

**2014-10-01 00:05:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne*

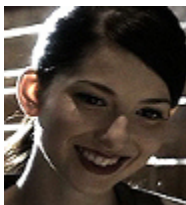
Just so you know, I think you're brilliant even if you do flinch a bit in a fight. And you're six times as clever as anyone I know, so I know that if you get even a tiny chance, you can think your way out of a tight spot.



**alt\_ron**

But it's dead fantastic if Dolohov's got a way to train against that flinch. That's what we're doing here--taking advantage of everything they're willing to teach us and pushing for more.

G'night, you. Hope you're asleep already.



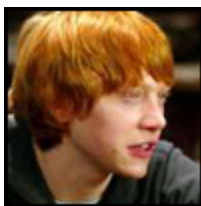
**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-01 16:12:55**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I was asleep, so I didn't see this until morning.

Anyway, I know you're right.

Honestly I think I'm not absolutely hopeless in a fight. It's just I tend to compare myself to you and Justin and Harry, not to Midgen and Dunstan and, oh, Neville even. I wonder if I could beat Patil? Wonder if she'd duel me, if I challenged her?



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-02 04:07:16**

*(no subject)*

Still thinking about challenging Patil? You'd take her. No doubt. Maybe not easily, but you'd take her.

Maybe you and I should duel more? Would that help?

Only, well. I don't like hurting you, so I'd want to hold back, but if we're going to do it, the point would be to give you an actual fight. And then, I really don't want to end up getting cross at you over something we didn't have to do to begin with, but I probably would. I mean, I can't help it that I'm competitive about it. I just... am. If I'm duelling someone I think I outmatch, and then they land a hex I don't feel they should have been able to land, then I either get cross

at myself or I get wound up, wanting to prove something to them, and it would still happen even if it's you, which is... wrong.

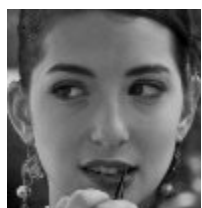
I mean, I think some blokes think it's kind of hot to spar with their girlfriends, but I can't see it.

Erm. I do think about you that way... I mean, you really are hot when you're sparring and I get to watch. Only, that's different.

Nevermind.

You really should see if you can get Patil to duel you. Only, I don't think she's good enough to push you on the things you really need to tune up. And she wouldn't be willing to spar more than once or twice, I reckon. So that's no good. You know... Over hols, we should get the twins to spar with you. They're the reason I know how to fight. The thing about fighting them is that they're always improvising. Always thinking of something mad to throw at you that you don't expect. And sometimes it's something you haven't seen since second year, and they're totally not embarrassed to pull something silly out of their arses, especially if it makes you break up laughing. Anything to put you out of rhythm, y'know?

That's actually what I was thinking about when I threw the jelly-legs at Desai--what would Fred do? Who knows what she thought of it. I'm sure Patil sneered about it, but whatever. At least it was something different than I'd tried before.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-02 04:38:39](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it's probably better if we don't try to duel each other. I'll get cross if you're going easy on me but I'll also get cross if you don't. It's just not going to end well.

I've thought about challenging Patil. The thing is, first off, I think she'll be completely obnoxious about it and act like I'm totally above my station for challenging a COUNCILWITCH. The other thing is -- she totally thinks she's brilliant. Or at least adequate. If I beat her, and I think you're right that I could, that could be a bit of a wake-up call that would get her to really focus, and having our enemies and future enemies NOT spending this year honing their fighting skills is probably better for us, right?

Though, if she doesn't get that sort of wake-up call she's not going to last long. On the Council, I mean. And although I dislike her quite a bit I'm not sure she deserves to wind up dead.

Anyway. I think the first thing is to use that dummy Dolohov set up. And certainly to take advantage of his offer to duel with me again. And to duel people who are at about my level -- too bad Pansy's even worse about not wanting to hurt me than you are.

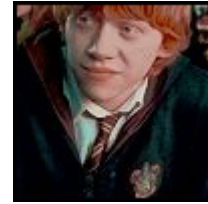
Patil really would be a good opponent. Good enough to be challenging, not so good she'd wipe the floor with me, and both of us would rather like to hurt the other, I think.

**[2014-10-01 17:32:00](#)**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Good show in Defence today, mate.

I think you may have led off with Expelliarmus once too often, though. Don't know if you saw the way she smiled when you cast it. Maybe you did.



**[alt\\_ron](#)**

Mind you, it was hilarious when you took Finnigan's wand after Justin numbed his hand. The look on his face. He was thinking through whether you did it to make a point about his targeting Jones or whether you did it just to show that he has to give quarter to you.

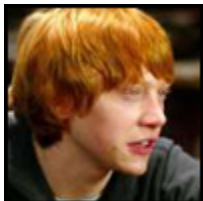
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**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-01 22:47:43](#)**

*Order Only*

Interesting lesson, too. Almost a shame she sprang Salazar's Rules at the same time. It made me wonder whether she was deliberately distracting us from some of what she was saying. Queer technique for teaching, but then I don't think she really means to teach all of us all she could, yeah?



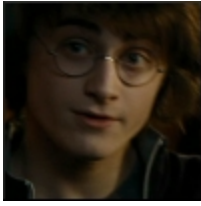
**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-01 22:55:46](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

And to be fair, she was using what we were doing as examples of the point she was making.

But again, it's what she didn't point out that I thought was interesting.

(And that is all the proof you'll ever need to see how much Slytherin's rubbed off on me! Sally Anne and Pansy, y'know? Always looking at what's not being said or shown and poking into what someone's implying. But really, it's just chess with Desai: some of her moves are taken because she's trying to keep you from noticing her plan.)



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-02 01:46:55](#)

*Re: Order Only*

You might be right, about her distracting us deliberately.

Slytherin thinking does rub off. It can take a while though.



[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-02 04:44:47](#)

*Re: Order Only*

So, y'know, I was saying that there were things she didn't point out that were interesting. Because she was talking about our habits and set patterns and how they can handicap us if our opponents have studied us at all. And that's what she was using the whole Salazar's Rules exercise for today--to pick examples right out of things people were doing, like pointing out that Goyle always alternates petrificus with things that try to set you on fire or bash a hole in your head, right? But it takes him too long to say 'Petrificus Totalis', so it almost never works. The person moves before the spell's out of his wand. That was a great example, if Goyle was listening, and if he thinks to stop doing that and try something else that he can manage more quickly. But Pansy had him so busy defending her stinging hexes, I doubt he has any idea what the lecture was about. (I mean, even when we're sitting still, listening, he never looks like he gets what the lecture's about.)

And an example she didn't use was Capper's blasting hex which he really does need to rethink because, for one thing, it's dead easy to shield against as soon as you see the wind up he uses before casting just that spell, but also because the shield almost everybody uses deflects it back at him, and somehow he doesn't ever seem to compensate for that so he has to dance around and it wrongfoots him half the time.

So why didn't she point that out? It's a dead-on example of what she was talking about that would really help Capper if she'd make him see what he's doing. But she's leaving Capper to work it out on his own. (Actually, I think I'll point it out to him if I can do it without its getting back to her.)

Anywiz, and when she was talking about our habitual responses,

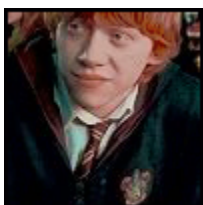
the things that have got to be fixed reactions or tics, she talked about that thing Zabini does where he raises the point of his wand after each cast. It adds time and breaks the line he has on his target so he has to aim again each time. He may have thought it looked, y'know, deliberate or stylish, or maybe it actually helped him when he was first learning, if he broke the flow of magic so he could shape each spell separately. But we're not firsties any more, and he doesn't need to do that any more than I do. He's pretty much perfect at silent casting, and he could just send hexes off his wand in an unbroken stream if he didn't do that. Well, and if he didn't wear out. I'm not sure how much endurance Zabini's got. (Actually, that would be worth looking into. Maybe the course will be good for that sort of snooping.)

But what she didn't mention as an example? Sally Anne's flinching. I know Desai's been thinking about that. She and Doves have charmed up a practice dummy specifically to help her train away from that reaction. But she didn't say anything about that in the lesson. Why? I mean, I don't think it was because she doesn't like to embarrass people--look what she did to MacDougal. It's not because she's not willing to help Sally Anne because she already is. But you know who else has a problem with flinching and hesitating? Jones. And Desai's decided she doesn't deserve that sort of help. Or maybe she thinks it would waste our time. I'm not sure which.



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-02 01:45:18](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks. I think he got the message either way, right?



[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-02 02:51:35](#)  
Order Only

It's hard to tell with Finnicky.

I think he's not sure about you. Puzzled, y'know. Like he's not sure why you do some of the things you do.

Maybe he thinks you're playing at something when you put in to protect people. He's probably waiting for you to use those people for something you want done. Or to do something ugly to make

goats of them once they trust you.

I don't know. Maybe that's not what Finnigan expects, but it's definitely what Patil would do if she were you. Remember, it's exactly what she did to Jones in first year. So I just don't think they've got any way to understand what you're up to if it's not just to amuse yourself somehow.

What was it like when you took them off on your field trips around the country this summer? What did you find to talk about?

**2014-10-01 22:06:00**

*Private Message to Karo*



**alt\_ptolemy**

Look, regardless of what you might think, I did not rush in to the office just to end the discussion. But I really don't know what you think there is to talk about; if you don't want to start a family yet, there's no reason to rush into it. Just because your mother thinks it's important? Rubbish. If you think I give a mudblood's dam about what your mother says on the topic of family planning then you haven't been paying attention. I married *you*, not your bourgeois parents. Say the word and I'll see to it she never brings it up again. (Nor Pandora, either. She hasn't dared broach it, has she?)

Anyway, as it happens I do have a real reason to have come in, annoying as that may be. Can't discuss, but if we don't resolve it, heads will roll.

But we'll work something out. No choice about it.

I might not be home tonight. But I'm not trying to avoid the subject. As far as I'm concerned, do what you like. Tell your mother to mind her own.



**2014-10-02 09:50:00**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Were you able to get your duel out of the way last night? How did it go? You're able to get in now, right?



**alt\_seamus**



**alt\_padma** at **2014-10-02 15:01:20**

*(no subject)*

I can get in.

Dovs was...it was okay. He hit me with a delayed fainting hex and I knew the countercharm but I wasn't able to cast it until we were through. But he had this...look. Sort of worried.

I'm glad I asked him, though, and not Desai. I got the feeling he was... Well, I wouldn't say he was taking it easy on me, because it was really hard. But he wasn't going full-speed, either.

I just can't understand how the others got so *good*. It's like you said, after Defence. I've been thinking about it since the field exercise last week. Harry, of course, and Weasley spent all summer with Aurors. But Bundy? Bones? We were all in CCF, if that's what it was, we should all be about the same level.



**alt\_seamus** at **2014-10-02 15:06:41**

*(no subject)*

Well, the good news is there's plenty of talented duellists for you to work with to improve your own skills.

Dovs thinks that it's the influence of a few -- once a few students start to make fighting skills a priority they pull up everyone else. And Finch-Fletchley, Weasley, Marvolo -- well, and Malfoy, before -- they kind of forced the rest of us to rise to the challenge.

Anyway it's mostly just a matter of practice.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-02 15:08:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I suppose I ought to start practicing. From the look on Doves' face, I ought to start *living* there.



**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-10-02 15:08:06](#)**  
(no subject)

But look, Padma.

You can't not make this a priority. I know you want Os on all your NEWTs. But they won't do you any good if you can't defend yourself properly.

You're a Councilwitch. You *have* to be able to take care of yourself. That's why Dolohov's worried.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-02 15:14:42](#)**  
(no subject)

I know, I know.

He said something else to me, too, when we talked about instruction and things. That no one had taken me to the Council facilities in New London. It hadn't occurred to me until he said it but he's right. ~~Why didn't Lana~~

I guess I just thought we'd have time to get there. I mean, Desai and Doves and the others, they're veterans of *wars*. We can't be expected to be that good.

But I don't want to embarrass myself or anything, and I certainly don't want to become someone else's target. And if... I mean, I don't know if we'd be called *now*, while we're at school, but if something like what happened in Ireland were to happen again, I know we've got to be prepared to serve Our Lord. So I want to be ready for that.

Want to make a regular date for it?



**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-10-02 15:24:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Like the Elysian? Yeah. Is he going to take you? If he doesn't, I'm sure Mr Rosier would, but that couldn't happen until we're home for Christmas hols. I guess I just assumed -- well, anyway. You should definitely try the Elysian.

It's not just a matter of embarrassing yourself. You're right, we could be sent to Ireland, and I wouldn't assume it wouldn't happen this year. If He sends people over to Ireland, He might well send Professor Desai, and she's taken students to fight before. She'd certainly expect to be able to bring the two of us, and Lestrangle. If she took Finch-Fletchley and Weasley and left you behind -- that might even be worse.

Anyway. Yes. I'm happy to work with you, but you should try to find people closer to your level to practise with as well. The best way to get better isn't really to duel the people who are a lot better than you, it's to duel the people who are just a little better.

Do you want me to tell you who I think ought to be on that list? Or will it just make you cross?



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-02 15:45:17](#)**  
(no subject)

No, he said we'd go on some Sunday. I just have to remind him about it. Which I will do. I think he means that and Ouroboros and all of that.

And I know what's at stake, Seamus. You don't have to treat me like an idiot. But it's also true that appearances matter, both on the Council and at this school. So I'm sort of stuck. I can't afford not to practise but I can't afford to practise with someone who'll go blab all over that I'm naff at it.

And of course it'll make me cross, especially if you tell me Milli or Jones or Parkinson. But I'll listen.



**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-10-02 15:52:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Not Milli or Jones. You'd beat them too easily, they're both pants at duelling.

