it together. Maybe he Confunded everyone when they asked any questions.




 **alt\_susan** at **2010-05-07 15:29:21**  
(no subject)

I reckon he could have Confunded people some of the time, but also I think people would assume that someone as wanted as Sirius Black would hide in, I dunno, a forest somewhere.

Not become someone famous who's out there on the wireless and all; so I guess at least some of the time people see what they think they're going to see.



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-05-06 22:50:04**  
(no subject)


I've heard Sandoval say that he makes all his followers swear an Unbreakable Vow, so that if they don't do as they're told, they'll die.

So he wouldn't have to Imperio them himself, then, but he'd make them do his bidding all the same. Only, I don't know if that's really true, because doesn't the Vow only apply to one action? I don't know; I've never looked it up before. Maybe when we get back to school next week.

And yes, the mudbloods could be Obliviated, I guess. But I reckon the idea is that they'd be instructed to raise a shout before that can happen.

Still, I feel really bad for the Prices. And the Mandelsons. We know just what they're going through. I hope he makes a mistake this time, though, and they stop him.



 **alt\_ron** at **2010-05-06 22:17:40**  
(no subject)


Too right about that. I mean, Nigel Cullenden? He's famous!

And loads of people have seen his pictures and not

ever recognised him. It's just mad, innit? And he's meant to have been Sirius Black? All this time?


You don't think this part's some kind of joke, do you? I mean not the part about the Hit Wizards having lead to find Black. Just this thing about Cullenden.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-06 22:52:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, he doesn't half look like Black, I mean, not from the photographs of when he was a student. At least not that I remember. Honestly, they're not that dim over at MLE. Plus, Haruman says that he's famous for being really cagey about his past, and always sort of, what's the word, glib, whenever people ask him questions. I bet he Confunded them a lot, over on the continent. If our MLE had been in charge over there, too, they'd've copped him in no time.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-05-07 15:35:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Not in the *Prophet* I don't think.

Maybe if it was in the *Baffler* or the *Quibbler* if it was still around, but I don't think the *Prophet* is so much into playing jokes.



**2010-05-06 17:45:00**

*Long Day*

To-day has been more full than it had a right to be. Though much of that was due to sitting up most of the night with Narcissa and Barty, awaiting updates from the Healers as they stabilised Regulus and repaired the damage he did himself. Barty and I took it in turns to sit with her so that we could each monitor our various other responsibilities, since we neither of us expected to be able to leave soon. Finally convinced Narcissa to retire, though she would not leave the ward, but Healer MacCowan was kind enough to allow her a private room adjacent to his, for what remained of the night.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Early in the morning, however, Regulus awakened, in great distress despite the preparations the Healers had given him. Healer MacCowan explained that it was undoubtedly a temporary effect of the spells they had cast to reverse the amputation. Similar to re-growing bones, apparently.

No sooner had we settled him, and I hoped to take the necessary few minutes to fulfill my promise to young Miss Parkinson, when we were interrupted by the arrival of Narcissa's aunt. It seems that when Narcissa sent the elf back to Grimmauld Place (as indeed, became necessary when the creature would obey neither threat nor sound advice from either myself or Barty), he awakened his mistress and informed her of the situation. She, in turn, responded by choosing this, of all times, to make a supportive showing.

I think it was Walburga's appearance, more than Regulus' prognosis, that persuaded Narcissa she could leave the bedside herself. She has for the time being returned to Kensington, which she had ordered opened for us shortly after Flooing to St Mungo's yester-evening.

Barty also chose that moment to return to the Ministry, while I conveyed Narcissa to Kensington and there took a short rest before my weekly meeting with the Minister. By luncheon, Narcissa had returned to the ward as well - after visiting her niece, who is to be released soon. I think she wanted to speak to Healer Page about her post-hospital care, but learned from the medi-witch that Nymphadora's employer has already made provision for it. Interpret that to be a mark of a surplus in business owing to Laszlo's ability to maintain its trade during the worst of the epidemic, such that he feels

he can support a shop clerk who is only partially able to perform her duties. However, should far rather she convalesce in her own home than at the Manor.

Returned to the St James' house, but the briefest attempt at correspondence was preempted by a summons to Windsor - and instruction to collect Narcissa and bring her along. Our Lord wished to know what had befallen His retainer and to be assured of Regulus' timely salvation. The Healers had told us this morning that Regulus might be discharged within a day, depending on whether his hand function is restored as quickly as they anticipate. Here Our Lord voiced His express wish that Regulus be brought direct to Windsor, that He might personally oversee his recuperation. Know this disappointed Narcissa in some ways, as she surely hoped to bring him to the country once more, but cannot conceive of more solicitous care on Our Lord's behalf, all the same.

We have only achieved the Manor ourselves. Neither of us took tea, nor are we in a frame of mind to wait for supper. Suspect we shall order a simple repast and each make an early night of it.

**2010-05-06 20:06:00**

*Attention Students*

Today the Office of Underage Wizard Protection provided me with a series of informational pamphlets on a number of topics that might be of interest or use to some of you.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_poppy](#)


These materials have been sorted into the following ten categories:

- Safety Awareness
- School Safety
- Physical Safety
- Abuse Avoidance
- Getting Help
- Personal Hygiene
- Good Behaviour
- Conflict Resolution
- Growing Up
- Peace of Mind

If any of these subjects seems especially relevant to you, please do not hesitate to visit me.

Finally, I'm asked to tell you the following: 'the Ministry accord your safety and health the highest priority and have delegated to the Office of Underage Wizard Protection this mission of greatest seriousness, pitch and moment. UWP are working tirelessly to make Our Lord's realm a safe and wholesome place for you as you mature into the successful young witches and wizards you are meant to become'.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-05-07 02:31:19**

*Order Only*

You'd think that an office calling itself Underage Wizard Protection would not break the quarantine on this school to deliver an enormous parcel of possibly contaminated pamphlets on such topics as tooth cleaning, body odour, and 'How Far Is Too Far? (Places No Tongue Should Go)'.

On top of which, they had the audacity to insist that I include their ridiculous mission statement verbatim at the conclusion of my remarks.

I've spent all evening scourgifying these documents, sorting them, and finding room in my cupboards to store them so they can grow dusty with age as they sit there unrequested.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-07 02:38:34](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Places no tongue should go? Merlin, James would've requested that pamphlet just for the suggestion value!

Poppy, I wanted to let you know that the ginger and hawthorn stuff worked wonders. I tested it this evening and Apparated southwest, aiming near the Pyrenees. I made it all the way to Carcassonne and actually had an appetite! Which is quite lucky, as there's a shop there that sells one of the best burgers in the country.

I'm heading into the mountains before dawn, but I can't believe it. I don't think I've ever felt so ... *normal* after Apparating before!



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-07 02:49:17](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh!

I'm so relieved to hear it, Sirius. To hear from you.

Well. Right. Glad to hear my diagnosis was correct and the remedy worked as reported. That's a great good thing for today!

I hope you enjoyed every bite of that supper.



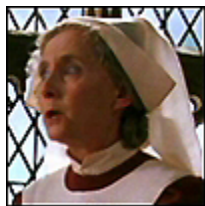
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-07 02:56:21](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, I'm doing as well as can be, I suppose. Considering Reg's predicament.

And of course, the tea only works if I've time to prepare for it - but I reckon I can chew a little ginger if I need something in a hurry. Astonishing how so simple a solution evaded me for so long.

Listen, you had young Miss Parkinson in recently, right? You don't think Allie's right and she's, I dunno, mooning over Regulus? Nursing a crush, as it were?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-07 03:19:58](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Sirius, the girl is in my care. I can't divulge anything she would wish to keep private. I do think it's clear from what she's written publicly in the journals that she cares a great deal for your brother. Whether that rises to the level of a crush or is the sort of feeling one might hold for a special uncle, I really couldn't say.

I saw what Alice suggested to you, and since you've asked me, I will add that Miss Parkinson does not need any encouragement to find you heroic and fascinating when you are in such precarious circumstances. She does not need the distraction and sorrow of worrying over you. (Leave that to Alice and me; we're quite competent in that area.)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-07 03:29:52](#)

*Re: Order Only*

But by that logic, she does find me a hero? I'll grant you she didn't seem to believe Malfoy potion, cauldron and flame, but I've not been able to tell whether she's changed her tune, or if she's merely playing the obedient girl for fear of being sent back to my mother.

I guess what I'm struggling with here is whether it's just the outlaw mystique that appeals to certain young people of Hogwarts, or whether they really do have the sense to know the Protectorate is a load of bollocks.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-07 04:04:31](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Sirius Black.


There are quite enough of us who know you to

be a hero: you don't need to collect a complete set of under-fourteens.

The truth of the matter is that Miss Parkinson, like many of the children her age, are experimenting with different ideas of what's right, wrong, healthful, exciting, admirable, shameful, persuasive, ridiculous. I'd say that she's still questioning, and--I'm going to regret saying this--I admit that having some admiration for you seems likely to encourage her in questioning Malfoy's assertions.

Oh, for goodness sake. Carry on, but don't you dare lead her on and then die on us. Do you hear me, Sirius?



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-05-07 04:23:43](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Right. No dying.

I'm not asking for my ego, you understand. But because getting a better idea where I stand helps to know what I ought to expect.

Parkinson's mate, Perks, for example. There's a witch who knows how to butter her bread on both sides. I'm sure she's too clever by half. But Parkinson mystifies me.

I suppose I shall never properly understand witches.



 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-05-07 13:37:26](#)

*Re: Order Only*

It was late when your message appeared, and I had rounds to make. I've been puzzling over your meaning, though. What you 'ought to expect'? What are you asking, Sirius?

I really can't add anything to your knowledge of Miss Perks's character; she has passed my threshold very rarely. I do agree that what I've seen of her in the journals suggests that she understands the precariousness of her position as a halfblood child in Slytherin House. She appears to be very careful in her interactions with her schoolmates.

I would suggest to you, however, that both of those young ladies have taken a very surprising decision to sustain a friendship with the youngest Weasley boy. They persist in that despite considerable pressure from the school's social leaders to drop him.




 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-05-07 15:54:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I got a rather energetic owl message from the same office, asking me to do my best to encourage students to read them as part of the announcements during the upcoming YPL meeting.

Are you free for tea any time in the next few days? I suppose I should look through them and see what might be particularly applicable. I'd also like your advice on a few matters: the return of owl post naturally means that we're now looking again at plans for the summer.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-07 19:58:50](#)**  
(no subject)

I've just had a follow up message from UWP which was so energetic it missed being a Howler merely by the fact it was not written on red parchment.

Apparently my invitation to the students to avail themselves of this information fell short of what they had in mind.

And, oh my dear, yes! I should very much like to have tea. Any day would suit, providing, as always, no one suffers an emergency during that time. How about tomorrow afternoon? You'll be most welcome to thumb through the pamphlets and decide which if any of them might be incorporated into your plans for the YPL.



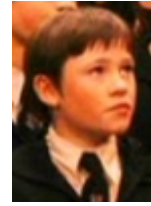
 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-05-07 22:28:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Tomorrow would be lovely. I believe I even have a pot of jam or something from my mother from earlier this fall left somewhere in my office to share.



**2010-05-07 10:33:00**

*those pamphlets*



 **alt\_seamus**

So some of those ministry pamphlets were in the common room (I think Percy brought them in) and they're wizard. I don't reckon they were meant to be funny, but everyone should be sure to read 'Button Up: Sartorial Suggestions for Modesty's Sake,' though maybe it's not as funny when it's not being read aloud. And 'Cautionary Tales: A History of Hogwarts Fatalities' is good too, especially the stories of potions classes gone pear-shaped.

'Have a Care, Beware! (How to Know a Dodgy Sort When You See One)' seems like it ought to be useful but I couldn't think of any way the steps they mention would've warned anyone that Nigel Cullendon was actually Sirius Black.

The 'Sartorial Suggestions' one must have been written in about 1955, but there's a few in the pile about journals so they can't ALL be that old. Maybe they have a ghost at the Ministry from when Binns was alive, and she wrote them all!

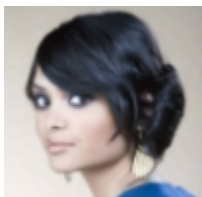



 **alt\_lavender** at **2010-05-07 16:45:37**  
(no subject)

Oh, I know! Did you see the part about 'no young lady ought to let show an uncovered ankle'?

That might have been proper in my great-grandmother's day, maybe...

Thanks, Seamus! I think I needed something amusing.



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-05-07 17:44:02**  
(no subject)

I saw her announcement but of course we won't have seen them yet. I can't believe we've missed more than a week of school! I'm going to be ever so behind when I get back.

What else do they say that's funny? Parvati and me could use a laugh.





 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-07 19:50:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well alright. Here's one story from 'Cautionary Tales.'

There was this bloke who bought a load of fireworks. He also had a mokeskin pouch, the fancy kind you can store everything you own inside if you want. He lit one of the fireworks and then saw a professor coming, and he didn't want to get detention so he shoved it into his pouch.

You only get what you reach in for SO all he really needed to do was forget he'd put the firework in there. And if he WAS going to take it out he should've done it right away. Except he decided to think about it for an hour or two and then go to class and only THEN did he go outside (he was clever enough to do that, at least) and try to get the firework out.

Only it was one of the fireworks that multiplies itself. Normally these spells are self-limiting but inside the pouch, well, he pulled it out and BANG. All they found after were his shoes.

The moral of the story is 'don't play with fireworks,' I think it should've been 'don't hide fireworks in your mokeskin pouch' but no, they blame it all on the fireworks.

It's probably funnier when you've got two people acting it out.

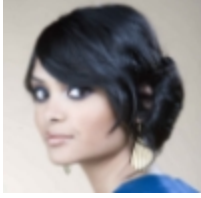



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-07 19:51:33](#)  
(no subject)

You know it just occurred to me that you might not find dead students all that funny right now.

I'm sorry!

All the students in Cautionary Tales were so STUPID though, if they'd had the common sense of a lizard they wouldn't have died, and the funny part is the stupid things they did.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-08 01:47:45](#)**  
(no subject)

That's okay, it's different, somehow, when it's someone being a lummoX like that.

**2010-05-07 13:43:00**

*Because it's the seventh day*

we can start washing our hair again (none too soon, either, let me tell you!). If you ever want to really appreciate having clean hair, just go through a ritual where you can't wash it for a whole week. Ugh.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

I can't really believe we've been home for a whole week. We're not really supposed to be going out, and Mum and Dad and Haruman haven't gone to work, but I think everyone's getting rather fussed because of it. We still can't cook for ourselves or share with anyone who visits, and that feels weird. Besides, it's hard to sit round with nothing to do, and yet not be allowed to be sad, either. But we want Sanji to go to Shiva, so it's important not to cry or carry on.

It doesn't stop Mum blaming Dad a little. She doesn't say it, not right out, but I think she thinks he ought not to've let him go to the park alone.

We saw in the papers this morning that Mrs Black talked to a reporter at St Mungo's and said that her son in the hospital had just Splinched himself really, really badly. But they say he's going to be okay. They tried to ask her about Sirius Black and I guess she hexed the reporter. The papers said that the MLE are asking for recordings of all Cullenden's matches, anything the International Quidditch Federation has got. Dad says that's because there are things he'd have said in his commentaries that might help them figure out where he's gone.

And did you know there was more trouble in the camps? Some of the mudbloods, they put up a struggle because they heard Sirius Black got away from the Aurors who've been after him, you know, after he wrote in his brother's journal the other night. Haruman says the camps are going to be a problem until Black's caught and executed.



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 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2010-05-07 19:57:43**

(no subject)

~~Mrs Black said But Mr Malfoy said~~

I reckon you're right that the camps will be a problem till Black's caught and executed.

**[2010-05-07 17:02:00](#)**

## *OoUWP Safety Announcement*

The Office of Underage Wizard Protection have asked me to allow them to tell you in more detail about the pamphlets they have provided for your edification. The following notes come from the quill of Prunella Post, Assistant for Educational Outreach and Issues Advocacy:



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

Children of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry,  
Hello! I shall be addressing you each day to raise your awareness of the many hazards that threaten your well-being and to alert you to the simple steps all children should take to protect themselves from harm.

We will begin today with basic matters of Safety Awareness because Self-Protection begins with Self-Awareness!

1. Take Stock of Your Surroundings: If you are by a lake, notice the water line so you do not fall in accidentally. If you are in a corridor, make a mental note of all doorways and stairs; ask yourself, 'If something were to happen, what routes would I take to get safely and quickly away?' If you are in a classroom, assemble a mental inventory of items that could be used in an emergency--draperies that could be used to smother a fire, for instance, or stools that could be used to smash the windows should you need to flee the building and be unable to exit via the doorway.
2. Notice WHO Is in Your Vicinity: Are you surrounded by familiar faces? If so, calculate which of them may be counted upon for help should the need arise and which cannot. Are there any strangers nearby? If so, quickly assess what harm they might be capable of doing you.
3. Consider Your Habits: Do you often walk alone to lessons or to meals? Do you sit apart in the library? Do you dash off to the toilets by yourself before a lesson? Do you habitually follow the same routes about the castle at predictable times of the day? Do you leave your timetable lying about where others may view it? Do you reveal information about your habits and private behaviours in your public journal?
4. Reconsider Your Habits: it is always safer to keep one or two friends close about you; it is wise to vary the

routes you travel from place to place; it is important to keep personal information private from prying eyes.

5. Evaluate Your Friendships: Have you chosen your friends well? Do they watch out for you? Do they ask after you if you seem out of sorts? Do they insist on going with you whenever you are thinking of wandering off alone? Do you look out for them? Do you notice if a friend behaves oddly? Do you warn your friends to give over risky enterprises and hare-brained schemes?


If you make these five simple Self-Awareness Procedures part of your daily life, you will find that your life improves immeasurably. To learn more about these important basic safety measures, ask Madam Pomfrey or a Prefect for copies of the following pamphlets:

- \* Look Sharp (Be Aware of Your Surroundings)
- \* Have a Care, Beware! (How To Know a Dodgy Sort When You See One)
- \* Friends Keep Friends Safe
- \* How To Tell When Your Friend Needs Help
- \* Two Is Safer Than One
- \* Safe As Houses (Your Housemates Depend on You)

I look forward to sharing more with you about these crucial matters of personal safety. In the meantime, Keep Your Wits About You and Be Safe!

Ms Prunella Post, AEOIA  
Office of Underage Wizard Protection



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-07 21:26:16](#)  
*Order Only*

I had a very snippish owl from the Director of this department today, deploring the half-hearted job I'd made of alerting students to the information they'd provided. I was informed that Director Selwyn's office had directed them to direct me to print in MY journal a series of essays this deputy assistant quill sharpener intends write for the edification of 'all those young minds at Hogwarts'.

In MY journal!



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-08 01:52:10](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Director Selwyn's office directed the Director of Underage Wizard Protection to direct you to reprint that codswallop? That's a lot of directing.

Anything more in the papers today, Poppy?

I did Apparate again last night, and took more tea when I got there. Feeling less heroic, but still fairly fit.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-08 03:21:57](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I presume that Director Selwyn was in no way involved in this chain of directing. It's worse than ridiculous.

As for the papers, I hardly expect your brother has perpetrated any dire crimes in the past day. There really wasn't anything that remarkable at all. Not even any claims of fresh reports about you.

Did you try chewing ginger whilst in transit?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-08 03:29:47](#)

*Re: Order Only*

No, I don't expect there was anything other than the fact that Mother actually made an appearance outside the house. I was thinking about the two missing girls, though. The Patil boy's body was found mid-week after his murder; by the same timing, we're overdue for them, assuming they met the same nasty end.

And yes, I did chew some, in fact. It ... helped, though I have to say it tingled like mad.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-08 04:40:09](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, your Mother did make rather a stir with her visit to St Mungo's. The press seem much more interested in covering things like that; there's been no official word at all about the missing girls. Either they made their way home and that wasn't deemed newsworthy, or something terrible's befallen them and the world is turning a blind eye.

I should think it did tingle. Ginger is rather famous for that property, and I gather that some folks find it appealing for just that reason. To each their own.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-07 22:17:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

sounds like it was written just for me.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-07 22:17:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

only they forgot about reminding us not to drink from any bottles labeled "poison."




 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-07 22:53:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, never fear, Miss Parkinson. I feel sure that we will read that warning in the days ahead. There is a pamphlet for nearly every danger one could imagine.


You're welcome to stop in and look through them yourself. Of course, you are always welcome to come to me for other reasons, as needed.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-07 23:46:53](#)  
(no subject)

I just might. thanks.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-08 02:30:07](#)  
(no subject)

and I did find the poison one. Did you know you're supposed to always carry a bezoar in your pocket, just in case? Because you never know when you might get poisoned!

Well, I certainly learned something very valuable. Thank you for letting Sally-Anne and me read through some of them.

We might have to come back later. To learn some more valuable tips about safety. Because safety is important!!




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-08 02:54:49](#)  
(no subject)

Safety is undoubtedly important, Miss Parkinson, and your visit was a pleasure.

I wouldn't count too heavily on bezoars, however. They are very difficult to come by these days. It would be better altogether to avoid poisonous substances than to find yourself in need of a universal antidote.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-08 01:15:27](#)  
(no subject)


Are we actually allowed to break windows?

What if we're in Slytherin? We're under the lake, if we broke out our windows it would be awfully damp.

(Luckily I think everyone in Slytherin is clever enough not to set the furniture on fire.)






 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-08 01:39:30](#)  
(no subject)


I choose to believe that Ms Post intended window smashing as an example of an action of last resort for a most unlikely imaginary situation. I certainly agree that she was not advocating breaking any windows in Slytherin House. I suspect that she would be very pleased with your ability to evaluate which actions would not be good options in some parts of the castle.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-08 02:06:58](#)  
(no subject)

I wouldn't put Crabbe and Goyle out of the running on that one.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-08 02:27:51](#)  
(no subject)

we should totally see how many check marks they get on that one list they have about firebugs.

After all, it's for our safety!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-08 02:34:00](#)  
(no subject)

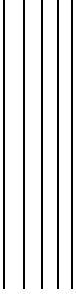
which is important!!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-08 03:11:46](#)  
(no subject)

Yes!

Actually as far as firebugs I think the one we should be keeping an eye on is Teddy, he got almost three quarters of the check marks. But almost any boy would get at least half. And who DOESN'T like to stare into the fire in the common room sometimes?



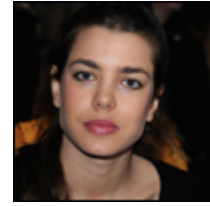
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-08 03:40:36](#)  
(no subject)

But it's staring *obsessively*. I'd imagine if he was dribbling a little down his front while he did it, or twirling his invisible mustache and giggling a lot, that'd be worth worrying about.

**2010-05-08 14:58:00**

*XXVI.*

I want to take a moment to remind you all that the N.E.W.T.s will be administered this coming week. (Contrary to rumour, the Ministry have instituted protocols for delivering the exams regardless of whether the quarantine on Hogwarts remains in effect.)



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Those of us facing this stressful exercise would be ever so grateful if the rest of you could be quiet and courteous throughout. We promise to return the favour when O.W.L.s week arrives and whilst the rest of you face end of term exams after that.

Cheers.

Fellow seventh-years: best wishes to you all!

**[2010-05-08 15:16:00](#)**

*Another from the OoUWP*

More from the quill of Prunella Post, Assistant for Educational Outreach and Issues Advocacy at the Office of Underage Wizard Protection:



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

Hello again, Children of Hogwarts! I can't tell you how it tickled me last evening to see so many of you talking about the pamphlets our office has provided. I hope that today I can inspire a few more of you to ask your Prefect or the Matron for one or more of these helpful resources.

One of the challenges of being away at school is the need to do for yourselves things that parents do for younger children, and you must very often remember to do them for yourselves without any reminders or prompting. Many of these things are daily tasks that should become life-long habits. Others are situational choices and actions that require one to use one's native wits soundly. As we like to say in my line of work: Self-Protection Is a Matter of Self-Preparedness!

What sorts of things do I have in mind?

1. Personal Hygiene: It is very important that every child bathe every day, not only to keep your body fit and healthy, but also for the comfort of those around you. Don't wait until a Prefect or teacher docks points because you smell! But it's not just a matter of washing, is it? You must also make a habit of cleaning your teeth every morning and every evening, and you must remember to always wash your hands after using the toilet and before every meal. But how, you might ask, is one to remember such things when there are so many other things to remember? Well, one way would be to make a game of it, tallying points to see whether you or one of your mates earns the highest Cleanliness Score by each day's end. Another way to encourage good habits is to learn clever spells to make the tasks more pleasant. For instance, in our pamphlets on the subject, we include charms to make your soap sparkle and another for your shampoo that turns your hair ghastly colours for an hour or so after you've washed it. And there's a charm to use if one of your housemates has

difficulty remembering to wash his hands: it will turn his hands green if he does not wash them at least once in three hours! You see, the trick is very often simply to make good behaviour enjoyable!

2. Proper Dress: It is nearly as important to make proper clothing choices as it is to observe basic cleanliness. For instance, did you know that if you fail to change your socks every day, you may develop very nasty fungal infestations of the toes and feet? Trust me: you do not wish to have this calamity befall you! And, of course, it's important to dress warmly when it is chilly and to take your rain gear when you will be going out on wet days; likewise, it's only proper to observe the rules for keeping your uniforms tidy and decently buttoned at all times. As everyone knows, your clothes say a great deal about you: frumpish, slovenly or provocative dress signal defects of character in the plainest of terms.

Self-presentation is a matter for careful thought: you should be as circumspect in your wardrobe as you are cautious to never tell unwise things about yourself in your public diary. Take great care of the way you present yourself to others.

3. Dietary Considerations: Another of the challenges of being away at school--and not just any school, but Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where the kitchen elves are famous for their delicious fare--is learning to make sound choices about the food you eat at every meal. I do not only mean that it is important not to pass up proper food and eat only sweets, though, of course, you must avoid this temptation, by all means! No. It is also necessary to Eat Foods of Different Colours. If you eat only beige foods (potatoes, cheese sandwiches, tuna noodle hotdish, cauliflower cheese, leek soup, bread and crumpets), or if you eat only meat, you will grow pale and wan, your hair will grow dull and lank, you will feel weary, and your attention will flag; very soon you will find yourself in Matron's care! No. There is one very easy rule to follow that will help you keep a sound diet every day: be sure to choose and eat at least four different colours of food at every meal--award yourself bonus points for selecting the most vibrantly coloured vegetables and fruits!!

If you make an effort in these three areas (hygiene, dress, and diet) every day, you will find that your life improves immeasurably. To learn more about these important topics, ask Madam Pomfrey or your Prefects for copies of the following pamphlets:


- \* That's Why They Make Galoshes
- \* Hand Washing: Your Health Depends on It
- \* Clean Your Teeth or They'll Fall Out
- \* Think Before You Sink (Lakeside Safety)
- \* Change Your Socks and Avoid Dungeon Rot
- \* Button Up: Sartorial Suggestions for Modesty's Sake
- \* A Carrot By Any Other Name Would Taste as Lovely
- \* The Bitter Truth about Sweets
- \* Eat Not Too Little, Nor Yet Too Much: The Golden Mean at Table
- \* The Mighty, Magnificent Pea: There's Power in the Pod!
- \* Say 'Allo to Aubergine: Meeting New Foods Can Be Fun!
- \* Old, Cold, and Mouldy: Why You Shouldn't Take Food to Your Dormitory
- \* Make No Mistake: Poisonous Things To Avoid

I look forward to sharing more with you in the days ahead. In the meantime, Keep Your Wits About You and Be Safe!

Ms Prunella Post, AEOIA  
Office of Underage Wizard Protection


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 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-08 19:29:01](#)  
*Order Only*

Honestly. The woman is relentless. It will serve her right if no one is reading their journals on a Saturday!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-08 19:51:43](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

The elves are famous here for making delicious food?  
Huh.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-08 22:03:41](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I am really disappointed that she TOLD everyone about the hex that makes your hair change colours after you use your shampoo.

I was really looking forward to trying that one on Milli but if I do it now she'll know exactly what I did (or someone will tell her).



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-09 01:42:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah. Everyone here cottoned onto the spell that makes somebody else's hands go green if they don't wash them, but I figure somebody'll do it anyway. And I guess it'll just be funnier cause everyone'll

know what it means.

D'you really think Milli read this? I mean, really.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-09 02:06:13](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well, she does read the journals occasionally. But mainly, if she washed her hair and it turned bright green, Daphne would say, 'oh no, someone hexed your shampoo,' there wouldn't be any mystery

about it.

It's still not a bad prank. Someone ought to try it on your brothers.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-08 22:08:00](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Anyway what the Ministry lady says about food colours is just STUPID and WRONG.

Because so much of our food is transfigured. It tastes different after you transfigure it (if you do it right) and it certainly changes colour but as far as your body is concerned it's whatever it started out as. So if you live on turnips for months on

end, transfiguring it to taste like beef won't keep you from getting anaemia.



**alt\_ron at 2010-05-08 23:12:36**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well, yeah. And it's still pretty much all brown or tan, anyway.

I mean, she pretty much listed all the stuff they usually give us, right? That stuff that's supposed to tuna noodle watsit. And the cauliflower cheese.

But d'you reckon she'd think it's okay to eat crumpets as long as you put really bright red strawberry jam on?



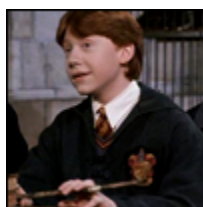
**alt\_sally\_anne at 2010-05-09 00:20:53**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

You know when I'm at the Strettons I could have green, yellow, red, purple, and orange on my plate and it could ALL be jam.

And just think if you added Bertie Botts to the mix.

She'd probably say that's why she said it shouldn't be JUST sweets.



**alt\_ron at 2010-05-09 01:32:38**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Heh. Yeah, there's that to look forward to.

You know that game I was telling you about with Bertie Botts and the pamphlets? Well, some people were playing it with twins here this afternoon--yeah, I know, I'd never play something like that with them!--but anywiz, Jordan was reading out the pamphlets, and every time he said 'safe' or 'careful,' the next person in the circle had to eat one of the beans. And it seemed pretty funny except that almost all the beans anyone's got left are the vomit ones. Towler got one he said was elbow grease.



And, yeah, that Ministry lady has an answer for everything, I'd guess.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-09 02:07:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

The game I saw people playing today was, one person would read from a pamphlet while everyone else tried not to laugh. First person to start laughing had to eat a vomit-flavoured bean.

Since that's about all that's left. I can't wait till parcels come again, we're going to be overflowing in sweets within a day.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-09 02:48:00](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Ha! Well that one wouldn't have lasted long in Gryffindor: everybody playing was falling out laughing. They'd just all have had to eat all the beans all at once.

Ooh. You know who'd be really great at that is Percy! You can't make him laugh no matter what you do if he decides he's not going to.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-09 14:11:38](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Blaise is really good at that game. If he doesn't want to crack a smile, he usually won't. It came down to him and Linus Moon yesterday.

Harry's terrible at it, I think he was the first one to go out. Unless it was Teddy.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-09 00:22:20](#)


*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

You know, it just occurred to me that NO ONE has said anything in reply to this one.

I'd better say something, these are the best entertainment all term and clearly Miss Post thought it was really

flattering that all us children were chattering away about her important messages! I'd hate for her to stop here.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2010-05-09 01:33:34**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh, heh.

Yeah, you're right.

I just read the part about food. Was the rest of it funny, too?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2010-05-08 23:53:25**

*Order Only: Remus?*

Remus, I had tea today with Aurora Sinistra, and she asked me a favour that I wonder if you could help with. She has a friend that she believes was one of the early halfbloods taken to St Mungo's in the epidemic.

The man's name is Dai Jones, an astronomer's assistant, I think. She hopes to learn not only whether he's there, but also whatever can be gleaned of his condition.

I can certainly inquire through my channels, but it might well be that you'd find out rather more about how he is faring and whether he has come through his ordeal in a fair state of mind; I'm likely to get a strictly clinical response to the question if I'm the one to ask.

All of this presumes that you still have cause to stop in at St Mungo's; if Tonks has been released and is home with you, I am certainly not expecting you to chase this information. I do hope that Tonks' recovery is still progressing well and that she'll be released very soon if that's not already happened.

And you? Are you well, Remus?



 **[alt\\_lupin](#) at 2010-05-09 10:56:50**

*Re: Order Only: Remus?*

I'm fine, thank you Poppy.

Tonks is doing very well so far. The healers seem to think that she's been spared some of the longer-term

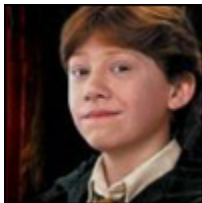
effects of the illness, perhaps because she was able to fight it off and stay conscious for longer than many. They're planning to release her some time this week, all being well.


I'm planning to pop in today, though, so I'll certainly see if I can find this chap and see how he's doing without giving the game away.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-09 00:26:45](#)**  
(no subject)


Thank you very much, ma'am, for sharing those charms with us. I've always suspected Gregory Goyle washes his hands about once a fortnight, and now we'll know for sure!



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-09 01:52:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Excuse me, ma'am. But if you say, 'Allo! to an aubergine when you meet it, what will it say back?




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-09 03:53:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I daresay there are employees at the Ministry could do with some of Ms Post's lessons - but do I understand correctly that she means you to do her job for her? Are we to be treated to these quinquagenarian dissertations each day?

Did the UWP tell you these posts and pamphlets were passed through Director Selwyn's office, I wonder?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-09 04:19:50](#)**  
(no subject)


I have, so far, received one essay each day, yes. I have no idea whether Ms Post means to send another tomorrow, though from her closing statements, she clearly means there to be another at some point.

The pamphlets arrived in a very large parcel that was hand-delivered to the Headmistress through her fire. We were asked to disseminate the materials, and I proceeded to distribute a selection to each Prefect and Head of House, following that action with an announcement to the students. Apparently my announcement was viewed by Ms Post and her superiors as insufficiently instructive: the following morning I received a sharp dressing down by owl and a directive (to publish her first essay) that claimed to have been cleared with the office of the Director of Protectorate Affairs.

As for the pamphlets themselves, each bears the approval mark of Director Selwyn's department and a date or set of dates; in any case, all are marked 1991, implying that their content was vetted and authorised (or reauthorised) at that time.

I intend to follow the instructions I receive unless they are countermanded by another order with superseding authority.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-09 04:49:26](#)  
(no subject)

I've no doubt that the documents have been in preparation for some time and certainly you are in the right to comply with UWP in their instruction. I find it ... unlikely that Dominic himself has read these statements of Ms Post's before she forwarded them to you; moreover I am surprised she should so impose on your journal - and more to the point, your *time*, particularly when that time already bears demands on it for the administration of your office and the completion of the Governors' business.

Allow me to verify with Dominic that this step is necessary. I can understand Ms Post prevailing upon you to introduce her, as it were, to the students; surely she may now continue her mission without the benefit of a go-between.




 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-05-09 05:04:36](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you. It is certainly true that I have no shortage of tasks here without the need to play scribe for Ms Post.

I will confess that the business has brought certain students in to

see me who might otherwise have avoided my domain. That is a benefit not to be sneezed at.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-09 20:54:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I had intended to stall Ms Post until you have an opportunity to speak with Director Selwyn, but today's essay arrived under a cover letter from her superior, referencing my conversation here with you and asserting her authority in this matter.

I have complied with her request that I not delay publishing the essay, though I confess I have misgivings about some of its content.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-09 21:07:22](#)**  
(no subject)

I see. I had not been aware that the Office finds itself in such urgent need of an excuse to pay its employees overtime for week-end work.

And I can well understand your ... misgivings, as you put it. In fact, this latest effort on Ms Post's part convinces me all the more that she and her superior have ... overstepped, shall we say.

I had planned to wait until my next opportunity of convenience, but I see that such laxity may be unwise.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-05-10 04:36:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Indeed.

You're quite correct I hadn't seen them; it was someone from Education and Public Information who signed off on them, I think, but I won't be able to work out who it was until tomorrow. We've been short-handed, as you know, so I suspect someone didn't take a close look before concluding it was all harmless pap and approving the lot.

In addition to dealing with the individual responsible, I clearly need to make sure my staff understand that low-priority items such as this can be set aside during very busy periods. Although it sound that the individuals from the UWP office were incorrigibly pushy and demanding, which is probably how it wound up on the desk of one of my people in the first place.

Why do problems like this always occur when you least have the resources to spare to deal with them?

[2010-05-09 00:54:00](#)

## *Hospitals and Witchfolk*

There is something about spending significant time visiting the infirm that makes even the most stalwart of witches at times a watering pot.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Barty, thank you for seeing Narcissa home last night. As it happened, I was at Windsor rather later than I'd expected - an honour, to be sure, but not one I had anticipated - and arrived back at the Manor to find she had fallen asleep before the elf could serve her supper. Exhausted, no doubt, by the events of the last few days. (And I gathered that Walburga has not been making her visits any easier.)

She went again today, though found no real change in the patient. The St Mungo's staff have spoken to her about keeping him on for 'further evaluation' - though there seems to be little merit to the exercise. His arm, according to Narcissa, needed no change of dressing to-day, and when she spoke to Healer MacCowan, he indicated that Regulus had excellent range of motion and his small motor control ought to be as good as ever in another day or two. One presumes, therefore, that he could continue any physical therapy required by means of regular visits, rather than remaining in care. Suspect someone in the administration hopes to impress Walburga with the institute's dedication to the degree that she may opt to fund an improvement of some kind; equally suspect the office know her not at all well, if this is indeed the justification for lavishing unnecessary attention on her remaining son.

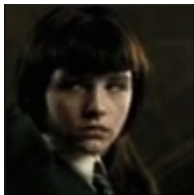
Pansy, I did receive the letter you wrote; however, after hearing Narcissa's report of his condition, and most particularly his frame of mind, we believe it might be best to wait before delivering it. I'm sure he will appreciate what you have to say to him - only, not just now. From what your 'Aunt' tells me, he has quite disengaged himself for the time being; even your jokes would fall on deaf ears at the moment. It is too soon for all that. But I am glad to hear you are tolerating your visits to Madam Pomfrey and not neglecting your school work. I have begun an answer to your owl at least thrice in the past week. Unfortunately, cannot seem to manage two paragraphs without either an interruption of family crisis; or learning that you, Draco, Harry and your good friend Weasley flouted school rules *and* placed yourselves in mortal peril; or being called away from my quill on state business. I hope that this week, I may be able to respond to you with a proper




balance of paternalistic aid and sympathy untaxed by further cause for shock and stern disappointment. For the moment, suffice to say that I am relieved beyond measure that the foolhardiness all of you displayed was rewarded with equally implausible luck.

Spent much of to-day working through the impressive backlog of requests to be reviewed at Muggle-born Labour on Tuesday, now that the camps are fully operational once more. The camps have prepared their final casualty reports, which will be presented to the Committee by a representative from Muggle Domestication.

Must have Crispin co-ordinate a few minutes' time with Selwyn over this UWP business.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-09 17:21:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I understand, Lucius.

Thank you for letting me know.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-09 18:30:41](#)**  
(no subject)

It was no trouble, I assure you.

I've just returned from my own visit. I had several minutes alone with him, during which I managed to provoke him out of his silence. Interesting, from a clinical point of view. I think His corrections may finally have produced the desired result.

I don't imagine I'll be able to return until tomorrow.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-09 18:47:56](#)**  
(no subject)

If what you say about my cousin is true, then it is the best news we've had for several days.





 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-09 21:07:13](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed. I hope so.

I'm clearing the backlog on my desk in hopes of starting the week with a clean slate. There are still one or two things to accomplish, but I should be finished soon.

I haven't decided whether to stop at St Mungo's on my way home. What do you think? I could have supper there, I suppose, if he's not eaten yet.



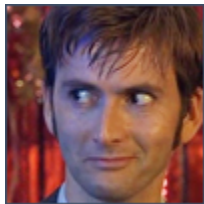
 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-09 21:47:56](#)  
(no subject)

No, you must come and dine with me, and tell me about this morning's visit.

I went round this afternoon to find his room emptied of all his things. Healer MacCowan was not on the ward, either. I finally found a junior mediwitch who told me, with some trepidation, that he'd left with Auntie Walburga shortly after one o'clock.

From what the young lady said, Auntie would brook no arguments and even threatened to have Healer MacCowan's license suspended. She told them she would speak directly to Healer Acton if they did not release Regulus into her care immediately.

I suppose it's true that that elf of his is devoted enough to see to changing the dressings and keeping the arm from infection.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-09 22:07:01](#)  
(no subject)

Ah. That's surprising.

I can see her doing it, though. I'm sure the Healers were no match for her.

Dinner it is, then. I've just finished here.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-10 02:46:23](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

'His corrections'?

What is the Lord Protector DOING to him?

Sometimes I wish Pansy weren't so fond of him, I wouldn't worry about him ordinarily but I worry about Pansy and she worries about Mr Black.

**2010-05-09 14:31:00**

*OuOWP once again*

Today's epistle from the Office of Underage Wizard Protection:



Children of Hogwarts, Hello!

 [alt\\_poppy](#)

First, allow me to apologise for a lapse on my part: I realised belatedly that I neglected to send any of the pamphlets in our series on 'Dietary Diligence', but rest assured that if you would like to read any of the titles on food and proper eating I mentioned yesterday, your Matron now has plenty of copies.

Now for today's topic!

It is a matter of no small difficulty for children to discern when they may trust adults and when they must, instead, be wary in order to protect themselves and their families from harm. On the one hand, children understand that it is their duty to obey and respect their elders, even as their parents respect and owe duty to those in authority over them. On the other hand, children must understand that there is darkness and evil in our world that threatens their safety.

Never Speak with Nor Accept Anything from Strangers:

It is for this reason that parents teach their children never to speak to strangers unless Mother or Father introduces them and gives permission. For this same reason, children must learn never to accept gifts or food or broom rides from any adult unless their parent or teacher gives express permission.

Never Allow Unfamiliar Adults to Touch Any Part of You:

In fact, as we are now becoming aware, our lessons ought to be even more stringent: children must learn never, ever to allow an unknown or slightly known adult to touch them in any way, even to take them by the hand. It is far too easy for an adult to abuse a child's trust and come close enough to seize the child and Apparate away with her.

Self-Awareness:

Are there really such threats all around us? The answer, I'm afraid, is yes. While our world, Our Lord's most gracious

realm, is a very safe place and while we are well governed by the Ministry and well-protected by the department of Magical Law Enforcement, there are undeniably a handful of evil individuals hidden in our midst. Safety depends on preparedness, and preparedness demands that we be aware of the ways in which harm could befall us. Thus we must always be alert to the possibility that somewhere around us there might be someone bent on doing us harm. It is far better to be alert and prepared than to be taken by surprise.

#### Self-Knowledge:

I know that all of you are taking lessons in Defence and Charms, and I'm told that many of you are participating in the school's Duelling Club. There you are studying the wand skills that may someday enable you to defend yourself should someone assail you, but for the time being, your best defence is to know your own limitations and to avoid rather than brave conflict. Avoid being taken alone, keep alert, and flee danger if it confronts you.

#### Do Not Make Yourself a Ready Target:

We have recently been reminded that children may unwittingly make themselves enticing targets for predators. In addition to the ways we've already addressed (playing alone in lonely places, allowing strange adults to come too close, accepting gifts or invitations from people one doesn't know well, acting on one's own recognisance without permission from a parent or teacher, trusting too much to one's own strength or skill), there is a new danger facing you today that my generation never faced: your public diary.

#### The Dangers of Public Diary-Keeping:

Alas! These diaries are an avenue for danger. Writing in these little books has become all the rage. We love to write in them and read what others say; we can scarcely bear to be without them. We appreciate that they allow us to communicate so quickly and casually with our friends and loved ones near and far. We are titillated that we can read in them the daily notes of people we do not know well--celebrities, politicians, society figures, and outlaws. Occasionally someone will say something shocking, but more often people merely write about the ordinary details of ordinary lives. And yet these small revelations are strangely compelling; they fascinate us and make us feel that we know secrets about the people who share

themselves in that way. Someone might describe the comic details of having a new dress fitted; someone else might blab about her little brother's desire for a puppy; another might confide his financial worries; and yet another might anticipate the pleasures of an upcoming vacation. These admissions may seem harmless to you, but to a criminal mind, these details become fodder for evil fantasies and material for villainous plans.

### Do Not Tell Your Diary Any Personal Details:

It may seem harsh. It may strike you as unnecessarily cautious. But, oh, children! It is always far better to be cautious and be safe than to be unwary and become a victim of the evil ones who lurk and look for ways to harm you.

Here in the Office of Underage Wizard Protection we like to say that Self-Protection Is First of All a Matter of Self-Governance! Guard your tongues, blunt your quills, keep your private knowledge private--and be safe!

To learn more about these important topics, ask Madam Pomfrey or your Prefects for copies of the following pamphlets:


- \* Never Talk To Strangers
- \* Don't Tell Your Secrets in Public
- \* Hold Tight, Don't Write: 10 Things You Musn't Tell Your Diary
- \* Never Go Alone (Keeping Safe in Public Toilets)
- \* Look Out for Lechers
- \* Hands Off: Parts of You No One Else Should Touch
- \* Trust Your Head (Your Head of House Can Help)
- \* Your Prefect Cares
- \* Hearing Your Healer
- \* Feeling Troubled? Tell Matron
- \* Perk Up: A Smile Will Raise Your Spirits
- \* When Daily Cares Become Nightmares

Tomorrow we will discuss how to avoid conflict and live harmoniously with others. In the meantime, Keep Your Wits About You and Be Safe!

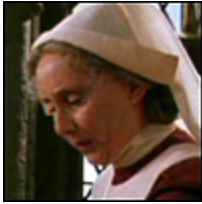
Ms Prunella Post, AEOIA  
Office of Underage Wizard Protection


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 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-09 21:09:31](#)  
(no subject)


Madam Pomfrey, is she saying it's my fault? About Sanji?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-09 21:17:36](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, my dear. Whatever point Ms Post wished to make, it is very poorly conveyed. I hope you can set the thought aside because the truth is that we cannot live our lives so carefully as to never give an evil person chance to harm us. The fault lies entirely with the individual who killed your brother, not with anything you or any of his loved ones did or did not do.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-09 22:33:19](#)  
(no subject)

~~How dare she~~


Madam Pomfrey I don't want to criticise anyone from the Ministry. Especially adults who are trying to teach us to keep ourselves safe.

But these diaries were the gift of the Lord Protector. Why would He have given them to us if He didn't mean for us to write in them?

If an evil person saw what Padma wrote about her brother and used it, that isn't Padma's fault! It's the fault of the person who murdered her brother! She didn't blab ANYTHING. There's nothing wrong with writing about her family especially when we couldn't send owls!

Padma please don't let this worry you. NO ONE thinks it was your fault.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-09 23:31:03](#)**  
(no subject)

You are quite right, Mr Finnigan. The diaries are the Lord Protector's gift to us, and I feel certain that we are meant to use them.

Furthermore, while prudence is always advisable, you are very right that it would be perverse to blame victims for the violence and evil perpetrated against them.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-10 00:23:59](#)**  
*Order Only*

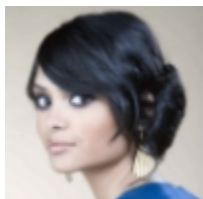
And it's worse than perverse to encourage a child to feel herself guilty for the violent death of her younger sibling.


Honestly. If I could have edited the piece or withheld it, I would have. Perhaps I should have refused the order to print it, after all. And of course, the spell transferred the whole thing, potion, cauldron and flame, onto my journal page precisely as it appeared in her letter.

It doesn't help that the officious woman may find herself in the soup as a result: the damage it's done to this one child (and how many others?) can't be reversed.

And yet, I can't help but feel ambivalent because there are ways in which this whole initiative from UWP is spot on: we live in a very dangerous world under a government that is in no way protecting us, and these journals are no small part of the danger!

I hate this sort of irony. I really do.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-10 04:46:44](#)**  
(no subject)

I got an answer from Director Selwyn. And he told Madam Promfrey that he got an owl from Mr Rosier. Did you do that?

Cheers, Finnigan.

We got back after supper, so I guess I'll see you tomorrow.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-05-10 03:47:49](#)

(no subject)

My dear girl, I will be having a chat with Ms Post first thing tomorrow morning and I will ask her that very question.

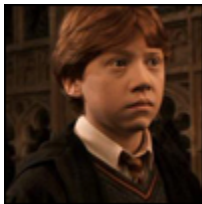
The correct answer, of course, will be 'no, I would never dream of suggesting such a thing.'



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-10 04:48:07](#)

(no subject)

Thank you very much, Mr Selwyn. I'm sorry to have troubled you.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-10 00:41:15](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Huh. I don't see anything in here about what you should do if one of your teachers tries to kill you. Is there some way you're supposed to be ready for that?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-10 02:44:45](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No doubt they won't try to kill us as long as we wear galoshes and eat properly.

The whole business isn't nearly as funny today. How awful do you have to be to say to a girl that her brother died because she was a blabbermouth? I hate Patil as much as anyone and I don't think it was her fault.





 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-10 02:55:02](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah. You're right about that.

Funny she doesn't say anything about how it can be dangerous just reading what other people say about you sometimes. I mean, it's too bad Patil had to see this. It was really dead cruel what she said.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-10 03:00:53](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

You're spot on it's dangerous to read things people say about you sometimes. I do the stupidest things when I'm really cross.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-05-10 02:42:36](#)**

*(no subject)*

Excuse me, Madam Pomfrey. I've been extremely busy of late but I just received an owl about this matter from Stephen Rosier. Do I understand correctly that these missives were approved by someone working in my

division?




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-10 03:03:25](#)**

*(no subject)*

Ah, Director Selwyn. Yes, indeed, that is what the Office of Underage Wizard Protection has led me to understand. I have two letters from them directing me to print these essays on matters of safety and health; in the first of them, Ms Post, and in the second, her superior, a Mrs Carter-Symmons, cite authority from your office for their instructions to me. Shall I forward the documents to you?




 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-05-10 03:45:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Please do so immediately.

Also, I'd request that you arrange for the pamphlets she sent you be rounded up and returned to my office; it does sound as though they were not adequately examined before being sent out.

Did she claim authority from my office regarding the essays she asked you to post? It appears these may be even more regrettable than the pamphlets.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-10 04:05:16](#)**  
(no subject)

They claimed authority from the office of the Director of Protectorate Affairs for both the journal essays and the pamphlets.

The pamphlets all bear dated marks from your office. Some of them were originally marked in the 1940s, others later. All of them were re-stamped in 1991 with the exception of a few bearing this year's date.


I will ask the Prefects to collect all of the copies that have been dispersed to students in their Houses. We will arrange to have them transferred to you as soon as that has been completed.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-05-10 04:14:30](#)**  
(no subject)

My office has been short-staffed in recent weeks; three of my people were admitted to St Mungo's with the pureblood form of the illness. It's made things quite difficult. Nonetheless letting something like this by was inexcusable, and I expect to be able to discern from the documents who approved them.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-05-10 03:50:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh and it probably goes without saying, but just to make it entirely clear, please refrain from posting any further missives from anyone at all from the Office of Underage Wizard Protection.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-10 04:05:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Director. I'm happy to cooperate.

**2010-05-09 22:04:00**

*Things I Mustn't Tell My Diary*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Well I went up to the hospital wing to take a look at the pamphlets we were told about today. (I'd have asked my Prefects but I think they've all been taken for use with the games people are playing.) Anyway, here are the ten things I mustn't tell my diary.

1. Holiday and travel plans, because someone might read it and break into our family's houses to steal.
2. Personal conversations, which means anything directed to just one or two people. I thought that one was rather funny, isn't this why we can write comments to each other? Besides we were TOLD to use the diaries to send messages to our family, when we couldn't send owls. The explanation is that we might forget everyone's reading if we're having our own private little conversation and certainly people do. But I think it's better to try to remember everyone can read the diaries and carry on having the conversations we need to have.
3. Other people's secrets, and then she goes on a bit about breaking confidences and how no one will want to be your friend.
4. Gossip about teachers. I can't imagine gossiping about teachers where everyone can see me. Not that I gossip about teachers at all, of course.
5. Gossip about other students. And she has a line about how no one trusts a gossip, it's sort of like #3 all over again except this time, it's not just that you shouldn't repeat things that were told in confidence but you really shouldn't say anything at all about your mates.
6. Our personal worries, because these might then be turned against us somehow and besides we shouldn't burden our acquaintances with complaints about sadness or stomach aches. Instead, we should take these concerns to a Prefect, our Head of House, or Madam Pomfrey.
7. Anything that would cause scandal. I think she means I shouldn't talk about my knickers. Or those of my dorm mates. Also if I'm snogging someone (I'm not) I shouldn't talk about that. Someone ought to mention that to that man in Kent who's always going on about the lady at the owl post office. You all know who I mean. The

one with the lips that are 'red as frog's blood' (and it gets worse from there if you know what I mean). Not that I read his entries mind you but I've heard other people reading them out loud because they're ALL like that and can you imagine being the lady and having the man you're seeing going on about you like that in public? Anyway.


8. Anything 'indiscreet' about our little sisters and brothers at home. Although she doesn't really say what she means by 'indiscreet,' she doesn't even give that HORRID and CRUEL example that I won't repeat.

9. Anything at all about money, our own or our family's, because it's 'vulgar' and besides might make someone think about robbing our parents. I guess I will refrain from naming names because goodness knows I wouldn't want to make anyone a target, but I do know a few people at this school who come from money. First, it's hardly a secret they have money. Second (and more important) ALL their parents can rather take care of themselves!

10. Anything you think you might not like people to be able to read about you five or ten or twenty years from now, because no one knows how long this project might last. That's almost anything, come to think of it; really, how am I supposed to have any idea what might embarrass me when I'm thirty-two years old?

Anyway. The brochure said 'ten things' but there was a list on the back that went on even longer, I didn't read it though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-10 03:57:55](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I'm not sure what we are meant to write here, if not any of those things. I guess you've got it right: you're just supposed to copy out what that office has to say. It's what Madam Pomfrey's got to do, isn't it?

I think one of the ten should've been that you shouldn't write back to people you don't know, because y'know, that's the one thing I really learned on my birthday when Some People (whose names I won't mention because they'd just say they didn't do it and they'd say I was breaking #5 on the list) hexed me so I'd have to write to **EVERYBODY** who wrote anything in the journals that day. I mean, I even had to say hello to that daft bloke in Kent, which don't even pretend you don't remember! Anyway. If she wanted to tell us something that's

dead dangerous to do in your journal, it's say stuff to the wrong people and get them hacked off at you.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-05-10 04:07:37**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

DIRECTOR SELWYN IS TALKING TO ME.

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE LIKE THAT WRITE IN MY DIARY. IT MAKES ME THINK I SHOULD NEVER WRITE ANYTHING EVER AGAIN UNLESS IT'S IN UNDER THE LOCK SO THEY CAN'T SEE.

At least it's not Bellatrix Lestrange.

No one is as scary as Hydra's mum except for maybe Mr Crouch.



**alt\_ron** at **2010-05-10 04:13:37**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

You don't have to worry. He's really very nice, Director Selwyn is. I talked to him on my birthday, and he didn't even get angry. In fact, he wrote back and was quite jolly about it.

I think he has kids and just kind of thought it was funny.

But, yeah. Let's hope Mrs Lestrange doesn't decide to answer you, too. Or that Mr Crouch. Well, or Mr Malfoy, either. He's the one that really worries me. The way he keeps bringing me up to Pansy, about how I was along when we went into the forest. That's not good, the way he won't let go of that.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-05-10 04:23:24**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah, if I were you I'd be worried about Mr Malfoy.

And be careful about Mr Selwyn. When he realised you were hexed he started asking you all sorts of leading questions to see if you'd slip and see something incriminating, couldn't you see that?


But you're right, at least he's polite about it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-10 04:08:45](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, you know? I think 'Don't write to people you don't know' was on the back. I think they didn't make it one of the ten because they have a whole other one about not talking to strangers.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-10 04:30:15](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, we were reading that one. Don't talk to strangers, or take sweets from them, or go inside their houses to help them fix something even if they're just little old ladies. And don't go for broom rides or rides on carpets with people you don't know. Or if you're somewhere alone and you see someone who looks like they're hurt, don't go find out if they need help, just let some adult do that instead. Or, um. There were other things, but I can't remember. Huh. I guess if I can't remember that means I might do something dangerous and not realise.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-05-10 03:58:59](#)  
(no subject)

Miss Perks.

I would like you to take that pamphlet, tuck it into your bag, and return it to your matron tomorrow before it can do any further damage.

Rest assured that you may write whatever you like in your diary, though you are wise to consider that anyone at all might be reading and that certain topics of gossip may make you the wrong enemies.

You should certainly feel free to write about worries and concerns, have 'personal conversations' provided you don't object to others chiming in, and don't worry yourself overmuch about whether your childish writings will embarrass you in decades to come.

And I'm quite sure Lucius Malfoy would agree with your assessment that he needn't worry overmuch about housebreakers.




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-05-10 04:00:53](#)  
(no subject)

Am I in trouble, sir?

I'm sorry I wrote about the pamphlet if I shouldn't have, sir.



 **alt\_selwyn** at [2010-05-10 04:03:43](#)  
(no subject)

You are not in trouble. Didn't I just say you're free to write about whatever you like? And in fact by airing your concerns and doubts you made it clear to me just how damaging those pamphlets could be and so I have asked Madam Pomfrey to return them to my office.

What a wonderful, wonderful gift Our Lord has given us in these diaries!



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-05-10 04:05:03](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

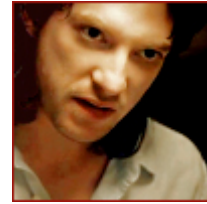
Thank you, sir. I appreciate everything Our Lord does for us.



**[2010-05-10 11:48:00](#)**

*Order Only: Pamphlets and Sirius*

Poppy, I'm glad that Selwyn has released you from the requirement imposed on you that you make a daily post highlighting the amazing pap produced by the Office of Underage Wizard Protection. But I must say that the subsequent roiling of the department as a result has been vastly entertaining. The memos flying back and forth are a masterpiece of bureaucratic vexation. This has not made Selwyn look particularly good, and he is not pleased.



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Sirius, it is difficult to trace the Aurors' efforts to track you down through Ministry communication channels, but there are some intriguing indications that this department is suddenly rather flush with money. I think that some budgetary categories are being hurriedly reassigned to free up funds for the chase. There have been a trickle of reports from European sources with information on Cullenden's back history, but nothing on you specifically, at least as far as any of my analysts can detect. No news is good news at this point, but do keep up your guard.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **[2010-05-10 17:39:16](#)**

*Order Only*

Yes, I felt a moment or two of real gratitude to the Director last evening. We've asked the Prefects to gather up as many of the pamphlets as they are able from their Houses, and we intend to send the lot back to the Ministry as soon as they can be packaged up and returned. I recommend them for their entertainment value and, twisted tightly, as fire-starters.

I suppose I hope that nothing too dire happens to the well-meaning Ms Post and her colleagues. After all, they are NOT wrong about the dangers of our world, but they certainly seized the wrong end of the wand if they meant to change anything for the better.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-05-10 21:03:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Bill.

I've been thinking over the number of people who might be sympathetic enough to inform on me - or who might be coerced into talking.

Sally I'm not too worried about. I'm concerned for Justin, though, and Laura. I never used the name Cullenden in connection to the family, but they both knew before Justin went into Beauxbatons.

I'm not sure I ought to risk heading to Dijon, though, just to Obliviate Laura. And Justin's still got another month of term; I certainly can't go walking into Beauxbatons, but Padfoot could possibly do it. There's something to be said for leaving it alone, though, and hoping no one ever realises the link.

**2010-05-10 15:49:00**

*Order Only: Poppy*



 [alt\\_lupin](#)

Poppy - I have news on Mr Jones for you. I haven't managed to speak to him myself, but Tonks tracked him down on one of the other wards last night and they had a bit of a chat. He's doing as well as can be expected. He was one of the earlier patients brought in apparently, so the sickness seems to have had a greater effect on him than it has on Tonks, but he's in good spirits and should make a reasonable recovery. He's worried for his job, as most of the patients are, but he seems to have made friends with everyone on his ward and all the staff. I believe he's due to be released some time next week, but that could change depending on his condition.

I don't know how much of that you can pass on, and Tonks didn't mention Professor Sinistra to him, of course, but hopefully she'll feel a little better knowing he's all right.

Tonks herself is doing very well, as her expedition to wards unknown demonstrates. She's on course to be released at the end of the week, all being well, and is pretty much counting down the hours, minutes and seconds.


I was flicking through an old Prophet while she was with the Healer today, I think it might have been yesterday's Sunday Prophet, and spotted an article buried well into the middle, page 13 or 14, about the bodies of two ten-year-old girls being found out at Bushey Heath on Saturday. It caught my eye only because there was some nonsense about it being werewolves, although thankfully the reporter retained enough sense to point out that it's in the middle of the lunar cycle so rather unlikely.

After all that business with the little Patil boy, it seems rather suspicious that two more young children have been killed in what sounds like a rather violent way, and that it's been buried so quietly in the Prophet, although I suppose the Ministry may simply be trying to avoid more public panic.

Has anyone else heard anything about that?

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 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-05-10 21:11:34](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Remus, for this report on Mr Jones. And give my thanks to Miss Tonks, as well. Aurora will be relieved to hear this news; I'm certain she feared the worst, and expected that there might never be any sure reports of what had become of her friend. She doesn't say, but I believe Mr Jones is especially dear to her.

I missed that report in the Prophet. I'll have to see if I can track down a copy. Yesterday was taken up with other business here, between Ministry departments fighting one another with me in the middle and students wilting under the pressure of impending exams. Today's been much worse, of course: I've been reviving fallen NEWTs-takers and sending them back into the fray. Tomorrow will be worse, but things should get better from there.

I'm so pleased that Miss Tonks is well enough to be sent home. I'm sure it can't come soon enough from her perspective. Will she be needing follow-on therapy or any special accommodations in order to manage at home?




 **alt\_lupin** at [2010-05-10 21:30:41](#)  
(no subject)

Those Ministry pamphlets were a delight. I don't know quite how you manage to stay straight-faced while distributing them to the students.

I believe the plan is that she'll go in to St Mungo's once or twice a week for follow-up and so they can monitor her progress and make sure everything's all right. As for special accommodations, I think we'll just cross that bridge as we come to it. The Healers haven't suggested anything specific, but should anything crop up once she's out of the hospital, we'll just have to adapt. I don't anticipate any problems, though. She seems as ambulatory as ever.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-10 21:57:17](#)**  
(no subject)

The pamphlets were entertaining to say the least. Most of them, at any rate. I trust that no one took to heart the social mores conveyed in 'Good Girls Don't/Best Boys Won't'; I'm fairly certain the one that promised to enumerate the places no tongue should go attracted closer study.

I got the elves to bring yesterday's Prophet so I could take a look that article. I'm not sure what was more offensive, the fact that it was given so little space and buried so deeply or the smug way the reporter packaged it up with all the loopy theories of the countryfolk. 'It were Dick Turpin's ghost what did it. He's on the prowl every night, he is.' And if it wasn't the work of a highwayman's ghost, it was Sleepers prowling the heath after dark--unless it was werewolves. I'd say the reporter was under orders to obscure the story as much as possible, and a good job she made of it, too.

If you're reading this, Sirius, all we're really told is that the bodies were badly mangled and were found Saturday evening, lying alongside a footpath between Bushey and Elstree.




 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2010-05-10 22:05:41](#)**  
(no subject)

From what I dimly recall of my own school days, I imagine any lists of conduct the Ministry feel should be avoided will be immediately seized upon as a checklist of how to have fun.

I think you're right, the intention was definitely to obscure the facts, or lack of them. There was next to no information on the children themselves, who they were or where they came from. Either they don't know, or they don't want to tell.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-10 22:15:20](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

You're quite right about that. I hadn't even noticed: they don't name them. I suppose I simply assumed-


What if these aren't the same girls who were advertised missing last week? Surely they must be.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-11 01:53:47](#)  
(no subject)


The titles on those things were truly ridiculous. Even if they apparently got across at least a few points of hygiene that some of my boys still need to absorb. Well, except for Percy. He's rather fussy about that sort of thing.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-11 01:54:24](#)  
(no subject)

Oi! It's not as if I don't know how to wash behind my ears, Mum!




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-11 02:16:30](#)  
(no subject)

Ah, but do you have a proper appreciation for 'The Mighty, Magnificent Pea'? And did you realise that really you ought to 'Always Say Sorry' when you've done something to offend a housemate--even, perhaps, when it is not quite a matter of your being responsible for the ill-feeling; it is the mature thing to make peace whenever it lies in your power to do so.

Such wisdom! After all, most of us need to be reminded now and then to 'Perk Up: A Smile Will Raise Your Spirits'!

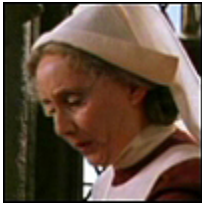



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-05-11 00:19:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I think I'm putting together a picture, but there are still a number of missing pieces.

What interested me was Miss Patil's observation that the missing girls bore a resemblance to Pansy Parkinson. Couple that with Reg's 'accident' and I can only imagine the rest.

The odd thing is that Voldemort must have known the Patil death would cause such a stir. The way this story has been handled - back page, burying the details - sounds much more the way I'd go about it if my evil plot called for the kidnap and murder of a child. I still can't work out why he'd have directed Regulus to take the Patil boy, knowing how people would react.



 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-05-11 02:09:57](#)  
(no subject)

I can't work out what Voldemort would want with children, but then I don't sit about imagining how I'd carry off evil plans if I were an evil overlord who wanted to- well, what exactly? I've no idea what he could possibly be about if he's behind this.

But I do see what you mean: if you accept the first premise and then imagine that your brother's been made to do these things, from there it's not hard to understand the violence of his self-punishment. He must feel quite desperate.

**2010-05-10 18:50:00**

*Two Little Girls-Gone*


A few days ago, Padma made a comment about a couple a girls disappearing that may have looked like Pansy.

I don't know if anyone saw yesterday's Prophet, but two little girls were found dead. Their bodies were badly mangled. Who could be so mean to children?




 [alt\\_dean](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-11 00:33:21**  
(no subject)

It's dead awful, isn't it? I didn't see the Prophet, but when I came into the common room all the girls were talking about it. I guess it'd be especially bad to think about if you were a girl. But, yeah.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-05-11 01:03:50**  
(no subject)

I know. It's really awful.

I heard from my Gran, and she says she's keeping my sister Evelyn real close to home. Well she was anyway because of the sickness. I reckon Evelyn's feeling so pent up she's ready to scream, but I don't blame my Gran for being careful.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-11 01:20:30**  
(no subject)

If Ginny were home, Mum would be doing the same thing. Maybe for all of us, actually. I hope this has all blown over by the time we get home for summer, because I'm telling you, if we're all locked up in the house, we'd kill each other in a day or two. Can you imagine? All of us inside at my house? The twins'd blow us up! Or Mum's head would explode. Probably both.

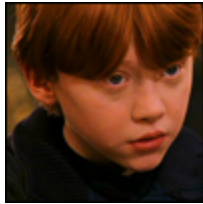





 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-11 02:01:09](#)  
(no subject)

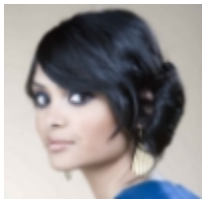
Ron,


You might want to inquire if Pansy is fine, especially since the talk hasn't died down about how much those girls looked like her.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-11 02:06:49](#)  
(no subject)

She's about as upset as you'd think. It's horrible, y'know.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-11 02:59:05](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's just scary. I mean, before this, I've never heard of kids going missing and turning up dead like that, later. I mean, unless muggles were involved.

And we don't even know if those girls were the same ones, but that's an even scarier thought. Maybe someone's going on a serial killing spree, which would be really, really horrible, so I hope not.

I don't know how I made it all the way through Astronomy tonight! I know it's only been a week, but it feels like *ages* since I had such a long day.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-11 13:58:54](#)  
(no subject)

I don't see why everyone keeps saying they look like Pansy. It's a common sort of a look, isn't it? Dark hair and pale skin, small stature, fringe in the eyes, and so on.

**2010-05-10 22:29:00**

## *Travel Restrictions Repealed*

I am pleased to announce that in consultation with St Mungo's, the Ministry today lifted travel restrictions for all those who are not currently experiencing symptoms of illness.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

If you are ill, until you are fully recovered you should remain in quarantine and travel only if you need to go to St Mungo's. The immediate members of your household should also remain in quarantine.

However, the cure has proved effective for all of Black's victims, regardless of blood status. Moreover, the able staff at St Mungo's has managed to lay in a surplus, and as they've seen no new cases in a week and the cure appears to take effect quite rapidly when it can be administered promptly, we feel confident that life can begin to return to normal.

Accordingly:

\* Travel restrictions are lifted; all healthy wizards may travel freely throughout the Protectorate.

\* All restrictions on the floo network are cancelled.

\* All work-at-home orders still in effect are rescinded; all healthy individuals may return to work, regardless of blood status.


\* The Hogwarts quarantine is lifted, and parcels may again be received by students. (Special exemptions were made for the NEWT examiners, but the quarantine is lifted now more generally. St Mungo's will be sending a stock of the cure to the Hogwarts matron, to ensure it is on hand if needed.) Also, we expect Hogwarts to have its full complement of owls back within the week, and all of us at the Ministry are grateful to those Hogwarts students who lent their personal owls to us for the duration of the crisis.

Naturally, if you feel inclined to continue to use scourgification spells, there's no harm in continued vigilance. And we can certainly trust that Black and his agents continue to watch for signs of weakness that they may exploit; anyone with information that may indicate who

Black's agents are should immediately contact MLE. With diligence and cooperation we will head off future attacks on our way of life.

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 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-11 15:11:33](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Wonderful news! All of us at Hogwarts are pleased and relieved, and grateful to the Ministry. The protections put in place were difficult, but they kept the students and staff safe. Not a single case occurred here, which is quite a remarkable achievement.

**2010-05-11 16:34:00**

*Hey, Finnigan*

I know you asked Parvati about that enormous owl over by Ravenclaw this morning. Well, I got a letter of apology from Ms Post - the witch who was writing all those things in Madam Pomfrey's journal?



 [alt\\_padma](#)

(Sounds like your Mr Rosier and Director Selwyn went at her quite a bit. Oh - but I don't think I'm supposed to say things like that in my journal, as it would be gossip.)


Anyway, she was pretty much falling over herself apologising for implying that you and me talking about Sanji was what led to him getting kidnapped. Then she went on to talk about all the ways her office can help us be better witches and wizards and I think you can guess what that was all about. Actually, I think it's clear she wrote some of the pamphlets. Pity you've given yours back, we could've compared the letter to the leaflets to see if she actually quoted any of them.

I was thinking of going to an undisclosed location at a time later than now, because it's a little tense over in Ravenclaw Corner this week and I'm not much in the mood for silent contemplation. Though I have a lot to catch up on - even though all the professors told me I didn't have to make up the homework from last week, there are still the discussions and such to catch up on. Maybe you'd want to meet me and I can add to Belinda and Linus' notes?

Tell you one thing, I think I'm just as glad that Professor McGonagall will be teaching Transfiguration. Not that Mr Professor Carrow was a bad teacher - because really, in lessons, he was actually quite good - but I dunno how I'd feel seeing him face to face after what he said to me last week.

Oh - and I expect everyone's already talked about that as much as anyone cares to, but do you think it's really true he was behind the attacks, all along? (Oh, that would be gossip again, wouldn't it?) Well, Ms Post said to go on writing whatever we like in our journals, just as Director Selwyn said, so I guess it's all right. Although of course I wouldn't want to upset Miss Professor Carrow, either. It's just hard to believe that was happening at the same time as Parvati and me were going home - we missed nearly all the excitement.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-11 23:00:10](#)  
(no subject)

It's quite nice having the Headmistress teaching in Transfiguration. Neville's still pants at it, but now Gryffindor doesn't lose points every time he makes a mistake. Besides, the Headmistress is a good teacher.

Maybe we can meet after dinner? I don't think my notes are as good at Linus's or Belinda's but you're welcome to them. Or we could talk about History club a little, Mr Rosier sent me some books today since the quarantine is lifted (and sweets too, of course, and some nice cheese and bread to toast and loads of other stuff I could bring). With all the packages today it's a bit funny your ENORMOUS owl was just carrying a letter.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-12 00:04:13](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, excellent!

And I know what you mean. Couldn't they have lifted the quarantine one day sooner? Parvati and I had to do loads of cleansing spells and scourging when we came back. As if we hadn't spent a whole week bathing twice a day!




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-11 23:00:50](#)  
(no subject)

And even without a pamphlet saying so I don't know as I want to gossip about Mr Professor Carrow in the journals.

I guess, the Ministry thinks he's behind the attacks because they arrested him, and that's good enough for me.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-13 01:55:16](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know if Professor Carrow is behind the attacks or not, honestly. I suppose that most of the evidence points in that direction, though, or else he wouldn't

have been arrested. He's a pretty important person in some ways, after all.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-13 01:57:24](#)  
(no subject)

I know - that's what made it so incredible that he was even arrested!

I mean, I know your father and the Minister and a load of important people all think it's so, or they wouldn't have done it. So obviously, they must have good reason to expect they're right.

But it just seems...I dunno, sensational.



 **alt\_draco** at [2010-05-13 02:55:56](#)  
(no subject)

I know, especially the part about being the Heir of Slytherin. I mean, really.

**2010-05-12 12:23:00**

*Revising*

for exams isn't the same. Without Hermione Granger I mean.

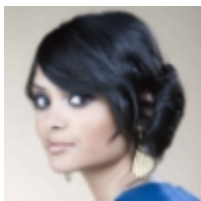



Shes really good at remembering things I need to do.