Parkinson would be a good opponent for you, though. So would Perks or Capper. Greengrass could probably beat you -- but she'd be a good one to duel, because you could probably get her to agree not to blab. There's also Smith and Macmillan -- you're better than they are, but not by a whole lot. They'd probably give you a decent challenge. Smith would blab that he ALMOST beat you, though, and everyone knows he's not very good.

I don't know. Do you want me to try to arrange some duelling partners who'll keep their gobs shut?



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-02 15:57:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Or partners who we can Obliviate.

Or partners who don't *have* gobs in the first place. Like the dummies. Doves did say they could be set for drills.

But I guess, the thing about those is that they're not unpredictable like a human opponent.

I'll talk to Capper, perhaps. He knows what's good for him. I could even offer him space in Ravenclaw Corner if he'll do it.

[2014-10-02 20:03:00](#)

*Order Only*



[alt\\_neville](#)

I have so many Herbology projects going, although of course I can't talk about some of them openly in NEWTs class. I've been trying to think of a reason we might have to cultivate a bigger bed of aconite openly. I found a catalogue company that offers heirloom varieties of potion ingredients. They offered Monkshood with yellow flowers instead of the usual blue-purple, which might make it less noticeable, tucked here and there in the greenhouse...except that we'd have to keep it away from the younger kids because it's just as poisonous. The catalogue called it, 'Friar Attor.' Have you ever heard of it, Mr Snape? It might not do, though, anyway. It's supposed to be gathered under the midday sun instead of under the full moon, so perhaps that would make it worthless for the Wolfsbane potion.

Maybe it would be safer just to cultivate traditional Wolfsbane at Moddey Dhoo where no one will ask awkward questions. Except there are kids there, too, even younger and more prone to stuffing things in their mouths--including my little brother.

Mum, could you tell Mrs Regina Wilson-Lee that the potatoes she suggested I grow this year look promising. They're quite high in potassium, RL said, which would help muggles who suffer from hypertension and cancer. (I guess that makes sense to her, although I don't understand it, but Madam Pomfrey was *very* pleased when I told her.)

I wonder whether transfiguring the potatoes to make them look like standard white potatoes would make you lose all their health benefits. Maybe Professor Brutka would know. Anyway, that's the next experiment.

Oh, but the gourd experiment didn't turn out very well. I copied all her notes down wrong, so I spaced the plants wrongly, and they all ended up strangling each other. I had to rip them all out and leave the bed bare.

Pretty stupid

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**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-03 01:52:03](#)**  
(no subject)

I am unfamiliar with the variant, but if it is gathered under the midday sun, I doubt it would be likely to be of use in the Wolfsbane. I am guessing it has been bred for use in potions that treat fevers.

That having been said, it might be worth a try — with some analysis I would be able to tell whether the Wolfsbane recipe could be adapted for it, and as conventional wisdom has it that *A. napellus napellus* is the only suitable species for Wolfsbane, anyone tracking the planting of that species might not notice.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-04 13:30:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I will start some, then, and keep notes on its progress. I'll put it in the section of the greenhouses where they keep the poisonous plants, to avoid accidents, but Professor Sprout suggests that we give it a different label, too.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-03 05:29:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be sure to pass along your notes, love.

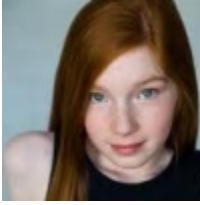
And if there's no obvious reason on hand for Hogwarts to be growing large amounts of aconite, we might source it to Sherwood, or just make one of our greenhouses more secure and grow it there. We may have need for more of it, depending, but I'd rather not raise any eyebrows.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-04 13:37:03](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't intend to grow *large* amounts, obviously. This is just to try small samples of the most promising plants for improving some of the formulae Mr Snape is working with, enough for testing. If something works, yeah, it'd make more sense to do the sourcing cultivation somewhere else.

I'll be careful, I promise.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-03 14:19:21](#)**

*Private Message to Neville*

I hadn't heard about the gourds. That's a shame.

Now you've got a spare bed to work with, how are you going to use it, do you think?

Do you need any help preparing it? I'm not nearly as good at it as you are, but I can follow directions, and I wouldn't mind.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-04 13:41:00](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Neville*

I've an idea for another experiment, but I need to lower the acidity of the soil, so I need to mix in some flowers of sulphur. If you have some time this afternoon, I'll be out there in the greenhouse after

lunch, and I'd appreciate the help.

**2014-10-02 21:40:00**

*Private Message to Astoria Greengrass  
and Hydra Lestrangle*



**alt\_justin**

I say, I'm sorry to hear you're experiencing difficulties in Defence and Noble Arts lessons. As you said, the salle is only open to those students pursuing their N.E.W.T. in the subjects, and I regret to say I would not consider trying to sway Professors Dolohov and Desai otherwise.

I'm jolly well flattered that you thought of asking me to tutor you, what. It's a wise choice to seek assistance before one's marks show that one's struggling. Unfortunately, my own course load and the additional work I'm doing for the Headmaster do take almost all my available time. I could not possibly do justice to your request. However, I can without hesitation recommend Councilwitch Lestrangle as a tutor. One could not ask for a better instructor, what, particularly as she is a year ahead of you and in your own House, besides.

I've taken the liberty of including her here, to alert her that you may be asking for her assistance. I assure you there is no finer choice, but should you for some reason require a 7<sup>th</sup>-year student to tutor you, then our Head Boy, Moon, also did exceptionally well on his O.W.L, and in his marks last year, as did Sally-Anne Perks. Either I am sure would be willing to provide you with extra help.

I say, best of luck in improving your marks. I'm jolly well sorry I could not be of more service.

Cordially,

-Finch-Fletchley



**alt\_hydra** at **2014-10-03 02:50:03**

*(no subject)*

Greengrass,

I have to see to my own studies and duties first, but I've time free enough to spare some for you, if you truly require it.



Perhaps you might let me assess your work and determine if you need the help of an older student or might be better off forming a revision group with other students in your year.

From,  
Hydra



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-03 02:58:45**  
*Order Only - Private message to Justin*

I suppose she hasn't learned to live with disappointment yet?

I don't imagine she'll really want to have me as her tutor, which is just as well because I can't say I really want to be her tutor, either.

As for your writing, this is almost bordering on impolite - I'm not sure she knows you well enough to realise that, though.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-03 03:03:57**  
*Re: Order Only - Private message to Justin*

Hullo,

Is it too abrasive? I say, I did try to be jolly well firm in my refusal, what, since she seemed to bother you so much. I might not have done if you hadn't said anything earlier, though.

I'm sure you're quite right and she doesn't require any help at all, but on the chance she does, I do hate to think I've turned her aside unfairly. I suppose if she seeks out Moon or Sally-Anne, we'll know, what.

-Justin



**alt\_hydra at 2014-10-03 03:09:12**

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Justin*

I think you're quite firm and very polite, but she's used to talking with fifth year boys. Most aren't as considerate as you by half, and she fancies that gentlemanly nature you possess.

It's possible that only being rude will convince her that you're thoroughly uninterested, but maybe I'm wrong. I hope I am, in fact. I suppose we'll see.

**2014-10-02 22:17:00**

*(no subject)*

You can count me in for Saturday's tour, Justin. Sounds like it'll be frightfully useful, and I've got a set of drills to start working on right away, too.



**alt\_pansy**



**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-03 05:25:42**

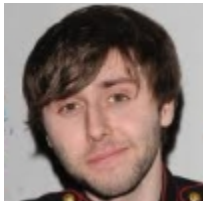
*ORDER ONLY*

I'm cleared by Headmaster Dolohov.

I think I overthought some things, because every now and then I'd think about whether he'd pick up on the other styles and spells we'd learned, and I suppose it came off as hesitation because he gave me some drills to do to help me with my speed. Which certainly can't hurt.

He cast me with a blood-chilling curse.

It wasn't too difficult, as far as tests go. I wonder what Desai would've done.



**alt\_justin at 2014-10-03 14:45:15**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Pansy,

Sorry to have to ask again like that; I know you're cleared but Remy was pestering me to let him come through, even though he hasn't arranged his admission yet. I say, I think he and Warrington are determined to find ways round Professor Dolohov's restrictions.

If they force Tosha and Professor Desai to close the salle, I shall be quite cross.

-Justin



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-10-03 15:39:51**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

I was wondering.

I'd be fine with doing a little policing of our own, to make sure people use the space properly once they do get in as well.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-03 14:40:39**

*(no subject)*

Pansy,

I say, jolly good! You're all cleared, then?

Oh, I hope you don't mind the morning, what. I've already filled the afternoon.

-Justin



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-10-03 15:38:51**

*(no subject)*

Yes, Headmaster Dolohov cleared me last night.

The morning would be lovely. I'll be sure to limber up first.

**2014-10-03 11:40:00**

*Private Message to P Marsh and  
Lucius*



**alt\_rookwood**

Jameson is under care at St Mungos. They had the temerity to inform me that he can't fly for ten days and further claim he must be evaluated in a months time before they will 'allow' him to cross the wards again. No amount of verbal pressure was swaying them. Some piffle about 'long term irreparable harm.' I'll give Jenkins the ten days then see if, with proper motivation, he can push for a speedier declaration of his recovery.

Lucius, might you or your son be able suggest a mediocre quidditcher with endurance and discretion who would be idle to impress directly into Our Lord's service? I would ask Cal but he was making even less sense than normal the last time I attempted discourse. Everyone in the department has a list of excuses as to why they aren't the best candidate. Some of them are even legitimate.

I missed you at lunch yesterday, are you available to discuss the St Mungo's situation this weekend?

**2014-10-03 18:35:00**

*Private Message to Mellersh Frobisher and Maurice Scroops*



**alt\_lana**

Really, Mr Scroops, disrupting today's meditation was entirely uncalled for. I understand that Mr Frobisher's tendency to break out weeping can be a distraction, but it's not as if we've not become accustomed to his sniffing. I see no reason it ought to have struck you as surprising or have pulled you from your own exercise. There's no excuse for your shattering everyone else's focus.

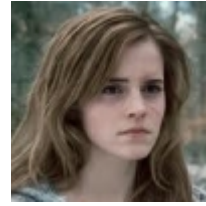
And I have to say, Frobisher, asking a teacher, 'Are you serious?' is never a good plan when she's assigning you detention. Yes, I am entirely serious.

I've spoken to Mr Milland, who will expect both of you at half-seven on Sunday morning. If he's satisfied with your work, he may, at his discretion, allow you to go in time for lunch. Otherwise, you will work with him all day and be released for supper.

It would be best if you finished your weekend homework tomorrow, wouldn't it?

**2014-10-03 21:04:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*



**alt\_hermione**

Tomorrow would have been her birthday.

She always hated when people did things for her on her birthday--hated the attention, I mean, but she actually did appreciate the gestures and remembrances.

Can we.... Could we have a party, or something, here at Grimmauld? Terry and Sarah could come from Sherwood and anyone from Moddey, or the Players or whoever else wanted to come. I know Saturdays are usually busy at the garden but we could do something here, couldn't we? Nothing too fancy, she wouldn't have wanted that.



**alt\_severus** at **2014-10-04 02:20:23**

*(no subject)*

Yes.

Yes, of course.

~~I suppose it would be tacky to drink a toast to her memory.~~ I have some of the tea she preferred. And perhaps — it seems a fitting time to share stories of her, and remember together.



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-04 02:35:10**

*(no subject)*

Of course we could.

**2014-10-03 21:04:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

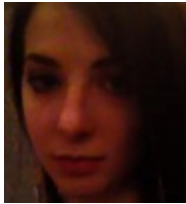
So, just out of curiosity, for anyone Sirius *didn't* mention in his rather lengthy list -- were you able to read what he just wrote?



**alt\_nymphadora**

Inquiring minds want to know.

---



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-04 04:11:13**

*(no subject)*

You mean the message he wrote tonight?

I can't read it. Should I be able to?



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-04 04:13:47**

*(no subject)*

Hah! No, no you shouldn't.

But *I* could.



**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-04 04:11:19**

*(no subject)*

Tonks,

No, nothing here. I can read the subject, what, but nothing more.

I say, is Sirius playing some sort of prank?

-Justin



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-04 04:14:53**

*(no subject)*

It might've started out as a bit of a joke, yeah, but turns out everyone he wrote to could read it.

Turns out PMs aren't as exclusive as we thought?





**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-04 06:30:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Multiple people on PMs?



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-04 04:12:49](#)**  
(no subject)

you mean could we read the message?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-04 04:14:12](#)**  
*Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

So who can see this?



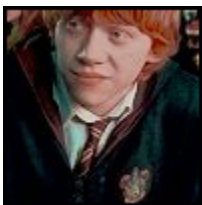
**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 04:15:32](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Yes!



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-04 04:16:04](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

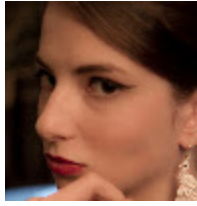
I'll be damned.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-04 04:16:10](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

I can.

What are you playing at?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2014-10-04 04:17:29**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Well APPARENTLY something changed in the journal department they decided not to announce.

Do you suppose they did it on purpose?



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-10-04 04:18:10**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Brilliant.



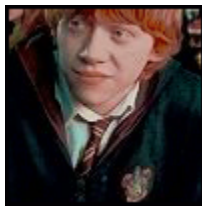
**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-04 04:19:59**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Unless it's something they didn't jolly well intend at all, what.

I can't imagine them opening communications like this on purpose.

-Justin



**[alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-10-04 04:36:55**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Erm.

You don't suppose it's broken in other ways do you?

I mean, maybe they were trying to repair the magic that lets them snoop and this happened. I mean maybe whatever they had before didn't work again, and they broke the PM restriction to allow them to be invisible extra recipients... Or, well, maybe they wanted to do more than they could before. Maybe they've caught on that some people can lock their own messages like we do. We

can't really be the only ones, d'you think? Anyway, maybe they did this to let themselves be extra readers on locked messages and accidentally broke the privacy rules.