 [alt\\_harry](#)

Madam Pomfrey I hope the medicine is ready soon. Do you know when it will be??

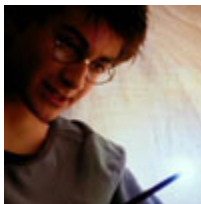
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 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-05-12 19:40:50**  
(no subject)

Sorry to hear about your mudblood, Harry, but like you said, they'll put her to rights really very soon.


You could revise with us, if you like. Other than last week I've got fairly comprehensive notes and I'm pretty sure I know what'll be on the exams.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-05-12 19:45:46**  
(no subject)

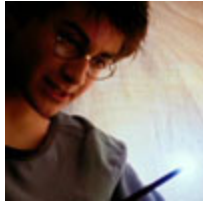
Can Draco come too? I mean it wouldn't be fair otherwise, I usually revise with him.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-05-12 19:48:51**  
(no subject)

Of course!


But only if you both promise you'll not go following Weasley off into the Forbidden Forest after more man-eating spiders, or anything daft like that.



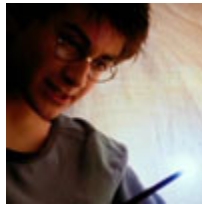
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-12 19:51:55](#)  
(no subject)


All right, I promise we wont go into the Forbidden Forest after spiders again.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-12 20:01:11](#)  
(no subject)


Or anything else that's liable to get you both killed, Marvolo.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-05-12 20:36:23](#)  
(no subject)


Only nothing ever seems like it's liable to get me killed til I'm in the middle of it!!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-12 20:01:25](#)  
(no subject)


At least not before exams!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-13 01:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

Especially not with Weasley.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-13 02:01:26](#)  
(no subject)

I know, right?

I still can't believe you went with him the first time!





 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-13 05:30:20](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Ah, Mr Marvolo. I wish I could hurry nature along, but I cannot. I've been down this evening to visit with Professor Sprout about this very question, and she tells me that it will be at least two weeks yet before we can hope to take cuttings from the mandrakes to make the potion.

In the meanwhile, of course, you are welcome to stop into the hospital wing at any time during visiting hours. As you know, she will not be able to hear you, but if it would reassure you to see that her condition is unchanged, you are welcome to come.

**2010-05-12 23:43:00**

*ORDER ONLY*



 [alt\\_alice](#)

I've got a spare moment or two before lights out, so I thought I'd write you all a quick note to let you know we've sent the Players safely off. Before they left, we had a bit of a dedication ceremony for the Memorial Garden, and planted the first tree in the centre of the garden in honour of all the Order members that have died. It's an oak tree, and there's a lovely piece of marble with a phoenix carved into it that was set into the ground in front of it. We'll plant the rest bit by bit over the rest of the summer - and of course, we'll hold off planting a few trees until some of you can come to be here for it.

There was no shortage of tears when the Players took their leave on our end. Kingsley - it took nearly an hour before all the sniffles died down to manageable levels, and I've been told more times than I can count to tell you that everyone "misses you already," and wants to know how long it will be before you come back. I'm afraid the children weren't the only ones shedding a tear, though -- Benjy has quite left his heart here with us at Moddey Dhoo, and Jacinda was equally sad to see him go. The two of them have really become inseparable during the last few months.

Best of luck to all of you, Kingsley. I hope very much that you'll be able to pick up where you left off, and John is quite excited about hearing from you and learning what he can about the lay of the land in the camps. I'm sure he'll be writing you much more detailed missives about everything. Danny and Victor have the remainder of the boat construction well in hand (with Frank lending his wand), and we still plan on being finished with her by early fall.

Speaking of John, he'll be taking another load of supplies down to Sherwood camp this weekend, and is planning on shifting down there full-time within the month. As soon as the wards are up and the Secret Keeper at the camp is in place, Lucinda will be joining him. That brings me to my last bit of news - John and Lucinda have decided to get married before they leave us. It's a good idea - Merlin knows when she'll see her father next, and it's good to give him the chance to properly give her away. They've decided to do a Muggle-style wedding, as that's what both of them are more familiar with - Arabella has agreed to officiate, and Frank and myself will be witnesses. They've picked a good time to do it, because we're up to

our ears in flowers this time of year, and everything is so bright and green. I shall miss them both very much.

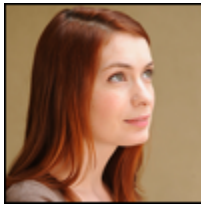
That's all I can manage for the evening. Remus, darling, it's good to hear that our Tonks is doing so much better. And Sirius, my love, you keep good and safe. Arthur, I hope this week has been kinder to you. And Molly, thank you for "playing owl" and getting our Neville's note to Augusta.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-13 20:48:39](#)**

(no subject)

If the boat's to be ready by autumn, what does that mean for our June run? I've got Marguerite laying in supplies for a transfer at the solstice. Right now I don't see why I shouldn't be able to arrange transportation on this end.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-13 21:09:50](#)**

(no subject)

*Tide Turner* might not be fully seaworthy by June, but we've also got *The Hopeful*, our smaller boat -- the one we used last time. We can fit four or five extra souls on board if we crowd in, which might work for Davidson's purposes too, if you'd be ready to take some people back with you to France. If not, we can wait until next solstice to start people-smuggling.



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-05-14 03:09:23](#)**


(no subject)

Benjy's been moping terribly since we left. He growls at all of us and says nothing's bothering him, but of course, we all know better.

It was hard to leave. I'd almost forgotten how nice it was to stay in one spot, and of course, the children got under all our skins. None of us are particularly keen on picking up the wandering lifestyle again. Still, we know our reports will be important, particularly for John and Davidson and the rest.

I never thought I'd say it, but tell Victor I miss his bubble and squeak.



 **alt\_frank** at **[2010-05-14 03:25:02](#)**  
*(no subject)*

ah, young love.

**[2010-05-12 23:47:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Barty, if you've anything to pass along to Regulus, you may as well give it to me. Auntie Walburga has had me on the Floo so many times in the last three days that I think my cushion charm has put a permanent depression in the hearth.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)**

Today I've had to endure three complaints about changing Reg's dressing (even though it didn't need it but once, per Healer MacCowan when Regulus was still in hospital); a lecture on the career she envisioned for him; waiting while she rifled through his post and decided what to read out to him and what to destroy; and a shopping list of the items she absolutely must have if she's to continue acting as his sole companion.

Miss Parkinson, your letter was one of the ones she deigned to read; I'm sorry to say that as I feared, it left next to no impression on my cousin, though it did give Mrs Black some cause to agree with you. 'Even a thirteen-year-old girl has more sense,' was one of the more acceptable phrases she used to attempt to chivvy him out of his catatonia.

If I had any expectation that Aunt Walburga would truly pass along anything that might really cheer him, I would send it, regardless of any inconvenience. I thought it was a bother being used as her go-between when Regulus first returned to us; I had not fathomed the vexation brought about when she interposes herself between him and anyone else who might call!



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-13 04:07:27](#)**

*(no subject)*

I have quite a pile of his things here, but is there any sign he'd want any of it?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-13 04:13:43](#)  
(no subject)

Not at all, but there's no use letting it clutter your guest wing. I've errands to run in London tomorrow and could pick up his personal items from your elf.

Unless you'd like to meet for luncheon?

I expect he has a veritable library of books he'd been in the middle of reading? Well, I can always put them in mokeskin if there are too many to carry at once.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-13 04:19:48](#)  
(no subject)

I have a full schedule tomorrow until one o'clock, but then I've got to make several stops in town, and lunch could be the first of those. Does that suit your schedule?


I'll gather up the books and reduce them. That's no trouble.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-13 04:22:32](#)  
(no subject)

One o'clock will be fine for me. It needn't take long if you've other matters to attend.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-13 04:17:17](#)  
(no subject)


I don't suppose you've any of his warmer robes - or his cloak? I could see him through the fire this afternoon and he was shivering a bit.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-13 04:21:17](#)  
(no subject)

I'll have a look in the wardrobe.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-13 04:26:11](#)  
(no subject)

It's quite possible they were at Windsor - or even that he'd not moved them from Buckingham.

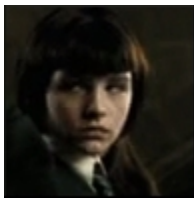
I'm sure if it crossed her mind, Aunt Walburga might give him one of Uncle Orion's warmer sets. They'd be long, but that's a simple enough matter to fix. It's not as if he's going anywhere




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-13 05:12:57](#)  
(no subject)

I found several things.

Tomorrow at one o'clock then. I can't remember if you like the Welbeck in Chandos Street. I'll see you there unless you have a counterproposal.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-13 13:55:55](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for letting me know, Aunt Narcissa.

Is he really very bad? It sounds awful. It must be very hard to see him like that. It's hard enough from here, just reading about it, so I can only imagine what it's been like for you.

And I'm sort of glad I got to say what I did to him even if it sounds like he couldn't really hear it right now. Maybe later he'll have a chance to really read it.

If you would tell Mrs Black thank you for me, I'd appreciate it.

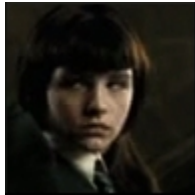



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-13 14:38:53](#)**  
(no subject)

I shall, Pansy.

It has been difficult, but what is the hardest to bear is that at the moment, he is his own barrier to recovering.

Until he decides either to articulate what plagues him or to snap himself out of his melancholia, I can only conclude that the contact he has had with his contemptible former brother has twisted him into these throes of depression. He ought to have known better than to let the man's lies affect him.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-15 04:25:04](#)**  
(no subject)

do you think he'll get better?

can people get better from this sort of thing?



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-15 04:29:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Well. He has to make up his mind to do so.

Of course, it could be easier for him, if circumstances were different. But he has, unfortunately, dug himself into that hole, as well.

So some of the ordinary remedies are not available - which is a pity. But, given enough time, I think he could decide to let it go.



**2010-05-13 21:16:00**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I got a package from Mr Black at supper. My Mr Black. Not the other Mr Black. He sent it to the post office weeks ago so it could be sent after quarantine was lifted.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

so no, he didn't just send it.

and no, he didn't mail me his *arm*.

Honestly. Which first-year came up with that one?

It was a history book. That's it.

and yes, I've seen the photos of those two girls, and yes, it is awful and sad, and yes, I know some people might think they look like me, so no, you don't have to show them to me. And no, I didn't know them, and no, they aren't relations.

I hope that answers everyone's questions, because I'm tired of hearing them, and I'd rather people just stop asking.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-14 01:42:49**

*(no subject)*

Hey.

People are just being twats. You don't have to tell anybody anything, y'know.

So, is it a good book?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-05-14 02:00:00**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, they really are.

It's about a wizard who went on all these trips to the Amazon to go treasure hunting and look for artifacts and things. I just started, so it's talking all about his childhood and his schooling, which is interesting enough, but the jungle part is bound to be wiz.




 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-14 02:12:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, hey!

Is it about Percy Fawcett? He was this dead amazing Amazon explorer.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-14 02:21:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it is, actually.

And he is! Have you read about him? I'll bet you haven't read this one. It has copies of letters and maps in it and things.

I'll find some wiz parts we can look through together tomorrow, if you'd like.




 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-14 02:34:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Is it a big book, then?

The one we had was just an adventure story about him, trekking off to find the lost city Z and all the things he had to get past or fight or work out before he could make it there. And then in the end it was this big mystery because he was never heard from again, but is probably still alive in there somewhere deep in the uncharted Amazon being a wizard overlord to the people there.

I think it was Charlie's book originally, and then Percy's, of course, but the twins always made fun of him about being a Colonel in the Muggle army and Percy didn't like that.

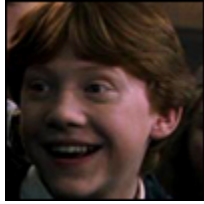



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-14 02:50:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's pretty big, it was written by his nephew and one of his sons, so it's probably what your book was based on.

I like mysteries, because then you can make up your own ending. Like it'd be so nift if he just strolled out of the jungle all casual like

tomorrow, like he'd never gone in the first place. Or if he became an Amazon king like you said, and had loads of kids that all had blue eyes or light hair or something.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-14 02:35:09](#)**  
(no subject)

But, yeah, it'd be nift to see your book.


It's got real maps and everything? That's wizard.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-14 02:51:32](#)**  
(no subject)


some of the pictures move and everything.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-14 02:55:28](#)**  
(no subject)


Wizard!



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-14 03:14:10](#)**  
(no subject)


I know, right?



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-14 03:15:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Language, Ronald. Although I heartily agree with the sentiment, I must admit.




 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-05-14 05:03:16**  
(no subject)

I know the past week or so has been particularly hard on you, Little Bit. Is there anything you need that I can get for you - apart from chocolates, that is. An assortment is already on its way (and yes, I remembered that you do not care for nuts in). Regardless of the sworn healing powers of chocolate, you must promise to eat the sweets in moderation, for over-indulgence itself could easily cause your ulcer to flare.

However, a simple box of treats seems wholly inadequate to the anxiety you must be feeling over your 'Pirate' and his situation, so if there is anything I can do besides sympathise, please do tell me. I have no inclination to see you so distraught and mousy. It is not at all like you.



 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-05-14 14:54:08**  
(no subject)


It has been. But it will get better. And it was lovely to get a nice book from him, the real him, not the person he is right now. It reminded me of what he really is like, and what he'll be like again once he gets better. So that helped.

I know how awful busy you are, but thank you for thinking about me and sending me something to cheer me up. Because it really will. And don't worry, I'll be sure to spread them out. I'm excellent at hoarding. Mum's chocs lasted me all the way to Sally-Anne's birthday, after all.

And this summer I've got London and you to look forward to, and French tutors, and the Manor in Scotland actually sounds sort of nice too, because it's in the country, and Mr Campbell has promised to teach me to ride horses, and Sally-Anne can visit for a whole week. So I've got a lot waiting for me that's pleasant and relaxing and will be good for me. I only wish I could be happy about it right now, instead of waiting to be happy.

I do miss you something terrible, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing you both in a few weeks. Do you think you'll come here at all before then?




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-15 00:27:52](#)  
(no subject)

Since Quidditch has been cancelled for the remainder of the season, and what usually brings me to the school otherwise is in the form of some calamity, let us pray that I need not make a visit. But I hope you can manage your anticipation for a few more weeks.

You need not hoard the sweets; after all that was a measure of the quarantine, not a financial hardship nor any sort of limitation in punishment. Just do not overdo.

It seems to me that you need some more immediate form of distraction. Are you participating in the Model Wizengamot next week? Tell me how you have been passing the time - apart from breaking out of the castle to gallivant after spiders. Next you will be emulating your great-grandfather's grandfather, Nicholas Parkinson, and organising an expedition into Caledon Forest to establish trading routes with centaurs.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-15 01:50:40](#)  
(no subject)


I'll manage somehow.

And I won't overdo.

I've been revising, mostly. And reading. And going out to walk around. (I think I've gotten the forest out of my system, though, so don't worry, I've stayed clear of that). I was working on a project for History club, but it won't be done in time for the end of term, so it'll be ready first thing when we start up again.

I'm probably going to watch it, the Wizengamot. It sounds like it'll be interesting. Almost like a play, except one side doesn't know what the other is going to say ahead of time.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-14 17:37:04](#)  
(no subject)

It sounds like you've been having a fairly rotten time lately...

I'm no good at knowing what to say to people and that, but if you ever want to just play a bit of music and *not* talk about things, I'd be game for it.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-14 19:14:50](#)  
(no subject)

That might be nice, yeah. Maybe tomorrow? I don't have to study too much until Sunday, really.

Is Valkyrie back yet?




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-15 01:52:13](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, tomorrow sounds good. Want to meet up in one of the old trophy rooms? Nobody's likely to be in those.


Valkyrie got back a few days ago. I'm not sure the Ministry took very good care of her, but she was ever so tired. And loads of firsties were at me to lend her out so they could write their mums and dads. I told them I didn't mind, but she had to rest first.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-15 01:56:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'd imagine she would be, with all the work she's been doing. And you should wait just as long as you want, because all the other owls are coming back too, so they'll get their turn soon enough.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-05-15 02:02:21](#)  
(no subject)

Well, not everyone has an owl, and the wait for the school owls does seem to be taking a long time. It's been ages and there are still a lot of people in my House who haven't had their go.

But I'm not letting anyone overtake her (me included!)

**2010-05-13 22:18:00**

*Owl posts resume*

I must say, morale has certainly improved now that students are receiving posts from home, including packages (thanks for the one you sent, Mum.

Ronald was delighted to receive the comics, and I was almost out of the ginger-pear spread. And I passed on the knitting patterns you sent to Luna and Ginny.) It has particularly helped some of our first years who have had a spot or two of homesickness this year.



 [alt\\_percy](#)

I received a very courteous note in reply to the one I sent to Mr and Mrs Clearwater, since I've been stopping by the Hospital Wing periodically to visit Pe check with Madam Pomfrey concerning when the Mandrake potion will be ready. Of course we do want to have our full complement of Prefects to fill the patrol roster, so Penelope Clearwater has been missed.

I also sent a few letters out this past autumn to some individuals I had identified at the Ministry, who had obtained positions there which I found to be of interest. This was something suggested to us upper year students to try as we think about possible careers. Of course, a number of the people to whom I sent letters have quite busy schedules and do not have time to carry on a true correspondence. But one person has written back--several times, in fact, in a very friendly and civil fashion: Mr Crispin, who works as the Personal Secretary to Mr Lucius Malfoy. I have been extremely gratified by his willingness to reply to my questions. His work offers him the opportunity to meet some exceedingly interesting people, many of whom work at the heart of our government. It has been quite eye-opening and helpful. I'm certainly glad I implemented the suggestion.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-05-14 15:38:59**

*(no subject)*

I had no idea you had struck up a correspondence with my clerk, Mr Weasley, but given your interest in the subject last year, he is an excellent choice for mentor. I'm sure you've become aware through him of the range of tasks and unforeseen projects we on the Council and in similarly high positions at the Ministry face on a daily - sometimes hourly - basis. I can certainly attest to Crispin's unparalleled ability to maintain the pace necessary to support my efforts. I cannot think but that you



would do well to emulate him, if your career interests do lie in that direction.

If I recall the item at the last Board of Governors' meeting, the Model Wizengamot begins on Monday. I mention it because we held Executive Session this week, which put me in mind of the exercise (and several other students have commented on their preparations). Are you involved as well? You are a sixth-year, are you not?

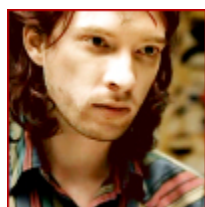


 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-15 13:54:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, it was actually from reading your journal, sir, that I've gotten a sense of how indispensable Mr Crispin is to you, and the many ways his job brings him into contact with the movers and shakers, if you will, of our society.

Yes, sir, I am a sixth year student, and I have been participating with the Model Wizengamot. I am interested in all aspects of the various departments of the Ministry: I've had some long conversations with my father and my brother Bill about the manner that department responsibilities have adapted and shifted over the past decade, as a result of the wisdom of the Lord Protector's leadership.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-15 18:31:11](#)

*Order Only*

Bollocks. If I'd known this would have been the result of talking with him about the Ministry, I would have cut out my own tongue first.

Dad, can't you head this off, somehow? Sucking up to Lucius Malfoy, of all people!

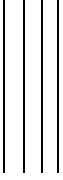



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-15 19:03:33](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, dear.






 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-15 19:06:14](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*


Oh, no!



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-05-15 19:05:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'm delighted to hear that your efforts to learn more about the Ministry are bearing fruit, my boy. If you are interested, perhaps you might come in with me to the office a few days this summer? There are a number of people to whom I can introduce you.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-15 19:06:59](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'd like that very much, I think.

**2010-05-14 09:25:00**

*it came to me*

Last night I caught Cressida looking through my things.

Not just looking for a piece of parchment on my desk but trying to open the trunk in my wardrobe. So I hexed her and now her fingers are swollen up like sausages and she was crying in the night because it hurt.

She couldn't even hold her wand to hex me back, and I think she wanted Norma to do it but Norma wouldn't.

She gave Cressida a salve, instead.

I don't know that it worked that well because at breakfast just now Cressida kept dropping her fork.

Maybe she didn't think I knew that she was the one who stole Tex so long ago.

But I knew and I didn't forget, and I don't want her stealing anything of mine ever again.

Maybe it was a little bit mean to hex her, but Mummy would have done it and ~~so would~~ probably a long time ago, too.

And then I got a parcel from Daddy this morning, so I think it will be a very good day!



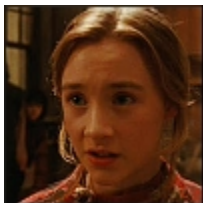
 [alt\\_hydra](#)



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-05-14 15:43:58**

*(no subject)*

What in the world is Tex? Anyway, if Cressida was getting into your wardrobe you had the right to hex her, but next time you could just put some curses on the trunk itself, and then it's her own fault if she gets hurt trying to open it and you're not in trouble for hexing her, see? I bet your father knows some good dark curses that he could put on your trunk.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2010-05-14 15:46:19**

*(no subject)*

Tex was the folded origami rabbit that Sally Anne made for me a long time ago.

Am I in trouble for hexing Cressida?

No one has said that I'm in trouble.


From,  
Hydra



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-14 15:51:07](#)**  
(no subject)

That depends on whether she's turned you in, and it sounds like she hasn't. Still, you've just confessed here so you can probably expect that some busybody will come along and scold you, at least. I thought you told my Mother that some boy was tormenting you. I didn't know that it was Cressida. Or that she was a boy for that matter, ha!

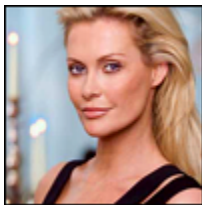



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-05-14 15:53:02](#)**  
(no subject)

She's not a boy, but she still stole Tex, and it was just to be mean, too.

From,

Hydra



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-15 00:39:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Is your hamper even larger than Draco's? I've a feeling it might be. Knowing your Father it has an automatically refilling charm or something like it.

During my first year at Hogwarts, there was a girl who insisted that anything any of us received from home had to be shared out. A few of the other girls complied (in fear, I think, as she was older). I simply put a hex on a packet of chocolates so that when she ate them, she would get very, very ill. She never tried to commandeer my care packages again.

And as Draco says, his tea box has an alarm system as well. I could send you a second one, if you like. Perhaps for next year?


Is the boy still bothering you, dear, or have you sorted that out?



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-15 01:40:45](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't go quite that far. Not quite. Had just dropped some projects off at the Ministry, then went through an after-lunch stroll through New London. Somehow ended up in Knightsbridge, and from there the Harrod's food halls. As usual, there were far too many things to choose from, so what's a doting Daddy to do?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 01:45:24](#)  
(no subject)

And once again, the Sandovals have much for which to answer. I admit I have more than once succumbed to impulsive purchases at Harrod's for just such a reason.

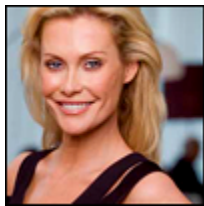
It's uncanny how shopkeepers entice and tempt, particularly when one is missing those far away.




 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-15 01:58:18](#)  
(no subject)

Purchases of a different kind, I imagine, or else your figure would suffer as mine has of late. I fear Hydra's taste for sweets was inherited from me, seeing as Bella has no use for them whatsoever.

Let us hope she doesn't get my penchant for whiskey and cigars, too.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 02:04:31](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, not for myself - at least, not of the sweet variety. Though I will admit I do like seasonal treats for the table, but not of the pudding variety.

Somehow, I cannot imagine Hydra puffing one of those great belvederes of yours, nor tipping back firewhiskey by the shot. I'm sure you're safe from worry on that account.




 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:13:58](#)**  
(no subject)

What an unpleasant picture, Cissy. And as much as he likes his little indulgences, you know my husband is just as apt to forget himself for hours at a time over some cursed trinket, then come gasping up the stairs, parched and ravenous. It's good, then, that I left all the elves with specific instructions to attend to his feeding times.

I do hope that you restrained yourself from sending Hydra a hamper as well, or else she'll come home swimming in the stench of sweets.

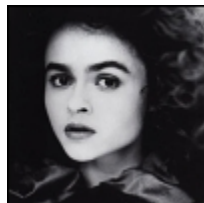


 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:20:12](#)**  
(no subject)

No fear, Bella, I knew Rodolphus would see to it that Hydra is well-provided-for now that the floodgates have reopened.

As for your husband, you know I worry about him shutting himself in his workroom even more obsessively when he has no prospect of seeing you at day's end, but you make it sound like he and Rigel both must be tended to in the same manner. I would much rather you leave him and your elves reminders that he ought to increase his visits to the Manor, if he is liable to starve himself otherwise.

(Hydra, we shall have to arrange a portrait of you with one of your Father's cigars, just for the humour in it. What do you think? Perhaps the next time one of your friends hosts a masque?)



 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:35:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Husbands and infants can at times be alarmingly alike, Cissy, though I'm sure you will deny it. But you are right that it would be good for him to get out and see family more - especially now, when there is really no way of knowing where

the investigation will take me next. Or for how long. I can only praise our Lord that my family yields in understanding and accepts that my absence is necessary at a time when the woefully misguided are out there, threatening our hard-fought way of life.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:46:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Yours, perhaps. Mine, bless him, is generally highly self-sufficient. Infancy is not the age that comes to mind, however, when I think of Lucius in his more fractious moods. But if I am to enjoy any peace I had best leave it there, except to say that I have been extraordinarily lucky that such moods are few and far between.

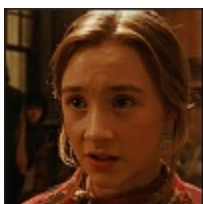
Rodolphus is welcome as often and for as long as he likes. I'm sure he'll miss you terribly, as shall we all, but it will be worth the sacrifice in the end.




 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:53:20](#)**  
(no subject)

You're my family, now. Rabastan's more like the hired entertainment. Who shows up late.

But of course I accept your absence; I only pray that the turning of the tides (a turning which is, of course, inevitable) will bring you back soon.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:18:42](#)**  
(no subject)

He's been more kind lately, so maybe he doesn't like me after all, since you said if a boy likes a girl he will torment her.

Does Draco keep tea in his tea box?

I would like a tea box with an alarm system but I might not keep just tea in it, if that would be all right?

From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 02:25:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I said that if a boy torments a girl, it *might* mean he likes her. Usually if they are kind it is *certain* that they do.

You may keep anything you like in the box, darling, provided you can make it fit inside. It sounds as if you've already something in mind. Letters from your young beau, perhaps?

I'll see if I can find one for you the next time I am in London, shall I? Have you any preferences as to the pattern?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-05-15 02:39:10](#)  
(no subject)

Ooh, I didn't know that part!  
I would like a pattern of flowers, but only if they are little flowers, not big ones.  
Pink coloured flowers might be nicest.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-05-15 02:40:52](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and thank you for the offer very much, but don't look too hard for a tea box if it will be a bother, but if you just happen to run into one, with little pink flowers, then I would adore it very

much.

From,  
Hydra






 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 02:56:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I think I know exactly where I might just happen to run into one. There's a shop where they hang about all day, you know, just waiting for chance meetings, tasteful pink flowers and

all.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-05-15 01:49:48](#)  
(no subject)

You should have sent your message earlier, Hydra. Day one earlier. But better to grow a spine now than never, I suppose. We'll only have to sit back and hope that if it lasts, won't we?

I would consider a more virulent hex next time, as well. Pain is useful, but not very creative - oftentimes, humiliation gets better results. Use your watchful ways to take note of what shames the girl, then put the knowledge away for later use.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-05-15 02:04:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, you think my watchful ways will be good, Mummy?

Cressida sometimes doesn't wash her hands after using the toilet.

Is that something I should put away for later use?

From,  
Hydra

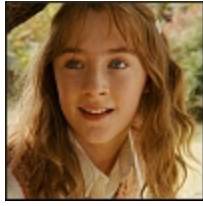



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-05-15 02:06:07](#)  
(no subject)

If she doesn't bother to wash them within your sight, then it's not the sort of habit that she's truly ashamed of. Look to what she does when she thinks that you're not there, and then you'll have your

knowledge.





 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-05-15 02:19:39](#)**  
(no subject)

I will have to think about how to do that, then.  
Thank you, Mummy.

From,

Hydra

**2010-05-15 13:53:00**

*Parcel from Gemma Stretton*

I got a parcel today and it turned out to be from the Strettons. Or from Gemma, really, but of course she had help sending it as she's only four years old. I think she chose everything in the box, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

There was:


- Jam, of course. Four jars, all blackberry. I think that's Gemma's favourite kind. And a tin of biscuits.
- Bertie Botts Every Flavour Beans with all the pink ones gone, I think she might have eaten the pink ones and sent me the rest. (Which is fine, there are plenty of good ones left.)
- Hair bows, the sort you clip in. They're really tiny and a little sparkly and shaped like butterflies. Gemma wears these all the time, I must have told her how cute they were when I was there at Christmas. Anyway, she sent me three and I've got all three clipped into my hair today.
- A necklace of beads I think she strung all by herself.
- A book she thought I'd like. She must have borrowed it from her parents' library and I think she chose it based on the design on the cover. It's called One Thousand Lesser Known Properties of Common Herbs and Fungi.
- A toy kitten that's charmed to purr when you pet it. I don't remember seeing this when I visited before. When I showed it to Jeremy, because I wanted to return it quickly if it was something really precious to Gemma, he laughed and said Gemma's had it since her last birthday. She took it to bed the first night and rolled onto it while sleeping and it started purring and woke her and she couldn't remember what it was and thought there was a monster in her bed with her. So it's been at the bottom of her bin of toys ever since.

Anyway, if Mr and Mrs Stretton are reading this please let Gemma know I love everything she sent me and I'll send her an owl as soon as I can, they're still a bit scarce around here though so I don't know when it'll arrive. Also do let me know if you need the book back, I

hope you saw she'd put it in there and didn't mind but if you need it back, I'll send it when I can (or you could send your owl to pick it up).

---



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-15 20:52:56](#)  
(no subject)


Maybe the book'll help with Herbology next year. I heard we're supposed to do a big section on medically useful plants. Hope it's more exciting than waiting for Mandrakes to go into season. D'you think Professor Sprout's going to let us see the full-grown ones before she cuts them for the potion? I mean, she hasn't been letting us near them since she said they'd gone moody and adolescent. I thought she was having a laugh at first, but Towler says it because they get loads more dangerous as they get big. Course the twins said that's a lie: they say it's because they start to look like they're getting, y'know, developed bits and Professor Sprout doesn't want to put up with everyone falling out snickering and not getting stuff done.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-15 21:02:12](#)  
(no subject)

They ARE more dangerous, everyone knows that.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-15 20:57:07](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That was nice of Gemma. Did her parents not even put in a note? After you wrote them and everything?

So. Is the blackberry one of the good flavours or one of the ones they transfigure out of turnips?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-15 21:04:51](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

They make the blackberry jam out of actual blackberries.

There was actually a note but it was dictated by Gemma. 'Dear Sally-Anne, I hope you like my present for you, love

Gemma.' I don't know who wrote it down for her, but I don't think it was Mr or Mrs Stretton. Maybe they have their muggleborn servants back now that the sickness is done with, and it was the nanny who wrote it for her.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-15 21:17:52](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Huh. So maybe her parents don't know she sent you the parcel at all. If it was the servants helping her do it, I mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-15 21:24:44](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That might be true, actually. I was thinking they must know, since she had to use an owl. But some of the servants are allowed to use the owls because they send out the jam people order.

Well, it looks better for all of us if they DID know so I'm not sorry I said they did! It does make it a bit more likely they'll be cross about the book, though.

**2010-05-15 15:07:00**

*Narcissa*

I thought perhaps I should write something just to let you know I am not wasting away into 'catatonia'. I'm fine. The arm is fully functional again, too, rendering the whole episode completely useless. I apologise for having put you to such unnecessary trouble last week.




 **alt\_regulus**



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2010-05-15 19:25:25**  
(no subject)

You are an idiot.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-05-15 19:34:23**  
(no subject)

Indeed.



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-05-15 19:35:45**  
(no subject)

Granted.

I apologise for inconveniencing you. Did you get the blood out of the Axminster? Fortunate about the colour and pattern: it shouldn't show too badly if cleansing charms failed to do the job.



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2010-05-15 20:03:04**  
(no subject)

You deserve to be hexed.

Has your Mother seen to that? If not, I'll stop in later and do it myself.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-15 20:11:18](#)  
(no subject)

Haven't you heard? We're out of bounds at the moment: no visitors may enter and neither of us may leave.

You needn't worry, though: Mother's taken the frustration just as you'd expect. Your efforts would be redundant, so it's as well you can't come waste your time and energy here.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-15 21:39:00](#)  
(no subject)

Setting aside retributory hexes, then, is there anything you want that could be sent or passed through the Floo to you?

Is that allowed?



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 02:44:47](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if you were so inclined, I wouldn't say no to a tin of ginger biscuits and a glass of that 50-year whiskey of yours. Not to have together, mind you, but Mother hates ginger and we haven't had any decent drink in this house in ages--possibly since I finished off the last of Father's stock sometime in 1980.

Of course, I'll be pleased if you'd just do something about the biscuits. I don't really expect your pity to stretch as far as the whiskey.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-16 03:25:11](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin.

Can you get to the fire, then? I don't expect your Mother would let you have the whiskey, and I'm not going to pass it through just to watch her pour it in the grate.



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-05-16 03:37:19**  
(no subject)

Yes. Good point.

Mother's retired, so there shouldn't be any bother.



 **alt\_narcissa** at **2010-05-15 20:05:46**  
(no subject)

Well, chiding aside, I am relieved to see you taking a more active role in things. Aunt Walburga has (blessedly) let me alone since yesterday evening, but you must admit that last evening when she said you had not come down for meals all day, I had no way to know whether that was an extension of the doldrums I observed in you earlier this week, or merely avoidance.

I'll thank you to remember this outcome if in the future you should contemplate any similarly dramatic, though one hopes ultimately ineffectual, gestures.

It's also a true pity you weren't able to come with us today. I'm quite sure you would have laughed yourself silly over the antics of the Scroops' youngest family member at his sister's engagement party.



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-05-15 20:37:23**  
(no subject)

I find I rarely have much appetite when I'm forced to spend more than a night here in Grimmauld Place.

I have no intention of making any more vain gestures.

The Scroops have one that's not yet school aged? Scroops the elder will be in his dotage before they get that one married off.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 20:48:23](#)  
(no subject)

Is it possible that in all this time, neither your Mother nor I have discussed the scandal? Goodness.

Well, depending on to whom one listens, old Scroops apparently wanted to prove that he can still give his all for the Protectorate, but the more pernicious story is that young Maurice is not his at all. As you know, Scroop was over twenty years older than Enola when he married her - a fact I have never forgot, considering that he had even spoken to Father about *me*, and I'm a good eight years her junior! Not that Father would ever have agreed, but it does make one appreciate the twists of fate.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-15 21:10:38](#)  
(no subject)

There's nothing like a bit of scandal to brighten the day.

So what did the little 'sport' do at his sister's engagement party?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-15 21:24:51](#)  
(no subject)

I've a feeling I ought not go into details, since it could harm the young man's reputation when he arrives next year ... but it involved the celebratory cake, a well-positioned Filibuster's firework and not a little bit of cleaning up.

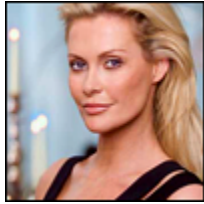
(Luckily, we were near the back. I don't know if Enola will ever get that particularly lurid shade of pink frosting out of her robes, no matter how many times she scourgifies it.)






 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-15 21:34:01](#)  
(no subject)

It's not really a party until someone explodes the cake.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 03:16:05](#)  
(no subject)


There I am sure Maurice Scroops would agree with you. His father ('father'?) however, possibly has a different opinion. It was quite a large cake.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-16 03:27:00](#)  
(no subject)

Maurice Scroops sounds like a young man worth watching. If it could be managed properly, a disposition like that might hold promise one day.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-15 21:45:00](#)  
(no subject)

What is gossip good for if not for going into the sort of details that would spoil a young man's reputation? That's the only reason to bother!

I'm glad there was at least the one bright spot in the day--and none on your robes by the end of it. Well played, cousin.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 03:33:52](#)  
(no subject)

Spoken like one whose reputation has been utterly shattered.

But to Barty's question - is there anything else you would like? If you're going to be kept under house confinement, you might as well have the comforts of ... well,

not home, unless we say my home, but let us call it the comforts of genteel living.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 03:39:34](#)  
(no subject)

Let me think on it over this glass of extremely heartening whiskey. Perhaps over night.

Honestly, there's not much one needs, staying here. Comfort isn't really one of the categories.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 03:57:49](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I see you've prevailed upon Barty for his best.