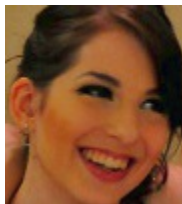
**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-04 04:16:14**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Sally-Anne,

I say, I can, what, but then I'm second on the list. The question is whether Daphne, Ron, Tonks or Mr Longbottom can see it.

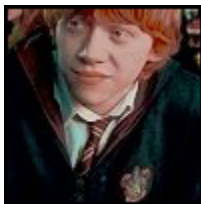
-Justin



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2014-10-04 04:19:04**

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Justin and Daphne and Ron and Tonks and Mr Longbottom*

Yeah well it turns out they CAN.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-10-04 04:15:42**

*(no subject)*

I reckoned he was taking the mickey.

What's up?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2014-10-04 04:18:17**

*(no subject)*

We can put more than two people in PMs.

I wonder how many people we can get in? I mean eventually you start to run out of space on the page.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-04 04:18:24](#)  
(no subject)

Ron,

I say, that's well brilliant!

Why is it happening?

More to the point, dare we use it outside the Order? I suspect it's not the sort of advantage we want to let the Ministry know we have, what.

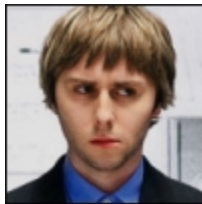
-Justin



[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-10-04 04:20:32](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think we'd better.

Maybe they don't know it's happening. We wouldn't want them noticing, would we?



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-04 04:24:51](#)  
(no subject)

Ginny,

Yes, I quite agree.

I very much doubt this was a deliberate choice on the Ministry's part, what. It's either a malfunction or a mistake.

Either way, one must assume they know they've lifted the restriction and are working to restore it. And if they haven't noticed, as you say, using greater numbers openly would only alert them to their error.

I say, I wonder if it's to do with restoring monitoring over the summer? But that could mean we've had the ability to write to more than two people for months, and never known it until now.

-Justin



**alt\_ginny** at **2014-10-04 04:26:00**  
*(no subject)*

Anyway there are busybodies out there who'd want to be included on all sorts of PMs if it were a possibility. So in a way it's just as well no one else knows.

**2014-10-03 21:55:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Hermione, Remus, Dora, Draco, Snape, Ellie, and Bea. Oh, and Kreacher*



**alt\_sirius**

Hermione, Remus tells me you asked about a party in honour of Minerva.

Of course, we can mark the occasion.

But he said something in the course of it that I want to clear up. He said, 'Technically, it's your house.'

Look. All I've ever wanted is for this place to be a home for *whoever* needs it. Right now that's you, *and* Draco *and* Sn̄ Severus.

Oh, all right, I know only you and Remus can probably see this, but I'm making a point: This is your home, for as long as you want it to be. And you've every right to invite members of the Order into it for occasions such as this.

So. No more of this business how it's my house and I need to approve visitors or parties or whatever else you've planned. So long as Alice has given them the secret, they're welcome whenever you invite them.

That's that.



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-04 03:01:23**  
(no subject)

Well, that's good to know, then.

Hermione, Terry should certainly come. Tim too, if you'd like, even though he didn't know her.



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-04 03:38:19**  
(no subject)

Wotcher, Sirius.

First off, heartily agreed.

Second, I think you broke the private messages.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-04 03:48:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Wait. What?

You can see this?

Merlin, do you think that means they've been lying the whole time, and we've *always* been able to send PMs to more than two people?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-04 03:50:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I distinctly remember people experimenting early on to see what would happen.

So you must have broken them. Personally.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-04 03:51:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Ha!

I HAVE THE ULTIMATE POWER. Apparently.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 03:52:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I, for one, am blaming Kreacher.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-04 03:55:09](#)**  
(no subject)

You can blame him all you like, love, long as I get the credit.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 03:55:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Is it a true PM to everyone on the list, though, do you think? Or just open to everyone in the Order?



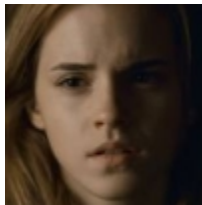
**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-04 04:04:15](#)**  
(no subject)

The Order lock always trumps PMs. But it's hard to know, since Bea and Kreacher also don't have journals.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 04:08:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. Time for a test or three, I imagine.



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-04 04:02:41](#)**  
(no subject)

We couldn't. Terry and I, I mean. When we--when we were in service. If I tried to write a PM to Terry, the journal would add Harry and Professor Carrow and it would remove Terry altogether.

But then we weren't free at the time. When Mr Weasley freed Terry, then we could PM each other but Harry's name was still on it until he freed me.

So maybe that's only because we're mudbloods. But I think this might be something new at that.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 05:14:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Before we get too far afield, I do think the celebration is a lovely idea, by the way.





**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-04 03:50:54**  
*(no subject)*

Maybe? I can't remember trying to test it, other than making sure it worked under the lock, of course.

**2014-10-03 23:20:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Mum, Bill, Charlie, Fred, George, and Ron*



Hullo!

I guess I can send a private message to ~~my whole family at one time~~ all of you at once now!

**alt\_ginny**

How are you, Mum? Bill? Any excitement with the dragons, Charlie? What's new with the shop, Fred and George? Ron I guess I just saw you earlier this evening so there's not that much to get caught up on.

---



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-04 05:22:09**

*(no subject)*

Hallo!

This is rather brilliant, isn't it?



**alt\_molly** at **2014-10-04 14:29:29**

*(no subject)*

Oh, my GOODNESS!

Well, I'm certainly excited that I can speak with you altogether privately!

I've just about finished up most of the harvest, and I'm starting the cidering.



**alt\_gredforge** at **2014-10-04 14:30:23**

*(no subject)*

Dead brilliant! And for once it wasn't us!



**alt\_bill** at **2014-10-04 14:31:26**

*(no subject)*

Merlin.

There hasn't been a *whisper* about this at the Ministry.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-04 17:10:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I have to be the one to say it, are you sure whatever they did couldn't have broken the Order lock?



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-06 01:17:49](#)**  
(no subject)

No, they haven't. The backspell architecture is complicated to explain, but no. It's an entirely different function than the private messaging function.

The Order Lock is still as secure as it ever was.



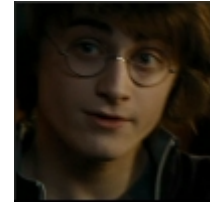
**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-06 02:03:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Ta. I figured that was the case, but you know me and needing to bring up the dumb questions just to be sure!

**2014-10-03 23:36:00**

*Order Only: Private message to the ISS*

So who can see this?



**alt\_harry**



**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-04 04:38:45**

*(no subject)*

Harry,

I say, I can, old man.

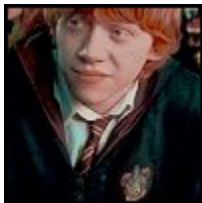
-Justin



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-04 04:38:46**

*(no subject)*

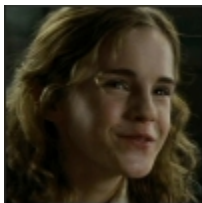
Me.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-04 04:39:01**

*(no subject)*

I can, yeah.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-10-04 04:39:39**

*(no subject)*

I can!



**alt\_ginny** at **2014-10-04 04:41:59**  
(no subject)

I can.



**alt\_pansy** at **2014-10-04 05:09:18**  
(no subject)

Utterly brilliant.



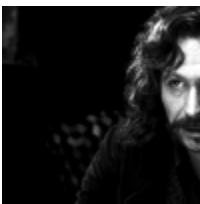
**alt\_evelyn** at **2014-10-04 05:10:18**  
(no subject)

Yes, I can too.



**alt\_poppy** at **2014-10-04 05:11:38**  
(no subject)

Sorry to disappoint.



**alt\_sirius** at **2014-10-04 05:14:32**  
(no subject)

Er, yeah.

I think that didn't translate to the journal. However that works.

Where's Bill?



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-04 05:15:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay - that post you just made to the 'Juniors'?

No idea what that says.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-04 05:20:03](#)**  
(no subject)

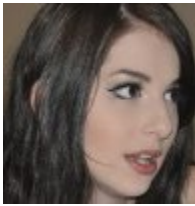
I see the address line, but not the message.

I wonder if we might reverse the favour and write only to our more mature members. I wonder which of us would see such a message?



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-04 06:32:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I can see this. Not your other, though.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-04 16:37:56](#)**  
(no subject)

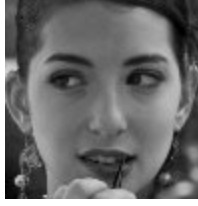
Can you see the one that's to 'old fogey's'?



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-04 18:25:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I can.

(Though qualifying as a fogey at my age is bollocks boggarts, really.)



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-04 18:30:24**  
*(no subject)*

Oh but you're a proper adult with a job at the Ministry and everything. You probably even have grey hairs.

If I'd worked for Corax Mulciber I'd probably have grey hairs, so...

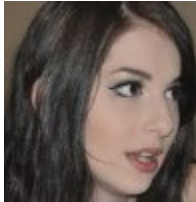
**2014-10-04 00:12:00**

*Order Only: Private message to the Juniors*

How about now?



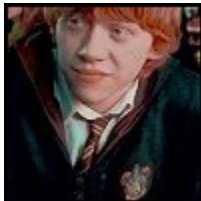
**alt\_harry**



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-04 05:14:52**

*(no subject)*

Well I can see this but I think the real question is whether Madam Pomfrey can't!



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-04 05:14:58**

*(no subject)*

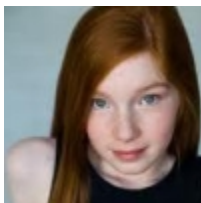
Yes.



**alt\_pansy** at **2014-10-04 05:17:41**

*(no subject)*

I think that did it, Sirius just said he couldn't read this one.



**alt\_evelyn** at **2014-10-04 05:20:18**

*(no subject)*

How odd.

I suppose we've been unofficially called both rather often, but I don't care what we're called as long as it

works.





**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-04 05:18:06](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes, definitely.

Oh, and Sirius says he can't see this one. So I think whatever you were trying to figure out, we've sort of figured out.

That must either mean that the journals didn't know exactly who you meant by ISS, or there are too many people you did mean, who *aren't* ISS any longer, or who never were, and it couldn't work out what you wanted.

But obviously it *can* decide who you think is a Junior (and who isn't).

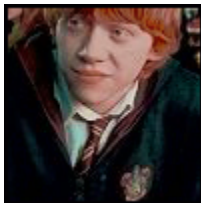
Brilliant, Harry!



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-04 05:27:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

(Mr Longbottom came by to get me from my room, so we could test it out, and looks like this works for me, but not for him.)



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-04 05:28:36](#)**

*(no subject)*

Brilliant.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-04 05:30:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

(No offense to Mr L.)



[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-04 05:31:54](#)

*(no subject)*

(Course.

But yeah.

Totally.)



[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-04 05:32:33](#)

*(no subject)*

(He just couldn't get over it. Like it was the best joke he'd heard in ages. It took a good minute to sort out what he was trying to tell me, because he kept stopping to shake his head and laugh.)



[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-10-04 13:46:21](#)

*(no subject)*

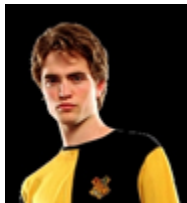
Just like everyone I can see the other one, but I can also see this one.



[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-04 16:57:03](#)

*(no subject)*

So you're not a fogey! Good to know.



[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-10-04 18:33:11](#)

*(no subject)*

I actually appear to be both!



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-04 23:56:34](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Ooooooh. You can be our man on the inside.



**[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-10-05 01:16:49](#)**  
*(no subject)*

That's me. The man on the inside.

**2014-10-04 00:20:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to the Old Fogies*

Hermione has requested a small get-together tomorrow at ours to celebrate and remember Minerva.



**alt\_sirius**

Actually, this invitation is open to everyone, but it's as good a reason as any to test this newfound PM system.

So please extend it to any of the 'Juniors' who presumably can't see this. Three o'clock.

---



**alt\_frank** at **2014-10-04 05:25:55**

*(no subject)*

good one, mate



**alt\_poppy** at **2014-10-04 05:27:20**

*(no subject)*

I will do my best to be there, Sirius. Thank you for the invitation. I'd be glad to honour the day with you all.

Fogies. Quite.



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-04 16:47:24**

*(no subject)*

It'd be brilliant if you could make it, Poppy. We'd love to have you.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 16:51:14](#)**  
*Private Message to Poppy and Pomona*

I've been thinking it's high time we had a check-in. If you can't make it down to us today, I might take the train up there again for something a little more formal?

Pomona, d'you think Tilda would be all right with having me drop in for another visit?



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-04 16:59:00](#)**  
*Private Message to Nymphadora*

Oh. Of course, my dear. But I thought you'd mentioned a visit to St Mungo's. Was that not an ante-natal check?

Unless... Did you not feel comfortable with the specialist you saw?



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-04 17:32:15](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Nymphadora*

I did, and everything looks to be in order.

But there were additional things about this particular go-round that I couldn't talk about with her, so I wanted to make sure you knew about it just so we can keep a proper eye on everything.

Nothing bad. Just different enough to bring some uncertainty into the mix.

It was Albus's idea for me and Charlie to go through a ceremony at Beltane to see if that'd help with the wards. And the good news is, it worked? Only I don't know whether this particular bun-in-the-oven will be different while it's baking, or what to expect when Bap decides to grace us with an appearance.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at 2014-10-04 17:36:07**

*Re: Private Message to Nymphadora*

Or, rather, it worked in that I got spectacularly knocked up. Who knows? Could be a coincidence, but it certainly didn't feel that way at the time.

And we could end up with a wonderfully marvellously normal Bap that has no effect on the wards at all. Which would be fine, of course.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2014-10-04 17:39:08**

*Re: Private Message to Nymphadora*

Albus--?

Right. I believe I'll have a bit of a conversation with him. And, yes, I quite agree that I ought to see you. We can discuss it this afternoon.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2014-10-04 19:04:24**

*Re: Private Message to Nymphadora*

My dear, I'm afraid I'm not going to be able to come this afternoon, after all. The hospital wing is suddenly Hogwarts' most popular destination.

I've two casualties of the new sparring course and another pair of young idiots who've bloodied one another with fisticuffs. And, of course, the first pair were practising curses that are not at all simple to reverse.

Do apologise to Sirius and the others, will you?



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at 2014-10-04 23:34:03**

*Re: Private Message to Nymphadora*

Sorry to hear it. Course I will, and I'll come up in person in a week or so, yeah?



**[alt\\_pomona](#) at 2014-10-05 00:10:03**

*Re: Private Message to Poppy and Pomona*

I'm quite sure Tilda would be glad to have you. Just let me - or her, really - know when.

I'm sorry I couldn't make it down either, I had three first years who desperately needed sorting out.

(Poppy, nothing for you to worry about. One sure she's failing, one miserably homesick who just needed someone taking an interest, and one who is certain his dorm mates are charming his possessions, which they were attempting to but couldn't actually manage.)



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at 2014-10-04 06:35:07**

*(no subject)*

Right.

Not sure I know enough to be a proper fogie yet.



**[alt\\_cedric](#) at 2014-10-04 13:49:38**

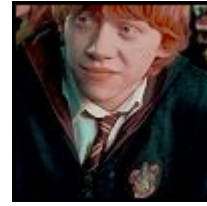
*(no subject)*

I have been able to read all three of the ISS, Juniors and Old Fogies posts.

**2014-10-04 13:25:00**

*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*

Say. What are you up to today? Are you buried in work?



**alt\_ron**

Only, Archer and Bones got into it during practice this morning. Not sure what started it, but both of them were head to toe mud a minute later. And Archer's still in a temper. As foul as the weather, really. No one can do anything right. And Peakes is almost as bad, shouting at firsties for playing around in the common room. By the end of tomorrow someone's likely to have taken a head or two.

I was thinking... we could do something to let them run off a bit of energy and get the little ones out of harm's way, y'know? Maybe set up a treasure hunt around the castle? Hide things in the armour and behind the statues and under the high table?

What do you say? Help me set it up?



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-04 19:15:03**  
(no subject)

Oh yeah. I'll be right there.

What was that game Marvolo used to play growing up? Green ghost?

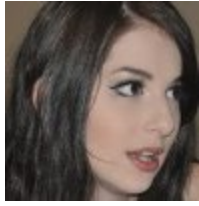


**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-04 19:19:41**  
(no subject)

Oh, yeah.

I dunno how they played it, though. Wasn't it something about wearing a blanket around?





**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-04 19:29:52](#)**  
(no subject)

He's trying to explain it to me now and it makes NO SENSE. So you know what, let's just go with sort of a treasure hunt where you can score extra points by casting cheering charms on people or something

like that.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-04 19:32:15](#)**  
(no subject)

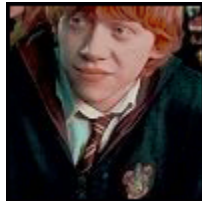
Cheering charms.

You're brilliant, y'know?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-04 20:17:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh you say that now but just wait till someone works out a way to give someone else a bloody nose with a mis-cast cheering charm.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-04 20:26:41](#)**  
(no subject)

It's all in fun until someone weaponises the cheering charms!



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-04 20:29:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Honestly if we can get a few of the firsties to run off a bit of their utterly excessive energy it'll be worth a few bloody noses!

**2014-10-04 19:13:00**

*Private Message to Remy Jugson and Zach Smith*



Hullo, lads,

I say, I'm glad you liked the tours today, what, but I can't stress enough that you're not to go abusing the privileges Headmaster Dolohov has extended.

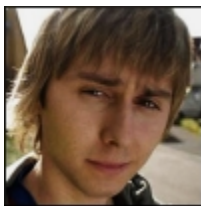
**alt\_justin**

He's not joking when he says it can be well dangerous. Zeds, you of all people ought to remember the well ridiculous business with that Fight Club in our fifth year. I don't have to tell you, old man, that you don't want to go getting mixed up in anything of the kind again.

As for you, Remy, it's not to be abused *other* ways, if you follow me. (Actually, Zeds, you too.) If you're using the room for privacy, you're preventing others from being able to use it for its intended purpose. That's jolly bad form. It's not as if the castle's lacking in places to be alone, particularly with another bloke.

I say, I'm not trying to embarrass either one of you, chaps, but I believe I bally well know you both well enough to predict how this might go wrong for you. I should hate for that to happen to two of my mates. If you've any questions at all, what, please just ask me. I'm more than happy to provide what guidance I can offer.

-Justin



**alt\_justin at 2014-10-05 00:22:21**

*Private Message to Zacharias*

I say, Zeds, you went out with Astoria Greengrass for a time, didn't you?

-J

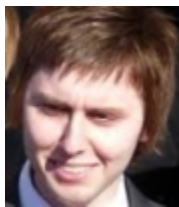


**alt\_zacharias at 2014-10-05 00:23:39**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

Yeah, I did. She was up for it, yeah, after I told her how much it would annoy old Daphs.

Wasn't a bad snog, either. Why, you finally giving up on the Lestranges and all?



**[alt\\_justin at 2014-10-05 00:29:07](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

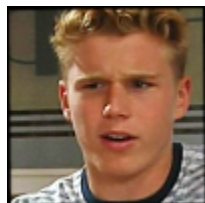
Er, no, no, nothing like that. I say, I don't need to know the details, old man. One doesn't expect a gentleman to divulge, what.

But, er, she's taken something of an interest in me, I believe. One I've no wish to encourage, if you follow me. I mean to say, not that she's not fit, quite the contrary, but--well, it would be singularly unfair to her to give her any hope.

I thought, perhaps, if she were--diverted, what, toward another chap, it might resolve the situation with no further awkwardness. Only I'm not entirely certain who else might fancy her, or who might strike *her* fancy, one might say.

Have you any thoughts about what she might find attractive in a bloke?

-J



**[alt\\_zacharias at 2014-10-05 00:30:39](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

Got some ideas but probably not ones you want to hear, mate.

Look, want me to talk to her? Tell her you're not up for it?



**[alt\\_justin at 2014-10-05 00:37:44](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

What? No, no, I've no wish to trouble you or her like that.

No, I say, all I'm asking is if you've any sense of her tastes, what. If you've no useful suggestions of that type, old man, then have you any ideas of how to gently put her off?

-J



**[alt\\_zacharias](#) at 2014-10-05 00:48:31**

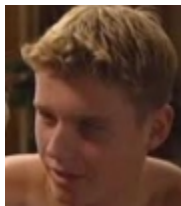
*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

It's a tough knot, mate. She's a lot more like Daphs than either of them want to admit. Which means she's fairly stubborn, doesn't know what's good for her, and thinks she's far more fetching than she actually is.

She's also not going to go tread her sister's footsteps, which means no Zabini. Shame, too, you might have a chance there, if what she fancies about you is sophistication. He's so sophisticated he's practically got a cocktail shaker shoved up his arse, eh?

Right, well, she probably won't go for a 6<sup>th</sup>-year, she'll think that's beneath her. You'll object to me saying it, mate, but she really *does* fancy a good snog. Problem is, all the fit blokes in our year are either taken or they're halfbloods, which is as bad as a 6<sup>th</sup>-year.

Way I see it, you're well bludgered.



**[alt\\_zacharias](#) at 2014-10-05 00:54:22**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

Or, well....

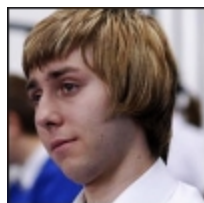
Okay, I can think of three possible substitutes, if you can convince her to go for a 6<sup>th</sup>-year.

- Archer. He's a Quidditcher and a pureblood. Gryffindor but she's not the type to hold that against him.
- Cuthbert. Ravenclaw and a Prefect, plus he comes from money, so that'll probably appeal to her. Dunno if she's already let him dip his wick, though.
- duMaurier. If she's interested in the exotic, well, he's French, too, originally. He's a bit squiffy, though, for her.

She tends to like her blokes a bit better put-together. He needs to comb his hair more often, doesn't he.

Course, there's also Warrington or Whitacre, in Slytherin, but I'd lay odds she's already tried them on for size. If you follow me.

Dunno, mate. Why not just shag her and get Hydra out of your system?



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-05 00:57:39**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

Charming suggestion, Zeds. It's a wonder you and she aren't still together.

I say, right. Archer, Cuthbert, duMaurier, Warrington, Whitacre. Yes, I'll see what one can do to point her gently in their direction.

Cheers.

Up for a hand of Snap later? I'm heading back to the sett shortly.

-J



**[alt\\_zacharias](#) at 2014-10-05 00:58:39**

*Re: Private Message to Zacharias*

Look, mate, all I'm saying is you could find that Hydra's not the only witch in the world, if you gave someone else a chance. But it's your life, innit.

Anywiz, sure. I'll see if Ernie's about, too.

**2014-10-04 20:36:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Padfoot*

You got awfully quiet today during the party.

I wasn't actually sure which incident it was that Severus was leaving out, when he told that story about Minerva.



**alt\_lupin**



**alt\_sirius at 2014-10-05 01:47:52**

*(no subject)*

Tell you the truth, I'm not sure, either. There were rather a lot of them.

Mind, he was responsible for his fair share, too. But it's true we all had each other, and he had...well. Reg. And Farty. And others like Lucius egging him on.

Odd to think we're all here and it's - not perfect, no but - working. In its way.

What about you, you were off in your own world for a while, too. Thinking about back then?



**alt\_lupin at 2014-10-05 01:53:19**

*(no subject)*

No, actually.

I was thinking about the years right after the war. When I got brought to work at Hogwarts.

I knew Minerva was an Order sympathiser at one point, but she'd taken the Mark. And she knew I'd been an Order sympathiser, but she thought I was the one who'd betrayed James and Lily. So. There we were. Coldly, calmly polite to each other. For five years.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-05 02:13:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry you had to bear it. Along with everything else.

Hermione's talked about how Minerva was always cold to her, as well, but deliberately, to hide her true interest in Hermione's education.

You don't think it was an act? That she got you the job but then treated you disdainfully to mask her generosity?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-05 03:01:35](#)**  
(no subject)

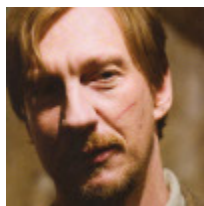
Honestly, I have no idea how I got the job. I assumed at the time it was Minerva, but -- well, you all thought I was a traitor. Why would she have helped me?



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-05 03:04:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay, now you're making me suspicious.

Let's go back a step. Did you apply or was it offered?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-05 03:06:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Offered.

It was the sort of gift horse I wasn't inclined to look in the mouth, considering my alternatives.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-05 03:17:31](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I know, it's understandable.

But now that we come to it ... *why* was it offered?

Perhaps it was to keep the Order off-balance and thinking you were the traitor? To keep you from rejoining the remaining members.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-05 03:47:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I can't imagine anyone would have been worrying about that in the summer of 1987. The Order had been driven well underground; I rather think the Death Eaters were of the opinion that they had *won*, you know?

I don't know why it was offered.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-05 03:49:46](#)**  
(no subject)

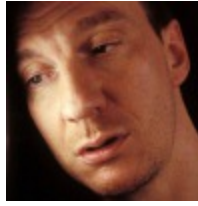
Mystery of the ages, eh.

No one at Hogwarts made you a goat on a regular basis or anything, did they? Carrow or - was Desai gone by then? Must have been. Never pointed you out to the kiddies with a wagging finger, saying 'Don't be like that sorry sod?'

I dunno. We're missing something. I just don't know what.

It's like it's at the tip of my brain but I can't see it. Maddening.





**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-05 03:54:55](#)**  
(no subject)

People were ... polite. Alecto Carrow had just started teaching Dark Arts, Desai was still teaching Defence, and they mostly acted as though I were invisible.

Flitwick died that autumn. I guess it would've been November. I didn't know it at the time, but that was when he came to the school to set up the false Hogwarts book. Desai caught him as he tried to get back out. I ... they had me clean up, afterward.

I wonder if Desai knows that he *let* her hit him with that curse? So he couldn't be questioned.

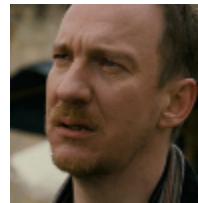


**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-05 03:58:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Merlin, I didn't - I hadn't realised. I was out of contact. I mean, I heard that he'd been killed but - Circe.

I suppose a Grim Truth is in order, now that she's back. Or a radio address, anyway.

Look, close up shop, kick everyone out, and come on back home. It's a conversation better had with a couple of glasses of whiskey in hand.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-05 04:04:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Which bit didn't you know? She killed him with the entrail-expelling curse. Seemed rather pleased with herself, though it probably occurred to her later that this meant he couldn't tell them why he'd been in the school.

I had to clean up, I couldn't let on it bothered me, and I had to see her every day until June of 1989. It was

you know, you're right. I'm going to lock up and come home.



**[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2014-10-05 04:05:19](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll see you soon.



**[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2014-10-05 04:18:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Good.

**2014-10-04 20:55:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Minerva McGonagall*



**alt\_poppy**

If you were here, I'd be making my way up to see you now, my box of birthday biscuits in hand, for our celebratory cup of tea. And, of course, we wouldn't mention why it was we were no longer raising a dram to toast your health, though Phineas Nigellus might be depended upon to poke his long nose into the conversation and state the uncomfortable truth.