Dearest cousin, ought you to be drinking, however? Not that I would deny you in anything like so dramatic a manner as your mother, but is it really the best thing for you, right now?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-15 21:34:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sending you a subscription to Word Has It. It will keep you entertained when you've got back to corridor sitting at Buckingham--and it will spare you these embarrassing gaps in your

knowledge.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-15 21:50:28](#)  
(no subject)

Good of you, but I'm sure you needn't bother.

I can always come round to yours if I need to catch up with the scandalmongers. I didn't like to mention it, but since you've brought it up, you seem to have developed quite a serious thing for the tattler rags. Are you sure it's a healthy interest? I hear it can be habit forming.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-16 02:46:31](#)  
(no subject)

It's purely professional research, I assure you.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 03:28:05](#)  
(no subject)

Word Has It? Surely you're joking? You don't actually set any store by the dreadful things Ramora Rathbone invents to sell her rag?

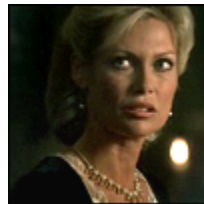
I had no idea your hidden depths were so shallow, Barty dear.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-16 03:35:13](#)  
(no subject)

You'd be surprised how often there's a useful shard amongst the rubbish. We read yours, too, of course, but I assumed Regulus already takes it but just hasn't paid due attention to

the columns.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 03:55:02](#)  
(no subject)

*Witch Weekly's* society column at least has the advantage of being composed entirely of accurate information, rather than outright libel. I am truly sorry if your duties up to now have included panning through that collection of fool's gold for any nugget of the truth.

But the one you *really* ought to take, if you're serious about following that sort of thing, is *Night Owl*. It's uncanny how Mercurius Mulcter obtains his information.

Regulus' acquaintance Bobolis does a fair job in *Londinarium*, as well.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 11:58:33](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, you mistake him, cousin. He takes ALL of them, from *In the Soup* and *Whirl* to *Witch Weekly* and *Enterpriser's Watchlist*.

*Londinarium* has turned out rather well, I'll grant you.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 13:43:51](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, now, that's taking professional obsession much too far. I understand the theory - what is in one is liable to be exaggerated or even wholly false, but what is in three or four may be closer to the mark - but *ALL* of them seems unnecessary.

Well, I suppose it's lucky he has an entire wing of Marlborough he can fill with them. One wonders his elf does not stagger under the pile of periodicals littering the mat each morning!

(Meanwhile, I've just had an owl from Mulcter telling me he's already received six owls with new subscription requests and at least two dozen requests in his journal. I'm sure it's only a matter of time before Ramora tries to extract her payment in revenge for my comment last night.)




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-16 03:28:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad you're writing again, Pirate.

Very.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 03:43:09](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for your letters, Pansy. I did appreciate them. I'm afraid your godfather has been right all

along, though. It would be best for you if you weren't associated with me. The connection can't do you good.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-16 03:49:36](#)  
(no subject)

well, it's a bit late for that, isn't it?

I meant what I said, you know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-16 04:19:49](#)  
(no subject)

and what would be best for me is if you didn't do that again.  
ever.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-16 13:32:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well done, Regulus. For Merlin's sake ....

You know I have great affection for you, but you never fail to disappoint, cousin.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 18:43:16](#)  
(no subject)

What would you have had me do?


Ignore her? Lie to her 'to spare her feelings'?

Or the opposite? Should I have told her more roundly what it's meant to me, corresponding with her?

Or would you have had me make promises I may not be able to keep?

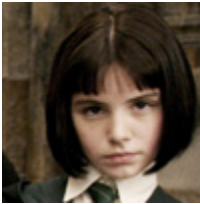
I suspect you'd have had the same reaction whatever I'd said. I'm sorry to disappoint--either of you--but it seems inevitable.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-17 01:31:08](#)  
(no subject)

It's not surprising that stopping after the first sentence did not occur to you. If nothing else, that would have left well enough alone.


Martyrdom does not suit anyone, least of all you.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-16 03:47:58](#)  
(no subject)


and I got your package. I've already started reading the book, and it's really nift so far, so thank you.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-05-16 18:47:29](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad you did. I always thought old Percy had it right, striking out for his mysterious destination and never looking back.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-20 13:41:48](#)  
(no subject)

NO. he DIDN'T.

Because he left behind a lot of people.

People that cared for him a lot.

And they never got to say goodbye.

I'm so angry and so sad and I just can't believe you're gone and that's the last thing you'll ever say to me ever and it hurts so badly I just can't even hardly breathe

**2010-05-15 18:24:00**


*Order Only: Arthur?*

Arthur, I just received an owl saying that our application to adopt Luna has been rejected! What on earth happened?



 [alt\\_molly](#)



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-15 23:26:32](#)

*(no subject)*

What? Does it say why?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-15 23:27:29](#)

*(no subject)*

Who sent it?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-15 23:50:43](#)


*(no subject)*

Someone named Anne Dunstan? I've never heard of her before. What department is she in?

And it doesn't give a reason. Just a flat refusal, saying she's not eligible for adoption and placement with us would not be 'appropriate.'

What in Merlin's name does that mean?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-16 00:01:06](#)


*(no subject)*

Bugger.

Bugger, bugger, bugger, bugger.






 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:01:48](#)  
(no subject)

What? What is it, Arthur?




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-16 00:05:05](#)  
(no subject)

It sounds like it means that they're sticking to that lie that Xeno wasn't telling the truth about his blood status. Anne Dunstan isn't with Underage Wizard Protection--that's an office that deals exclusively with purebloods. Instead, she's with Purity Control.


If they declare Luna's a halfblood, I don't think you'll be allowed to adopt her.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-16 00:05:40](#)  
(no subject)

Exactly.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:08:24](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, for the love of--

Well, fine, let them call her a halfblood if it makes them happy! WE don't care. But why can't we be her, what is it--her foster parents, then? That's what they do with halfblood children, isn't it?

Is it simply that we have to submit everything on different forms, to a different department?






 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-16 00:09:30](#)  
(no subject)


I don't know, Molly. I'm almost finished up here. I can swing by Purity Control and see if there is anyone there to ask, but I doubt there will be on a Saturday.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-16 00:11:00](#)  
(no subject)

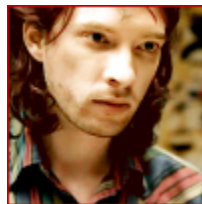
I can surely get the correct forms if he can't. Don't panic, Mum. Surely they'll let you foster her. After all, she practically lived with you last year, didn't she?




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:13:32](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, she did! It's perfectly ridiculous to think that someone else, some stranger could step in and--

Oh, Bill, I assured her we would be the ones to take care of her!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-16 00:14:11](#)  
(no subject)

And you probably still will. Let Dad and me work on this, Mum, and try not to worry.

**[2010-05-15 19:16:00](#)**

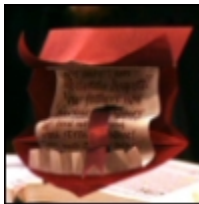
*Letter*


I received an owl at dinner with a parchment from the Ministry of Magic.



It says that they are assigning me a foster family: the Browns. Is that Lavender Brown's family?


 [alt\\_luna](#)



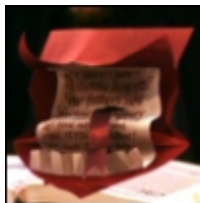
 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:19:55](#)  
(no subject)


The Browns! The Browns?! Oh, Luna!



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 00:20:31](#)  
(no subject)


Did I...did I do something wrong, Mrs Weasley?



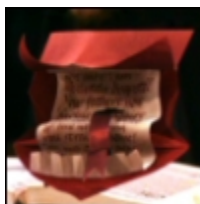
 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:21:51](#)  
(no subject)


Of course not, dear! Oh, I could hex those idiots at the Ministry!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-16 00:22:53](#)  
*Order Only*

Careful, Mum! That isn't the way to get them to reconsider your application.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:28:12](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Oh, for--

You're right. You're absolutely right, but I'm so

angry I could--I don't know--I could pick them all up physically and shake them until their teeth rattle!

Bill, you and Arthur absolutely have to fix this!!!



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-16 00:31:29](#)

*Re: Order Only*

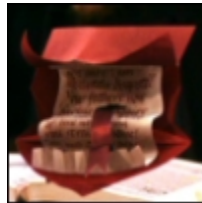
Bugger. This is going to make things harder.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-16 00:32:07](#)

*Re: Order Only*

You mean that they've actually gone ahead and assigned her another family? I'm afraid so.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:33:00](#)

*Re: Order Only*

It's WRONG! It's utterly WRONG!



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 00:23:37](#)

*(no subject)*

So you didn't tell them you didn't want me, then?




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:25:52](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh dearest, of course not!

I'm sorry I said that about the Ministry. It's just-- I'm upset, and I shouldn't say things like that. I didn't mean it. It's just--it's a mistake, that's all. It's a mistake, Luna, and Arthur and I will get to the bottom of this, I promise you.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 01:01:53](#)  
(no subject)


I hope so. I mean, I'm sure the Browns must be lovely, but if it's all the same to the Ministry, I'd rather go to live with people I already know well.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-16 01:09:43](#)  
(no subject)

Sure you would. And you already know how to dodge most of our pranks, so you're all broken in and everything. That has to be seen as an advantage.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-16 03:13:23](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, hey. I'm sorry, Luna.

I was looking forward to having you around--Ginny's always, y'know--not such a pain when you're there.


Anyway, what I mean is, we were looking forward to it, and we're all really sorry if the Ministry aren't going to let you come live with us.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 03:53:50](#)  
(no subject)


Well, Sally-Anne Perks says that perhaps if the Browns will let me, I'll be allowed to visit, at least.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:28:49](#)  
*Order Only*

Oh, Arthur! This just breaks my heart!



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-16 00:57:29](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, but don't fret, Molly-love. We'll do what's necessary to get them to reconsider.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-16 00:50:34](#)

*(no subject)*

On the contrary, Luna, my parents wrote to all of us and told us how eager they were to adopt you. But the Ministry must have had a very good reason to make another placement.

Do you have a family tie with the Browns, perhaps? Because if you do, perhaps that might have tipped the balance a bit in the decision-making?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:51:45](#)

*Order Only*

Oh...oh dear. I didn't think of that.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 00:53:12](#)

*(no subject)*

If I'm related to them, I don't know how. I didn't think I had any relatives left.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-16 00:55:39](#)

*(no subject)*

And indeed, we remain very eager to have Luna become a member of our family.

Your Dad is going to be checking into it, Percy.  
Obviously, it must be a mistake.




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-05-16 02:36:45](#)  
(no subject)

I-I-I can barely bring myself to write in my journal tonight. Oh what is happening? Luna? I'm so sorry. I-I am sorry I didn't respond earlier. I couldn't write what my heart felt. This is such a major disappointment. I've been crying since I have seen your post. It just isn't fair.

What will we do? Separating us like that is... is... is complete madness. I still can't say the things I really want. Luna, my heart hurts. I feel like someone has cut a vital organ away from me. Not seeing you every day during holidays- I can't, I won't think about it. There must be a way to fix this!

Meet me tomorrow? By the Lake? We need to plan for the worst to come.




 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 02:51:06](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it won't help for us to both be crying. If you drip on your parchments too much you'll have to do your essays all over again like I do.

I wish we were in the same House at least. Celia and Portia are very nice, but it just isn't the same.

Yes, please, I'd like to meet. The Lake is a good idea. I'd rather not have this conversation in front of everyone in the Great Hall. Do you mind getting there early, before breakfast? About 8:00?



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-05-16 02:56:22](#)  
(no subject)


That's perfect. Lucky for me I guess, I finished my essays before I read your post. Otherwise I wouldn't be able to finish at all. If you need some help rewriting yours, I can bring my note with me to the lake in the morning, if you like.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 02:37:05](#)**  
(no subject)


WHAT? Er, surely not?



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:12:09](#)**  
(no subject)

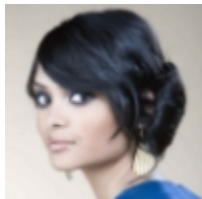
Well, are your dad and mum Harold and Nasturtium Brown? The letter mentioned three children, but it didn't tell me the names.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:17:12](#)**  
(no subject)

All my mum's friends call her Daisy, but I'm afraid that I can't imagine there are any other Browns with the same names and the same number of children.


Maybe there was a mistake and they accidentally put my parents' names, when they really meant some other Browns? My father has loads of poor distant relations.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:40:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Did you know your parents had applied to be foster parents? I mean, had they told you?



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:46:47](#)**  
(no subject)

~~They nev~~Why are y I still think maybe there's some sort of confusion going on.

I mean, the part of the Ministry that manages fostering must be awfully busy; it seems like it would be quite easy to make a mistake. Like what happened with Madame Pomfrey and all those pamphlets that were sent out without the proper approval.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 03:56:50](#)  
(no subject)

Sometimes a family hasn't applied, but the Ministry comes to them and says, 'we need a family for this child, and it's such a small thing to do to serve the Protectorate, wouldn't you be willing?'

That might have happened here. Sometimes you even get something nice, if you agree to do it, like a better house, so everyone gets something they want.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 04:01:34](#)  
(no subject)

We have a perfectly fine Home--we certainly don't need another!

But, I suppose Mummy and Daddy might agree to such a thing, if they thought it would help the Protectorate.

I still think it might all be a mistake though.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 04:04:01](#)  
(no subject)

Well it's not always a house; sometimes it's something else. And sometimes it's just the honour of serving the Protectorate.

And it might all be a mistake! You're right.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-16 04:01:38](#)  
(no subject)

Well, Lavender's house is already rather big, so I don't think that's it.

But maybe you're right and they were picked by the Ministry, especially.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 02:45:17](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Luna.


Everything will be all right, you'll see. Even if you don't go to live with the Weasleys. I'm sure the Browns will be kind to you, and anyway it's only for holidays that you go there and you don't HAVE to go there for Christmas and Easter hols if you'd rather stay at the school and they say it's alright.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 02:46:13](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What is WRONG with them? The Fostering office I mean. I KNOW your parents asked to take her Ron so why would they make her go live with the Browns? Just to be cruel? UGH.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 02:56:23](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

How awful.

That must have been why Ginny Weasley was crying in the common room. She was so upset she didn't care if anyone saw her, although Percy's been talking to her, trying to calm her down.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-16 02:58:06](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That'd almost be funny if it weren't so awful. You're usually the one explaining stuff like this to me!

It's because they don't think we're good enough purebloods. Because we don't think and act like the Patils and the Browns and make out that the Malfoys and the Protector and the Ministry and the Death Eaters were sent by Merlin to make to this country perfect.

Of course, they could have sent her to live with us to spy on us, like you said they did when they sent you to live with the Woods.

But they've probably read stuff Luna's written and know they'd never be able to make heads or tails of anything she'd tell them.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-05-16 03:15:20**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No, if they want a halfblood spying on you lot they'll take your parents' application to foster Luna and they'll say 'oh good, we're so glad you want a foster child! Have Megan Jones or

someone just like her!'



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at 2010-05-16 03:02:19**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

If it is Lavender Brown's family, yeah, she might be better off.

I hate to say it about a fellow Gryffindor, but yeah, I don't see being the type to Accio a cup of tea for her or anything to make her feel welcome.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2010-05-16 03:16:51**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Um, Nev? What exactly are you saying?

Luna'd be better off with the Browns cause we wouldn't make her feel welcome? That'd better not have come out the way you meant it.



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at 2010-05-16 03:23:06**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Oh, no, sorry. I was thinking it as I wrote that, but I guess I didn't exactly explain it, that it's a pity to try to cheer her up by suggesting that Luna would be happier at school than going to spend holidays with the Browns. But I thought she'd be happier at Hogwarts than spending it with Lavender. I didn't mean Ginny.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 03:24:13](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

No, you berk. He's saying the BROWNS wouldn't make her feel welcome so she'd be better off AT SCHOOL during the holidays instead of with them.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 03:14:35](#)

*(no subject)*

But the Ministry wouldn't let me go to the Weasleys instead? For holidays, I mean?

Why did they do this?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-16 03:18:01](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, perhaps you would be permitted to visit our family occasionally if the Browns give their permission. But they will be the ones to make decisions concerning you.

I'm disappointed, of course--I know how fond you and Ginny are of each other. But, well, perhaps they felt that things were a bit...crowded at the Burrow. I don't know about the Browns' home, but you would have to share a room with Ginny. I'm sure they were looking out for your best interests, Luna.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 03:21:48](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh UGH. Ron - no, I take it back, not Ron. Fred and George, will you make him shut it before he provokes Ginny into saying something stupid?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-16 03:26:42](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Of course we will. Always happy to sit on Percy.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-05-16 03:26:57](#)  
(no subject)

What are you saying Percy! She always shares with me when she stays at the Burrow. You think its in her best interest to stay in a family where one of the children has no backbone. Thanks Percy, that's real supportive.


Fred, George? I have a request.



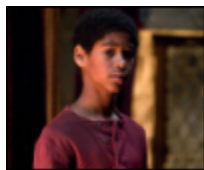
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-16 03:33:04](#)  
(no subject)


Way ahead of you. We're already sitting on him. We'll throw in a hex, too, just for you.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 03:38:43](#)  
(no subject)

I don't see how you think you know anything about my family. Honestly, the firsties are so uppity this year.




 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-16 03:42:58](#)  
(no subject)

Brown,

Leave her alone. She is far from uppity, although you would know about that wouldn't you? It takes one to know one. Anyway she is just upset. But I greatly suggest you leave her alone.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 03:47:49](#)  
(no subject)

Excuse me, Thomas.

Did I somehow miss the part of the conversation where this concerned you at all?



 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:53:51](#)**  
(no subject)

I think you miss a lot on a regular basis. So it doesn't surprise me how this is my concern, because Ginny is a friend, would fly over your head.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:57:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Speaking of things that escape one's notice--I don't suppose *you* noticed that *she* insulted my family first.

And you seem awfully concerned to defend her.

Ooh, I think Thomas *fancies* someone!



 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-16 04:03:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Please, I fancy no one. You only wish some poor bloke would pay attention to you. And its obvious you don't pay much attention to things written in plain English. She didn't insult your family. She only said something about one person. Oh it doesn't matter. Let it go. She is upset.

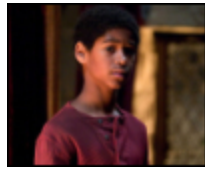
I don't think you want to keep talking and have her be even more upset in the morning.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 04:07:16](#)**  
(no subject)

There's no Floo Portal without a fire, Thomas.

Although really, isn't she a bit young?




 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-16 04:12:59](#)  
(no subject)

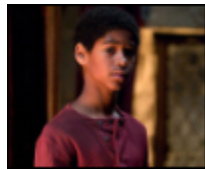
Well, aren't you a bit young to appear jealous and desperate. Oh I guess not captain obvious.


Oh yeah, I guess I should warn you now, don't stand too close to the cauldron, you might just get burned.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 04:14:10](#)  
(no subject)


Dean! You are not helping.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-16 04:17:01](#)  
(no subject)

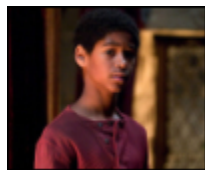
Maybe not Nev, but its best coming from me. And in her best interest if she drops it now.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 04:17:11](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, pardon me.

I just laughed so hard I think I may have strained something.



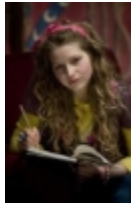
 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-16 04:22:04](#)  
(no subject)


What your brain? That is the one part of you that doesn't get used on a regular basis right?

I could see how it could be out of shape.

I don't have time to be going back and forth with people who aren't worth my time or the air they breathe. But its your choice if you don't take heed to my words.i

Let it go Brown.

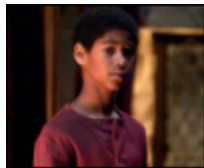



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-16 04:29:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I wasn't the one who started it, but fine.

You might want to remember your status, though, when you go around making comments about worth.


It seems like you've forgotten very quickly.



 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-16 04:33:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh gee, it seems like when we can't when a fight, we like to throw around the status card. Please I know who I am. But do you know who you are. I don't think your name or status has as much pull as you think it does.



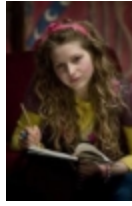
 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-16 04:06:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Nobody needs to insult anybody!

Look, there are a lot of upset people here tonight, but why make it harder for everyone? The Weasleys want Lovegood to stay with them, and you don't sound to sure about having her stay with your family anyway. Anyway, Luna's just lost her dad, if you haven't noticed, and Ginny's looking out for a friend, and Dean's looking out for his friend, and they're both in your House, all right?

I'm sure things will look better for everyone in the morning. It'd be easier if people can refrain from saying things they'll regret later on.






 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 04:15:12](#)  
(no subject)

It's sweet of you to think we can all get on. And you're right that everyone has had a shock.


But would we really be Gryffindors if things were peaceful all the time?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 04:17:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I don't think being a Gryffindor means you need to hack people off unnecessarily.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-16 04:19:01](#)  
(no subject)

And I don't think it means backing down when people are insulting.

I suppose we'll have to agree to disagree.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 04:22:24](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

This is one of those times I'm pretty sure I never want to be a Prefect. Ron, your brother Percy may be a prat sometimes, but at least he tries to do the job.

Maybe the twins should let him up again.

Trying to keep people from each other's throats around here seems like too much work!






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 05:09:58](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Well would you rather Seamus be the prefect? Because there's got to be a boy prefect in Gryffindor in your year, and I don't think it's going to be Ron!



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 05:14:03](#)


*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Merlin. Hadn't thought of that.

Well, it's the Headmistress who gets to decide. Not me. I'll just have to hope that if she picks me (and I still hope she doesn't) she must think I can do it.

But if I'm picked, don't think I'd enjoy it much.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 03:43:55](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Oh, that's tactful all right.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 03:20:20](#)


*(no subject)*

Actually if the Browns said it was alright you could probably visit the Weasleys for a lot of the holidays.

The Strettons let me visit Pansy at Christmas, and last summer the Woods let me go on lots of visits.

Luna if you have a little bit of time tomorrow ~~you should~~ would you like to come talk to me for a bit? Just you and me, we could go for a walk maybe if the weather's nice, down near the forest. I don't go IN because that's against the rules but I like walking near the edge and sometimes I see animals inside. (Mostly just things like rabbits and foxes but you never know.)




 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-16 03:37:24](#)  
(no subject)

That would be very kind of you. Thank you.


I quite like walking along the edges of the Forbidden Forest myself. I always try to spy unusual animal tracks.



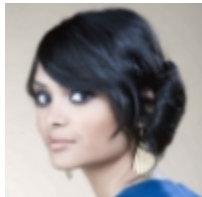
 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-16 03:42:41](#)  
(no subject)


What's wrong with Lavender's family, then?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 03:51:40](#)  
(no subject)


Nothing at all, I'm sure. It's just a bit puzzling because Luna knows Ginny's family real well, see? Why wouldn't they want her to be with people she's known for a long time and trusts?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-16 04:04:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, perhaps they just took pity on her and didn't want her to have to share a house with someone who smells as bad as Ronald.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-16 04:10:55](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

No wonder she gets along like a cauldron on fire with Lav. They're both spiteful enough to deserve each other.

**2010-05-15 22:39:00**

*MUM!*

Mum,

What is going on? I can't believe my eyes. Though my vision is not very clear right now, I know what she wrote just can't be true. How horrible? If she has to live with the Browns is won't be good. There must be some mistake....




 [alt\\_ginny](#)

I can't handle this. And I can't write what I truly feel. How does one deal with a mixture of emotions so great, you feel as if you were going to explode?

Mum?



 [alt\\_dean](#) at **2010-05-16 02:50:36**

*(no subject)*

Ginny,

Calm down! You must not let others, other than those whom you are close to, see or even sense your distress. While it is completely normal to express your emotions, don't do so in such a public manner. Feel free to come and talk to me if you want to say what is on your mind. But please don't give others the needed ammunition to use against you. The last thing you want to be seen as is unstable.

I am sitting in the common room by the fire if you need me.




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2010-05-16 02:58:41**

*(no subject)*

I know Dean, you are right. I will come find you tomorrow. I don't much feel like talking or writing in this thing anymore tonight. I think I will just go to bed.




 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:31:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Oops. Oh Well I guess it came out. I should have just shut my journal and went to sleep.

Dean, what do I do now?




 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:37:28](#)**  
(no subject)

You can always apologise. Although I don't think you really want to. Just close your journal, put it in your trunk and go to sleep. Don't even think about it. We all know you are upset. People usually say things they don't mean when they are in such a state. Also if anyone bothers you, although I know you can take care of yourself come see me.

Don't even respond to me now.


Goodnight Ginny



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:08:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't blame you for being upset, dear. Your father will tell you I've been rather upset myself! But your friend Dean has the right idea of it. We shouldn't overreact, but believe me, your father and I will do everything we can to get this decision overturned.



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2010-05-16 03:15:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I know you will do everything you can. You always do. That's what makes you such a great mother. I love you Mum!

And yes, I know Dean is right. I will try to compose myself. I will be better soon, after I talk to Luna in the morning.

**2010-05-16 07:01:00**

*Order Only: Tonks*

Just a quick note to let you know that Tonks is home, safe and well. The healers were making noises about keeping her in for a few more days, just to be absolutely sure, but she rather convinced them otherwise, namely by threatening to prove her health by giving a very boisterous rendition of a rather obscene song at the top of her voice.




 [alt\\_lupin](#)

I did point out that this might simply incline them to lock her up permanently, but instead they apparently took her high spirits as an indication of her ever-improving health, and agreed to let her, in her words, escape. I think, in truth, they found the whole incident quite amusing. She's not the only one who was going a little stir crazy in that place, but I'd wager she's the most entertaining.

Anyway, she's home and resting now. Apparently I am providing far too many cups of tea, far more than one person could drink in an entire lifetime, but I fail to see how such a thing could ever be possible, so I believe I shall continue.

Molly, Arthur - we were both very sorry to hear your news on young Luna Lovegood. Perhaps this foster family they've assigned her to is merely a temporary measure for the summer? I'm sure you'll have it sorted in no time.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-05-16 19:09:01**  
(no subject)

That's wonderful news, Remus. I'm so pleased she's been released. I do not mean this as a betrayal of my profession, but I do believe that one's best healing always comes at home rather than in hospital.

Now if only we could have similarly heartening reports from our wandering players and from Sirius, I would be able to take a small break from worrying.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:01:59](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'm delighted to hear that Tonks continues on the mend, Remus. Do let me know whether she might appreciate a visitor soon. I could pop by some night after work. I'll bring along some of Molly's ginger biscuits that she and you both like so well.

Yes, we are exceedingly sorry to have gotten the news about Luna. Molly and I still have some hopes of getting the decision reversed, although I'm afraid it may be very uphill work.

**[2010-05-16 08:05:00](#)**

*Lovegood*

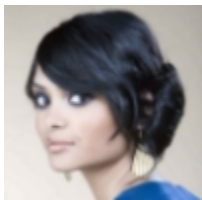
I got an owl from Mummy at breakfast, and it's true. We're going to be fostering Lovegood. Mummy says it's our Wizarding Duty because Lovegood's mother was Daddy's third cousin once removed, and the Protectorate wants her to be with a relative.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)**

I still don't see why she can't go off and live with the Weasleys; she's friends with them, they want to have her, and if she ended up living in a closet or something it would be her look-out.

But I suppose we have to do our Duty.



---

 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-16 14:07:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, Lav, I'm sorry. It's rather odd, I agree, but I'm sure they had their reasons (and I'm sure we can guess what some of those reasons are).

Besides, if the Ministry asked your family, I don't see how you can say No. Like when they needed people's owls - it's sort of the same thing.

I'm really more surprised at Thomas, I thought he knew better by now. I'm sorry I wasn't about more to help. I had the headache last night and had to go to bed.

But you and Parvati can meet me after lunch and we can talk about how to make ~~Loony~~ Lovegood feel welcome. I mean, she did just lose her father, and halfblood or not, that's nothing to be cruel about.

Oh, Su Li asked if she could come, she has some ideas, too. You'll quite like her, really, I hadn't really got to know her before

Before a few weeks ago. But she's really quite interesting. And she can tell us all about her foster family, so you'll know what to do and make it not be so terribly awkward.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 17:18:36](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well, if they're asking Su Li for advice that's something.

Su Li helped Padma when she ambushed me and Pansy that day. So she's on Padma's good side. But she's a halfblood, too, and in fostering. I don't think her family's as awful as Megan Jones' old lady but I don't think they're as nice as Mr Rosier is to Finnigan, either. If Lavender decides that being kind to Luna is her Duty as a Responsible Upstanding Young Person, there are worse things. At least Luna might get some nice clothes out of the bargain.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-16 18:10:11](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Speaking of Jones, d'you remember what they did to her? You don't think that's what they're getting together to plan--ways to make Luna feel 'welcome' so then they can turn around and make her feel really small for assuming they like her?

Although. It's Luna. I don't think they'll find it very easy to pull that sort of nonsense on her. I bet it's no fun when the person just never gets fussed at all.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-16 22:29:13](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

They might be, but you're right. Megan Jones pretty much handed them a knife and then turned around and moved her hair out of the way so they could stab her in the back with it. I don't really see Luna being that stupid.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-17 03:12:38](#)

*(no subject)*

Patil,

You are surprised at me. I haven't any idea for what.



I told her to let it go, to leave Ginny alone. I think I know her better than you two do, and I know what she can do.

Brown just needs to learn how to let things go.

And then she started with all that other madness.

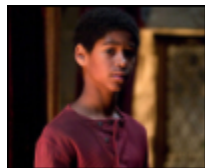


 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-17 03:17:34](#)**

*(no subject)*

What she can do? What's that, exactly? I'm surprised at you, Thomas, because I thought you had more sense. Weasley's the one you ought to be telling to let it go - Lavender's done nothing wrong, and certainly nothing mad at all.

Lovegood needn't be happy about it, any more than Lavender, but your little friend seems determined to make out like Lav's going to treat Lovegood no better than a house elf - or a mudblood! It's utterly ridiculous.



 **[alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-17 03:24:15](#)**

*(no subject)*


She's just upset. Luna and Ginny are like sisters. But honestly Brown did sound as if she was disgusted about it last night.

And I have to disagree Browns suggestions about Ginny and I were mad.

And Ginny will let it go, a few days without her journal will allow her to clear her head. She has given it to me for safe keeping. She wont get it back til the end of the week. Just let your friend to keep comments that can be interpreted multiple ways to herself.


And as far as what she can do, lets just say- don't tempt her.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-17 03:36:33](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Dean.

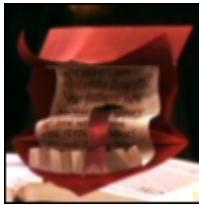



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-17 23:15:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm glad I talked to you, but...

...I just wish things didn't have to change and be different. Home is supposed to stay just the same, you

know.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-17 01:45:42](#)  
*Order Only*

**?A THIRD COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED? AND THEY PUT THAT--THAT ABOVE US?? A FAMILY WHO LOVES HER?!**

**Prating about duty, when ANY family with a heart would PROUD to claim her as their own and see what a wonderful girl she is. Oh, Arthur!**



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-17 01:49:38](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it's any comfort, it looks like we do see eye to eye about things. So that's good.

I'd certainly prefer living with the Weasleys if it were left up to me, too. Actually, their closets are really very nice. Mrs Weasley always puts sachets in them stuffed with lavender from her garden, and so they smell lovely.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-17 01:52:57](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Well, that's one in the eye for Lavender...to be told living in a closet would be preferable to living with her!



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-17 01:55:55](#)**

*Order Only*

Oh, but this made me laugh. Good for you, dear girl!



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-17 01:58:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, if you did come to live with us, of course you wouldn't live in a closet! You'd share a room with Ginny, just as you did when you used to stay over.

(I can sent you a lavender sachet that you can keep in your trunk. I'll include it with the next owl post.)



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:11:34](#)**

*(no subject)*

I can make sure you end up living in a closet if you like. My room is plenty big enough for the both of us. She would be better off with us anyway than with people who don't want her and would abuse her.

If status makes you nasty, believe me we don't want it you spineless brown girl.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:34:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

My goodness, Ginny. I'm sure the Browns won't abuse her. Do you really think it's going to make things better for Luna if you're rude to Lavender?



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:42:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Abuse takes many forms Sally Anne. Clearly if the living situation makes her feel unwanted, its not a healthy environment. And Lavender deserves what she gets if she can't keep some thoughts private. Clearly what she is writing is just a sample of whats to come for my dear friend.

Just because all looks well on the outside, doesn't mean there is not something wrong.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:50:36](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Whichever one of you Gryffindors is reading this, please tell Ginny that if she goes on like this she's going to make it a lot less likely that the Browns will let Luna visit you on holidays. It is also entirely within their power to forbid Luna from receiving owls from Mrs Weasley, at least openly.


Ginny insulting Lavender is only going to make things WORSE for Luna, not BETTER. I'd say it to Ginny myself but I don't want to give them (the Browns I mean) any ideas.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:56:27](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I'll tell her. Right away.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:52:59](#)**  
(no subject)

That's not what Lavender was saying at all!

As for things looking well on the outside, but being wrong on the inside, perhaps you ought to go up to Matron to get your head examined, Weasley.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-17 02:53:16](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

And you might also tell her not to lecture a fostered halfblood on the subject of abusive foster homes and unhealthy environments.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-17 02:58:22](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Um. Yeah. Definitely.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-17 03:01:44](#)


*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I expect she's been talking to Dean Thomas.

I don't think his foster father is very kind to him.

Which should give her an idea of how much worse it can be than the Browns, really.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-17 02:48:43](#)

*(no subject)*

She wasn't being nasty at all, Weaslette. It's you're the one being nasty. The Browns would never abuse her - what's wrong with you for even suggesting such a thing?

I thought Thomas was supposed to be teaching you a thing or two about how to get along, but obviously, he's failed miserably. Maybe you've fallen and knocked your head so many times this year that you've become permanently addled.



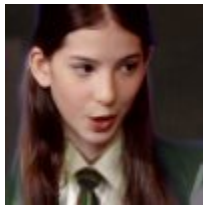
 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-05-17 03:00:55](#)  
(no subject)


I respect you Padma. But Brown has made it clear since last night that she doesn't want Luna around. I can't see why you defend her. I guess it's not my place to understand your relationship, because I could never understand why someone so potentially successful as you would have someone as silly as her as a friend.

I thought successful people only hung around those that could help build them up.

I will leave it be for now, but I have my eyes open on the situation. If Luna tells me one bad thing...


I will let this matter rest for now.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-17 03:03:14](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

If Luna tells her one bad thing then WHAT? WHAT does she think she's going to do, storm in with her wand and cruciate them all?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-17 03:12:26](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

She's as stubborn as Ron when her blood is up.

(No offence, Ron.)



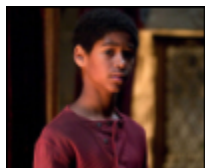
 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-17 03:08:02](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, for Lakshmi's sake!

How is it that when you or your mum or any of your brothers say that it's disappointing that she can't come live with you, that's okay, but when Lavender says it doesn't make sense to her, either, she's suddenly telling Lovegood she doesn't want her about?

You'll leave it be? You've got your eye on things? Just exactly what do you think they'll do - and what on earth do you think you'd do about it, if it's not precisely to your liking? Faint dead away?

Last I heard, Mr and Mrs Brown don't have to answer to one little ginger girl who can't even buy her own sweets. So yeah, you'd better shut it.




 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-17 03:16:35](#)  
(no subject)

Oh not you now too. For someone as sophisticated as you, I think you would know when someone is talking out of anger. Leave

Ginny be.

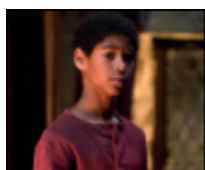
And not to be rude, but I think you know that the amount of money one has, has nothing to do with their level of magical skill.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-17 03:20:14](#)  
(no subject)

No, but it certainly has something to do with how well the Browns can provide for Lovegood - when Mrs Weasley's always writing about how hard they struggle to get decent food on the table. It's no wonder the Ministry worried about giving them another mouth to feed.

And it's certainly got something to do with how much influence and power Weasley has or doesn't have over the Ministry - or the Browns - to change anything if it's the way they want it.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-17 03:32:36](#)  
(no subject)


That maybe so, but I have met Mr Weasley, and he is a decent man. His children may not have the things they want, but no one can say that their needs are not met.



Lets just drop this mess for Merlin's sake. Its no need to get worked up over things we can't control. And, please don't direct another comment at Ginny, for anyone reading this. I have her journal and she wont get it back until she has cooled off for a while.


That is an agreement she has made with me as her friend. I think being in this castle for so long as made us all a little mental. The smallest spark can start a fire.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-17 03:31:34](#)  
(no subject)

Enough, Patil. My sister's disappointment and distress over these developments may have caused her to...overstate. But as Luna herself has sensibly said, I'm sure that everyone involved in this will comport themselves respectably. Luna will no doubt be fine, despite her recent losses.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-17 03:22:08](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure I won't have to tell you about any bad thing, and everything will be fine, Ginny. I know your parents are trying to change things, but if they can't we'll still see each other at school, and perhaps we'll have visits and things.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-17 23:17:26](#)  
(no subject)

Honestly, we're not going to *beat* her.

Your constant outrage is getting rather dull.






 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-17 23:48:04](#)  
(no subject)

Talk about dull. Are you dim witted? I asked every one to not direct any other comments at her. Just leave it be.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-18 00:08:45](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not thick, Thomas, I just chose to ignore you.


After all, *she* came into my journal and threw a fit and all but accused my parents of being child abusers.



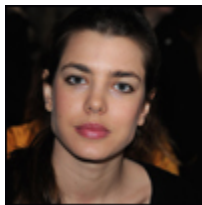
 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-18 00:16:04](#)  
(no subject)


Aren't you supposed to be the mature one out of the two of you? or do you just like egging on the firsties?



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-05-18 00:43:06](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't see a Prefect badge on your robes last I checked, Thomas.

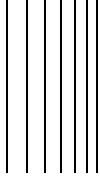


 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-18 01:31:07](#)  
(no subject)

Honestly, Brown.

It's bad form to be going on and on like this. It's your place to be gracious and rise above the petty name-calling and mud-slinging. Your parents are playing a most admirable and honourable part in support of Our Lord's plan for His realm. You should follow them in setting an example to others.

I do wear a Prefect's badge, and I'm asking you to remember yourself.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-18 13:35:53](#)**  
*(no subject)*

But she's Yes, Sandoval.

**2010-05-16 13:16:00**

*Exciting YPL Announcements*



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

Thanks to the lifting of quarantine, I'm delighted to be able to announce our upcoming plans for the summer YPL programs. Obviously, we were able to do some general discussion via the journals, but for practical reasons, much of our detailed work had to wait until my Nashira could bring private messages reliably, or I could travel.

My thanks, first and foremost, to the Ministry staff who were willing to give of their time yesterday, so I could travel to New London and meet in person to discuss necessary details without disrupting classes and exam preparation further for our students. We made a great deal of progress on the practical aspects of our hopes for this summer, though a substantial amount of work still remains.

**Current first years**

We are delighted to be able to offer the same summer camping experience to you as we did to this year's second years. We plan to follow the same basic itinerary as last year, though with some changes based on what we learned. (Exploring the sea caves, for example, will not be an option this year.) And of course, we will have some new surprises for you, as we don't simply want to repeat each year over and over.

Further information will be sent home by owl (along with the appropriate permissions slip) to your parents as ministry owls can bring the messages. We again expect camp to take place in the beginning of August.

**For our second years**

We are delighted to be able to announce an exciting new program for you as well.

You will be invited to stay in New London for three nights (and four days) of activities, events, and opportunities. Due to limits on both Ministry staff time and housing, we will be hosting two groups. Information about which group you are assigned to will be posted in the coming weeks, and we are (again) sending information home to your parents as owls become available.

Activities will include a theatrical or musical performance, time to

spend in New London's museums, a tour of the public areas of the Lord Protector's palace, a brief tour of St. Mungo's, as well as time to learn about various areas of Ministry responsibility.

### **Costs, equipment, and practical needs**

Again:

- All housing, food, and other activity costs are covered by the Ministry through the kindness of our Lord Protector.
- Students will be expected to provide their own suitable clothing and other personal needs (If our fostered students have difficulty with any requirements, please contact me for assistance.)
- Pets will again be allowed for any student who commits to tending to all of their needs.
- Transportation will again be arranged by the Ministry: we do ask parents who are able to deliver their children to the central Port-Key locations to indicate their ability to do so on the permissions slip.
- Both trips are open to all students in the relevant year.

### **For our older students**

I am delighted to announce that the Lord Protector will be making time in his crowded schedule for a brief visit with all the older students who have assisted with the YPL since its founding. Please stop by my office at your convenience so we can discuss the date, timing, and expectations for appropriate dress and behavior. (If you do not have access to appropriately formal robes - many of you are still growing, of course - we will be making arrangements for loans, but will need measurements as soon as possible.)

We also welcome applications from current fifth and sixth year students to participate as mentors and guides in this summer's activities. Again, this not only brings positive attention to your work from our Lord Protector and other Ministry officials, but carries a small stipend for your time and effort. Please stop by my office to sign up for an interview and get additional information about our expectations.


### **Students living in the Lake District**

And finally, now that my Nashira can take a break from Ministry correspondence for a few days: any students living in the Lake District

who do not yet have reliable owl access, my mother has offered to deliver any messages sent to her to your families. Please have them to me no later than noon on Monday (letters only, of course).

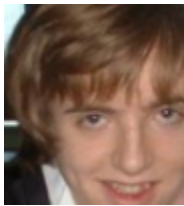
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 **[alt\\_lana](#)** at **[2010-05-16 19:03:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I know I speak for all of the student assistants when I say that I am overwhelmed by Our Lord's generosity in granting audience to us. I feel certain my parents will be most willing to loan well-fitting dress robes to anyone in need of proper apparel for the occasion. I will stop up this afternoon in hopes of catching you for a few minutes.


It's been such an honour to be involved with the Young Protector's League, Professor Sinistra. Thank you for that opportunity.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-05-16 19:20:57](#)**  
(no subject)

That sounds wizard! Thanks Professor!




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-16 19:44:35](#)**  
(no subject)

It does, doesn't it?

I mean, the camping was ace, but going to New London could be really wizard, too. I mean, I've been to the Ministry once with Dad and to Diagon Alley and King's Cross, but that's all, and that's not even New London, y'know. I can't wait to see it.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-05-17 23:26:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks so much for organising this Professor; I'm sure everyone will be specially glad to have a summer outing now that the quarantine's ending.

For myself, I'd rather go camping again since I live in New

London, but that would be a bit selfish of me I guess.

Oh well, most of the fun is hanging 'round with your mates somewhere that isn't school, and some of the new museums and gardens are pretty wizard.

**2010-05-16 21:03:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I'm worried about Pansy. She's not been herself since Regulus Black took it into his head to cut off his good arm and even seeing him posting again hasn't made things alright. Milli said she was pouting and it's NOT TRUE, she's not pouting at all. She's sad and worried. I wish she didn't like him so much. Sometimes I think he likes his brother and AGREES with his brother more than he lets on but that doesn't stop him from playing house-elf to the Lord Protector, apparently.

The worst of it is, I think if she let herself think about it she would think he DID have something to do with Sanji's death -- and those little girls who looked like her -- but she doesn't dare think about it because it's too awful by half.

I went to find Luna today because I wanted to give her advice about being a halfblood. Since she didn't grow up that way -- there are things you two didn't know, so I thought maybe Luna wouldn't, either, especially as she didn't go to the village school. I don't imagine Mrs Weasley was much for teaching her and Ginny all about pureblood superiority.

She listened to all my advice (the most important thing was that she needed to know that if she's expelled, she'll be classified as a muggleborn and sent to the camps -- not that this means she has to obey all the rules but if she's thinking of doing anything REALLY serious she should know first what could happen) and when I was done she asked me why I think the Ministry is saying she's a halfblood when she isn't. I said I don't know. I mean, I think she's right that they're lying; they said it at first because they were pretending only halfbloods could get the sickness, but they admitted in the end purebloods could get it too. So why keep pretending? Luna's family had all the usual family records, not a tapestry like the Blacks or the Malfoys but there's no more reason to think Luna's a halfblood than that Ron or Neville is.


I said it didn't really matter anyway, the Ministry decides what you are and they make the rules, and arguing only gets you in trouble. All you can really do is be what they say you are on the outside, and be the person you know you are on the inside.

She didn't argue but she still wanted to know why, so we tried to work it out. My first thought was that they were trying to discredit her, or her father. But Mr Lovegood is dead, and Luna's a first year, that didn't make much sense. But he DID own a paper and maybe they were trying to discredit something he said in his paper? Only I've never heard people mention the Quibbler except to make fun of it (except for Luna).

Luna's worried about what will become of the Quibbler because the Ministry took the press, and THAT made me think that perhaps they declared Luna a halfblood because that way they could say her parents were blood-traitors (even though CERTAINLY her father wasn't a muggleborn -- at most, Luna's a quarter-blood like Susan Bones) and take the things Luna would have inherited otherwise. They're an old family so perhaps they owned some valuable ancient relic or special magical thing that the Ministry knew about and wanted. Something goblin-made, for instance. Luna couldn't think of anything, but maybe she just didn't know about it.

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 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:44:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Ugh. It's just all really awful about Luna. I don't know why they're doing what they are. The Ministry. So you don't think it's to do with my family, but something to do with Luna's father or mother?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-17 02:57:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, it's to do with your family that they're sending her to the Browns. Even if she's a halfblood they could let your parents foster her, and the fostering office must be a mess right now. They were working from home because of the illness, I imagine there were plenty of families with younger children that tried to send them back when families of halfbloods had extra restrictions, there are probably children who needed new homes because their foster parents died...

It's mad they wouldn't just send Luna to live with your family.  
Utterly mad.





 **alt\_ron** at [2010-05-17 03:02:08](#)  
(no subject)

And Pansy.

I don't know what to think about Mr Black. Why do you think he would do terrible things for the Lord Protector if it makes him so sick to do it? I mean, that's even supposing it's the Protector who's responsible for those things, cause I can't even figure that out. What would he want to be killing a little kid like Sanji for? Or those girls? I mean, I know why you'd think Mr Black had done awful things, because he writes about it sometimes--about how upset he is about things he's had to do because the Protector ordered it. But those things? Killing little kids? He just doesn't seem the sort, y'know? I mean, he likes kids. And so I don't understand why he wouldn't just say he wouldn't do it if the Protector told him he had to. I mean, if someone told me I'd have to do something like that, I'd tell them they'd have to kill me first. Wouldn't you? I mean, well, really. Yeah. I would do that. Or anyway, I can't think of anything that would make me decide to go along with it and do something that terrible. Even if I were really afraid of, y'know, the things he might do to me before he'd kill me. D'you suppose he's used Imperius on Mr Black? Because then he couldn't have said no. Or maybe told him he'd do something terrible to his mum. I guess that's what you'd have to tell me, and then, yeah. I guess I don't know what I'd do. Except. I kinda do. I'd have to try to kill him and if that didn't work, I'd still say no.

I think, anyway.




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-05-17 03:38:52](#)  
(no subject)

I can think of loads of ways to make someone do something they don't want to do. There's Imperius, just to start. You can threaten them with cruciatus if they're not afraid of death. Or the Dementors. You can threaten their family. Or if they don't like their family you can threaten their friends. You can trick them by having them do just a piece that doesn't seem so terrible. You can blackmail them later if that little piece turns out to be part of something really horrifying.

I don't think Regulus Black would mind them doing something

horrible to his mum, actually, I don't think they get on at all (and anyway she's HORRIBLE).



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-05-17 03:04:39](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if Parkinson's fond of Regulus Black and he tried to cut his own arm off--aside from whether he has anything to do with all those kids deaths--then no wonder if she's not herself.


Mr Lovegood wrote the editorials in the Quibbler, right? I never read it, and I don't know anyone else who does. Well, maybe my Great-Aunt picked it up once in awhile, but I think that was just to laugh at it. So I don't know what's being said in the paper.

Maybe he wrote about Sirius Black or something? And they didn't like what he said? If he did, I never heard about it. Everyone talks about the Grim Truth postings (well, in Gryffindor, anyway) but I dunno what the papers print about them. Other than the Prophet, which always says that the Grim Truths are rubbish.

I would think if there was anyone they were trying to discredit, it would be Mr Lovegood, yeah. Because Mrs Lovegood's been dead awhile, and yeah, Luna's a first year.


Maybe your idea about them owning something the Ministry wants could be right.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-05-17 03:12:32](#)  
(no subject)

But couldn't they just have taken whatever it was they want without having to say Luna's a halfblood? I mean they could say it was something Dark or something stolen from Goblins or something dangerous to your health or whatever. Or they could just have gone in and taken it. I mean Luna's away at school and when she did go home and look at what's there, she couldn't really say anything if there were things the Ministry took. I mean, heck, they could have just said that whatever it was--a gillylivered snorzlehump pelt or a mandibular tealjobber beak--was the sort of thing that grows that disease and spreads it somehow, and then she couldn't have said anything at all about them taking it.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-17 03:17:14](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well, if they say their family's halfbloods, not purebloods, they can take everything, right? Maybe they can't find it right away. But if they have control over all their stuff, they can look for it as long as they like.


Ugh, poor Lovegood. It sounds like she was taking everything calmly when she talked with you today, Sally-Anne, but still, it has to be awful.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-17 03:30:35](#)  
(no subject)

They could've declared the whole house a potential Dangerous Magic zone and spent as much time looking as they wanted. It sounded to me like the only thing Luna REALLY wanted from the house was her father's printing press.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-17 03:48:31](#)  
(no subject)

What, does SHE want to run the paper? Huh. Except...maybe she always figured she'd work at it someday when she grows up. I suppose that's how it is with some family businesses, isn't it?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-17 04:02:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well the Strettons want Jeremy working on their estate. He doesn't seem to want to, but I expect he'll be stuck with it given what he did last year.

Luna seems a lot fonder of the Quibbler than Jeremy is of the jam factory.

**2010-05-17 12:20:00**

## *Social Calendar*

The next few weeks promise an extremely busy agenda. It seems everyone has been waiting to hold a myriad of celebrations, personal meetings, get-togethers and other assemblies until the spectre of Black's epidemic could be lifted.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Between official functions, camp inspections, work site tours, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and of course the raft of introduction parties, we expect to maintain quite a pace for some time to come. Even allowing for the invitations we must, regrettably, decline, Narcissa and I have are not like to have an evening or a week-end to ourselves until perhaps the middle of June - if then! In many ways, it is just as well our son elected to hold a much more intimate birthday party (though the final headcount remains in flux), as she hardly has the time to plan a larger gala.

It is, however, good to see the social calendar - and with it, business interests - picking up. Magical Commerce this morning had positive reports all round: Nearly every sector of industry is on the rise once more. The Committee were all glad to see Revati Patil looking fit and in decent spirits, considering; she said only that she has been grateful to get back to work. In fact, she and Narcissa seem to be thinking along the same lines, for when I passed along my wife's message she responded quite favourably, saying again how much she appreciated our presence at the funeral. Naturally, it was our solemn duty to represent not only our own family, but the Lord Protector Himself, whose heartfelt condolences we carried. But it is also true that Narcissa has respect for Revati as a designer and had been about to make an overture when we learned of the tragedy that struck her and her kin, so it is excellent news that Revati looks forward to meeting with Narcissa to discuss her project ideas.

Apart from Draco's birthday, our other summer plans appear to be forming into a more definite shape. Crispin has the dates for the YPL activities in New London and while there were a couple of conflicts, we have re-arranged the timetable slightly to account. (Fortunately, the schedule does make it just possible that a jaunt might be arranged in time to give the bride away in July. Yes, Amanda, I know I said it was highly remote, but I recognise its importance to you and thus I have not dismissed the possibility altogether. Most likely it would be

myself alone, however, and not the whole family - and it would be brief, my dear, as well. Afraid you shall have to content yourself with it. Cannot at this moment even guarantee the wedding itself, much less rehearsal or dinner the previous day.)

Crispin has also suggested it might be agreeable to participate in the intern programme implemented last year to offer opportunities to rising seventh-year students. Had discussed it last year, in fact, but the trip to France made it impractical; however, this year, it might be useful. There is time yet to consider.


Well. Luncheon with Warrington and Rowle; doubtless they wish to discuss allocations back into the camps to help re-integrate the recovering muggles with their reinforcements who were awakened during the crisis.



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2010-05-18 02:02:47**  
(no subject)

The pace has certainly picked up in our department, and the worst of it is all the clerical staff who've returned after 'working' from home all these weeks where they seem to have lost all recollection of protocol. When one orders something done, they stand there blinking as though they've misremembered the meaning of 'do' and 'go' and 'bring'. I suspect there will be a number of redundancies announced before week's end. It will be better to make do without these 'assistants' than be continually sabotaged by their incompetence.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-05-18 02:52:06**  
(no subject)

Yes, that would tend to wear thin quickly. I thought your department had been allocated the revised budget per Mafalda's request, precisely in order to provide better support. Ned told me distinctly two weeks previous that you were but waiting the approval to extend an offer.




 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-18 03:06:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes and no. There was a decision taken when the restrictions lifted that we should delay all hires until returning staff had been 'reincorporated'.

None of that changes Pennifold's standing; it's a matter now of waiting for the hold to be reversed.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-18 03:17:34](#)**  
(no subject)

And she did not think to take advantage of the furloughs to simply determine which of your support personnel need not return to work at all?

Astonishing. I know neither you nor Bella wishes to manage the administrative headaches but surely there is someone who can shoulder the responsibilities more efficiently?



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-18 03:38:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I've given over second-guessing.


The skills that suit an Auror for field work don't generally overlap with those required for effective Administration, and, on the other hand, the department would never accept being under the thumb of someone with no experience of research and investigation. If you see a solution to that paradox, do share it.



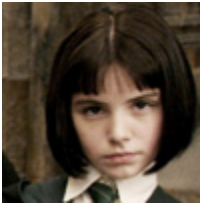
 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-05-18 15:45:19](#)**  
(no subject)


Perhaps it is time for Mafalda and I to have a chat about the state of things. Once she is reminded that office efficiency is paramount to our efficiency, I'm sure that she will be more than willing to take the axe to where it is needed most.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-18 16:38:11](#)  
(no subject)

Likely a wise choice, Bella. Certainly given the demands on your time, at the moment, losing any more ground to incompetent help would be less acceptable, I should think, than the few minutes it would take to remind her of her options.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-18 04:33:05](#)  
(no subject)

Hello, Lucius. I got your letter this afternoon.

I really appreciated it ever so much. Especially the last bit. I haven't felt particularly strong lately, but just reading what you said made me feel so much better, and I will remember it always. And I will try to keep in mind what you said about Mr Campbell. And the other things too.

And I will be sure to write you a proper letter soon. And I'm sorry I didn't write a longer one the other day.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-18 16:59:34](#)  
(no subject)

It's quite all right - I understand that you were in a rush to deliver that message.

So, am I to take it that this minuscule handwriting of yours is a choice? Perhaps a challenge to write as small as possible? If your letter is scripted thus, I'm afraid I shall have to make use of the reading glasses Ari gave me at my birthday.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-18 19:30:37](#)  
(no subject)

Is it that small?

I'll make an effort to write larger. So the old people can read it.






 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-18 19:41:46](#)  
(no subject)

Much better. Now your doddering 'uncle' can rest under his lap blanket and contemplate the 'good old days' when young people treated their elders with respect.

I recall several of my schoolmates used to enlarge their handwriting as a method of making a woefully short essay meet the length requirements, but smaller handwriting seems it would be more useful for the passing of notes in lessons.

But you would know nothing about that, would you, Little Bit?




 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-05-18 19:51:34](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, of course not!

And you ought to know I respect you the most out of anyone I know, even if you do have to wear spectacles every now and again.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-18 19:57:19](#)  
(no subject)

Thankfully, Ari's present was premature - I'm not that decrepit yet.

(He's laughing across the table, incidentally.  
What do you suggest I should do to him in retribution?)




 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-05-18 20:02:35](#)  
(no subject)

You could turn his hair white!

Or, if you want to show him how young at heart you really are, you could always tie his shoelaces together.






 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-18 21:13:34](#)  
(no subject)

White hair makes one look old? Interesting.

I considered giving his hands a palsy but then he'd have trouble signing for this afternoon's tea. (And he's thrilled to point out that his boots do not have lacings.)

What if I were to hex his forehead so the wrinkles don't smooth out for days?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-18 22:26:15](#)  
(no subject)

Chalk-white. I wouldn't call yours white at all.

The wrinkle one sounds brill. I wish I was there to see it.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-19 02:46:27](#)  
(no subject)

The calendar seems to be accelerating in a similar way here at school, now that exams are looming down our necks. Of course, the easing of the epidemic and subsequent resumption of owl service, while significant, hasn't had quite such a dramatic effect for us, here. Still, we feel much more connected to the world at large with the lifting of restrictions, which has done wonders for morale.


I am very interested to hear that your office would entertain the notion of participating in the intern programme. I had considered applying, and shall be even more eager to do so now.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-19 02:49:18](#)  
*Order Only*

Arthur! Have you seen this?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-19 02:50:39](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, my.

Surely I can arrange for him to obtain an internship from someone else this summer.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-19 02:51:55](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Is it necessary, do you think?

I mean, if this could pan out...do you know how much I've dreamed of having someone on our team getting a toehold into Lucius Malfoy's affairs?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-19 02:55:06](#)

*Re: Order Only*

The problem, to be blunt, Bill, is that I don't know if Percy will be on our team. As much as it pains me to say it, your mum and I still aren't sure of him. Yes, it could be useful, if you got in there. Or Charlie (if we could ever get him to leave his precious dragons). But I'm afraid that Percy might find the power that Lucius Malfoy wields to be too tempting for us to trust him with opening up with him about the Order once he leaves school.

I didn't doubt you the way I doubt him.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-19 03:00:22](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, maybe I should try striking up a bit more frequent correspondence with him, and I can sound him out a little. It'd seem natural for me to do. After all, if he's asking Lucius Malfoy's assistant for career advice, why not his older brother? Especially since I work at the Ministry, too? Maybe he'd open up and talk about some things he won't broach with you. It'd be a good excuse to learn a little about what he's corresponding

with Crispin about, and we may learn something useful there, too.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-05-19 03:03:48](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, that's a really good idea, Bill. Percy actually likes writing letters--he sends one faithfully to me every week.

[2010-05-18 14:55:00](#)

*It's been almost a month*

and it's sort of hard to think that it's been that long. It doesn't feel that long at all.



Our birthday is coming up next week, but now all I can think of is it'll be a month after. I guess it'll always feel like that, now. A little. My aunt says her grandfather died on her mum's birthday, and ever since her mum could never be one hundred percent happy about her birthday, because she had to think about her father, too.

 [alt\\_padma](#)

Lav, I know what you mean about things changing. But I guess that's what things do. And it'll be all right, you'll see. Trust me, you don't know her well because she's not in your common room all the time, but Lovegood's not that much bother. No one pays her much mind in Ravenclaw, that's for certain.

The Model Wizengamot is really interesting, though. And what's really amazing is, I think they had planned that we'd be doing it basically on our own, you know, because of the quarantine. But since it's been lifted they told us that some real Interrogators are going to watch later this week and tell us what they thought of how we did the job. Yesterday was opening statements (each side gets to make a speech). Today we're hearing testimony from the witnesses - and the Interrogators get to try to poke holes in their stories or make them remember details that help prove guilt. The defenders also have time to try, but they don't have the same kind of latitude that the Interrogators have. I know that in the model, we're switching sides - I mean, there are two cases, so in the next case, the people being Interrogators will be the defenders - but I think it's much better to be an Interrogator than a defender no matter what the case is. It just seems like most people who face Wizengamot charges are guilty, anyway.

Though there are different kinds of cases, of course. This one's a pretty simple one.

It's based on the trial of a wizard named Stalk who was found guilty of ~~imbe embezl~~ embezzling a lot of gold from the *Daily Prophet* in the 1850's. And it was really clear that he did it, once he got caught.


But the case we're starting tomorrow is a little more complicated. It's

about a witch who used to lure muggles to her cottage and then made them work for her. And when she was done, she used them for potions ingredients and things. And when she was caught by a bunch of muggles, they wanted to burn her, but she got away, but then the Aurors told her she had to stop because it was making all the muggles hunt for the rest of us. Well, obviously, that part's not a problem anymore. But then this all happened for real in 1690, so we've updated the case a little. Now she's stealing muggles from the camps, you see, and there's a part of the case where - well, I don't want to give it away. You'll have to come on Thursday and see.

Meanwhile, Ravenclaw Corner is mostly back. There aren't many fifth-years and the ones who do go there have been keeping themselves scarce this week, with OWLs. I guess Sandoval feels pretty good about her NEWTs, though, but she's probably just more relieved that it's over. Johns says she never wants to go through that again.

Oh, and Orion Sandoval says he's heard that they are allowing the Apparition instructors from the Ministry to come up next week, after the Wizengamot is over, to teach the sixth-years who are eligible for their tests. Troy says he reckons Sandoval's worried he'll splinch himself, but Dames thinks he's just excited.

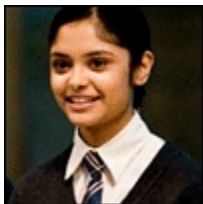



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-18 23:27:55](#)  
(no subject)

Orion should worry. He's grown so much this spring, he's gone all gangly and awkward, bashing into door frames and knocking over his pumpkin juice. He'll be lucky if he doesn't leave his knee caps behind when

he Apparates. Or his head.

Of course, if it's his head that gets Splinched off, it'll probably have more to do with this hilarious crush he's got on Yaxley. Have you seen how he goes bright red whenever she walks into the room?




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-19 03:25:55](#)  
(no subject)

No, I hadn't noticed that at all! But then, I guess I don't see Yaxley as much as you do.


But you're right, he does have rather a habit of knocking things over.



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-05-19 03:17:22](#)**  
(no subject)


It never had occurred to me that I would be a bother to anyone, so I'm rather glad to learn that I'm not.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-19 03:24:05](#)**  
(no subject)


Yes, well, it's mostly because you're quite easy not to bother with. Congratulations.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-19 16:15:51](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, Padma. Do you and Parvati still want to try to plan something fun for your birthday?




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-19 18:14:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, yes, we should do. Because like we said, it's bad luck to be too sad about someone dying.

It's just - you know, something I think we'll always think about. But not, I guess, not too much.


Mum suggested something where we do each other's hair. She said she'd got a whole line of clips she can send us and we can experiment.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-05-19 19:33:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Well I'll definitely come to see the Model Wizengamot on Thursday. That's exciting you might have real Interrogators there.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-19 20:11:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it'll be nift.

Do you have any ideas for the boys? I know none of you will want to do hair and all. Maybe gobstones?

**2010-05-18 20:30:00**

*(no subject)*

And now you take the elf.

What's left?



 [alt\\_regulus](#)

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 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-19 00:58:47**

*(no subject)*

Your mother just had me on the Floo - the elf isn't back yet? She said she'd asked Mother for one of hers, but Mother only really has the two anymore and can't spare them, so she came to me. When I asked her whatever for, she said Our Lord had only borrowed Kreacher. (And she had some choice words, at that, considering that He has all the elves He could need - well, I'm sure you can imagine.)

Do you want me to send Trinny through?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-19 01:12:01**

*(no subject)*

Regulus?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-05-19 01:15:06**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-19 01:19:28**

*(no subject)*

He's not answering, Barty.

I don't know if I should send an elf in to check on him or not.



Perhaps I ought to have Walburga look?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 01:23:21](#)  
(no subject)

I noticed.

Send the elf.

But don't stir up his mother against him yet. It can't help when he's like this.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:01:41](#)  
(no subject)

I've sent her, but it's been half an hour and no word.

Barty --

I don't know what to suggest. If we don't involve Aunt Walburga, I fear we're running out of options.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 01:18:22](#)  
(no subject)

What are you on about?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 02:00:55](#)  
(no subject)

Reg.

This is not the time to wind us up.

Answer one of us, dammit.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:05:33](#)  
(no subject)

It's no good, if he's put his journal away in pique.

I suppose he could simply be in the bath. Somehow, experience argues against it.

Oh, this is ridiculous, I'm contacting Auntie.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:15:30](#)  
(no subject)

**OH, I could HEX that woman!**




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 02:17:46](#)  
(no subject)

What?

Narcissa. What's happened now?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:33:48](#)  
(no subject)

She is undoubtedly *the most* infuriating ~~harridan~~


Excuse me.

First, she had already retired for the night so getting her to answer the Floo required a Patronus. Next, she wasn't going to check as she 'assumed' he had gone to bed 'like a sensible person.' I asked her simply to verify that he was still home (per his instructions) and that he was able to respond, even if he didn't wish to come to his journal to do it. After much cajoling, she finally consented to go *as far as the landing* to call for him.

I reminded her that not quite two weeks ago he attempted to ruin himself and that he might well do as much again or *worse* - and that - that - **OH** - if she weren't family I'd -

Well, she said something I'm not sure I can forgive.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 02:40:03](#)  
(no subject)

Don't let her get the rise from you, Narcissa.  
That's her game.

But did he answer? Did she make him say  
whether he's all right?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:43:47](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, thank G Merlin. I gather she threatened to  
break down his door - I can only assume it's  
because I reminded her that whatever her  
disappointment, he is her responsibility by Our

Lord's decree.

Still ....


I'm sure I'll not get a wink's sleep tonight.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-19 02:52:19](#)  
(no subject)

I know the feeling.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 02:55:47](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. And Lucius was so pleased he'd got  
you to smiling this afternoon.

I'd tell you to leave the fretting to me, but I  
know it's no use.

But if he were here, he'd want you to try to sleep. At least you  
could ask a prefect to take you to Madam Pomfrey for a tisane  
to help you rest.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-19 02:59:49](#)  
(no subject)

I will try, Aunt Narcissa.

Thank you.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 02:55:03](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin.

I could wring his neck.

No, I'm sure I won't either. Might as well go back to work. I suppose I should thank him for increasing my productivity.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 03:08:08](#)  
(no subject)

Actually, Narcissa.

Are you near your fire? I have a question or two that might better be asked than written.

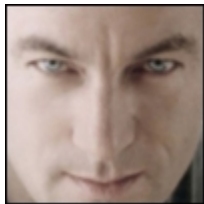



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 03:12:29](#)  
(no subject)

~~Why don't~~

Yes, I'll open the grate.

I'm glad you suggested it; I could use someone else to keep vigil with me.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-19 04:44:08](#)  
(no subject)

I've just seen this, my dear - I'm so sorry I was unavailable until now. Of course, he would decide on tonight to worry you, when I had to go out again after supper.

I'm on my way home now, if you're still awake. I'll sit up with you if you like.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 04:47:31](#)  
(no subject)

Yes we're I'm still awake, though there's rather a dent in the brandy.

Barty's been kind enough to keep his Floo open so we can chat, but I'm afraid I've kept him from a night better spent at his analysis.


How soon will you be home?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-19 04:49:01](#)  
(no subject)


Give me five minutes? No more than ten.



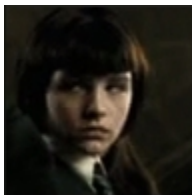
 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 04:49:53](#)  
(no subject)


Good.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-19 03:07:13](#)  
*Order Only*

Bugger.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-19 15:57:54](#)  
(no subject)

what did you do?

The rest of the comments to this post have been redacted because they were made in the 'future' and contain spoilers for future of the game. Please see the front page of [hpalternity.com](http://hpalternity.com): there's a list of when each of those comments was made and a link to just that comment, so you can read them in context of when they were made in realtime. Or, if you don't care about spoilers, you can download the unredacted versions of the PDFs.

**2010-05-19 07:09:00**

*(no subject)*

That was a night I've no wish so repeat. I did manage to sleep, a little, though mostly because Lucius was kind enough to sacrifice his own chances for a restful night in staying with me.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Regulus, if you're awake, or whenever you do wake, please come to the Floo, cousin. There are ... things I'd welcome the chance to say. I'd like you to hear them before you .... Before you do anything too rash.

Barty, I've a feeling you might respond, so, it's quite all right. I'm not upset at all, dear boy, thank you for what I'm sure will be concern. I simply don't wish Reg to think himself abandoned and hope that with dawn's light he'll see things more sensibly. I'm sure he'll be in contact soon.

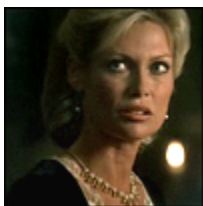


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-05-19 13:32:22**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa.

I'm glad you wrote, and I hope he'll have courtesy and sense enough to answer. I did go on to work last night, though I found it dashedly difficult to concentrate. For a variety of reasons. Your questions about the first time, among those. The circumstances and his state of mind are so different; I don't believe he could repeat that decision, and he would surely fail to sustain it if he did make the attempt. He lacks the will.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-19 13:57:52**

*(no subject)*

There I think you are wrong, Barty.

I've not heard from him yet. It's been almost three hours.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 14:22:18](#)  
(no subject)

What did the elf report when it returned?

She did send it back to you, surely?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 14:34:21](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, it returned, armed with Auntie's affronting demand that I send it back to prepare their meals should their own elf not appear in time for breakfast.

All I could manage out of the creature was that Regulus told Aunt Walburga to let him alone and that she in turn returned to her bedchamber in a state of - let us call it irritation. (She deserves as much, given how she has done her best to rattle my every nerve.)

I'm tempted to send the elf back with specific orders not to pay heed to Auntie but to simply find Regulus - though I fear she might skip right over hexing and kill my servant for sheer spite.

Though at least it would get Aunt Walburga's attention.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 14:50:02](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, **bugger**.

Barty, the elf has just come back through the grate. She says ....

She says the house is empty. No-one is there at all.

I don't

They were ordered to remain

It's happened, I'm sure of it.

Lucius ...?





 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-19 14:52:42](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I've been summoned. It could be wholly unrelated, but I thought you should know.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-19 14:55:44](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I've just been summoned as well.

I'll ... be back as soon as I can.

(Pansy, I know you're reading. I'll be in touch with you at the first available moment.)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-19 14:58:24](#)  
(no subject)

No need, husband.

Broome has just been on the Floo telling me to come with you to Windsor.

I've no illusions. I told you as much last night.

We'd better go; it would not do to keep Him waiting.

**[2010-05-19 19:30:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Pansy?

You all right? I heard, well, that maybe you aren't.



 [alt\\_ron](#)



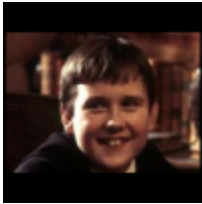
 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2010-05-19 23:37:16](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Sally Anne?

I didn't see you at supper, but I heard that Mr Malfoy was here and that Pansy's really upset. What's

happened?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **[2010-05-19 23:51:13](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He was here? That's odd. It's not a Quidditch game day or anything. Or maybe he was here for something with running the school. Isn't he on the board of governors or something?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2010-05-20 00:06:47](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah, but I don't think that's it.

I mean, Pansy's been really worried about Mr Black, and last night when he wrote, Mrs Malfoy was all worried like he was going to do something dire again. And I think maybe he did. But I don't know. It could just be that Pansy's been getting all upset and Mr Malfoy came to tell her there's no need to worry. Or, I dunno.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 01:19:01](#)


*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah.

He came to

sorry



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-20 01:20:48](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Wait.

What happened? Did someone see you writing?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 01:29:05](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No, no one saw me writing. Only usually I slip off to the loo or something if I want to write under the lock, so Pansy won't see me, and I don't want to leave her tonight even for a little while as she's

really upset.

She'd drawn the curtain around her bed so I thought it would be alright but then she pulled them back. But I heard her stirring and swapped the journal for some homework, she didn't see.

Mr Malfoy came today to tell Pansy that Regulus Black was dead.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 01:41:57](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Mr Malfoy met us after we came out from Herbology and Pansy grabbed my arm when she saw him coming. I mean we both knew it was bad news. He wanted Draco, too, and I went along because I didn't want to leave Pansy, though he told me he wanted to speak to her privately and I should wait outside.

They were in there a long time. A really long time. I think he didn't want to send her out until she'd stopped crying. I kept

reading and re-reading what Regulus wrote last night, and what Mrs Malfoy and Mr Crouch wrote and thought about all the things that could have happened that would be awful enough Mr Malfoy would come to Hogwarts to tell Pansy and Draco in person.

I mean, he could've just cut off his wand arm and done it properly this time, but I thought it was probably worse than that, since the Lord Protector summoned the Malfoys over it. I thought he was dead but what worried me the worst was that he'd done something, you know, treasonous. That they'd say he was a traitor and forbid Pansy to act sad in public. But it doesn't sound like they're saying anything of the sort. They'll probably blame everything on Sirius again.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-20 01:56:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh.

I thought it might've been that bad. But I was really, really hoping, y'know, it wasn't.

I'm glad you went with her. Even if he did make you stay outside.

But what happened to him? Has Pansy said? I mean, did he top himself? Or

or, y'know, did someone kill him? It's only Mrs Malfoy said today the house was empty, so what does that even mean?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 02:37:28](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yes, he killed himself. At least, that's what Mr Malfoy told Pansy. He said he was sick, you know, that it wasn't anyone's fault, all the things people say.

I don't know what to believe.

Mrs Black is dead, too. Regulus's mum, the horrid lady they made Pansy stay with at Christmas first year. She died from the shock. I don't believe it; she wasn't the sort of fragile old lady

who'd die from shock about anything. I wonder if maybe Regulus killed her, and then himself, and they don't want to put that about.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2010-05-20 03:00:37**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

But if he killed her

did he take her somewhere to do it? I mean, how was the house empty? Or, well

maybe it was just that there wasn't anyone alive in it. It was just an elf that told her that, so I guess it might not've been quite what it said.