I don't miss our evenings with old Headmaster Black. He's still there, of course, as I found when I met with Dolohov recently. As smug and snide as ever, not least about the way in which Dolohov is making the job his own.

And he is. I know it's unreasonable to fault him for that, and we do know how much worse it might be, and yet... Minerva, he's given the children a duelling course, and already I'm patching up the wounded. Not only that, but he's brought Desai back here.

If anything, she's more potent, a greater threat to them. And it does give me pause... does Dolohov... or Voldemort... have some inkling that they may be forced into the field again to defend what they control? Why else would they want her here? Here where she can poach the most promising young wands and prepare them for martyrdom.

You know, I'm finding it very hard, accepting that you've gone on. My age showing, I suppose, but I miss you.

I'm having a cup of tea and a biscuit now, and after last rounds, I'll raise a dram in your honour.

Rest well, Minerva.

**2014-10-05 00:03:00**

*Order Only Private message to Tonks*

You know, I realised today while we were all at Grimmauld -- we're halfway through this! Barring disaster -- touch wood -- it's four more months to go until we get to meet the Bap. I can't wait to tell him everything I've been saving up. (Yes, this week I'm convinced he's a he. Told you.)



**alt\_charlie**

And then I thought, you know, you and I haven't talked about whether or not you want me at St M's when it's time, and I was going to ask, only when I thought of it you looked like you were having a good old time of it with Frank. Who I think knows -- at least, I think I remember telling Alice it was all right if she told him, but that whole day or so between Dumbledore talking to us and Beltane is still a bit of a blur -- but I didn't want to interrupt, and then you were having that talk with Jeremy, and -- well, anyway.

It's up to you, either way. I'd like to be there if it's possible, but I can think of half a dozen ways, easy, that it could cause trouble with our various cover stories. Especially if the poor kid winds up looking like a Weasley right out of the gate. I'm afraid you might wind up a bit of a scandal, Mrs Ponds!



**alt\_nymphadora at 2014-10-05 05:27:26**

*(no subject)*

What sort of things have you been saving?

Bea's holding her breath for a little sister, so you might have to fight her on that one.

I'm fairly sure Frank knows, and now Poppy does too, by the way. I figured it'd be best for at least one Healer to know the whole story, in case there's something odd that comes up. She's going to thoroughly cross-examine Dumbledore about the entire business before I head up there for a looking-over, and I'm anticipating some stern looks once I get there.

I'd like you to be there too. In four months, I mean. Really truly. I want Bap to meet dad right off. And if said Bap has lovely bright red Weasley hair, well, let the gossip flow like wine. At the very least, we'll give people something interesting to talk about. (Would they let

Mr Ponds bring the family dog in too? Possibly too much to ask for. Ah well.)



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2014-10-05 05:47:48**

*(no subject)*

Oh, little things here and there. I was down at the Burrow a few weekends ago helping Mum harvest the apples, for instance, and I thought back to when I was young and Mum taught me how to recognise the apples that were ready for picking -- which made me think of when Bill and I would climb the trees to get the ones at the top, which made me think of all the times Dad would come out and see us climbing the trees, out onto the branches Mum kept telling us not to trust our weight to I mean, and how he'd shake his head and sigh but only cast a feather-fall charm on us both and let us keep going. Which made me think of all the things I'm going to let the Bap get away with, and how I want to promise him that I'll let him have as many adventures as he wants, he just has to listen to me when I tell him No to something for safety. That kind of thing. I've got a whole raft of promises saved up, and tonnes of stories about Dad to tell him. Even a few stories about Percy, the poor bastard.

(And I had a nice long talk with Sasha and Alex last week about safety-proofing around dragons -- Sasha made us all learn every charm in the book when the twins started walking, but I told her a friend was preggers and I'd probably wind up babysitting a lot, so could we go over it all again. She had a lot of useful tips.)

That was smart about telling Poppy, but oh, the looks you're going to get. And I'd love to be a fly on the wall when she lights into Dumbledore about the whole thing. (Was it just me, or was he looking particularly worn down today, and being more Dumbledoreish than usual? He cornered Snape for a nice long talk, did you see? They both looked dead grim. Well, more grim than Snape usually looks.)

And I'm glad you want me there, because I'd really like to be there. I still can't get over the fact that we made a person!

Oh -- and, I'm off shift on Tuesday this week. Think you can win free? The leaves up here are half turned and it's awfully beautiful. We could take a picnic and go wandering around the grounds of the castle. You look like you could use a bit of an adventure.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-05 06:06:12](#)**  
(no subject)

I saw, yeah. I hope to steer clear of whatever they've got brewing. It doesn't look particularly pleasant. Given the choice, I'd rather get Poppy's looks any day.

And yes, oh yes, oh very much yes. Barring sudden shift changes, I ought to be able to carve some time. I've been going back and forth between the same three places every day for too long in a row, and it's been making me itchy.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-05 06:09:33](#)**  
(no subject)

D'you know, you really are going to be fantastic at this father business. I can just tell.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-05 06:29:54](#)**  
(no subject)

D'you really think so? That's a relief. Not that I was worried I'd be bad at it, not exactly, only ... well, we've talked about the middle of the night worries. And they're not real worries. It's not like I really think I'm going to turn out to be, oh, like Farty the Grouch would be as a father. But it's so queer to think that in another four months there'll be a tiny human in the world who's half me and half you, and I'll be a quarter of the people raising him and responsible for his everything.

I've been thinking lately about how much I miss Dad, and how much I'd like to talk to him about this. Ask him how he felt when Mum was pregnant with Bill and he was getting ready to be a father for the first time himself. I feel like he would have had so many useful things to tell me. I've already realised that I'm thinking back to how he was with us whenever I try to picture being a father.

But I reckon, the best thing to do is to just love the damn kid senseless, and work out everything from there. And I already do. Love him to bits, I mean. I'm so looking forward to meeting him.

And Tuesday it is, then.

**2014-10-05 13:46:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Tim Clark*



**alt\_hermione**

Thanks for coming, yesterday. I know you didn't know her at all, but it meant something that you wanted to be there, anyway.

Did people come and talk to you? I mean, not about Professor McGonagall but about other things. I know you talked to Alice and Frank, and I thought I saw Sirius talking to you for a while. He's brilliant, isn't he? And Mr Lupin's one of the first people who ever took an interest in my comfort, I'll always be ever so grateful about that. Well, we've talked about that before, haven't we! Anyway. It's too bad so few our age could be there, but at least with me and Draco and Terry and Colin and you and Sarah and Dudley, it's not as if there are no younger people.

By the way, I think the cartography project is brilliant and I'm sure it'll be helpful for the Zulu companies. And for us, too, when we're looking for places that Voldemort might have hidden the artefacts.

Oh, about that.... Our latest theory is that he might have hidden something in the orphanage where he grew up (he grew up in an orphanage, did I tell you?) or near the site where it was or something. Only we don't have any idea where that was, other than New London. Do you have any sources from before that might list places we could research? That would be immensely useful.

You don't have to worry about me going out, either. I mean, it's nice that you do but we've tested our disguises a few times now and it's fooled everyone we've met.

Anyway, I hope you weren't too bored or felt too left out. But I'm glad you were along.



**2014-10-05 20:49:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Albus Dumbledore*

Albus. You are a difficult man to catch in person, so let me see whether you might respond to a written approach.



**alt\_poppy**

I need to consult with you.

---



**alt\_albus at 2014-10-06 01:55:11**  
(no subject)

On what topic, dear lady?

I have been rather busy this weekend, with one thing and another.



**alt\_poppy at 2014-10-06 02:02:10**  
(no subject)

Well, then, I've yet another to add before it's done.

Nymphadora Tonks has asked that I examine her to be sure that all is well with her pregnancy because she has reason to think that it might be extraordinary in certain respects that do not bear sharing with her Healer in St M's antenatal service.

I need you to tell me what sort of rite she and Charlie Weasley carried out on Beltane that resulted in her being pregnant. And then perhaps I will have further questions about what range of outcomes or surprises might be expected to ensue as that pregnancy follows its course.



**alt\_albus at 2014-10-06 02:18:35**  
(no subject)

That will not be relevant for months yet. There are quite a few other matters of greater urgency at the moment.

Since you ask, however.

The ritual itself may or may not have worked, one cannot tell until there is a child. I do have some experience in this area, and the last paired experiment has apparently worked well enough.

If there is a healthy child, and if I have adequately translated the perceptions of both parties - shades of green, scents of flowers, and numbers of sides in a geometric construction being rather more nuanced than academic magical research prefers due to the varied perceptions of individuals - then there are better than even odds that a child conceived in such a ritual might be useful in removing at least one layer of wards.

The pregnancy itself should present no particular challenges, though I suppose if you wish to consult, I am sure Alice would be obliging with additional details under the circumstances (since dear Lily, alas, can not assist.)

Is that sufficient?



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-06 02:35:31](#)**

*(no subject)*

...

You are telling me you've meddled in this way before? With Alice and Frank and James and Lily.

What was the aim in that instance, may I ask? Not wards.

Wards? What on earth have babies and wards to do with one another?

And pairs--'the last paired experiment' Does that mean there've been others that were not in pairs? since? prior? both? And does that indicate that this time we're dealing not only with Nymphadora and Charlie but with some other couple? In that case who?

Relevant.

Relevant?

Albus, that's well and good for you to say as you're not the one with a child growing inside your body who may or may not be...

extraordinary in some respect that could produce unexpected, awkward, alarming, unhealthy, or otherwise abnormal twists in the course of things between now and birth, during birth, or thereafter. She's a right to know what could happen and to have well-founded advice on what's likely to happen. If I tell her that what's likely is that nothing will be out of the ordinary, I should like to make that promise from a position of knowledge. If I cannot make offer that reassurance in good faith, I will not, but you know the result will be to introduce worry into the equation. Worry respects neither the sides of a geometric construction, the possible shades of green, nor the scent of flowers.



[alt\\_albus](#) at [2014-10-06 02:54:14](#)

*(no subject)*

Given Sybil's most - specific - utterances, I am sure you can make sense of the timing of the two children in question. (Which is to say, that has not come to fruition yet, but it has also not yet failed. Magic on this scale is rather inexact.)

As to the wards, the theory is that if one takes a particular magic on a specific harmonic frequency, and one takes other potent acts of magic (children conceived harnessing the energies of Beltane and particularly positions near the leys), the result might allow for adjustment of the leys, the wards, or other such things.

As to the other couple, I suppose I could mention it to them. You would want me to respect their confidentiality, surely.

For your last, it is simply an expansion of the potential of the moment that anyone might harness, done consciously. An ancient tradition, in some places, that day and that act. Thousands of children born such, I'm sure. There is a chance the child might be more sensitive to some kinds of magic - to the leys, in this case, most likely. But nothing that should affect the mother or child notably before birth.

Really, dear lady, I would have mentioned such a thing at least briefly when I made the request of them, if there might be a significant concern.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-06 03:13:01](#)**  
(no subject)

The Prophecy.

You mean to say that the child (children... you're saying that Neville Longbottom is also a child of that Prophecy?) Paracelsus. You're saying that they weren't yet conceived when Sybil had her prophetic turn? It was before-? And you-?

Albus Dumbledore.

Well. Wards seem a small target by comparison. Scarcely worthy of your efforts.

The mind boggles.

All right, then. Given all this.

Is there any reason to think that Nymphadora might suffer any complication or symptoms at Samhain? Or at any time were she to approach a ley? Any ley? Certain leys? What about the disturbances that have occurred when these ward stones, these octobori, have been added to the set. They're close to finishing that set, aren't they? According to what we've been able to glean of their plans? I confess I've forgotten the details of Mr Stretton's report.

Or-. Oh, Albus. Which wards are you aiming for? You don't plan to sacrifice this child, these children, to counter the blood rite that created the Irish wards? A mother was killed to create those. A child to undo them? No. Surely not.



**[alt\\_albus](#) at [2014-10-06 03:23:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Children, indeed.

Born in love, and choice. We know rather little, all told, of the great magics that hem us in, but it has seemed to me that a child of love and desire might do a great deal to act against magics born in fear and death.

I had in mind the Octobori stones, in particular, but possibly also the wards set in 83.

As to Nymphadora, I do not think Samhain will produce any particular unwanted effects, if she has not experienced them to date. I have been endeavouring not to bias her experience (and it is not as if this is her first child, I trust she will inquire if there is something unexpected).

Though it is fortunate that New London is not particularly near any of the octobori sites, really.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-06 03:36:38](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know what has led her to ask to see me. It's possible she has had some reason for concern. I will know more when I've seen her. And I suppose you've given me enough to inform my examination.

So long as she doesn't offer to assist with the surveillance of the Octobori, then?

And, yes, I will consider what you're suggesting about not prejudicing her expectations.

Thank you, Albus.

Have you had anything from our friends in Dorset? Any news of your salvage operation?



**[alt\\_albus](#) at [2014-10-06 03:44:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I visited our friends in Dorset this afternoon. They have, indeed, retrieved it, and I left it safe with Severus earlier this evening. I have some further research left to do, from today's tests, but it seems worth the effort of retrieving it at the very least, and I hope a great deal more.

(Anna is delighted with the skrewts, I gather.)

It would be rather simpler if we had kept one of the horcruxes for testing, but that does present complications in several directions.

As to the rest, I will make you a copy of my notes, if it will ease your concerns, though there is a great deal of shorthand amongst them.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-06 03:52:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, that's excellent news! And explains why I had no success, knocking on your chamber door at several points today. My congratulations on obtaining the thing. May it be as effective as you hope.

(Anna is a piece of work. I'm pleased that she's pleased.)

And, yes, please. I would appreciate any documentation you're able to share. The threat of your shorthand doesn't frighten me, old man.