Huh. I guess it doesn't matter, really.

It's just, well, yeah. They're both dead.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-05-20 03:06:28**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He could've taken her somewhere. Or he could've done it and then taken her body, that would be easy enough. Or the elf could've said the house was empty because they were both dead.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2010-05-20 03:09:24**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Yeah.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-05-20 02:42:00**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh and when I said I don't know what to believe, I don't want you to think I think maybe it's Pansy's fault.

I mean that I don't know whether I believe he killed himself, and if he DID kill himself if it was because he was sick and sad and couldn't bear to live any longer.

I keep thinking about what you said, about how if someone were trying to make you do something horrible you could refuse and let them kill you.

Except if they weren't threatening to kill YOU but threatening to hurt someone else -- well, if they wanted something from you and you killed YOURSELF, they wouldn't have reason to threaten that other person anymore, right?

I keep wondering if ~~someone~~ if the Lord Protector was threatening Pansy.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-20 02:57:45](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That's--that's so twisty it's demented.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 03:08:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


I rather agree.

I wish I hadn't thought of it. I've been worrying about something like that ever since those girls went missing. Because they DID look like Pansy, you know. Not exactly, but

if someone wanted to threaten Pansy in a really twisted and awful way, killing those girls

Yeah anyway I'm going to try to stop thinking about it. Mr Malfoy loves Pansy and will protect her, surely.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-20 03:07:41](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No. Why would he

No, that can't be right.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-20 02:24:54](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Blimey.

I don't even know what to say.

I wonder what they'll say in public about it. Well, I guess we'll hear soon enough.

As for Parkinson--well, I guess I'm glad she's with a friend.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-20 02:54:05](#)


*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I keep checking to see if Mr Malfoy has written anything but he hasn't yet.

I'm curious what he'll say in public, too.

Probably about the same as he told Pansy only with less of the 'it wasn't anyone's fault' because he was really worried Pansy would blame herself, I think. Or not blame herself exactly, but think that if she'd just said the right thing she might have convinced him not to do it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-20 00:10:23](#)

*(no subject)*

hi.


I'm not.

I'm just

really really worn out right now. and I'd rather not make a big fuss where everyone can read, and it's almost curfew. so I'll talk to you tomorrow, yeah?

And I'm sorry. I feel like I've just been  
well I've been a bit of a downer lately, haven't I?  
so I'm sorry I haven't been a better friend.  
But you've been great.  
And I really appreciate that.

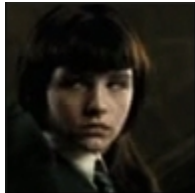



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-20 00:19:52](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Hey. No worries.

But, yeah. We can talk whenever you want.

Okay?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-20 00:35:26](#)**  
*(no subject)*

okay. thanks.



**[2010-05-19 19:36:00](#)**

*Cousin Regulus*

I hope that you're holding up all right, Mother. I told Father to send along my well-wishes, and I know that he will, but I also know that he's busy, so I figured that it would be fastest just to say something here.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

It's stupid because it's all just too late now, but I wish I would have got to know him better. I could never tell if he was being serious or not, though, and even when I was little he always seemed to be teasing all the time so I figured he didn't like ~~me~~ children. Secretly, at least. So I never wanted to be around him all that much. Maybe that would have changed in time, though. I'd like to think that it would have.

I hope that you're all right too, Pansy.

---



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-20 02:33:25](#)

*(no subject)*

Malfoy, I just got out of the Prefects' meeting, where I heard ... well.

Sincere condolences to you and your family.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-20 02:36:19](#)

*Order Only*

Oh--oh, Sirius. I am so dreadfully sorry...




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-20 02:38:47](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Bloody hell. Mum, do you know anything more?  
Has Dad heard anything?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-20 02:41:29](#)

*Re: Order Only*

No, I've not heard a thing.

Sirius, my boy, how dreadful. Please let us know when...when you discover this, and let us know if there is anything we can do.

Precious little though it might be.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-20 02:42:35](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Right. I'll put the word out to the network to glean what I can. Carefully. Minerva, what were you told?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-20 02:59:39](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Weasley.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 02:36:24](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you, son. I am ... as well as can be expected, I suppose. Numb, I think, is the proper description.

It's not that it's surprising, really, but it's not the outcome any of us wanted. Your Nanella is understandably more upset about Auntie Walburga, but I do miss my cousin. However, I have been here before. Please, do Mother a favour and look out for Pansy over the next little while. I know she and Regulus had grown very close.

I wish you could have got to know him as well, son. He was insouciant, true, but he was ... kind. I think if you'd spent time with him you'd have seen that side.

Your Father says you looked fit. I'm glad. I miss you so terribly, but this is not the way I would have preferred a surprise visit.



 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-05-20 02:43:44](#)

*Order Only*

Bill...sounds as though you have to see what the network has heard about Mrs Black, too. Sirius, we'll pass on what we can, as soon as we know.



 **alt\_draco** at [2010-05-20 03:03:31](#)

*(no subject)*

I've already written to Nanella, and I'm sorry about Auntie but since she was old it wasn't as shocking to hear that she was gone, I guess.. Father made it sound like she just couldn't take what had happened to Regulus.

I miss you too. I was just thinking that it seems like it's been almost a year since I last saw you, and then I realized that it has been almost a year.



 **alt\_narcissa** at [2010-05-20 03:37:04](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, she was - very upset. Most upset.

It is hard to believe it will have been so long. I shall have to bring a placard to King's Cross with your name so that we may recognise each other. Well, I hope you will recognise me; your Father says he thinks you've grown another three inches!

Will you be too old, I wonder, to want to spend any time with me at all this summer?




 **alt\_draco** at [2010-05-20 13:56:22](#)

*(no subject)*

I think I look the same, but it's true that my robes are shorter.

Not too old just yet, Mother.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-20 03:26:42](#)  
(no subject)

I just found something that you wrote in my journal a long time ago.

*When people do not appreciate my kindness, that is when I stop extending it to them. I hope that you will not follow my lead.*

Were you telling me I should be more like him? Kind, I mean.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 03:34:09](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, my dear, I hardly remember. What was the context?

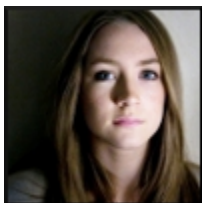
I think ... if you can balance kindness with strength of spirit, you would have the best of worlds. It doesn't do to be too generous, or people take advantage. It is, after all, necessary to be able to do what one must.


But it is also true that a little kindness can open doors that brute force cannot.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-20 13:54:51](#)  
(no subject)

I was writing about my tea box and you said something about how it would be kind to share the tea. But I guess I didn't feel like sharing just then.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-05-20 03:09:53](#)  
(no subject)


A lot of people have died this year.  
More than I've ever known.

I liked cousin Regulus, though, he used to save me his pudding, and he knew how to make tea just right.

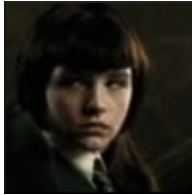
I've never heard of someone dying of sadness, though.  
Do you think that it happens a lot?


From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-05-20 03:12:26](#)  
(no subject)


I don't know. It might happen a lot, but we just don't hear about it very often because it's depressing to think about. Who knows.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-20 14:25:42](#)  
(no subject)


thanks, Draco.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-20 15:04:00](#)  
(no subject)

How are you today?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-20 16:07:56](#)  
(no subject)

Lots of people at school are being sort of weird, like they don't really know what to say about it, and every now and then it just sort of hits me and it hurts all over and I have to go off somewhere and be alone for a little.

but Sally-Anne isn't being weird. She's been really nice about the whole thing. So is Ron. And Harry and Draco and Ne Longbottom and Hydra too. And that helps.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-21 02:09:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you have been there before, sadly. I'm not sure if this is worse for you, because you chose him as a correspondent, or whether it will fade more quickly, but that does not matter, at the moment. At least I am glad to see that you have been keeping on, which is the best response, I think, all things considered. Routine helps - I know it seems like everything ought to be able to stop, but lessons and homework and such at least require you to think about something else for spans of time, instead of dwelling on the loss.

Nonetheless, I have refreshed the *Notificio* on my journal so that if you write, I shall be alerted. If you need to talk, we may do so. Do not be concerned that you will be interrupting, Pansy: If I cannot write back right away, I shall reply as soon as I am able to do.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-05-20 15:14:33](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, son.

We have both been very occupied, but as your mother has pointed out many times in the last two days, we are almost used to the routine by now. Not that anyone wishes the trend to continue!

I believe it's usually the case that most of us would wish to have known our loved ones better, and the more they were loved, the more they are missed. I take comfort from the fact that so far, your mother has seemed ... resigned. That is not to say that the floodgates will not open again, far from it. But I believe she has looked on the past two years as a gift she never expected to receive, having thought him lost already, so many years ago.

This has been a very difficult six months, nonetheless. Four members of the family, plus your Dennis - I dislike the average. I agree with your mother: We have had quite enough of this! But I believe that, although it is hard to lose Regulus, with his passing we will have seen the last of anxiety for a while to come. It is not an exaggeration to call his death a mixed blessing, since if nothing else, he is no

longer in turmoil. We, however, are left to put together the pieces as well as can be determined.

It will be very good to bring you back for the funeral, however. I suspect your mother needs more than a little attention and comfort from us both.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-21 00:13:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

I never really understood what he was in turmoil about. It seemed a bit spooky when he would go on talking about that stuff...

I'll be happy to give Mother some attention, though.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-21 01:38:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

Indeed, it was disturbing to many of us.

I fear soon the world will know more about it than any of us might have wished.

You might help your father and keep an eye on Pansy for me, will you? Over the remaining weeks of school. Particularly with the number of students who receive *The Prophet*, she may well see reports that will be difficult for her to accept.

**2010-05-19 22:49:00**

*Order Only*

Bloody bugging bollocksy bugger-all.

Arthur, Bill, Molly, I --

I don't know what to --

I only changed to check the journals because he --

Last night he was --

And it's his birthday. In about an hour. I was going to

wish him

Bugger.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-20 03:00:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, Sirius, dear, I'm so sorry. Oh, how I wish one of us could be with you.

I keep hoping that Minerva will post or comment soon. Presumably she knows a little more than we do since Lucius Malfoy went to see her. Or at least she's heard the official story.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-05-20 03:02:42](#)


*(no subject)*

Are you somewhere safe, Sirius? This is a dreadful shock, I know, and I just don't want you to try to break cover if you're on the move, while you're upset.

Of course Bill and I will send along anything we hear. Or Minerva, as Molly says.





 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-20 03:18:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I

I'm in, er ... I'm not even sure, hang on ....

Oh. I'm near Cadiz. Makes sense. Explains the water, anyway.

But I'm

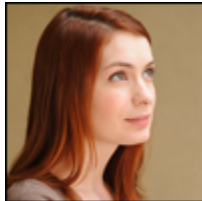
I mean, I'll just


Sorry. Thanks, I know I'm not making a lot of sense right now. No, I shan't move tonight. I've a bottle of grenache

Make that whiskey

and I'll

I think I'll switch back when this is gone, actually. Easier.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-20 03:51:25](#)**  
(no subject)


I know this is the last thing on your mind right now, Sirius, but please be careful.

If you must get absolutely smashed, do it in a safe place.

Merlin.

I wish I was there. Or you were here.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-20 03:56:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry. Wasn't clear. I meant

I'll change back. T'Padfoot. Later.

When th bottl's gone.


Sides, s'Cadiz. Never go to Spain. My Spanish is pants.

He was always

the Spanish Spinach

He was better at it. Accent. and everthing.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-20 04:00:10](#)**

*(no subject)*


Well good.

It can be hard to think of yourself at times like this. I don't want you to forget that you're on the

run.

I don't speak Spanish at all, and my French is horrific. My mouth just doesn't work that way. And I don't have a head for conjugating verbs either.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-20 03:09:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, Sirius.

I'm so sorry, love.

Did you...

did you see, I think your Mother

It doesn't look good, sweetheart.



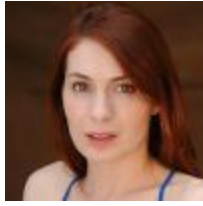
 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-20 03:11:39](#)**


*(no subject)*

WHAT?

What did he do? Finally do for her and then himself?

Where did you see that?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-20 03:13:45](#)  
(no subject)

Draco Malfoy, talking to his mum. He says she's gone.

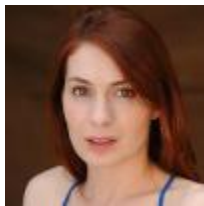
Because of the shock of it.


I'm not sure what to believe, and we haven't heard anything official of course.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-05-20 03:17:00](#)  
(no subject)


Bloody hell.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-20 03:22:01](#)  
(no subject)

I know. It's just... awful.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 03:23:03](#)  
(no subject)


The old bat's gone, as well?

I dunno. They were shut up together. Maybe he hoofed it and she went after him, and they did for each other.

Or Voldemort killed them both, more likely.

Bleeding, bugging BUGGER.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-20 03:35:10](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin knows what actually happened, and what we'll hear.

But my heart goes out to you, love.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-05-20 03:11:41](#)  
(no subject)

Sirius, my friend, all the players join me in saying how sorry we are.

If there's anyone you need us to see, or anything you need us to do, we have the polyjuice potion and can certainly make ourselves available.

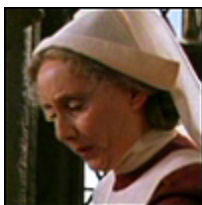



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 03:20:04](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks

I can't even think that far right now, Kingsley, but

Yeah. Guess we'll see what they say.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-20 03:15:02](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh, Sirius. I'm so sorry.




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-20 07:47:30](#)  
(no subject)

Oh Pads. I'm so sorry. I wish you were here. No, scratch that, I wish I was there. I wish

I'm so sorry.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 13:02:46](#)  
(no subject)


'Padfoot's' right, Moony. Easier.

Merlin, I'm an arse when I'm human.

Going to ... change for a bit. Process. Easier.

Could use a scratch behind the ears, though, don't mind saying.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-20 13:31:38](#)  
(no subject)

You can be a bit of an arse as a dog too, to be honest. Fortunately you're surrounded by perfect saints who don't hold it against you.


Really, though, do be careful. Now's not the time for taking risks.

I wish it was safe enough to owl you. There are things

No. I suppose I should just be grateful we have these journals, never mind wishing for more.

For now, just know we're thinking of you.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-21 02:33:02](#)  
(no subject)


Well, technically, at the moment, I'm surrounded by Spaniards, who are anything but saintly.

Anyway, I know I'm a berk, whether or not I'm shedding. You don't need to owl me to tell me that, Moony.

Sorry I was .... Shouldn't have posted openly, I suppose. Though it did give us some information, anyway - more than we had. Crouch thinks he's clever but it's easy enough to get him on a tirade.

Anyway.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 13:03:38](#)  
(no subject)

Also, dogs don't get hangovers.

Ow.

**[2010-05-20 00:17:00](#)**

*S'after midnight*

Happy birthday, little brother.

Least I have the one up there still.

You fucking *pillock*.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 04:28:50](#)

(no subject)

Let him rest!

I swear to you, Black, when we've brought you back here, you'll wish it had been you that died today.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 04:42:35](#)

(no subject)

Which of you did it, Crouch? The truth, now. Was it you? Or my cousin? Surely not your boss himself - he needn't have bothered, had he?

Or did Reg and my mother finally have enough of each other?

If he really did for himself, then I've the right to call him any type of idiot.

This is ***family*** so get out of it.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 04:51:47](#)


(no subject)

You dare claim ***family*** and accuse those of us who have stood with him?

You want to know who killed him? Look to yourself, then. He looked to you. Always came back to that, measuring himself against your contempt.

Your mother was responsible for herself, but his death is yours to claim.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-20 05:01:59](#)  
(no subject)

Stood *with* him? You mean pushing him forward, forcing him to bend over, more like.

If he had been so concerned with my opinion, he'd've known better than to throw back in with you lot. Never should have joined your maniac poncer in the first place, but then he was always trying to impress the wrong people. You included.

And if you mean I made him think - made him see you murdering butchers for what you are, well then, I'll take that as a compliment. But if you think for a moment I wanted this then you're as deluded and insane as that usurper you call your lord and master.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 05:04:27](#)  
(no subject)

Barty, don't.

If he wishes to rail at the heavens ....

I haven't the energy to watch you tie yourself into knots over the likes of that one.

Let be.



**2010-05-20 09:33:00**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa.

I apologise that my exchange with Black last evening caused you renewed pain. I hope you know that was not my intention.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Will you be seeing to arrangements today? If there are errands or details that I could manage for you, I'd be pleased to help in any way that occurs to you. I have my book with me. All you need do is write. Lucius, this offer is as much to you as to Narcissa. I know your schedule was overstretched before this occurred. Do not hesitate to call on me.



---

 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-20 14:06:16**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Barty. It's been a full morning already.

The Healers at St Mungo's have concurred that Aunt Walburga died of natural causes and they are releasing her to Mr Sinclair's establishment. I've got to go to Grimmauld Place to select robes for her laying out. And I'm waiting to hear back from Mr Runge on when to schedule the services.

Though in Regulus' case there is much less to do.

Mother is working with Ganymede Bobolis on Walburga's obituary. He has been astonishingly solicitous. I think he feels it's the least he can do. I also believe he wishes that he and Regulus parted on ... better terms. I'm sure he thought there would be time to patch up.

I'm not sure of anything else right now. Lucius is meeting with Caldecott regarding the estate. Cards are already beginning to arrive, as well. I suppose we shall have to start going through them, but - not necessarily today.

I declare the most tragic thing about the proceedings is that by now I've detailed notes from Aunt Lucretia and Great-Aunt Cassie. I believe our family have had more than their fair share of late!



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 14:50:10](#)  
(no subject)

Bellatrix and I are to meet with Mafalda in few minutes, and I expect she wishes to discuss whether there's a need to open an official investigation. I will let you know, of course, what comes of this.

I'm glad to hear Bobolis is making himself useful.

In any case, my diary is a collection of bits and pieces today, all of which could be rearranged as necessary.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 14:56:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well, in the time since I first wrote ....

The Floo seems to be closed. I can't imagine why. Perhaps Walburga shut it up after she got so perturbed last the night before last.

Are you in London already? Would you mind terribly going to see if the house is locked? I think Mother has an extra set of the keys, if it is - and I can't imagine Walburga leaving it open for vandals, but on the off chance .... It does occur to me that the place has been empty since yesterday and that I said so quite baldly.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 14:58:53](#)  
(no subject)

Of course. Consider it done.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 20:06:50](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

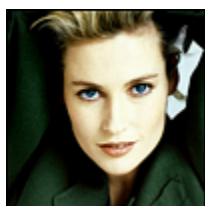
The house is warded shut. When I was unable to enter, I visited your mother and she returned with me to try her key. That removed the locking spell as it ought to

have done, but there are other wards on the house. I've been in and out of the house many times with Regulus, and have watched him use the key. There was no further unlocking charm, so far as I ever observed; it could have been keyed to his presence, but your mother, who has always been permitted entry before, was barred today.

I checked with the Floo administration, as well, and there's been no action from their end: the house has blocked its own fires.

I know Orion went to considerable lengths weaving protections around the house, but you might have supposed that with Walburga's death and Reg's it would have no further need to bar entry. Instead, it seems to have redoubled its wards.

I've sent a message to Rodolphus. If anyone can sort out what's gone wrong, he can.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-05-20 21:46:48**  
(no subject)

Oh, for pity's sake. I just tried sending Trinny and she failed utterly, as well! I've never heard of a warding that bars one's house-elf as well as humans.

Mr Sinclair will have to do his best with the robes she was wearing, for the time being. How disappointing.



 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#) at 2010-05-20 21:53:34**  
(no subject)

I've had a look and I'm afraid nothing's gone wrong; the wards are doing exactly what they're meant to do, and neither you, I, Narcissa, or anyone else will be getting into 12 Grimmauld Place. There's only one person that the house will open for, and he is most certainly not in the vicinity of New London... unfortunate as that may be.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-20 22:19:10](#)**  
(no subject)

That's ludicrous! There has to be a way to break the seal.

He can't inherit the place. You know they disowned him years ago--he's entitled to nothing. Even if he'd not been written out of the Will, he's been outlawed, so any inheritable property is forfeit to the Protectorate.

There's really nothing you could try?




 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-05-20 23:52:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Going by the age of the magic, I'd say the wards were put in place before any disowning, and long before the Protectorate, too. Blood magic of this nature has no regard for the law, and will answer only to those who cast it, or to their heirs. I don't know why Orion and Walburga never changed the spell themselves... perhaps they meant to but never got 'round to it.

I can think of one thing to try, but it's rather macabre. Especially so soon after her passing. And it might end up being nothing more than a hex in the dark.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-21 00:55:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Let us approach this logically, Rodolphus. I'm sure there are items of value, but other than something suitable for her burial, I don't believe there is any urgent need to gain entry.


If as you say, we have a limited window of opportunity, then it would be foolish not to consider it. However, depending on the nature of the procedure, we may do well to wait until we have the right person at our ... disposal.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-21 01:14:01](#)  
(no subject)

I have no personal interest in gaining entry aside from wondering if it could be done...like I said, a hex in the dark. Narcissa's invited me over, so perhaps we can discuss options in person, and whether or not you even want to take those options.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-21 01:20:21](#)  
(no subject)

I was not suggesting you have any personal stake - only that my wife is not necessarily thinking as clinically as you or I.

And yes, I welcome the chance to discuss it together with her.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 23:24:19](#)  
(no subject)

I shan't insult you by asking whether you're sure, but is there anything we can do to break the spell?

Mother knows nothing about Uncle Orion having put any such spell on the house. Can you tell how old it is - I mean, approximately when it was cast? Is it possible that *he* bound the place up before he fled for the continent?



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-20 23:56:33](#)  
(no subject)

I won't offend you, Narcissa, by describing the only possible solution that has occurred to me. Read what I wrote to Barty if you care to know more, but mind that you brace yourself.

I'd gauge the spell as having been cast thirty or so years ago, give or take.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-21 00:01:56](#)  
(no subject)

Recall that I am also your wife's sister,  
Rodolphus: I do not pale so easily, whatever  
Lucius may choose to believe.

Would you need all of her or only a sample of her blood?


Perhaps we ought to discuss it in person.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-05-21 00:10:48](#)  
(no subject)

Discussing it in person would be best.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-21 00:44:55](#)  
(no subject)

Why don't you come over, then, if you're free.  
Barty will be here to take the statement that  
has Bella in such a flap; but if we're  
discussing anything that would require  
dispensation, he might as well be present.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 22:25:04](#)  
(no subject)

Call me the crow of ill-tidings: I'm afraid we are  
going to need a statement from you. Mafalda  
insisted. I can spare you the trip into town, though,  
if you can see a time when I could come ask you the  
necessary questions.

I'm sorry to put you through it.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 23:03:12](#)  
(no subject)

Is she

Of course, if it's necessary, we'll cooperate in any way she needs. I assume you'll want to speak to Lucius as well? He was at the Ministry earlier today; it's a pity Mafalda could not have said then.

Or would you prefer to speak to us separately? So that we cannot - what's the procedural phrase? - match our stories?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-20 23:39:05](#)  
(no subject)

I apologise, I thought she had caught him. I offered to speak with you.

You're right, of course, we do need to depose you each independently, but not because there's any concern you would conspire to alter your testimony. The point is simply to record your separate recollections.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-20 23:47:00](#)  
(no subject)

She might well have done; I confess that we have been on our separate tracks today to accomplish everything that needed to be done, so I haven't spoken to him, and certainly not about this.

Well. Since there's no possibility of gaining entry to 12 Grimmauld Place right away, I'm at a bit of an impasse.

Are you able to come this evening after supper? I expect Lucius will wish to catch up on work tonight, having spent so much of the day on our family affairs. I'm sure he'll be happy to leave us to it.






 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-21 00:14:49](#)  
(no subject)

That would be fine. I've dined already. Would it be convenient if I were to come now?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-21 00:48:09](#)  
(no subject)


Yes. I've asked Rodolphus to come as well to discuss our options for getting inside her home.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-05-20 23:58:13](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, she insisted, did she?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-21 00:02:50](#)  
(no subject)

It's all right, Bella. There's no need to put Barty in an awkward position; he's welcome to come and ask what he needs to ask.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-05-21 00:09:41](#)  
(no subject)

Mafalda is simply being ridiculous. What you and Lucius described to me should already be more than enough for her parchments. But if she needs to waste your valuable time - and Barty's - with so-called official protocol, so be it. I shall be speaking to her about it later, when I'm not busy overseeing other matters.





 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-21 00:52:06](#)  
(no subject)

If you think it's necessary, I'm sure it is. But as for this sordid business, I'd rather simply have done with it in whatever way is easiest all round.

I don't want anyone to say we've tampered with the investigation, Bella.

I'd like to put this all to rest.

**2010-05-20 13:29:00**

*(no subject)*

An they're off!



 **alt\_wagstaff**

**2010-05-20 21:54:00**

*Order Only: Well, here's what the Prophet says*

Sirius, here are their words, not mine, as printed in the *Daily Prophet* today:



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Double Tragedy Strikes Malfoy - Black Families

Reporters at the Daily Prophet have learned that Walburga Medea Black, aged 68, died yesterday while in audience with the Lord Protector at Windsor Castle. Mrs Black suffered a massive stroke shortly after learning to her shock that her only remaining son, Regulus Arcturus Black, had broken the restrictions placed on him for his own and others' protection, and apparently met his demise. Regulus, who had a history of mental instability, had attempted suicide two weeks previously. He was held at St Mungo's and released to his mother's custody on the condition that they remain sequestered in their ancestral home in London, according to family friends. As was visible through journal reports, he continued to struggle with his recovery and his family remained concerned for his well-being.

It is still unknown at this time whether his death was a successful suicide or some other circumstance. The Ministry's Department of Magical Law Enforcement are determining whether to investigate at the time of this printing. Our reporters have learned from an unnamed source close to the Lord Protector, that Mr Black's duties had been curtailed lately due to the Lord Protector's concern for his mental state. 'The Lord Protector has tried throughout the past two years to help Mr Black return to full health,' said our source, 'but Regulus has had more and more trouble. Everyone's seen his posts. They're cracked. I think he was much more troubled than anyone realised, except perhaps His Lordship.'

Mrs Black apparently discovered her son missing this morning, when he failed to answer repeated calls to come down for breakfast. She alerted the Lord Protector. His other family and friends were also summoned to help begin a search for him, for fear he would bring himself to harm. Before any ground could be gained, however, Mrs Black learned of his death from his portrait. According to the staff at Windsor, she came by

Floo, but was already in some physical distress at that time. They described her behaviour as erratic and apoplectic. St Mungo's Healers confirmed late yesterday that the early signs of stroke may present through similar symptoms. Mr Nicodemus Broome, the Lord Protector's personal secretary, said that Mrs Black reported her evidence of her son's demise, which the Lord Protector received with dismay. However, her duty discharged, the strain of her loss proved too much for Mrs Black and she collapsed before the assembled Court. St Mungo's Healers were called in and pronounced her dead on the scene.

The Black family have lost two other members in the past six months: Lucretia Prewett, aged 67, who passed away on 20 October last year; and Cassiopeia Black, aged 77, who succumbed to pneumonia on 31 December. Regulus Black died just one day short of his 33rd birthday, which would have been today.

The twin losses of Walburga Black and her son Regulus bring to a halt the line of Arcturus and Melania Black. The only other surviving member of the family is the arch-traitor, Sirius, who is currently being pursued by Ministry Enforcers in Europe. Mrs Black is also survived by her sister-in-law, Druella Rosier Black and her nieces, Bellatrix Lestrange and Narcissa Malfoy.

No funeral arrangements have been made public at this time.

The thing that strikes me as very dodgy is Barty Crouch's remark that your mother 'was responsible for herself.' That doesn't sound to me quite like he's speaking of a woman dying of natural causes (not to mention the reference to her acting 'erratic and apoplectic.') The implication that she was in Voldemort's presence when she died makes me think there are things they're going to want to hush up about all this.

If I'm reading the commenting going back and forth between Mrs Malfoy, Bellatrix and Rodolphus Lestrange right, you may now be the only person who can get into your family residence. The question is, why do they care so much? Their urgency about this strikes me as suggestive...but of what, I don't yet know. Is there anything in there that would be of use to them? Do you know anything about the spell Lestrange has mentioned?

Forgive me, I don't mean to press you at a time like this. But it sounds

like whatever blood magic protections are on that house are now protecting your interests.

The only other thing I've managed to learn is that no one has yet managed to find his body...or at least no one's admitted it. And I think I'd hear, because the Lord Protector really wants to find it.

How are you holding up?

---



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2010-05-21 03:59:45**

*(no subject)*

Thanks for copying all that out, Bill.

But it's not my mother's 'erratic' behaviour that concerns me. Believe me, she was more than erratic even if she wasn't suffering a stroke. Sorry if this sounds cold but I don't much care what story they want to tell about her.

Regulus never had a history of mental instability - they're making it sound as if he was completely off his broom. I don't know what they're driving at, but it can't be anything good.

As for the house, I've been reading over that with interest. Thing is, I do remember our father casting that spell on the place. He didn't tell us what it was at the time, of course. Just that it was an extra-special protection. He had about a dozen warlocks in the house that night, and I remember specifically that Mother had to go stay with Aunt Druella. Couldn't be in the house, you see. Spell was gender-specific. I don't know what he'd have done if we hadn't both been male. Probably she'd have had to cast the spell a second time with witches.

Anyway, if it's what I think it is, then whatever Rodolphus Lestrangle has planned involving my mother's corpse probably won't do them any good at all.

As to what's in the place - well, I'm sure they'd all love to pilfer the library. And who knows what else my parents have stuffed in their cupboards, could be loads of dark artifacts. But I think Malfoy's right when he says there's nothing urgent. They just can't stand the thought of all that stuff going to waste.

I wonder what happened to Kreacher, though.

And I'm fine, thanks for asking. This gives me the information I need, anyway. Time to put my quill back in action, I think.

**2010-05-20 23:19:00**

*Attention Hogwarts*

I have very good news to announce.

I've just come from speaking with Professor Sprout, who tells me the Mandrakes have reached maturity and are ready for cutting. She will prepare them tomorrow morning, and Professor Slughorn and I will spend the afternoon brewing the necessary potion. Assuming that all goes well, those who have suffered Petrification should be restored to good health by evening. I will, of course, wish to be entirely certain of their soundness before releasing them, so I must ask that you all be patient and refrain from crowding into the hospital wing. There will be time enough for reunions after they have got their bearings and recovered their equilibrium.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_poppy](#)

Professor Lockhart: I assure you that Professor Slughorn and I were most gratified by your kind offer to take over the brewing yourself, using the recipe you learned from--who was it, the aboriginal Skelligans of the Outer Seychelles? We have the matter well in hand, however, and will not be in need of your assistance for the time being. I feel certain you have enough on your plate, preparing end-of-term exams for the lower forms and sixth years. In that endeavour, I wish you all the best.

Congratulations, by the way, to the fifth years for surviving O.W.L.s week with rather fewer medical emergencies than usual. Good show!




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-05-21 04:13:44**

*Order Only*

That's the best news we've had in quite a while, Poppy. I feel much easier knowing that you'll have Hermione and Terry back on their feet before too much longer.

And moreover, I hope they can tell you something about what happened to them - and who or what did it!



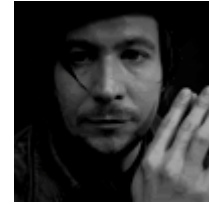
 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-21 04:29:27](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

I hope so, too, Sirius. I truly do.



**2010-05-21 00:28:00**

*Grim Truth 21/5/93*



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Greetings, British Wizarding World!

It's been a long time since you heard from me, I know. In the interim, I hear that the papers have been full of my supposed exploits, nearly none of them anything for which I would wish to claim credit. You've also been inundated with information about the recent discovery that Nigel Cullenden was, and always has been, none other than yours truly.

So you might think I'm too busy running from Ministry Enforcers to come back to writing these entries. I can't deny I'm disappointed that I have had to leave my home and a life that was, all things considered, rather successful, because the Lord Pretender's assassins got lucky. But I can weather that, I assure you.

However, the reasons I have not written - or not written more often - have precious little to do with the very recent lively events outside your borders, in which I became a more direct target of the Protectorate. There are two reasons I have been silent, both of which are now, I believe, no longer relevant.

The first is that the epidemic your officials have dubbed after my family name rather eloquently spoke for itself. The Ministry fell over themselves declaring that my supporters had somehow infiltrated the camps, poisoned the water and somehow further mutated the disease to infect both halfbloods and later purebloods. First they denied the disease's existence altogether. Next, they admitted the disease was real but denied any danger to those with 'true magical heritage.' Then, when that didn't protect them, they tried to keep the cases of halfblood sickness quiet by quarantining the cases in a secret, locked ward at St Mungo's. They even obfuscated the bloodline of a pureblood wizard - Xenophilius Lovegood - in order to maintain that the illness could not affect anyone with sufficiently potent magical blood. But that didn't work for long, either (though the aftermath of that lie has continued to impact his surviving daughter's life negatively). All the while, the Ministry knew that the real cause of the disease was the tampering of one of their own Unspeakables. Eventually, they had to reveal enough information that the Healers at St Mungo's were able to craft a vaccine, but not before countless lives were lost or otherwise brought to harm by their arrogance and

cowardice.

Apart from a few moments along the way, it seemed clear to me that the truth was speaking loudly enough for all to hear, and needed no comment from me.

The second reason, I'm ashamed to say, was both more personal, and more important to me. It had to do with the retaliations that followed any of these discussions. I have reason to believe that each atrocity was committed by the same culprit, though not by his own choice. I gather from yesterday's *Prophet* article that someone's going to suggest pretty soon that he was insane. But I swear to you he had no history of mental illness to my knowledge. I believe that he was pressured, possibly forced, to torture, to maim, to desecrate, to mutilate and to murder in order to associate my words and the Black name with deeds most of us find abhorrent. Ironically, the deeds were correctly attributed to the House of Black. They just pinned them on the wrong brother.

For a while, I thought that if I kept quiet for his sake, it would provide him some protection. Still, I failed - on both counts. First I failed to keep my silence at times when I could not sit idly while the public health risk raged on, or when the Ministry continued its muggle hunt and implicated men and women with no active part in this struggle. Moreover, my silence failed to shield him in any way from being used at the hands of his keepers, from being directed to destroy himself piecemeal. From chipping away at his soul.

The bright side, if one can see it that way, is that their tactic had limits. Eventually, the moment had to come when his 'usefulness' ran out and he would be discarded.

I believe that day came recently. I believe that we have witnessed the ultimate lesson of loyalty to the Dark Lord: Not 'Serve or Die,' but 'Serve *and* Die.'

I don't know whether the Grim Truth is that he was killed by Voldemort's hand, or simply at his command. I don't know, and may never know, whether he finally made his stand, refused to act on his instructions, and paid that price, or whether he was simply deemed too broken and therefore no longer worth keeping. I don't even, in all honesty, know for sure that he's dead. It's just possible that this could be an elaborate ruse. It could be designed to bring me out (in which case, I'm playing into their hands by writing this), or it could be a story they're telling us all to cover for themselves in case he actually


did come to his senses and ran, like they claim, and found a way to go back into hiding. If so, then they've enlisted a large cast of players in the charade.

But I feel certain that Walburga Black's demise was no mere tragic coincidence, and further that the woman who bore us would not be dead if her youngest son were still alive.

I also know that I have two fewer reasons to keep silent.

---




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-21 15:14:10](#)**  
(no subject)

This is one occasion - possibly the only time, Black - when the family would be happy to provide you with a first-hand account of what occurred.

Kindly name the time and place and we will be more than happy to reunite you with your lost relations.

Otherwise, show a shred of respect for your departed by refraining to further sully them with your wild accusations, inaccurate supposition and feigned concern and interest in a family with whom you no longer have the right to associate.




 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-05-21 16:01:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I hope you won't be too disappointed if not many people listen.

We're both orphans now. The odd thing about being an orphan that I had never quite realised before is that when you're an orphan sometimes you find out that way for the first time who is truly kind.

Sometimes that's not all bad. If that helps.




 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-21 16:29:21](#)  
(no subject)

Honestly, Lovegood, do you lack all sense?


I realise that your upbringing lacked both discipline and proper guidance, but your situation has changed. Perhaps your father never minded whether you made a spectacle of yourself, but now you have a foster family concerned with your welfare and you owe them better. I will not allow you to bring the Browns to shame by consorting with this traitor.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-21 16:37:21](#)  
(no subject)

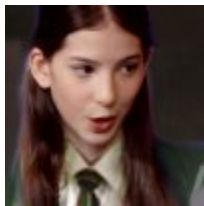
See what I mean?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-21 16:45:58](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Wow. Lovegood's got nerve. Not much sense, yeah--Sandoval's actually right about that--but a lot of nerve.

(Sally-Anne, this is where you could chime in to say maybe she should have been a Gryffindor.)




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-21 16:56:42](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Yeah, she's certainly got the Gryffindor sense of style.

If it took losing her father to realise that Sandoval's not truly kind, though, she wasn't paying much attention.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-21 17:03:58](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

That's the first time anyone's ever even implied I had a sense of style!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-21 17:07:21](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

A GRYFFINDOR sense of style isn't exactly something to brag about.

Everyone knows you lot think of scars as a fashion accessory!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-21 17:10:48](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Heh.

It's better than sparkly hair clips. Or those daft robe pet tingers.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-21 17:19:38](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

There is that.

It's more fun to shop for a robe pet than it is to GET a scar, though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-21 17:07:36](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Too right, there, mate!



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-21 17:09:07](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

No. Take it from us, that's one thing we've noticed about Luna. She's always paying attention.

But sometimes it suits her to let people think she isn't.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-21 17:21:49](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

So why do you suppose she's provoking Sandoval?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-21 17:36:05](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Well, that's the question, isn't it? It's always a bit of mystery with Luna.



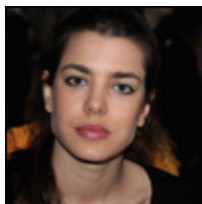
 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-21 16:48:43](#)

*Order Only*

Oh, dear.

Perhaps Xenon and I taught her to think a little too independently. At least just enough to interfere with her sense of self-preservation.

Do be careful how you answer her, Sirius, please. If you do. At this point, I don't quite dare to comment to her openly myself.




 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-21 16:49:57](#)

*(no subject)*

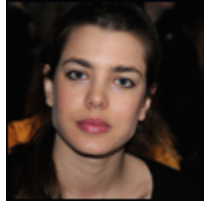
Bring me your journal this instant, Lovegood. Don't make me come to your end of the lunch table to demand it.


Ten points from Ravenclaw.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-21 17:01:02](#)  
(no subject)

Well, of course, if you'd like to look it over. All the entries and comments are there for everyone to see, though, so I don't know why you need the journal itself.




 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-21 17:12:41](#)  
(no subject)

No Ravenclaw is that dense, Lovegood. That's cost our House another ten points.

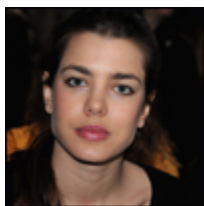
You may have the journal back when I believe you've learned how to conduct yourself respectfully.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-21 16:57:30](#)  
(no subject)

Luna...my word.

Yes, you are an orphan. And that is entirely regrettable. But while that may be a point of factual similarity between you and Black, that is merely coincidence. Do not make the mistake of thinking or even implying that this means you must have a bond of sympathy with him. It is dangerous and reckless to suggest it.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-21 16:59:25](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Weasley. Well said.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-21 16:47:02](#)  
(no subject)

So their lives were nothing more than a hindrance to you?

You make me ill.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-05-21 17:45:25](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

Sirius - I haven't known what to say. I still don't.



**2010-05-21 11:47:00**

*Attention Hogwarts*

I'm very sorry to report that there has been an incident in the Greenhouse over night. Professor Sprout insists that most of the Mandrakes will be perfectly fine once they've had a chance to re-establish themselves and to heal, which they should do shortly.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_poppy](#)

It will, regrettably, be some while before we are able to restore those who have been Petrified.

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-05-21 19:29:09**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

An incident? An INCIDENT?

What do you want to bet it was Alecto Carrow?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-22 13:15:14**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I heard the pots were all smashed, and the Mandrakes seemed like they'd had a big party and got totally pissed. But maybe that was because they were out of their pots for a while.

I also heard she found a bunch of dead rats and a rooster in the greenhouse. I get how the rats got in, but I'm not sure about the rooster.




 [alt\\_horace](#) at **2010-05-22 14:51:46**

*(no subject)*

Most regrettable, Poppy. Most regrettable. Still, I suppose we must be grateful they were not completely destroyed.

I remain, of course, at your disposal when the time comes to prepare the potion.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-23 00:17:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Horace.

I trust there will be no further setbacks, though I confess that I'm concerned by Pomona's inability to say whether this was simply a case of the Mandrakes sowing their wild oats and getting out of hand or whether there might truly have been foul play. We've set some extra protections on that Greenhouse to be safe. Goodness knows, mature Mandrakes could do terrible harm should someone meddle with them: death would be a dire price for foolishness.

**2010-05-22 22:51:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I keep thinking about all the mysterious and AWFUL things that have happened this year and wondering if it's all of a piece, somehow.

What I could think of:

- \* That murder Padma's brother was investigating, with the exsanguination, back in the fall.
- \* Madam Hooch's sister was murdered, and did they ever work out who did that?
- \* Harry got attacked by the mad bludger.
- \* There was that dreadful message at Halloween about the Chamber of Secrets, and Nearly Headless Nick and Hermione's cat got petrified.
- \* Bobby Stebbins was petrified.
- \* Moebius Ollivander was petrified and Dennis was killed.
- \* Hermione and Penelope were petrified.
- \* Padma's little brother was murdered.
- \* Those two girls who look like Pansy were murdered.
- \* Regulus Black died along with his mother.
- \* The illness.

It's been a positively dreadful year.

What if

Maybe those murders were done with magic, and I don't mean avada kedavra but something else, and maybe whoever's doing it is TRYING to get at students, too? But somehow we're protected at Hogwarts (and we could be, there are loads of protections and wards and

everything else) and maybe Dennis WASN'T protected because he didn't belong here yet (not because he was a muggleborn but because he was too little still). And that's why Dennis died, but everyone else was petrified.

I want it to still all be Amycus Carrow's fault, though. And he DID send you off to the Forest and he TOLD you to follow the spiders, surely he was hoping you'd all be killed.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-23 04:44:59](#)

*(no subject)*

I forgot about Madam Hooch's sister and that bloke who had all his blood turned to mud--and that horrible picture of it--gah! I really didn't want to be thinking about that again.

D'you think it wasn't Carrow? I mean. Why say you want it to still be him? You think maybe it's not.

Because of Mr Black? and his mum. and you think it's really wait.

D'you really think it's all the same person? Doing the things here and all those murders out there?

I dunno.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-23 04:55:22](#)

*(no subject)*

I don't know. Maybe it's all a coincidence, but

I keep thinking about those girls who looked like Pansy. Maybe the magic was trying REALLY HARD to get Pansy only it couldn't and

You're probably right, it's not connected.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-23 05:00:18](#)  
(no subject)

But we -- everyone really -- thought the danger was inside the school. That whoever was petrifying people was someone here.

What if we're wrong? What if it's coming from outside, and it's magic that's meant to kill us but Hogwarts magic is protecting us, only it's such strong magic it can't completely protect us.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-23 05:06:06](#)  
(no subject)

Um.

If you're right about that, then

what happens when we go home? I mean, if it's the school that's protecting us? Then

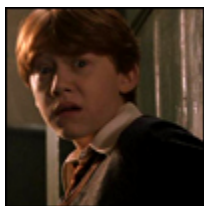
then


Pansy



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-23 05:09:15](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, you see why I'm sitting up fretting about this instead of sleeping?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-23 05:15:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah.

That's why I'm up thinking about it, too, now.  
Right?

That and remembering that picture of the bloke with the mud coming out his mouth.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-23 04:47:30](#)  
(no subject)

Why are you thinking about this tonight?

Is everything all right?

Pansy's not

y'know

all upset again, is she?

Or you? You're okay, right?

Did something happen?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-23 04:56:27](#)  
(no subject)

Pansy's no worse tonight than she's been since we got the news about Regulus.

I wish I knew what to say to make her feel better.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-23 05:13:58](#)  
(no subject)

She showed you that book he sent her, right?

About exploring and going off where no one can find you--well, I mean, that's what Colonel Fawcett did, so the book's about how he believed there were ancient magical people living in that enormous jungle in South America.

You don't think he--Regulus Black, I mean--you don't think he found a way to get out of this country, do you?

'Cause it didn't seem like Pansy thought so, but wouldn't that make sense, if he'd sent her that book like a clue before he left, and really he's out there somewhere safe and, well, somewhere the Protector won't ever find him?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-23 05:23:21](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh

OH

Do you suppose

But he'd have had to persuade them he was dead, I think, or they wouldn't have said so, because what fools they'd look if he turned up alive.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-23 05:29:58](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, yeah. And there was that stuff in the Prophet that said his mother had a portrait of him that told her he was dead. But

I mean, who told the reporters that?

I just

see, no one I've talked to thinks that Mrs Black died the way it says she did, so why would anyone think he did? Y'know what I mean?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-23 15:26:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't forget, Terry Boot was petrified, too. That's one of the reasons we were thinking it was Professor Carrow, wasn't it?

I can't think of any way it could be connected. Because people are being petrified here, but I haven't heard of anyone being petrified outside of Hogwarts.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-23 16:23:55](#)  
(no subject)

UGH, I can't believe I forgot to list Terry.

But Hogwarts would've protected him, like Hermione, because it thinks he's a student, yes? I mean the Sorting hat sorted him into Ravenclaw. He has a house even if he's not allowed to live in it and go to classes.



**2010-05-23 17:50:00**

*Order Only*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Well, that was invigorating.

It's hard to remember the danger of self-implosion while running until it smacks one in the face. Ow. Literally.

I think someone in that cantina must have reported me. I'm actually impressed, I didn't think Voldemort's network was anything like effective in Spain.

I'd decided that I needed to work my way back to Bordeaux to make sure all is in readiness on my end for this June, but that since Nigel had such a large presence in France, I'd come up through Spain.


I didn't figure they'd track me so quickly. The only thing I can think of is that someone wanted that reward money. Guess it was my accent, or maybe the fact that I had that bottle of Firewhiskey on Tuesday. Shouldn't have stayed in one place long enough to write that Grim Truth, I guess. Well, however they did it, they found me. I'd taken a room Thursday - just for a while to clear my head, shower, watch the televised news - and I saw the two agents coming up the walk. I'd have Apparated, but I'd only stepped out of the shower. By the time I pulled on trousers and crammed everything else into my rucksack, they were blasting away the door.

I hexed back with everything I had and Apparated out of there - yeah, without ginger root, there wasn't time. Changed to Padfoot and headed north on foot for a little, but discovered my paw was hurting. That's when I realised I'd taken a little shrapnel from the door - in my arm and a few splinters along my face and neck. Nothing serious, mind - nothing I can't clean up and heal in a few hours - but bad enough that I'm not making a lot of ground as Padfoot for the next day.

I'll hole up - and no conspicuous whiskey-drinking! - and tomorrow I may try to head into the mountains and make my way to Bordeaux as stealthily as possible.

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 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-23 23:18:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Sirius. Do you think it's wise to head into France at all?

I don't like the idea of your returning to Bordeaux, in any case: the fact that you used that port before speaks against it. If there's a chance, however remote, that MLE will have pieced together some of the details of your earlier sea adventures, you surely ought to go elsewhere.

If you're as far south as Seville, Portugal might be a convenient alternative.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-23 23:27:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I thought about that too - if it weren't for the fact that I have really no Portuguese. I'm not sure I could credibly negotiate the use of a vessel.


I could see what's available in La Rochelle, though, and avoid Bordeaux. Just not confident - it's a much smaller port. There's a chance, though, especially if I use an entirely Muggle captain and crew.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-24 00:27:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I confess I'm out of my depth here, but what about Bayonne (it's closer to the Spanish border, isn't it?) or Nantes?




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-24 00:43:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Bayonne's closer to Spain, yes, but not to the rendez-vous point at the ward line.

Nantes is too far inland, I think - too far up the seaway before we get to open water.


Quimper is a possibility, too.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-24 00:57:25](#)**  
*(no subject)*


I take it you've found a place to hide for the moment. Have you been able to see to your injuries?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-24 01:57:13](#)**  
*(no subject)*

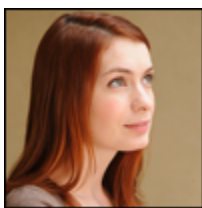
Don't worry, Poppy. I know how to field dress and cast anti-infection spells.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-05-24 04:06:13](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Telling me not to worry is like telling a cauldron over a high flame not to bubble. Or telling you to be cautious.

Still, I suppose there's no harm in saying it!



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-24 01:49:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh my.

It seems like the MLE's tossing a considerable amount of resources into Europe and you -- I wonder if it's something they're hoping to keep up indefinitely, or if they'll fall back after another week or two. The Ministry has to be spread thin after the plague, and if you weren't such a high profile case...

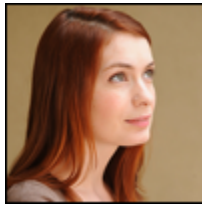
I'm just thinking as I write. I've no idea how long they'll keep after you. Keep safe. I'm glad you've weathered this run-in, and I hope to Merlin you don't have any more.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-24 01:59:33](#)  
(no subject)

I think they're using agents who aren't necessarily Aurors. These two might not have been MLE at all - I wasn't sticking around to find out.

I don't think it's going to let up anytime soon, Allie. But don't worry. Just don't be surprised if I have to stay as Padfoot more than I've been doing.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-24 02:09:58](#)  
(no subject)

You know me, love. I am a worrier. It's what I do.

You do what you must.

**2010-05-23 18:08:00**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Your owl tracked me down in the Midlands this afternoon. I'd been there since yesterday morning, sorting out whether there's more to the continued disorder at the Walsall camp than competition for work and petty squabbles over accommodations. It's back in MLE's hands, as it should be: there was really no persuasive reason they needed an Auror at all, except they wanted me to go do their work for them.

In any case, I'm back in London this evening and wanted you to know that I received the information you sent about the arrangements. The owl didn't wait for a reply.

Pennifold: I'll leave instructions at reception that they're to notify me when you arrive first thing tomorrow. I'll come down and get your security clearance sorted so you won't have to prove yourself at every turn.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-05-24 00:27:35**

*(no subject)*

Yes, Lucius mentioned that Yaxley and Rosier have scheduled several inspections later this week - after Aunt Walburga's funeral. It sounds as if they would like him to go, though he hasn't decided yet whether he ought to do.

Mother offered her house for the reception, at least, so we shan't have that to worry about. But we can none of us seem to agree on what to do about anything beyond that.

I keep thinking if we could find any way into 12 Grimmauld Place, there might be some clue where to begin looking for Regulus' remains.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-24 00:49:47](#)  
(no subject)

I gather there are more than the usual number of disruptions. There's always an uptick as the weather improves and the daylight stretches longer--more time and opportunity for mischief--but this year has brought unique challenges. Enough that MLE keep trying to push cases off to us.

What is in dispute? Have you not settled the matter of whether there ought to be one service or two?

The situation with the house is perplexing MLE, as well.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-24 00:55:09](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure the reason they want Lucius to accompany them is to convince him that the camp enforcers require additional support.


The dispute has to do with whether a service will be appropriate at all, I'm afraid. Has Lucius ... have the *Prophet* talked to you at all?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-24 01:00:28](#)  
(no subject)

The *Prophet*? No. What's this about?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-24 01:13:58](#)  
(no subject)

Lucius learned this morning that there's to be some follow-up on Friday's piece. Understandable as he was so high-profile, but they asked permission to go more ... *in depth*.

Not that you are in the habit of giving interviews - but perhaps you'll be good enough to speak with us before talking to anyone from the papers. I gather they hope to answer some of the doubts about the circumstances of his disappearance.

Speaking of which, have there been any theories as to where he might have taken himself? I haven't heard more from MLE since before the weekend.



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2010-05-24 01:56:24**  
*(no subject)*

Perhaps it's as well I was gone yesterday and most of today. Not that I'd answer any but the most basic factual questions (and then only so I could have their heads if they got those things wrong).

Without access to the house to determine whether there's anything there that indicates a crime scene or suggests Regulus's destination or motives, I'm afraid they don't see much chance for the investigation to succeed. I heard they'd reassigned the case Saturday morning--pulled Forney off and gave it to Carpenter, instead. That's not quite the same as burying it--Carpenter's got a new partner, Holcomb, who's just out of training, so I expect they'll follow up whatever tips come their way, and I wouldn't be surprised to hear they've dredged a few ponds and moats.




 **alt\_narcissa** at **2010-05-24 02:19:03**  
*(no subject)*

Well, I was sure you had much better things to do than waste your time with reporters.

I thought Carpenter was due to retire in two months? I didn't realise Ms Forney had even been assigned - when did Mafalda intend to inform us?

Clearly, I shall have to insist on a more detailed and frequent update.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-24 03:02:51](#)  
(no subject)

Carpenter's certainly put in enough years he could retire whenever he wanted, but I've no idea whether he's put in for it.

As for Forney, she's quite good--so much so they must have decided her efforts would be wasted on Reg's case. I wasn't consulted, of course, but I do keep stumbling across conversations in which the key elements are the North Sea and a rucksack full of stones, or the dragon preserve, or the manticore compound at the zoo. You see what they're thinking, and I can't say I have any reason to suppose they're wrong, apart from the fact that he loathed Apparating.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-24 03:26:35](#)  
(no subject)

I can't imagine he'd have chosen a prolonged or painful exit, however.

I hope not. Absent any other information, I choose to believe it.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-24 04:01:49](#)  
(no subject)

I know you do.

I hope that, too.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-05-24 13:50:40](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad to see you were able to bring Ned on; good luck to you both.

I assume we shall see you at the service? There are a few matters we ought to discuss this week, as Narcissa mentioned. If you're unable to attend owing to the state of your caseload, then perhaps you might accept an invitation for luncheon to-morrow.





 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-24 15:11:43](#)  
(no subject)

I should be there, but I don't imagine there will be much chance for private conversation today. I should be able to manage a late lunch tomorrow. I'll have Ned contact Crispin to confirm.

His first day is turning out to be exactly as chaotic as it ought to be. No point lulling him into false expectations about his new work environment.

**2010-05-23 22:09:00**

*An apology*

It's so nice to have one's journal to one's self again. I have promised not to say anything that would cause more drama and heartache. Its been a long week and I have had time to think. I have learned that it is better to keep some of my thoughts to myself even if some of them are true. It better for us all to get along than to bite each others heads off.




 [alt\\_ginny](#)

So for the peace of everyone, Lavender, I apologise for the mean and rude things i said last week. Luna is like a sister to me, I hope you realise that. But no matter my feelings on the situation, they do not justify my behaviour this past week. I hope you can accept my apology.

Dean, thank you for helping me blow off the rest of my steam and not letting me make any further foolish displays. Thank you for keeping my journal this past week.


Fred and George, when you get a moment, I need to talk to you. It is of high priority, that we speak.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-05-24 02:30:16**  
(no subject)

Well, it's good you've come to your senses.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-05-24 03:06:37**  
(no subject)

You all right, then, Gin?



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2010-05-24 03:08:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course I am. No worries at all.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-05-24 22:35:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Apology accepted, Weasley.

I suppose I might have controlled my temper a bit more as well.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-05-25 01:52:44](#)**  
(no subject)

You name the place and time, sis.

**2010-05-24 08:52:00**

*Minerva and Horace*



 **alt\_lucius**


Thank you both for arranging for Draco to join us this afternoon. If he could be ready by half eleven, that would be preferable. The service and reception for Walburga ought to conclude by five-thirty; however, Narcissa would like to keep him for supper if that is acceptable. We shall return him before curfew goes into effect.

Yaxley, Crispin informed me that you refused to accept his assessment of my agenda. One wonders exactly what the use is of having a clerk to address scheduling when his answer is met with accusations of inventing conflicts in my timetable - I might remind you that we have experienced rather a jolt to the whole family in the past week; there is much to do at the best of times, and this is far from that. Nonetheless, he is quite correct, whether you believe or no: If you wish me to accompany you this week, Wednesday prior to court is the only option. Crispin will expect your decision by day's end so that he may re-arrange as needed, pending your confirmation. Next week presents a much wider range of choices, though I do appreciate the time-sensitive nature of the visits. If it is that urgent, however, then I suggest you do what must be done and provide a memory of it later. Or take Mulciber if you prefer. It makes no possible difference to me, either way.

Pansy, Narcissa asked me to tell you that she was touched by your letter. She does intend to reply, but this week will be very trying for her, so please do not think the delay an indication that your words were not received with gratitude. Regarding your question about Regulus' memorial, that is difficult to answer at present. I am sure you will have seen her tell Mr Crouch as much. Since there is no need for an immediate burial, I believe we may simply wait and hold a more private gathering over the summer.

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 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-24 22:43:11](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you, Lucius. I understand.

**2010-05-24 19:58:00**

*Future Interrogators met*



 [alt\\_padma](#)


for the last time this year. We talked about the Model Wizengamot from last week, what we thought should have happened and whether we would have made different arguments and what the Ministry people said we should have done. (They had a lot to say, too. There were four people who came, by the way: Ms Victoria Vaisey and Mr Lawrence Bletchley, who sit on the Wizengamot, Mr Tertius Rigg, one of the Interrogators, and Mr Crouch, Sr, who works with the defence teams.)

Anyway, we talked about what we want to do next year, and we've all got some ideas about things to read over the summer, and maybe when we go to the Ministry we'll see the real Wizengamot chambers. We talked about process and maybe more cases through the term next year. But I dunno how many people will really do it, especially with our new courses starting.

As it's mine and Parvati's birthday tomorrow, we got parcels from home today, too. Mum said she'll send a cake tomorrow and we can share it out after supper, since I don't think too many people go to the debating society, at least not who would come, anyway. I asked Professor Vector and she said we could play music in one of the attics again, and since OWLs and NEWTs are over, Troy and Dames said they'd be happy to run a round of Mind-Reader. If you've never seen them do it before it's really funny. So that's the plan. Parkinson, I don't know if you'll be in the mood, but it'd be really good if you came, I think.

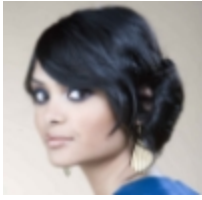
It's hard to believe that exams are right round the corner, but at least we can have the party before really concentrating on revising.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-05-25 01:12:39**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah. That does sound nice.


Can Sally-Anne come too? We don't have to eat the cake if there wouldn't be enough to go round.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-25 01:17:49](#)**  
(no subject)


You can bring Perks, it's fine.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-25 01:29:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay then. We'll be there.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-25 01:38:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Good.


It helps to have things to look forward to, you know?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-25 02:00:09](#)**  
(no subject)


yeah.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-05-25 21:48:44](#)**  
(no subject)

So I gather that you and Padma have buried the hatchet and are getting on these days?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-05-26 20:17:49](#)**  
(no subject)


It seemed like the mature thing to do.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 01:04:48](#)  
(no subject)

It was a very nice party, Padma. Thank you for inviting us.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-25 01:40:18](#)  
(no subject)

What's Mind Reader?

Have a happy birthday, Patil.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 01:47:55](#)  
(no subject)


It's a nift game, Weasley. You divide into teams and everyone writes down something on a piece of parchment and then everyone puts their parchment into hats. Then the judges (that's Dames and Troy) draw each team's parchments and the other team tries to guess who said each thing. And sometimes there are categories, like you have to write down something funny. There's another piece, but that's much easier to see than to tell about.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-25 03:23:54](#)  
(no subject)

Is Mr Crouch Sr the father of the Mr Crouch who works in MLE? I thought you did a great job in the Model Wizengamot, I don't know how you remembered what you were supposed to say when but it was fun to watch.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 03:36:39](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm pretty certain he is. I mean, he's Bartemius Crouch, Sr, and the Auror one is Bartemius Crouch, Jr, isn't he? So they must be.

But it's odd, because everyone else who came knows someone here.



I mean, Ms Vaisey is I think Richard Vaisey's aunt and Mr Bletchley is Miles Bletchley's father, and Mr Rigg's daughter is in Hufflepuff. And I think that's why they came up, specifically, because besides being here for the Model Wizengamot, they could all see their families, you know. But Mr Crouch doesn't have anyone here, at least not as far as I could tell. And it doesn't sound like he really knows how to talk to people our age. I mean, sometimes he sounded like he was talking to really little kids, like we were all six or something. And then sometimes he'd start getting really technical and I think then he forgot that we've not been doing this for a long time like he has. I even looked them all up over the weekend, just to find out more about them. Did you know he used to be an Interrogator - Mr Crouch, Sr, I mean? I wonder why he switched to defending? Usually it's the other way 'round, Mr Bletchley said. Like, he started as a defender and then got promoted to Interrogating. (Which mostly proves what I said earlier, about how it's better to be an Interrogator than a defender.)

And thanks, it was sort of fun. I still like Potions more than the Wizengamot, but it's interesting stuff.


Are you coming tomorrow?



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 03:38:18](#)  
(no subject)


Sure, if I'm invited!



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-25 03:38:52](#)  
(no subject)


Of course, you're a mate, aren't you?



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 03:39:24](#)  
(no subject)


It might've been all girls!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 03:45:17](#)  
(no subject)


Troy's not a girl!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 03:39:14](#)  
(no subject)


Why wouldn't I want you at my birthday?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-25 03:40:09](#)  
(no subject)


Well it might be just girls or just Ravenclaws, I don't want to assume, you know?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 03:46:01](#)  
(no subject)

I'd like to see you call Troy a girl! He'd probably give you curls and earrings!




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-05-25 03:49:21](#)  
(no subject)

Oh TROY right I'm sorry.

I don't know who I was thinking of.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-25 03:47:29](#)  
(no subject)

And anyway, Parvati and Lavender are coming, of course, so it's at least Ravenclaws and Gryffindors too!

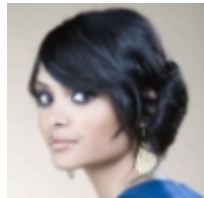
(But in case anyone is wondering, no, it's not just girls and it's


not just Ravenclaws, that's why we're doing the \*music party\* in the upstairs attic again!)



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 03:39:06](#)  
(no subject)

And that's funny about Mr Crouch but maybe he's just very public spirited? I don't know why he'd switch to defending. Maybe he thinks it's more challenging.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-25 03:44:46](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe. It didn't sound like it, though.


He's very ... stern, too. I mean, his were the harshest comments to everyone. Auror Crouch seems nice, though. I mean, not that I've had any reason to talk to him, but he's certainly very friendly with the Malfoys. And I think he was sort of a good friend to Mr Black, too. Parkinson's Black, that is. Seems like, anyway.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 03:50:59](#)  
(no subject)

It's true, Mr Crouch seems friendly enough as long as your behaving yourself. What did the other Mr Crouch say about how you did? If you don't mind me asking.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-25 03:57:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, he thought we all rambled too much, and that none of us looked very comfortable (though Mr Rigg said he thought that's just because we were nervous about them being there). But he said that I didn't hesitate to, um, 'run roughshod' over my witness and that a lot of times that's a good technique for an Interrogator, because it wears down the witness and sometimes makes them make a mistake. So I guess that was good. Though it didn't sound quite as good the way he said it. Ms Vaisey said

that our group had our arguments all thought out but Mr Bletchley said no, there were some holes he thought.

So I guess it was mixed.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 04:00:00](#)  
(no subject)

Well it sounds like he thought you were tough, good work!

It's never going to be ALL praise, not if they want you to learn, right?




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-25 04:05:41](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, no, we didn't expect them to treat us like babies and tell us we did really well even if we didn't, or anything!

It's just that the way he said it - I mean, I think Interrogators have to be tough, right? And it's obvious Mr Crouch knows how to scare people into saying things they didn't mean to say. But I dunno, it was like he was saying something that's meant to be a good thing, but making it sound bad instead. Does that make sense?


Anyway, our side won, so that's what matters.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-05-25 04:07:52](#)  
(no subject)


I know what you mean but that's odd, why would he try to make it sound like a BAD thing that you were tough on the witness? That's the Interrogator's job isn't it?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-25 04:11:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I dunno. But like I said, I don't think he talks to thirteen-year-olds very much.

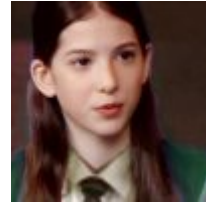


 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-25 19:04:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I thought you did quite an impressive job myself, Patil.

**2010-05-25 21:31:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I found a rat. Well Pansy did really, I suppose; Pyewacket brought it up to the dorm. Milli and Daphne weren't here, they were down in the common room, but Pansy hasn't wanted to be down there much.

He seemed really pleased with himself. Pyewacket, I mean. The rat's dazed but otherwise seems alright. It's a magical rat, not a common rat, I can tell because I made it a spot to sleep in my bed and it settled right down, it didn't try to run away like a regular rat would.

It must be someone else's pet. I'll try to figure out who to return it to in the morning, I guess. It's nice to pretend it's mine though, for now. Maybe the Strettons would let me have a rat, it really wouldn't be extra trouble for them, and Finnigan has an owl so I think halfbloods in fostering MUST be allowed to have pets if their foster parents give permission.



 **alt\_ron** at **2010-05-26 03:04:57**

*(no subject)*

Hey. Did you see what Sandoval just wrote?

I think I know where your rat came from. It's one of Carrow's!




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-05-26 03:25:47**

*(no subject)*

It is. I think you're right.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:28:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Has it done anything queer yet?

Tried to eat you alive or anything?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:30:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Well he licked my ear while he was sitting on my shoulder. Maybe he was testing me out to see if I tasted good?

I got him a biscuit from down in the common room, he seemed to like that pretty well.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:42:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Heh.

Sandoval just told Percy he couldn't bait the rats with cockroach clusters cause they're on a special diet for the project or something. So you've probably messed him up for being in the experiment. I think means you should definitely keep him.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:43:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I saw that too.

It was meant to be!



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:46:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I wish I could remember the exact regulations about halfbloods and familiars.

My family DEFINITELY couldn't keep them. I wish I could remember if there's an explicit exception made for

halfbloods in fostering or if they're just not enforcing the rules on Finnigan because his foster father is important. I can look it up tomorrow in the library but the Ministry's book of regulations for halfbloods and blood-traitor families is not the sort of thing that gets left lying around in Slytherin House.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:48:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Because I think the Strettons would let me keep him if I told him he was a gift from Harry. I just need to make sure Harry will back me up, which means

well I don't THINK he'll care that I'm keeping a rat from Carrow's experiment. He doesn't like Carrow any more than anyone else does. But I'd have to tell him now, I think, so that he could back up my story if he had to. Or at least before I went to the Strettons for the summer.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:52:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Would you even have to tell them, really? I mean, it's just a rat and that's not very big. You could sneak peelings and scraps from the kitchen when they make you cook, right? They might not ever find out.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:53:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe you're right.

I want to be able to pretend I got him over the summer, though, next year. It's going to be hard to keep him hidden from Milli and Daphne.





 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-26 04:03:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, they'd believe you found him while you were at the Strettons.

Um. D'you think you could get Stretton-- Jeremy, I mean--to say it's his if his parents find out and get upset? And if they don't find out, then he wouldn't have to do anything.

I mean, it doesn't seem like he'd want to help Sandoval get her rats back.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 04:05:58](#)**  
(no subject)

That's not a bad idea. He can't stand Sandoval.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:29:28](#)**  
(no subject)

He's curled up in my lap now. No one's seen him but me and Pansy.

Everyone's going to be looking for the lost rats. I can't

It's going to be hard to keep him hidden but I really don't want to give him back to Carrow.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:40:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Can you transfigure him? Into a hairbrush or something.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 03:41:56](#)  
(no subject)

That's a thought. It wouldn't last, though, not for long enough.


It might keep people finding him when they're first looking, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 03:42:52](#)  
(no subject)


Right now I'm enjoying petting him, though. He's got a very soft head.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-26 03:50:35](#)  
(no subject)

Have you named him yet?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 03:55:12](#)  
(no subject)

No, because I was trying not to get too attached in case they found him and took him back to Sandoval.

Once you name an animal it's yours and it would be MUCH worse if Sandoval had MY rat.

Do you have any ideas for names, though?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-26 04:06:44](#)  
(no subject)

If I had a rat, I'd call it something like Marlowe the Magnificent.

Well, that was the name of the rat in a book we had when I was small.

Does he look like a Marlowe?

Or d'you it might be an Esther? or a Hildegard?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 04:12:34](#)  
(no subject)

Hmm. Definitely a Marlowe and not an Esther.  
~~You know, rats have really big~~

Marlowe's not a bad name. I was thinking Gerard but he looks more like a Marlowe.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-26 18:33:40](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I do hope you get to keep him. Any rat that escapes from Professor Carrow's clutches deserves the best possible chance.


I am trying to think of names of famous people who have escaped, say from prison. There's Sebastian the Stalwart, you know. From the comic book, The Alchemical Adventures? The one who wriggled out of the prison sewers. The story's mad, but it's fun. Don't know if you ever read that one.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 18:38:48](#)  
(no subject)

I've hardly seen any comics, actually, so I don't know that one. But escaped prisoners are a good idea and Sebastian's not a bad name.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-26 20:48:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, that's a really wizard comic. And Sebastian would be a great name for your rat.

**[2010-05-25 21:58:00](#)**

*Psyche Bobolis*

I can't believe you. We've carried you all year on this project, made up for your idiocy, caught your daft mistakes, reminded you of your commitments so you wouldn't let your tasks slip, rewritten your parts when your reports made no bloody sense. Honestly, it would have been so much easier to have done this project without you, and how do you repay all the work we did for you?



 [alt\\_lana](#)

You knock over the cages.

I know it shouldn't surprise me you hadn't shut the doors properly, but I just can't imagine being that stupid.

And there you were with Moran's tongue down your throat, making so much noise you didn't even notice you'd tipped the table until they were all over the floor and running out the door. I feel dirty just having seen it.

I swear, if you don't find every last one of those rats, I'll make you sorrier than you can imagine.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-05-26 03:23:59](#)

*(no subject)*

Is that where they went? Ew.

I mean, it's bad enough they were off snogging, but in Professor Carrow's office? Talk about daft.



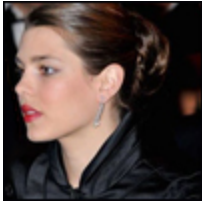
 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-26 03:35:33](#)


*(no subject)*

I know. Really. I could really have lived my whole life without seeing Bobolis with her

never mind. I don't even want to say it.

Such a disgrace.




 **[alt\\_lana](#)** at **[2010-05-26 23:24:01](#)**  
(no subject)

It was a nift party, by the way. And a good birthday on the whole, I hope.

I know you were feeling a bit, well, mixed about it. Celebrating so soon. But I'm glad you did: you've showed everyone how to carry on with a proper sense of how things ought to be done.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:24:53](#)**  
(no subject)

A very unfortunate incident. I know your study group has been working with those animals all year, and it would certainly be regrettable to lose them.

I had a rat for a number of years, and so I know that if you have lost sight of the escapees, you may be able to lure some back by putting out cockroach clusters. They're particularly fond of them.

Good luck.



 **[alt\\_lana](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:36:35](#)**  
(no subject)

If it weren't for the fact that we have them on a strictly controlled diet for the experiment, I'd thank you for that suggestion Weasley.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-05-26 03:33:54](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Isn't Psyche Bobolis in Gryffindor? Is she as dimwitted as Lana likes to say she is?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 03:34:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Although I have to admit snogging in Professor Carrow's office is pretty daft, even with him in Azkaban.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-26 03:37:30](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I don't really think so. She seems pretty normal to me.

(Don't even say it, Perks. I know what you're thinking.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 03:40:08](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What? I wasn't thinking anything! Other than that I've already fed the rat something that wasn't part of his diet so clearly there's no reason to return him to the experiment.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-26 15:46:03](#)

*(no subject)*

Say, Sandoval, are you in the NEWT-level DADA, as well? Only Carmichael and Goshal came back from their lesson yesterday and said that Professor Lockhart was asking everyone about their summer plans. And he said that he'd be round the Ministry probably, like as not, on account of how they've asked him to assist in the search for Black.

Did he tell your class the same? You're hoping to go into Auror training, Darst says. So does that mean you'll be working on the Black search, too? That'd be exciting, I think.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-26 16:03:17](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Smith.

I am hoping to enter Auror training, but I shouldn't think they rely on raw recruits in the search for Black. I do expect we'll have an opportunity to study the techniques and strategies they've been employing. It's certainly an exciting time to be entering the profession.

As for Professor Lockhart. Yes, he mentioned the same to us. He wasn't terribly specific about what role he's been asked to play--and, of course, it could be anything. No one in our group thought to ask him, though I'm sure he'd tell you if you're interested: he's certainly not shy of talking about his opportunities.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-05-26 16:12:40](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, no, that's okay. Mostly, I guess I just wanted to know if Goshal and Carmichael were trying to be funny.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-26 18:41:56](#)  
(no subject)

Do you know how many of the rats are still missing? I saw Mr Dawlish this morning and it looked like he was trying to lure them (but not with cockroach clusters as he doesn't want to spoil their diet, I'm sure).

I'll be sure to keep my eyes open, of course.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-26 19:28:27](#)  
(no subject)

Twenty-four rats escaped. We recovered eighteen of them in the first hour of searching, but that leaves six. They could be anywhere, but the most likely thing is that they were a tasty meal for one or more of the cats.