**[alt\\_albus](#) at [2014-10-06 03:58:50](#)**

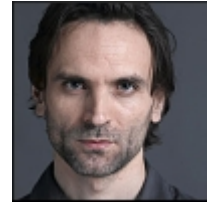
*(no subject)*

I will have the notes for you tomorrow evening, if you wish to come by.

And we will see what comes of the stone.

**2014-10-06 09:44:00**

*Private message to Mrs. Philip  
Greengrass*



**alt\_rodolphus**

Forgive me if I skip the pretense of a preamble, but there's a matter of importance I need to discuss with you in person, as soon as you are able. I suggest we meet at my ancestral home. Let me know when your schedule permits, and I will prepare the floo for your arrival.

Rodolphus Lestranger

**2014-10-06 10:17:00**

*Private message to Mr C Weasley*

Mr Weasley,

Allow me to begin by thanking you once again for agreeing to speak at Hogwarts' lecture series. Professor Sinistra, who is a dear friend, was most complimentary of your ability to simultaneously inform and entertain the YPL students about your profession; you were one of the first names that she provided when I solicited her input about the lineup of visitors.



**alt\_antonin**

I know that we had arranged for you to speak on 23 November. However, the speaker I had arranged for this upcoming Sunday, 12 October, has had a sudden conflict. Would you be available to take her place, or would that not be sufficient preparatory time for you to assemble your material?

Regards,  
Antonin Dolohov, Headmaster



**alt\_charlie** at **2014-10-06 15:38:34**  
(no subject)

This Sunday? Yes, I could possibly do that, but in order for me to be certain I'll need to talk to Director Higgs about switching a shift -- I'm scheduled on the Sunday-to-Monday overnight. I'll speak to him and let you know as soon as possible.

I hope the woman who was scheduled to speak this weekend is all right. If she was looking forward to this as much as I have been, having to cancel must be a great disappointment.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-06 15:43:45**  
(no subject)

If it is a simple matter of a schedule conflict, I will be happy to intercede on your behalf with Higgs; I shall floo him after lunch. I appreciate your flexibility a great deal.



And I'm certain Ms Forney would appreciate your well-wishes. She has been unavoidably detained, and even if the situation is readily resolved, I am certain she will have other things on her mind. Still, I am certain the students and the community will find your lecture an excellent alternate.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-07 19:15:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you for talking to Director Higgs, sir. He let me know last night that my schedule has been adjusted, and so I will be able to speak this Sunday after all.

I did want to check with you about one thing. We have a Hungarian Horntail adolescent here on the reserve who we handraised a few years ago, and while he's not tame, he's very used to the presence of humans. Subject to your approval, I had thought that if I can find two or three other dragonkeepers able to help me transport him, I might bring him along to exhibit.

A dragon on the front lawn is not something you'd like to find out on Sunday for the first time, though, so I wanted to make sure you wouldn't object. I am confident it would be safe for onlookers, as long as we establish a minimum distance people can't go past.

If you think it would be too difficult or dangerous, of course, I am happy to simply lecture instead.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-07 19:32:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Send me a brief summary of what you would require, and I shall see if it is possible.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-07 19:33:21](#)**  
(no subject)

All right, sir, I will do.

**2014-10-06 11:44:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Hogwarts*

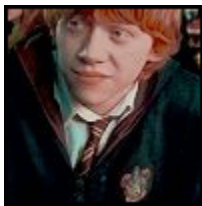
Right, for those of you wondering why Dolohov was writing to me, it's about that Hogwarts lecture series. Don't know if I remembered to say, before, but he wrote to me asking me to do one of the lectures, from when I came in to talk to the YPL a few years back. Professor Sinistra, apparently you said nice things about me? Ta, by the way.



**alt\_charlie**

Anyway, apparently whoever was supposed to speak this Sunday had 'a conflict' and had to cancel, so he wanted to know if I could fill in. (I had been scheduled for late November.) So I guess I'll be seeing you lot at Hogwarts this weekend.

He did say that the woman who'd had to reschedule -- "Ms Forney", he called her -- was "unavoidably detained, and even if the situation is readily resolved, I am certain she will have other things on her mind". Which sure sounds like 'assisting the Aurors with their inquiries' to me. Does the name ring any bells for anyone? It sounds familiar to me, but I can't quite place it.



**alt\_ron at 2014-10-06 16:14:11**

*(no subject)*

Brilliant! We'll have to make sure there's a proper heckling section for you at the front of the room!

Forney could be Delia Forney. She's an investigator in the department. Has a kid here at school, too.



**alt\_charlie at 2014-10-06 17:12:30**

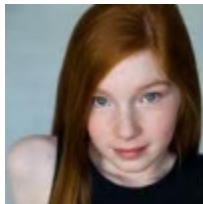
*(no subject)*

Right! That's where I've heard the name before, from you lot talking about MLE stuff.

Well. At least it isn't that whoever was supposed to be lecturing is rotting in a cell somewhere. More likely to be making other people do the rotting, I suppose, ugh. Still, if it is that Forney, it could mean there's something big about to go down. Rachel, Bill, Jeremy, keep your ears to the ground? And watch your

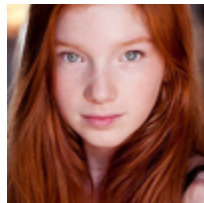
backs. Just in case.

And yes, it'll be nice to see you and Ginny, and the rest of you lot. But if you heckle me, don't think I won't use you as a target for demonstrating how we immobilize dragons who need their teeth cleaned!



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-06 18:46:30](#)**  
(no subject)

I work with Delia a little on Prefect rounds, and she's in our Tea. I'll see if I can pick up anything from her.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-08 03:41:45](#)**  
(no subject)

I mentioned to Delia that I'd heard her mum couldn't make it to the talk, and she shrugged a bit and said that it was some investigation that'd come up, but didn't seem overly worried about it.

It's hard to tell sometimes with Delia, though. She tends to play her cards close.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-08 03:57:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I guess that's the best we can get. At least we can keep an eye out.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-08 04:30:45](#)**  
(no subject)

And thanks for checking, I forgot to say!



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-06 17:14:45](#)**

*Private message to Ron and Ginny*

Y'know, I could probably get away with coming up there earlier in the day, if you wanted to get together for a bit. I feel like I haven't got to spend hardly any time with you two for ages. We'd have to be all proper and aboveboard about things, but it might be nice to have a picnic lunch out by the Lake or something.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-10-06 19:04:49](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron and Ginny*

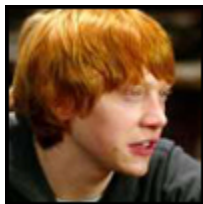
Oh, YES please! It's fine if we'll have to be all proper, it'll still be nice to see you.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-07 18:57:07](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron and Ginny*

I'll bring the lunch, then, and we can spend a bit of time.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-06 19:20:50](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron and Ginny*

Wizard.

Do you want us to arrange a hamper from the elves or are you saying you'll bring along something better?

And, oh. Say. When you came before you brought some little model dragons that really shot fire from their snouts and flapped their wings and roared. If you bring those again, everyone will love it. You've kind of got to come through with something dead wizard if you're going to top Mr Lestrangle's artefacts.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-07 19:01:57](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron and Ginny*

I'll bring lunch. Maybe I'll ask Mum to pack a hamper! Anything in particular you'd like?

Lestranger's lecture was all that, then? I'll see what I can do. Maybe I'll check with Dolohov and see if he'd object to me bringing György down with me. (He's the Horntail we had to hand-raise a few years back. He's not tame, dragons don't domesticate, but he can generally be counted on to not set bystanders on fire, at least.)



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-06 18:14:16](#)**

*(no subject)*

Welcome, and it was all quite true.

Your first time, it was such a relief to have a not at all obviously political speaker, and you were so very engaging and funny, and everyone talked about it for ages.

(I suppose dragons are rather more political than I'd realised then, mind. But it's really rather hard to find suitable speakers without politics being involved somewhere.)



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-07 19:02:46](#)**

*(no subject)*

Ha. Yes, everything's politics if you scratch it deeply enough, isn't it?

But cheers. I'll do my best to pull off a repeat performance.

**2014-10-06 12:05:00**

*Private Message to Parvati*

Pavs, I got your letter!

Yes, it would be spectacularly nift if you could come visit. The first Hogsmeade day is the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**alt\_padma**

Things here are--all right. Being on the Council is really different from *trying* to be on the Council. It would have been so much easier to be Head Girl on top of it all, and Seamus really ought to have been Head Boy, because right now it's so awkward. I mean, Daphs tries, but she's far too concerned about everyone getting on together and not enough about maintaining discipline. There've been all these impossibly horrid incidents among the lower years, I mean, roommates who always got along suddenly fighting and squabbling about all sorts of things. And Lines of course just makes them recite *poetry* as a punishment (honestly, does he think they'll be so embarrassed they'll be afraid to make waves again? Does he even realise that *he's* the one people are laughing at?), and Daphne's so busy giving herself airs that she hardly notices when anything else is going on.

If Seamus and I had been Heads, we could have really showed the lower years what's what. We're not afraid to use Crucio if it's called for, you know? But the thing is, old Doves made his choice, so he clearly thinks it's beneath the two of us to worry about petty infighting at school.

He opened this duelling studio--well, I'm sure you saw the announcement--and Seamus and Professor Desai and even Doves himself have made it abundantly clear that I need loads of work. Imagine, I have to assign myself my own homework! It's really odd, and Seamus noticed too, how many people in our Defence and Noble Arts lessons are much better fighters than we would have thought. Well, you were in Gryffindor: Was Bundy ever all that? I know she's a pet of Weasel's but seriously, would you have thought she'd be top of the class, just from CCF? I suppose some people just take to it more than others. Anyway, Seamus seems to think we might be called upon to leave school now and then and help enforce Our Lord's peace, so I'm going to be practising loads in there. Between that and preparing for N.E.W.T.s, I'm almost glad I'm not Head Girl--though of course, if I *were*, I'd have the power to arrange things so that I had more help and more time to fit everything in as a result. (Actually, it's not a bad

idea to see if I can get some of the younger ones to help, just based on my status as a Councilwitch--I mean, not with schoolwork, obviously, but all the other little things I need, you know, like making sure the bathroom's available whenever I need it or running to the library if I need a book, things like that.)

Oh, anyway, enough about all that. I want to hear how everything is going. I mean, you said Inderpal's good to you (and that's amazing about the clothes and all), but--are you sure he can afford everything? And all those trips to shops here and there.... Well, I'm sure he has contacts all over the realm, I mean, after all, he's always looking for new bands and personalities and such for the wireless programmes. So I don't think you should be so concerned if he takes you to Bath on Tuesday and Boston on Friday. Honestly, he's probably still just trying to impress you.

What does Mum have to say about all the expense? Have you talked to her?

But other than loads of travelling, you're happy? I mean, really happy?

Well, anyway, come to Hogsmeade and we'll catch up.

Love from,

Pads



**2014-10-06 14:05:00**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Miss Patil, I've had my eye on you a bit since arriving. It's not often I get a new sister in Our Lord's service -- and one so young. I think your youth might have attracted a bit more comment if it weren't for Miss Lestrange.



**alt\_savitha**

You remind me of some of the students I taught years ago -- some Ravenclaws, some Slytherins, all talented.

Auror Sandoval sponsored both you and Hydra Lestrange, didn't she? She must have been positively delighted with your success.

---



**alt\_padma** at **2014-10-06 19:32:43**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Professor.

Lana sponsored me, yes. And I'm ever so glad she did.

But I suppose compared to Hydra and Seamus, I'm the one everyone's surprised to find on the Council. I'm sure you and Professor Dolohov are just as worried as Seamus is about whether I'll be able to hold up to Our Lord's expectations. I just want you all to know that I'm not going to disappoint Him or Lana or any of you.



**alt\_savitha** at **2014-10-06 19:48:34**  
(no subject)

My dear, I'm confident you won't disappoint anyone.

From what I've seen, your scholastic talents are outstanding; your leadership among your peers is unquestionable; your loyalty to Our Lord unshakable.

Let me ask you something: what are your plans after you leave school? Serving on the Council is rarely the only thing a witch does, especially when she is young and energetic. Have you a particular goal in mind?



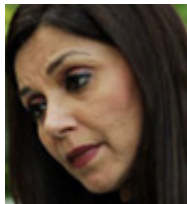


**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-07 01:27:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Before my O.W.L.s, I really wanted to be a Potioneer, and I still enjoy Potioneering, but lately I've been thinking more about what I could do what would be really innovative, you know, really helpful for the whole Protectorate. My brother Haruman's a Healer and he's always talking about ailments that need cures, and how Potions might offer the solutions. But that's the sort of thing that could take a lifetime to accomplish. I'd like to be of use right away, if possible.

I know I'm not the right sort to be an Auror, or anything, but there might be some better ways to harness and make use of the muggle population, without always having to be so ~~afraid~~ concerned that they'll revolt. I dunno, maybe some kind of culling or breeding programme. I mean, not that I want to spend my life surrounded by filthy muggles, but maybe something like a Ministry post that oversees the camps. Or an Unspeakable, with a special focus on making muggles more docile, or something like that.

Mostly I just want to serve to the best of my abilities, however that might be.



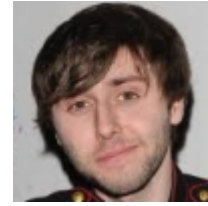
**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-07 04:00:10](#)**  
(no subject)

I've no doubt you'll be outstanding at whichever you choose, but you're starting to run a bit short of time to make up your mind.

My dear, why don't you stop by my office some afternoon this week, after classes have finished for the day. We can have a nice chat.

**2014-10-06 20:45:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*



**alt\_justin**

Daphs,

I say, smashing job convincing the Swangrove twins to leave Tatterson alone. Sue and Ernie mentioned their suspicion that someone had been harassing her, but Sue hadn't been able to get the girl to admit there was anything amiss. I hope they were well contrite about it, what. More to the point, I bally well hope they've learned not to cross you again.

Listen, sorry to disturb, but I wonder if you've ever heard your sister Astoria indicate she might fancy any of the chaps in the year below ours? Archer or Cuthbert, or anyone? Smith thought she might have already gone out with a few Cuthbert but he wasn't certain.

Oh, by the way, have you been cleared for the duelling salle? I've discovered a jolly intriguing setting on one of the pells that makes training on them much more effective. I thought I might show the lot of the 'Juniors' who are cleared. I say, I'm well certain Professor Dolohov meant it to only be available to advanced duellists but I daresay you, Sally-Anne and Sue would benefit from it.

-Justin



**alt\_daphne at 2014-10-07 02:19:26**  
*(no subject)*

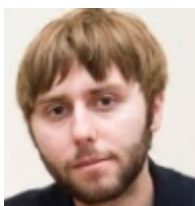
I think "contrite" is a bit too much to hope for, given those two. I believe they were underestimating my experience in dealing with spirited and problematic young girls, but they shan't make the same mistake again.

Oh, Astoria and boys? I tend to go deaf when she brings them up, because it usually entails endless declarations on who, of late, has earned her approval or disapproval. You might ask Queenie, as she sometimes hangs on Astoria's every word. Only, why might you care about who Astoria fancies?

Oh, no. She's *bothering* you, isn't she?

I am sorry, Justin. I'm afraid she's got my mother's sensibilities when it comes to men. She has a rather impossible ideal in mind, and when she thinks she's found the living embodiment of it, she pursues it with vigour. She also no doubt believes that any specimen can be tempted, so long as one finds the proper lure. That's what she did with Cuthbert, in fact. She admired his romantic overtures with Celia Thompson so much that she fancied him for herself, and even convinced Cuthbert that Celia didn't appreciate him properly (which was perhaps true). So, Cuthbert broke things off with Celia to see Astoria, and in no time at all she'd gone and found some trifling thing that disqualified him from her affections. I imagine Cuthbert was left reeling.

Oh, but I do plan on gaining clearance for the salle, only with one thing and another I haven't yet had time. I have it written down for Wednesday, though. Should I try to squeeze it in tomorrow?

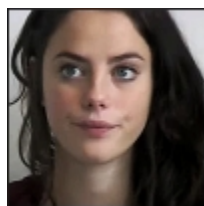


**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-07 02:30:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I shouldn't say *bothering*, no, not at all. But--well, now you mention it she *has* been making her interest rather plain. It's no trouble, however; I'm well capable of withstanding her overtures.

If you've already planned to test for clearance, what, then there's no need to rush. One day will make no difference. I say, let me know when you've passed the entrance test and I'll show you round the place whenever you like.

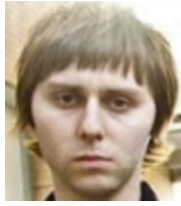
-Justin



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-07 02:39:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, you might just try dating her for a little while. In time she's bound to unearth some flaw that she can't bear to live with, and then she'll drop you flat.

Alright, I'll let you know. Thank you for the offer!



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-07 02:48:24](#)**  
(no subject)

And thank you for the advice, what, but I'm not in the habit of abusing a young lady's affections in order to deliberately cause her dissatisfaction. That would be dashed churlish from start to finish.

Surely it's best to let her tire of a hopeless pursuit.

-J



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-07 03:00:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Alright. But it's likely that very attitude that drew her to you from the start.

**2014-10-06 21:18:00**

*Private Message to R Lestrangle*

See you've written VG.

Suspect that's more than striking up renewed acquaintance.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Have the report on your sample, then?

---



**alt\_rodolphus** at **2014-10-07 02:36:16**  
(no subject)

"Renewed" in a far more literal sense than one usually sees.

She came for afternoon tea at L'Estrange and quite the conversation was had. Apparently, Raz sought out Fletcher's initial evaluation at her insistence. She was quite sure that the times and dates pointed to Raz as the father, and was surprised when the result was negative. Perhaps disappointed, too, if I'm to judge by her eagerness to hear the results of Fletcher's new report.

So indeed, Raz is father of the eldest Greengrass girl.



**alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-10-07 02:43:22**  
(no subject)

Are you pleased with that news?

Prepared to deal with Victoriana?

Which of you plans to communicate the news to the girl? Or do you intend to?



**alt\_rodolphus** at **2014-10-07 02:59:00**  
(no subject)

I am pleased that my brother died having done his duty to the Lestrangle name. As to the girl, I hardly know her well enough to be pleased that it's her specifically, but a Lestrangle/Montague pairing is hardly objectionable, particularly when I remember that the

barmaid in Hogsmeade and a number of halfbloods were candidates.

Victoriana won't be a problem, unless she sees fit to make herself a problem.

She did request some time to share the news with her husband. I believe that once the giddiness of her personal triumph passed she was struck with the realisation that this could deal a significant blow to her happy home in Belgravia.

I gave her until the end of the week. That leaves me ample time to meet with my solicitors. After that, we'll discuss options for how the girl is to be informed.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-07 03:19:39](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Congratulations, then.

Hope the sequel is as you'd have it.

**2014-10-07 06:09:00**

*Order Only : Private message to Raz*

I've started a message so many times, thinking you're just somewhere else, before I remember you're not. That it will remind people you're gone. But I promised myself, if I made it this far, I'd let myself write.

**alt\_sinistra**

How did my sky change so much, so fast? I keep doing arithmancy, the patterns. Three years ago today, you thought Barty was dead, and we ended up in your bed, and everything shifted for the best.

975 days from then to that last lazy morning, before - before. (Minus the weeks Madam Toad stole.) 53 weeks to the day that we were married. 121 days since he killed you. Four months.

I miss so much, love. How you could change the world for me in a sentence. Your laugh. That you always took me seriously, what I thought, what I cared about. Curling up to mark on the couch, just together. Watching you fly or duel, when you were most free. The stolen moments, when there was nothing but us. How you grew into teaching. Nearly all of it. (I don't miss dinners with your family one bit.)

I understand you better now. Things I didn't, before. The black despair, how it's impossible to get out of bed, impossible to sleep, so hard to think or feel anything but wild fury. Dreaming you're there and then waking and losing you all over again. Hearing you call out 'Rory' and turning round, and you're never there.

There are days I stay in my tower for supper, because there's Lana. Who has husband *and* lover (you were right, your brother having someone), and all the things I don't and won't and can't have again and she doesn't seem to value any of it. Savitha, how her class - your class - has no Teddy Nott in it, and how that changes everything, and how she hasn't been broken and battered by her loyalty. Seeing everyone's lives go on, and all I can do is keep from drowning in it.

I worry that you hate me for what I chose. (Are you even there? Is Tosha right, and there's something beyond this world? ~~I'm glad you're not a ghost, I don't think I could bear~~)

When they asked me, Remus and Poppy and Pomona, I needed to say

yes. But I didn't know why. Then they told me about Harry and Draco and Hydra, and this has to be the right choice. The only possible one. (I keep reading your letter, over and over. What you wanted. You have so much to be proud of, with Harry, and we had no idea.)

They take care of each other. Not like the Council. Not like your family.

The oddest people have been so kind. Alice, so like I remembered from school, not the monster the papers turned her into. In some entirely different world, I think you and Frank would have been good friends, your skill and your fierceness to teach and protect, both. Muggles and Muggleborns, who have all the reasons to fear me or loathe me or both. But Regina likes that I've a scientific mind, and Cecilia's glad I was kind to her daughter, and I don't know how they do that. (And they're both so clever and capable, and I feel so selfish, all they've lost.)

I guess that's why I'm doing this. So that other women don't lose other husbands and other children. So that there's a better world for our students. (And all the students we didn't get to have.) So that there's somewhere that honours loyalty, not curses it to shattered bits.

And - well. I don't have much to lose now. If I get it wrong, maybe I get to see you again sooner than later.

I don't regret loving you. Not ever. I keep holding onto all the ways you loved me. Kept me as safe as you could. Thought about what that meant. Wand holster and training and brooms and plans and all.

I just wish we'd had more time.

Love you, more than stars.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-09 21:04:22](#)**

*(no subject)*

Raz, love. The seventh years were being so very "Will that be on the NEWT?" at me today, and I just -

So many people think my field's worthless. Oh, maybe there should be a couple of astronomers, to do calculations for potioneers and herbologists and a few people buried in Mysteries. But that the rest of it's meaningless.



And I just keep looking up this week - well, all the weeks since I was five, but especially this week - and thinking there's got to be more.

Sending books to Moddey Dhoo. Mum helped. Getting copies of things that no one would question my wanting. Charms and runes and arithmancy. The new astronomy text. (With all the annotations I could magic in the margins, which is rather a lot. I hope they make sense.) My class notes, all through to my NEWTs, and my curriculum notes, and yours, and the bits I've gotten from conversations during the years. Some history. Some fiction.

Because there's people who want to learn there. Who can't. Because other people think that learning's just about blood. Not interest or skill or putting the work in. That they can strangle teaching and learning and knowing. Being curious, in the right ways.

You never did, sweetheart, and it's one of the reasons I love you. And it's one of the reasons I can't turn away from Tosha. Because he understands the learning being about more than marks and utility. Unlike some people. (Sorry. Seventh years again.)

The rest of me feels bloody useless this week, and last week, and the week before. And probably before that, but my memory's foggy and gone. I'm struggling with some of the Octoboros notes, and my head spins when I look at them, and I'm sure Dai could sort me out, but I can't ask him.

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.

**2014-10-07 17:07:00**

*Private Message to P Marsh and  
Kisnah*



**alt\_rookwood**

The new courier, Crainewold is dead. Healer O'Meara reports that upon arrival at Site ε Crainewold was unable to walk without staggering. After an hour of rest she began incoherently babbling. They flooded at ten this morning and were told by the secretary that Kisnah was unavailable. Two hours later convulsions began. You were still unavailable. Where exactly were you today that you were unavailable to consult on your research during its first testing on a witch? Various potions and the usual spells were tried. She died shortly before four.

In reviewing your report on the potion, I note that you say "three rats survived with no lasting effects". Exactly how many died after being sent across the wards? How many had "lasting effects" and what were they? If your answers don't satisfy, I'll meet you at the apparation point with a dose of your 'new miracle potion' tomorrow at ten sharp.

**2014-10-07 18:32:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Stebs and Wayne*



**alt\_frank**

you both are really making leaps and strides these past few weeks. you gave quigley and creevey quite the workout over the weekend. just wanted to let you know that I can tell you've been putting in the effort, and it really shows. nice work.

stebbs, you've got plenty of strength to work with, and pack a hell of a punch, just keep drilling with your agility exercises and combinations. wayne, you navigate spaces really well, just remember, you won't always be able to dodge -- sometimes, you'll just have to plant and fight, and when you get in that position, you'll want to make it count.

I was wondering if either of you wanted to swing by saltash for a null field training sometime. let me know if you're interested. I think it'd be worth your while.

and quigley wanted to pass along that he bets you each a jar of sherwood's finest home brew that he'll get more hits than you do next time around. see that he pays up, lads.

**2014-10-08 21:09:00**

*Duelling Salle*

Right, I know everyone's excited about it. As they should be.



But crossing off someone's name from the sign-ups and writing in your own? Not quidditch.

**alt\_harry**

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**alt\_padma** at **2014-10-09 02:38:16**

*Private Message to Marvolo*

If you're talking about me and Seamus, we didn't cross anyone off. Preece crossed his *own* name off because he wasn't feeling well.



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-09 02:41:28**

*Re: Private Message to Marvolo*

That's good to know. I wasn't talking about you, though.



**alt\_blaise** at **2014-10-09 03:32:30**

*(no subject)*

Who did that?

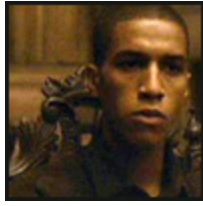


**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-09 03:38:03**

*(no subject)*

Vince and Greg.

They crossed off Mandy Brocklehurst.



**[alt\\_blaise](#) at [2014-10-09 03:52:05](#)**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

I take it she was put out about it?

I'll call them on it. Not that they've ever exactly  
shook in their boots when a Prefect's shouted at

them.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-09 04:12:41](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Thanks. I think it's still worth a try.

**2014-10-08 21:55:00**

*Order Only Private message to Alice*

Two weeks ago, Miss Granger informed me that while she and Mr Malfoy were in Greater Hangleton, they found a number of Sleepers, from the initial wave, who had been overlooked by the cleanup crews. Yesterday she and I returned for inspection and for her to show me the site.



**alt\_severus**

We counted one hundred thirteen Sleepers, to my eye distributed roughly as:

Age	№.
0-10	11
11-20	15
21-30	27
31-40	21
41-50	13
51-60	16
61-70	4
70+	6

All ages are approximate and estimated to my best capacity.

With your permission, I propose to select five of the most healthy-appearing young adults of the 21-30 cohort and transport them to Moddey for a more thorough investigation. I believe the risk of that operation to be low; Miss Granger and Mr Malfoy are correct in that the town appears to be deserted and unwatched.

Once we have secured our patients, I will prepare a thorough assessment of the state of our research and we can decide from there how to proceed. The summary: the versions of the antidote we are iterating through at the moment are not yet ready for human trial, but we have solved the toxicity problems and I believe we are close to a version that will either function wholly or not at all, thus reducing the risk of our first human subject sustaining damage or resulting in a

burden of future care. The level of my confidence in that statement vacillates from day to day, of course.

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**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-09 05:39:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

We must do this to be able to move forward, yes?

I know that there will be risk. There always is. I trust your judgement.

They need us, Severus. And Merlin knows, we need them right back.