I hope no one's familiar develops odd symptoms as a result. I could just hex Bobolis for this!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 01:03:31](#)  
(no subject)

Are there any symptoms we should be watching for? There are a lot of cats in Slytherin house.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-05-27 02:14:31](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's difficult to guess. We haven't been studying what the effects might be down the food chain. I don't have any idea whether there could be any cross-species transfer of the changes we've studied in the rats themselves.


But if anyone were to observe any unexpected magical behaviour in an animal that might plausibly have eaten one of the experimental rats--or any evidence of such a creature's losing its magic--it would be wise to report that to a Prefect immediately.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 02:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, I will be sure to do that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 02:53:42](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He had both magical and non-magical rats in there, I had noticed that in class.

~~Do you suppose~~





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 02:56:26](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What I overheard and what happened in the room makes sense if

But *why*? I mean why would he



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-27 03:01:00](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Um. I'm trying to remember what you said you saw that time, but all I really remember is that you got cursed and it was awful.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 02:56:51](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Wait



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-27 02:59:05](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Huh?

**2010-05-26 00:33:00**

*Order Only*

Sirius.

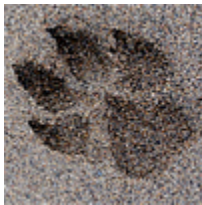
I admit I'm fretting. Don't for goodness sake, put yourself in peril by pausing to write, but if you do find a moment...



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

well, a bit of reassurance would not go amiss.

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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-05-26 15:49:23**

*(no subject)*

M'

O

K



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-05-26 15:57:28**

*(no subject)*

Thank you.

I can't explain it quite, but I had a terrible feeling of dread last night. I'm not generally subject to such things, and likely it was only the transfigured kidneys in the pie last evening. I should know by now that those don't agree with me. Still and all, I'm glad you've put paw to parchment.

Carry on.

**2010-05-26 21:11:00**

*Order Only: Full Moon*

Sorry about earlier, Poppy - I haven't been changing much during the day. It was only chance I had the journal out, though for the most part I've been keeping it transfigured.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)


But the next three nights ought to be perfect for travel. For me, anyway - Moony, are you set for potion for the time being? And is Tonks able to look after you while you're recovering? Or are you still taking care of her more than not?

I'm sending an owl to Marguerite - first to make sure that more Wolfsbane potion is in the shipment for next month, and second because, on thinking it over, I think I need her to help secure passage. Safer, anyway. I'll still need to come in to negotiate, but perhaps Aleks can help make contact with likely captains.

Anyway, I've been sleeping rough the last few days, trying to keep them off my trail. I think it's gone cold, but can't be certain, so I'll continue as Padfoot for now. Please, all you lot, don't fuss if you don't hear from me for a day or two. Check the papers; I'm sure if anything untoward should happen, they'll waste no time claiming my capture. Short of that, assume I'm still evading them.


I'm looking forward to putting some miles in tonight, though.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-05-27 14:10:50](#)  
(no subject)

Travel safe, my friend.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-05-28 05:17:24](#)  
(no subject)

We're looking after each other, really, but we're all right.

Stay safe.

**2010-05-26 21:58:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



I think I know what Carrow was doing with those rats.

 **alt\_sally\_anne**

When I overheard he was talking about transfiguring them. Into a fine meal. But by parts -- they were doing it a part at a time. I didn't hear him explain *why*.

And then later, in class some people saw some of the food that the rats were eating start to move. He'd transfigured some of the rats into food and he was making the other rats eat them.

What Sandoval said, though, it makes sense why he had magical rats AND common rats if the point was to see whether you could make common rats magical if you fed them part of a magical rat. And it makes sense why they separated them out if he was experimenting to see whether it mattered if you fed the brain or the heart or the liver specifically.

But here's the thing. No one really cares about rats. Some are magic and some aren't. But Carrow goes to the mudblood camps every chance he gets. What if he's planning on trying it on rats first and then *people*. What if he wants to see if he can turn squibs magical by making them *eat* the *bodies* of muggleborn wizards.

If it were ANYONE else I wouldn't think it was possible but it's Carrow. Carrow would think it was loads of fun, both to murder muggleborns but to force squibs to

Am I MAD? Ron you're always good at reassuring me when I get ideas like this, tell me it's mad and

UGH.



 **alt\_neville** at **2010-05-27 03:15:31**

(no subject)

It's...mad, you're right. And it's sick and it's gross and URGH.

The thing is, I'm horribly afraid you might be right.

And Sandoval and the rest, she must know. They all must know. Blimey. Sandoval's the type to think...no, I can't even say it.

Do you think the Headmistress knows? What he's up to? If it's true.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 03:55:16](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure the students in the study group know.

The Headmistress, well, it seems like she MUST know, it's her school after all. But Carrow treats her with so much disrespect he might not have told her.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-27 11:41:36](#)  
(no subject)

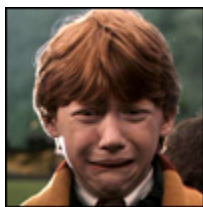
The Headmistress must know.


She must be overseeing that study group now that Carrow's gone, so she'd have to know. Don't you think?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-27 14:08:54](#)  
(no subject)

Been thinking about it. I have reason to know--well, never mind how. Anyway, from some things my Gran has said, I gotta think the Headmistress doesn't know, that she wouldn't agree to anything like this. If Sally-Anne is right.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-27 11:40:36](#)  
(no subject)

That's the most disgusting thing I've ever heard.

But Nev's right: you're right.

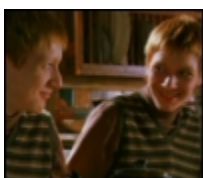
I mean, it's exactly the kind of thing Carrow'd be doing.

Crikey. D'you think he's planning to feed Terry Boot to a squib? He'd be better off staying petrified than have that happen.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 13:32:32](#)  
(no subject)

He would, I agree. I don't know if Carrow would've done it to Terry though, I mean he enjoyed having him as a servant too much. Because he could be so utterly vile to him.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-27 14:06:07](#)  
(no subject)

We'll feed Carrow to the giant squid first.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-27 14:15:54](#)  
(no subject)

Do you suppose you could feed Carrow to the giant squid anyway?

I hope he stays in Azkaban forever, that would solve all sorts of problems.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-27 14:21:30](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. But he might be even too nasty for the squid to eat, and it'd chuck him back.

**2010-05-27 21:03:00**

### *Hogwarts Board Meeting*

Had completely forgot that the Board of Governors could meet in person at Hogwarts, so quickly had I become accustomed to meetings via Floo and other measures.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

However, it was convenient to trek to the school, especially as it gave the opportunity to check on Miss Parkinson. Was not altogether surprised by her continued dolour following Black's untimely death; given her history, in fact, rather expected her reaction to be much worse.

Draco seems in high spirits, particularly compared to last year. Think the visit, despite the circumstances, did him good. Hope this does not signify that he and Harry have any sort of mischief planned for the end of the term. Understand from Narcissa that he and she have finalised the invitation list for his birthday (and it is very short, which shows restraint following his very large list for Christmas). She tells me he asks to play host for his own guests, rather than relying on us to fulfill the duties. Just as well; she can make sure the event runs properly and I may be able to retreat from an invasion of young teens.

Camp inspections with Yaxley proceeded much as expected. The after-effects of Black's Paralysis continue to ripple through considerations of housing, safe drinking water and of course skilled labour. Several camps have attempted to organise behind foremen who are more recently awakened; naturally they did not bargain for the power of Enforcement to answer to their resistance. Census attempts have proven difficult; the muggles have devised curious methods to confound barracks head counts. Discussed mandatory roll calls while the surrounding buildings are thoroughly searched to locate anyone who may be hiding from work detail. Yaxley suspects that as many as 5,000 muggles may have escaped into the countryside, but without a census it is impossible to tell. Have endorsed the plan to conduct a concerted effort through the papers and the WWN to locate anyone harbouring or aiding muggles, and to report any unrecognised persons in known wizard settlements.

Meeting with the Minister this morning went well; in addition to the camps, discussed his plans for the restoration of Tintagel as a satellite

for the Astronomers' Guild and the initiative to improve the infrastructure left by the muggles (particularly fire safety, water treatment and road maintenance). Usual lunch; then Hogwarts.

Did see Ned, rushing between departments on some errand. He commented that his first week has rather reminded him of the sensation of drinking direct from an ocean wave, but knowing Ned, he shall thrive on the pace. Suspect within a month he shall have most of the routine functions well in hand and then Barty shall be receiving the full benefit of an excellent clerk.

Presto Records board meets to-morrow. Must remember to speak to Nolan about arranging the evening's entertainment at Draco's party.

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 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-05-28 02:22:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Feeling overwhelmed, and the week not even over, is he?

To be fair, it's going relatively well so far. He shows promise.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-05-28 02:23:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Not overwhelmed so much as merely bombarded, I think - but you've made a good choice. He's merely getting his sea legs.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-05-28 03:54:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I for one hope that his promise turns to real advantage soon. You've been working far too hard, Barty, it's not good for a young man. It'll make you piquey.

Speaking of looking unwell, I was glad to see your mother at a WI reception for Walburga this afternoon, but Barty, she doesn't look very rested. Is everything all right?





 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-28 16:12:29](#)  
(no subject)

The work is its own reward. I appreciate your concern, though.

Has Mafalda or Bellatrix brought you up to date recently? If you had time for tea or supper, I'd be happy to share what developments there have been.

As for Mother, I hadn't noticed, but then I haven't spoken with her since I delivered the news about Regulus and his mother. And I didn't linger then, as she seemed set on taking entirely the wrong things from my explanation.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-28 16:25:19](#)  
(no subject)

Tea would be grand. Unfortunately we've supper plans this evening.

What was your opinion of that little place we used last time? I believe the Waverley has re-opened, if you prefer.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-05-28 17:24:18](#)  
(no subject)

That Russian place, whatever it calls itself. Yes, that would do.

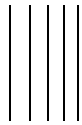
I came up the lift this morning with a group having a moan over the wait they've suffered at restaurants that are just reopening. I'd think the Waverley might be in that category, and it's certainly not worth queuing for.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-05-28 19:20:41](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, that's the place, *Katyenka*.

And yes, it's true, most of the usual places are simply impossible to get into these days. I think everyone is enjoying a little spring fever.



What sorts of things was your mother - oh, nevermind. You can tell me at tea.

**2010-05-27 23:15:00**

*Order Only: Bloody hell*

Allie? You about?

I was just going to sleep this morning when an owl found me. Very insistent it was. I took the letter she had and sent her on her way, but as I didn't recognise the handwriting, stuffed it in my bag and collapsed.



 **alt\_sirius**

Well, I've just read it. About five times.

I don't

First off, it's from Pansy Parkinson - Malfoy's ward, or whatever. The little girl Reg made friends with the past year. And

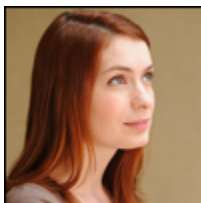
Man, I haven't the first idea what to say to her. She wants to know if I think it's possible Reg really was sick (I was right, incidentally, she says that's exactly what Lucius Malfoy told her), or if he was being forced to commit murders and such by Voldemort.


I mean, I guess it's good she's asking - that she thought to send me an owl. But, Merlin, I'm not going to lie to her to make her feel better!

I don't even think I could risk an owl at this point. (Though Moony, when you wake up, perhaps it's not as dangerous as you think. Tonks, you could tell him once he's recovered enough.)

Tell you one thing: It makes me right nervous what tale they're going to spin about the 'odd jobs' he performed on Voldemort's orders. How in Circe's name are they going to get out of this little web of lies?

Anyway, I - just, if you're around, in the next half-hour or so. I can spare that much before making some ground.



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-05-28 03:37:08**  
(no subject)


Hello, love, yes, I'm up for a little longer. There were some particularly fussy babies in the Nursery tonight.

Goodness.

I'd say that is fairly unexpected, but from what I've seen so far of her, Pansy Parkinson seems far from predictable.

Perhaps she's reaching out because of her grief -- seeking answers that she feels like she can't get from anyone else.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-28 03:46:00](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that much is clear, Allie. I'm just not sure what I can tell her, especially out here. She says no one tells her anything - join the club, kiddo.

Look here, I'll copy out some of it:

"It seemed to me like he was being made to do things. Awful things. Things that made him sad and disgusted and sick and hopeless and want to get drunk.

And it may be that his illness made him do things. And that's what he was sick and sad and disgusted about. But if he was really under the protection of Our Lord, who is really powerful, and who can see every thought in your head if he wants to, how could he get away and do all those awful things on his own, if He knew he was sick? I don't think Our Lord would allow it, if He didn't want it to happen. Or allow it to continue to happen time and time again. And Regulus said that he couldn't do a thing without Our Lord knowing, and that he belonged to Him and only Him.

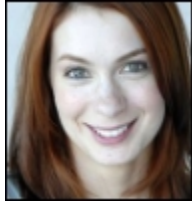
Lucius says he's got to tell me what Regulus did, because he'd rather I heard it from him instead of in the papers. And I'm scared of what he'll tell me, if it's what I think it might be. And if it is what I think it might be, that doesn't make sense at all any way I figure it. So I don't know what to think. Or what the truth is. Or who to believe. Which is sort of terrifying, really.


What I do know is that he is dead. And now that he's dead, he can't stand up for himself. And he can't say what really happened or why. And people might say he did things even if he didn't."

What do I say? 'You're absolutely right on all counts, and you're right to question what that bastard god-father tells you, because he couldn't speak the truth if it would double his fortune?'

I don't think she really wants an answer, anyway.

Merlin, I could use a spliff.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-28 03:55:01](#)**  
(no subject)

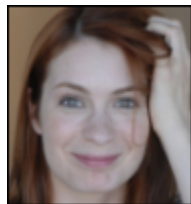
...I'm nearly there myself.


This is certainly a moment to tread carefully.

But think on it a bit, Sirius, love.

First you've got Harry, who was raised by that awful man since he was a baby, seeking you out. Now Lucius Malfoy's ward is writing you because she wants the truth and she believes you can give it to her.


I just think it's... well, it's strangely heartening. And it shows some fairly serious cracks in the Protectorate's power over the minds of our young ones.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-28 03:57:15](#)**  
(no subject)

...to say nothing of your excessively corrupting influence, of course.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-28 04:11:43](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose if nothing else it's confirmation that the bastard can't obfuscate sufficiently to fool them.

But as for Harry - well, I think that's just being who he is, isn't it? Like the hat wanting to put him in Gryffindor. Lad can't help it.

I guess I figured ... when she started talking to Reg, I figured it meant she'd made up her mind that the purebloods had the right of it. Even Reg never really was willing to admit anything less than pure blood being equal to a 'true' wizard, which is bollocks.


Now, I'm not so sure. She says she nicked my albums, you know. The ones I left behind? I think you might be right about my 'corrupting influence,' Allie. Mother would have been so ashamed.

Oh, I don't know. I guess it's also because...she's so obviously hurting. And I've nothing to say that will comfort her. I can't give her an easy answer that sets it to rights. To be honest I'm not sure what I think about the whole thing - Reg going off, mysteriously dying, Mother suffering a 'stroke' - which I don't believe for a second - and where the hell is Kreachner in all this? Miserable elf started this whole thing off, if you ask me.

There's too much to process. Merlin knows I haven't any simple solutions for her.

One thing does pop out at me and that's this bit about how the papers are going to say something awful about Reg. Probably use him to conveniently disavow all his actions - the responses to the Grim Truth, for example - and say that the Protectorate had nothing to do with them, that it was all his deranged idea of vengeance. And I guess she should know that that's a complete lie. Well, everyone should do, really.



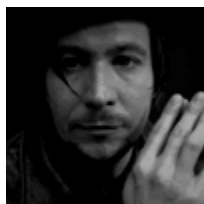
 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-28 04:26:46](#)

(no subject)

Right, I agree.

And it looks to me that she might have had her fill of simple answers.

I think the most important thing is that she's asking questions to begin with, not accepting things at face value, and that's certainly something you can address as well.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-28 04:29:44](#)

(no subject)

I suppose, but there's something really very wrong with us, if *mine* is the voice of wisdom!




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-28 04:32:33](#)  
(no subject)

And anyway, I can't possibly answer her right away. Though Merlin knows she deserves a reply.

I'm burning moonlight as it is. Well. The good part is that being Padfoot does tend to help me think more on a more level plane.

So, I'm off. Thanks, Allie. I owe you.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-28 04:41:41](#)  
(no subject)

Of course, love. You do what you must.

But do be careful.

Poppy can speak to her more than I can, no doubt. But I still can't quite get a handle on where she's coming from or what her motives are entirely. She isn't in Lucius Malfoy's pocket quite as solidly as I'd originally thought, though, that's for certain.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-05-29 03:16:21](#)  
(no subject)


I have had a number of conversations with Miss Parkinson this term, and I can vouch that she has questions she feels have been inadequately answered--and I suspect she has other questions she doesn't dare ask.

You understand that I'm treating her for sleeplessness and ulcers caused by worry, stress, and grief, so we've talked quite a lot about the fact that she worries and about strategies for relieving the intensity and effects of those preoccupying thoughts. The actual substance of her fretful thoughts mostly remains unspecified, though not, I gather, because she does not wish to speak of those things, but because she censors herself. We've recently had cause to acknowledge that there are many things grown people leave unsaid because our

society deems them unmentionable--'or dangerous,' she said. I acknowledged that, and she wondered whether it was as true in other countries, France, in particular. I allowed that it had been a great many years since I'd been to France or indeed any place in Europe, but I suggested that each country I've had occasion to visit has had its own views of propriety and its own peculiar notions of what subjects are taboo. I couldn't risk any more pointed answer, but her expression suggested that it occurred to her why I've not been able to travel abroad and for how long.

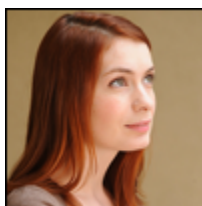
I was hoping to see her today, actually, given the exchange she and Miss Patil have had. Unfortunately, when she did stop up, I was in the midst of treating a great crowd of sixth years who'd gone a bit too far in celebrating the end of lessons and got themselves fabulously pissed on some concoction they'd brewed in their dormitory. They were a jolly mess, so it took a great while to get them properly sorted, and when I'd finished, Miss Parkinson had gone on. I suspect she's feeling particularly wretched tonight, so I'm very sorry I was not able to see her.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-29 03:22:56](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, given Patil's post, it sounds as if we can all guess what sort of story is about to break. Merlin.

Well, I'd already decided it would be rude not to answer her - though perhaps it would also be safer for her if I didn't write back. I've an idea or two how I can at least let her know I got the letter, without making Malfoy any the wiser. It'll just take a little thought and care.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-28 03:42:11](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Merlin. I can't think of why else she'd take such a risk.



**[2010-05-28 12:34:00](#)**

*Lessons are over*

for the year. It's really hard to think that exams are next week, and then we'll be done. And in third year next year. I'm still trying to catch up on the week we missed because of Sanji.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

And I'm thinking about Sanji a little more today. Parkinson came to the table this morning to ask if we could talk somewhere, before lessons. And she wanted Parvati, too, so that we'd be together.

I guess I'm really not sure what to think about what she said. I don't think she'd have any reason to lie - I mean, it's clear she was telling us the truth, she was way too upset for it to be anything else, and plus everyone knows Mr Malfoy met with her again yesterday, so I guess he told her so she'd know, and she wanted to tell us. Which was very decent of her, really, even though it was a terrible thing to have to say.

But Parkinson, we know it's not your fault. I don't think you'd ever have told him to do something like that, it's too awful. I guess...if there's anything I will say, and please don't take this the wrong way, but it always did seem as if he was a little...wrong. In the head, I mean. Not just because it seemed like he'd rather tell jokes that were old and stupid when we weren't even firsties. But all those weird things he wrote, and all the time he spent being, well, you know, sort of creepy. And the fact that he even talked to his brother. I mean, I know you considered him a friend, and all, but...well, maybe it will make you think twice about making other friends like him, is all.


And I don't mean that to sound cruel. It's sad, really, that he was so sick, and that hurting himself was the only way he could keep from doing those horrid things. And I know you're sad that he's gone. But I'm not. And I hope that doesn't mean we're going to start quarrelling again, but I think you can understand why. I just wish...I wish that if they'd known about it, they could have stopped him before. It seems like someone should have been able to stop him.

So, yeah, it's a lot to think about. And I'm really not sure how I feel about it all right now. I think I can't really worry about it until exams are over - which really is rather unfortunate, because it's going to be hard to concentrate on revising with something like this hanging over our heads.

Mum, Dad, I'm sending you an owl, so this'll make a little more sense when you get it. At least, Pansy didn't say it was a secret, and she even said that Mr Malfoy told her so that she'd know before everyone else did, so I figure it's going to be public soon enough. But someone ought to tell you both, too, and not in the papers.

Anyway. I guess I'll go revise after lunch. Maybe outside for a while, since it's nice out. Morag, Su Li, Belinda and Linus are coming, too. Anyone else want to come along? Finnigan? Malfoy? Marvolo? We'll probably be out by the big rock most of the afternoon, it's nice and shady there.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-05-28 15:53:02](#)

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

The heck?

Sally Anne?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-05-28 22:06:02](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Regulus Black was the one who killed Sanji.

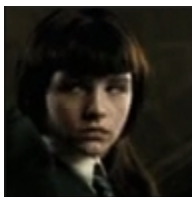
And those girls.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-29 02:50:16](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Blimey.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-05-28 16:23:43](#)

*(no subject)*

you're being really decent, Padma.

For saying you don't think it's my fault, I mean. But I wouldn't blame you one bit if you were really mad at me because I was his friend, and you've got a right to be.


and you're right. what you said. it's not cruel at all. it's the truth. And if I'd known then what I know now

Lucius said even he and Aunt Narcissa didn't know until after

but still.

and I'd never ever ever not in a million years. just thinking on it makes me sick to my stomach. I'd never wish that on anyone.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-29 02:49:48](#)  
(no subject)

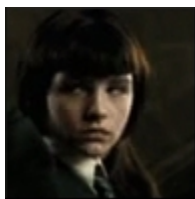
Well, it wasn't your fault. I guess it wasn't anyone's fault, apart from his. Or whoever was supposed to be keeping an eye on him.


Anyway, I don't think you ought to blame yourself, either. I mean, I guess you know I never really understood why you thought he was so brilliant, but you can't help that he was also totally mad.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-05-29 03:26:09](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and I don't know if you saw it, but Mum wrote back to me and said that the Auror from the MLE, Zuckerman, asked Mum and Dad to come in today. And she told them the same thing you did. So they won't be finding out from the papers, either, which is important.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-05-29 03:50:21](#)  
(no subject)

yeah.

**2010-05-30 12:33:00**

*Professor Lockhart*

Thank you, Gilderoy. As you've requested, I am replying to let you know that I have received the note you sent Mr Weasley to deliver. And, yes, I did also receive those you sent with Miss Bundy after breakfast and yesterday evening with Miss Kirke.



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

And yes, yes, I did notice the stacks of books and parchments you piled on my desk whilst I was seeing students yesterday. There's no reason for you to bring more, I'm well supplied with reference materials of my own. Indeed, I would have no where convenient to put any more should you disregard my request.

No, I haven't had a chance to look closely at those you've already provided.

In any event, Gilderoy, I assure you that we've fully finalised our plans for the Mandrake potion and will not require your assistance.

Thank you.



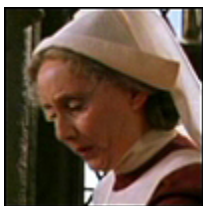
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-05-30 19:17:06**

*Order Only*

Lockhart's the Defence professor, isn't he?

What's he doing pestering you about making a potion when Horace is a perfectly qualified and fully licenced

Potioneer?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-05-30 19:32:43**

*Re: Order Only*


Gilderoy Lockhart is an insufferable peacock, who is competent at precisely ONE thing: self-promotion.

And at that, he is tireless.

Actually, if you're willing to believe rumour, he is capable of some rather shady practices to convince the 'witnesses' to testify in his books as to his brilliance at all and sundry feats of fabulous sorcery.

Whether it consists of bribery or the Confundus, I can't say. But it all comes to the same thing: he believes himself capable in every area and wishes everyone to listen to his ceaseless stories of how he has marvellously mastered every challenge in the great, wide world.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-30 19:37:24](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well. He's not caught me. That's one challenge he hasn't mastered.

Come to think of it, I thought I saw something about him working with the Ministry this summer - although, if what you say is true, then we should only hope he offers them the same 'assistance' he has been foisting onto you, Horace and Pomona!

**2010-05-30 15:00:00**

*(no subject)*

Barty, I doubt that he will do so, after the sendoff Lucius and I just gave, but if a Mr Kendall from *Whirl* dares to trouble you for any comment on the *Prophet's* article, kindly hex him into next month.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

You might wither the left arm for him; I already took care of the right one.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-05-30 19:23:36**

*(no subject)*

I look forward to the opportunity.

Should he be so foolhardy.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-05-30 19:45:22**

*(no subject)*

Dearest, we knew that this morning's article would cause a significant reaction. Frankly I am surprised only the one paper has attempted to contact us over it.

But rest assured, I believe between the two of us we made it clear how other similar requests will be received. It is difficult enough to reconcile the information in private, as a family; none of us need or desire to complicate the matter with public explorations of the tragedy. Still, it is inevitable, I suppose, that the various periodicals will wish to increase circulation on not only our bereavement, but the secrets he concealed, so effectively and for so long.

After all, if they did not sniff out similar stories in other families, Barty would lose his valuable sources of intelligence.

**2010-05-30 17:20:00**

*Order Only: Out and about in the camps*

Benjy's still sulking about being away from Jacinda, and we still miss Victor's cooking. But the Players are starting to hit their stride and enjoy being back on the road.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#)

Getting back into some of the camps has been difficult, though. Lucius Malfoy really isn't kidding about the unrest, and the administrators are reluctant to let us perform anywhere that they think they don't have complete control. But there are other places where we can get in where it's clear tensions are simmering just under the surface. We've adjusted the scripts on a few of the pieces we perform to try to gauge the temperature of the populace, and the point has not been missed. There's laughter, but with an edge, with people shifting in their seats and catching each other's eyes and nodding to each other--and to us. I talked to one of my regular informants, an infirmary matron at Harlow, in Essex, who recounted a long conversation she'd had with a man, a newly awakened Sleeper, who had been brought into the infirmary because he'd been badly hexed for attempting to punch a camp Enforcer. Seems he didn't take kindly to the suggestion that he would be working the rest of his life gutting fish to supply the camps. 'I'm an electrical enjinner,' he kept insisting--whatever that is--'and you're telling me I have to kiss the arse of any puffed up ponce who shoves a stick in my face? What the bleeding hell has happened to this country anyway?'

It's a good question, she told me ruefully. The Sleepers' appalled reaction to the situation is making a lot of people look afresh at our so-called blissful existence under the Beneficent Lord Protector. And they're realising that they really don't like what they see.

I think that Yaxley's estimate that Malfoy reported (that 5,000 Muggles may have escaped into the countryside) is probably a significant undercount. The Sherwood group has split, and split again, but Davidson says that two or three escapees are arriving at their enclaves every week. More wands are desperately needed, especially to help with concealment charms. We saw John and Lucinda and they are busy but happy. John is using his knowledge of how Moddey Dhoo is run to help Davidson's leadership map out plans for establishing these enclaves splintering off. So far we've been powerfully lucky. None have run afoul of Snatchers or Aurors. Yet. But like I said, more wands are needed if we want to keep our winning streak golden.

Although Davidson is also worried about the politics of giving wands to some but not to others.

Sirius, your name is a talisman of hope to many. Remember that while you're on the run. People believe what you have to say.

Emmeline is poking me in the shoulder, reminding me that it's my turn to cook dinner, so I'll sign off for now.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-30 23:41:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, be careful, all you lot. If there are that many loose Muggles in the countryside, then surely the Death Eaters have plans for tracking them down. They'll be less likely than ever to ignore any hint of activity in the forests or abandoned towns.

As for wands, there we have some headway. Not much, but I think Marguerite and Aleks have managed to put together a nice bundle of, say, another couple dozen, that we can bring through when we meet at Midsummer's.

Transportation is a little more difficult. I heard from Marguerite and I don't know how, but that extra budget allocation Crouch and Malfoy mentioned recently must have gone directly to seeding their European payroll. We'll keep trying, but it doesn't seem like it's very safe on this end. I was right about their anticipating another run - which also means they may have realised the weakness in their own wards.

Frank, mate, if you're reading, be extra careful when you set out - I strongly suspect they'll have fortified the borders, maybe even protections on any vessel coming too close to the ward lines - or going too far out from the coast.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-05-31 01:25:28](#)

*(no subject)*

yeah, will do.

that's bad luck, them stepping up their security. but you got to figure, that's an awful large bit of sea to patrol, even with extra teams out, as long as we're careful. we've



Painted the hull black so she'll be harder to spot at night, we don't need any lights to go by, and she doesn't create any sort of magical signature -- all muggle engines and sails all the way.

so that should help.

**[2010-05-30 19:09:00](#)**

*Sorry, Ron*

I really didn't mean to set your bedcurtains on fire. At least you saved your Charms essay.




I think I better stick to playing Exploding Snap in the Common Room.

 **[alt\\_neville](#)**


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 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:14:06](#)**  
(no subject)

You...set your bedcurtains on fire? Are you serious?




 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:15:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm really sorry.


I don't think the bedposts got scorched. Or at least not very much.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:15:43](#)**  
(no subject)


Neville. Honestly.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:18:34](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, it was the first time I've done it.



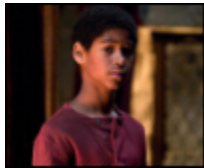
 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 00:19:16](#)  
(no subject)


I hope you won't make a habit of it.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-31 00:19:30](#)  
(no subject)


I'm really not planning on it.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-31 00:25:20](#)  
(no subject)


I told you it wasn't a good idea, but you lot didn't want to go to the common room. I suggest that we all stop playing any kind of games until exams are over, and that we focus on revising.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-31 00:31:27](#)  
(no subject)


Well, I suppose it's useful in one way. At least I know what the Aguamenti charm is, even if I can't do it yet.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-31 00:34:16](#)  
(no subject)


We could practise that if you like



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 00:54:07](#)  
(no subject)


If you can actually do that charm, I'd be quite impressed. It's a sixth year charm.



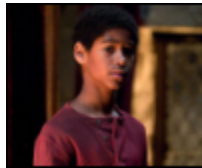
 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-31 00:56:34](#)  
(no subject)


It's not like its that hard. I could have Nev set the curtains on fire again if you would like to see.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 00:59:53](#)  
(no subject)

Please don't.



 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-31 01:02:25](#)  
(no subject)

No worries Percy.

I'll show you another time. I wouldn't really set fire to the curtains.

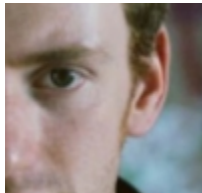
As far as what I am capable of doing, lets just say there is a reason why I am not writing in my journal.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-31 01:02:04](#)  
(no subject)

Of course he didn't. How could you accuse him of such a thing?

He set Ron's bedcurtains on fire.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 01:02:33](#)  
(no subject)

Ha, ha, very funny.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-31 01:03:00](#)  
(no subject)


Well we thought it was.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-31 00:23:23](#)  
(no subject)

Good show, Neville. We didn't manage to set one of our beds on fire until our third year.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 00:24:21](#)  
(no subject)


I can't imagine why it took you two so long to get around to it.



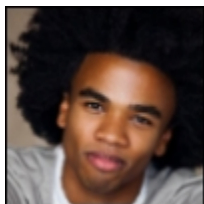
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-31 00:24:51](#)  
(no subject)


We can give him tips, if you like.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-31 00:25:02](#)  
(no subject)


Tips?



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-05-31 00:26:40](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Don't think that's necessary Gred and Forge. He's capable of plenty of mayhem all on his own.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-31 00:26:53](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

You say that like it's a good thing.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-05-31 00:27:17](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Of course it is.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-05-31 00:25:35](#)

*(no subject)*

Don't you DARE.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-05-31 00:33:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Did you set his quilt on fire, too?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-05-31 00:34:06](#)

*(no subject)*

No, but not for lack of trying.

Um, I mean I wasn't trying to, actually. I just got lucky. Um, unlucky, I mean.




 [alt\\_dean](#) at [2010-05-31 00:45:26](#)

*(no subject)*


Very unlucky! But its ok mate. No harm done. No one or thing was hurt, and the curtains can be mended or replaced.



 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:47:14](#)**  
(no subject)


Luna, no incriminating questions please. We don't want it to seem as if it was anything more than an accident.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:43:51](#)**  
*ORDER ONLY*

Oh, my sweet boy.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:45:09](#)**  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

he's getting almost as cryptic as his old man.

here's hoping he doesn't have a mouth like him too.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-05-31 00:46:31](#)**  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Oh, he's been commenting here and there, you know.

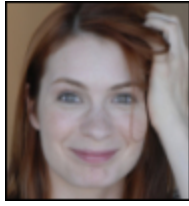
I'm sure he has his reasons.

I can't wait for this summer.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:07:10](#)**  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Have plans, have you?



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-05-31 01:14:31**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

We're meeting up this summer to go camping -- Frank and me, and Neville, and Kevin, of course.

For an entire week.

It'll be heaven.

And next summer, if things work out, we might be able to have Evelyn along too. Merlin willing.



 **[alt\\_frank](#) at 2010-05-31 01:18:49**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

we're leaving the exploding snap pack at home, though.

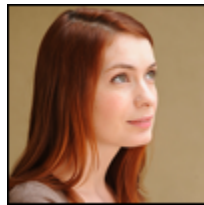



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2010-05-31 01:25:05**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

That sounds quite wise!

In all seriousness, it sounds like a wonderful idea. I was quite taken with young Neville when he came over for a day last summer. He was ever so polite. Augusta has taught him beautiful manners.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-05-31 01:36:18**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Oh, Molly, I'm so nervous.

In ten years, I've had an hour with him and a handful of letters.

I just want a chance to really be his mum, not just from a distance, and I so hope he'll give it to me.





 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-05-31 01:40:02](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Well, I'm sure he's longing for his own mum just as much. And since you're both wanting the same thing, it should go just fine, shouldn't it?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-31 01:42:33](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Oh, I hope it does.



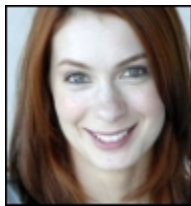
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-05-31 01:26:04](#)


*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Well, not to sound too much like two women I know, but 'Do be careful, love.'

As I told Kingsley, they've surely got a plan to search more completely for all those missing Muggles. It won't do if they turn you lot up in the bargain.

(And I shan't even begin to discuss the amazing fun you'll have with a one-year-old, camping rough.)




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-05-31 01:34:38](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*


We'll be safe as houses. Frank's excellent at security charms. Neville's going on a week and a half long fishing trip with his Uncle Algie, who knows when he should be seen and when he shouldn't, and can make himself scarce when needed.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:05:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Honestly, *boys*. Worse, *Gryffindor* boys!




 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:16:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Hey,

Use your judgments wisely. All Gryffindor boys aren't bad.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:21:44](#)**  
(no subject)

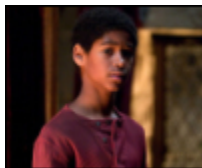
Right, because the incidents of Hufflepuff and Slytherin boys setting their curtains alight is so high, Thomas?


Besides, I never said you lot were bad (well, not all of you), only that you're *boys*, which by definition is its own limitation.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:25:37](#)**  
(no subject)

It's not something we can do much about.




 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:32:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Accidents happen. At least we know how to put them out.

Plus, not all you girls are that great either.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-05-31 01:33:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Some would say it's better to not have the accident in the first place.

And it's true, some girls are Bulstrodes.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-05-31 05:03:56](#)**  
(no subject)

No worries, Nev.

And I'd just wiped Towler off the board when you started shouting, so you didn't even throw off my chess strategy.

I took 8 out of 12 games today. Not bad, eh?

**2010-05-31 23:25:00**

*(no subject)*

Barty, thank you again for meeting me for tea this afternoon. It does help tremendously to see concrete evidence of the progress on the case. On *both* cases. Though I do hope I shan't get you into trouble with Bella for saying that!



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

It also helps to have someone else to talk to - confidentially, that is - about ... well, about things. Lucius has been a great comfort, just as one expects, but he has so very much on his plate already I don't like to trouble him. Not that you are without tasks of your own - I've seen first-hand, dear, what important headway you've been making - but of course, a fresh perspective, and someone who understands a little differently, is much appreciated.

As was the laugh at seeing that poor befuddled photographer from *Cardiff Digest*! I completely forgot to have words with the owner about clearing the entrance of rabble. Ah, well.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-06-01 04:08:12**

*(no subject)*

It was no trouble. The restaurant was just on my way this afternoon.

And it may be that your suggestion about motor-bicycles will pay off. I had the department librarian pull a number of items in the Muggle references section, including a touring guide to France and the Continent that has proved to be very useful reading.

As for the photographer, he's lucky I didn't force feed him his camera.