Do you need any assistance with transportation?



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-10 02:57:21](#)**

*(no subject)*

No, I will enlist Draco and Hermione's help. Tomorrow, or Saturday.

I suggest that you be the one to inform Poppy. If I do it, she will fuss.



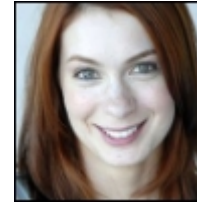
**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-10 03:01:59](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes. Of course.

**[2014-10-08 22:40:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Siz and Arca*



**[alt\\_alice](#)**

Yesterday, we received a rather remarkable gift.

It has been a challenge, cobbling together our store of magical knowledge from old textbooks, the occasional bookstore, and memory. When I opened the crate and saw so many lovely books and materials covering all range of subjects, it was very nearly overwhelming. We feel quite rich indeed.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We'll put the books and notes to good use. The memories Laura and I have of Astronomy and Arithmancy respectively may be quite rusty (and Frank and Jacinda didn't go past OWLs), but Regina has pounced on your notes with eagerness, and has already started pulling and prodding us into filling in the gaps in our knowledge. Fu, Pilar, and Danny have taken it upon themselves to survey for the best place to set up the telescopes, and by summer, we'll have taken our first much-needed steps into integrating those areas into our existing coursework. (Pilar is the most eager by far. She was in utter raptures at your lecture, Siz.) And the other books will be much used and loved as well, I can assure you!

Arca, I'll be passing along some feedback about your programming. It all looks quite solid, and I am very pleased. Initial distribution of the pamphlets will be a bit of a challenge, of course, but well worth our while in the long run, I think. The international sports programme sounds like it'd be just perfect. There might be a little politicking that may need to be done in Aldrich, only because it's important they're fully behind any new initiatives as well, and they're hesitant about devoting airtime to our target demographic, but I think you've made a convincing argument for our need.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-09 21:18:22](#)**

*Private message to Alice*

Sorry, Wednesday into Thursday's my horrible schedule day. I hoped it'd be the right thing. I kept using it as a bribe to make myself get things done.



Letting myself think about the next thing that would fit. (It maybe got a little away from me.)

I just - reading back in the journals, there's a bit about Poppy and her borrowing one of my telescopes, and Hermione and -

The stars belong to everyone. They're much bigger than any of us. Knowledge, the same thing. Getting to have knowledge. I've been thinking about that a lot, this week.

(And thinking about what really matters. One of the telescopes, the student one, was a present from Mum and Dad when I turned nine. The other was from the whole family, when I started my apprenticeship. I've a much better one now, a present from Raz, and haven't been using them. Part of me wants to cling so tightly to things, and the rest of me thinks that's horribly selfish. So, better they get used. Maybe enjoyed.)

Over Christmas hols, maybe I can come out and do a few more classes. The most useful bits, but maybe something just enjoyable, too. The littler ones might like the stories about the constellations from different places, maybe? (I'd say Pilar should write with questions, but I don't entirely trust myself not to leave something out accidentally. But I hope that new astronomy text and the annotations help.)

Mum's so pleased the pamphlets are the right kind of thing. She's struggling, a bit, with keeping things from Dad, though she'd never say so. (She will, mind. Once she gives her word, it's solid. But that's why she doesn't want to be able to go to the secret-kept places.)



**[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-10-09 22:34:11**

*Re: Private message to Alice*

I'd wondered why she was hesitant about it, but didn't want to pry. I can see how that would be difficult all round.

You know, when we first got Moddey started, we were all so immediately focused on survival and safety, and keeping a handful of very young children as happy and healthy (and fed) as we could -- and Merlin, those first few years were hard.

We were in a drafty old ruin, and didn't know anything about

farming or fishing, or how to keep goats and chickens. We only had two wands to work with, and none of us (besides Judith, bless her) had any experience as teachers. I don't think we even thought that far ahead in the beginning of things. It's not easy to imagine that the babies you've taken charge of will eventually need to learn Latin and Herbology and Charms, especially when you barely have enough time to keep on top of the nappies.

It's no Hogwarts, of course. I wish it could be more. But it is the best we can make it, and your gifts will make it better.

We would love to have you over Christmas. I'll have Pilar keep a working list of all her questions that she can show you once you get here.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-09 22:52:35](#)**

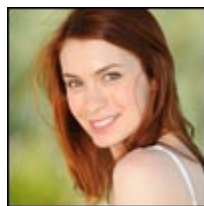
*Re: Private message to Alice*

We're a very badger sort of family, really. (Mum, Dad, all seven of us. My sister Diane's husband's a Ravenclaw, and my eldest nephew, now.)

But practical, too. And Mum doesn't want to do things that'd cause more difficulty, and it's not like they haven't kept some things private before, I know.

I can imagine that was very hard. All the things you'd need to know. All the things you didn't know you'd need to know, too.

I'd like that. At Christmas. And Pilar's questions. And do tell me if there's other things you need, and we can see what we can do.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-10 03:01:19](#)**

*Re: Private message to Alice*

I'm surrounded by Gryffindors, of course. But my children all do have a steady sort of common sense to how they approach things which I'd like to attribute to their having at least a bit of badger

in them too.

I certainly shall pass that along, and will be sure to let you know if there's anything further we need.

**2014-10-08 22:54:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov and N Malfoy*



Productive week.

Batya. Will not be free for our usual. (OL fully aware of the situation.) Sagittarius' revelations continue to pay fruit. Significant fruit. He was pleased enough to send me personally to Azkaban today to make the delivery. After He'd examined the goods.

**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Narcissa. As you know it's rare that any of us accompany prisoners to the island. Special detail handles that. So today was a unique opportunity.

Wish I had good news for you. All we've attempted by way of ameliorating L's accommodations seems to have resulted in little actual benefit. I managed to see the cell, and he does have the linens and warm items you sent, and the candles. His food, though, whatever its quality must be going untouched. He's thin as a wraith. Did not see me, but I had a glimpse of him.

It's grim. We'd insisted he be removed as far as possible from the Dementors' usual paths. Having seen it, I understand now that those were galleons thrown away. There's no place in that infernal prison where their horror does not penetrate. Suspect the candles throw no light at all if he burns them. There are boxes of them stacked unopened in his cell.



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**alt\_narcissa at 2014-10-09 04:28:04**  
(no subject)

But -

I see. Did he ... seem terribly affected, otherwise? His mind, I mean. Or any other - infirmity?

~~This has to stop~~



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-09 04:46:07](#)**  
(no subject)

He looks ill. And careless of his person. Unkempt. He was standing in a courtyard--well, that gives the wrong idea about the space--an open shaft between turnings of the fortress walls; there were two other prisoners present, but none of them made eye contact or seemed at all aware of the others. I'd the impression he wasn't registering any part of the scene around him. And he stood-

He looked cold and frail, despite a thick cardigan.

I was only there a few hours, Narcissa, and I'm still chilled to the bone despite having Tosha's fire stoked and burning as hot as the elf can manage.



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-09 04:52:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Unkempt? Merlin, he so hates to be unshaven. Or slovenly in - in any way.

It's beyond thinking.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-09 04:54:19](#)**  
(no subject)

I wouldn't have believed it without seeing it.



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-09 04:55:08](#)**  
*Private Message to Barty*

I detest this.

Shall I - that is, *may* I come through? To Cottesmore?

I don't think I can bear to be alone tonight.

I'm sorry to be such a burden.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-09 05:02:16](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Barty*

Of course.

Come directly.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-09 04:43:21](#)**

*(no subject)*

I cannot bear to think what he must be suffering.

Perhaps it is time that someone petition Our Lord to show mercy; I would gladly risk His worst displeasure for the smallest chance it might free Lucius.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-09 04:53:35](#)**

*Private Message to Toshenka*

Expect it should be me as I'm the one who witnessed the scene. Don't want you accused of listening to rumours and acting on hearsay.

I'll speak with Him as soon as I'm granted audience again. Of course, there's no guarantee that will be immediate. (Could be tomorrow or not until next week.)

**2014-10-09 18:04:00**

*Hogwarts Lecture Series*

I'd like to thank Councilmember Rodolphus Lestrage again for generously sharing his time and expertise last Sunday. I trust that those of you who attended Councilmember Lestrage's lecture enjoyed it as much as I did; those of you who did not attend missed a lively, entertaining, and informative evening.



 [alt\\_antonin](#)

The next installment in the Hogwarts lecture series will be Sunday, 12 October. Mr Charlie Weasley of the Stornoway Dragon Reserve will be lecturing on dragons and the profession of dragonkeeping.

Mr Weasley has arranged for the exhibition of one of the Reserve's Hungarian Horntail dragons, beginning at 5PM. Those interested should report to the front courtyard for further directions. The lecture itself will begin at 7:30PM in the Hogwarts library. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Great Hall. Again, it is open to any citizen of the Protectorate who wishes to attend, not simply students and their parents.

Our next lecture will be Sunday, 26 October.

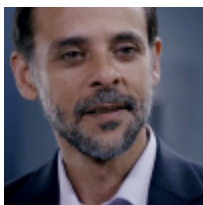


**alt\_crouch\_jr at 2014-10-09 23:16:07**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*

You do know that all the rest of your lecturers are going to cancel. None of them can possibly compete with that circus act.

Will nonetheless be there. (Unless duty demands otherwise.) (Had a small mishap this morning, subduing a pair of traitors.) (All mended now. Mending.)



**alt\_antonin at 2014-10-09 23:20:55**

*Re: Private Message to A Dolohov*

Don't I know it. Fortunately, the next lecture scheduled after this one is quieter. I had scheduled Weasley for later in the run, but Forney cancelled on me, so I had to either move someone up or take the

slot myself. Weasley was the first one who could adjust his schedule.

Please tell me you are not bleeding on the library floor. (Revision: Please tell me you are not bleeding anywhere, not only on the library floor.)



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2014-10-10 14:30:43****

*Re: Private Message to A Dolohov*

Sorry to leave you wondering. No longer bleeding. Anywhere. Cannot say same for the objects of my attention.

(Long night in interrogation.)

(No need to worry about the library.)

**2014-10-09 22:45:00**

*Private Message to Ari Baddock*

Dido said you came looking for me yesterday, after the Wizengamot meeting. Meant to write earlier but more pressing matters took priority.



**alt\_ptolemy**

Well, what is it? Hope you're not thinking I ought to ask Our Lord to promote me over to one of the other offices. This position is fairly important, if for no other reason than it keeps certain secrets out of unwanted hands.

Oh, speaking of secrets: Thicknesse isn't going to back the play you're planning. Don't embarrass yourself by trying.

You see? It's important to stay where we are, Ned and I.

You'd do better to come along when Aunt Narcissa petitions Our Lord again. Had an owl from her this morning. Seems Uncle Lucius is weathering Azkaban a bit worse than expected. You might try your influence within the Wizengamot to get him a proper respite from the Dementors, if you're so contrite about things. Or at least see if you can arrange to have a proper barber in.

It might help if Our Lord realised that even *you* find the circumstances beyond the pale. Don't think He knows you and Lucius had begun to reconcile. At present, that may well work in our favour, so keep it that way, do.

Oh, by the way, checked with Karo and yes, we can stop by on Antonia's birthday. Just for a while, that is. We sent Malcolm and Lucy care parcels, so that ought to hold them until Christmas, don't you think?



**2014-10-09 22:57:00**

*Order Only Private message to Draco and Hermione*



**alt\_severus**

I have spoken to Alice about the Sleepers, and she has agreed to allow me to set up at Moddey. I could use your assistance in choosing and transporting the patients. Tomorrow, or Saturday — soonest begun is soonest done.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-10-10 03:18:54**  
(no subject)

You used a nursery rhyme? A nursery rhyme.

Tomorrow's fine.

(Seriously, don't do that. It sounds like something La Umbridge would have said.)



**alt\_severus** at **2014-10-10 03:53:05**  
(no subject)

....my apologies. I had not realised I had done so. Apparently Greater Hangleton is similar enough to where I grew up to bestir memories; that was a favourite saying of my mother's.

Let us plan on departing after breakfast, then.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-10-10 03:59:32**  
(no subject)

It's a very mother-ish phrase, isn't it? I didn't realise you *had* a--I mean, I don't think of you and immediately think about what sort of mother you had.

I mean, Sirius's mum, that portrait gets going and, well, it makes loads of things about Sirius make more sense.

But in your case, it's--

I'm sorry. I don't mean to be rude or to pry. It's just not something I ever expected you to talk about. I mean, of course you had a mother but--

Well, I'll just stop now. After breakfast is fine.

(I'd have crossed all that out but I know you'll see all the ink and wonder what I blotted out anyway.)



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-10 04:22:59](#)**

*(no subject)*

You need not apologise; had I wished for you not to continue that line of conversation I would not have brought it up in the first place.

For all that my mother made multiple poor life decisions, she did do her best for me, poor though her best might have been sometimes. In that, at least, I was luckier than Black, though I would stake my father against his mother any day. Perhaps they are entertaining each other as they both burn in hell.

Forgive me. I am clearly more than a bit maudlin tonight. I had thought to take out my frustrations in the kitchen, should Black's elf not protest again; if you would care to join me I would not find the company unwelcome.



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-10 04:37:43](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm sure Kreacher's asleep. Though if you start clattering about he'll probably wake up and fuss.

I'll come down.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-10 03:19:31](#)**

*(no subject)*

Count me in.



**alt\_severus** at **2014-10-10 03:54:17**  
*(no subject)*

After breakfast, then. I have told Alice to expect me to bring five of the young and healthy-looking adults; we will likely need to take two trips.

**2014-10-11 21:19:00**

*Private Message to Karo Moon*

Lunch was lovely. It feels like it's been ages, and it was so good to see you. Once we finally get our permits approved, my schedule ought to be a great deal more predictable. The Ministry's really been keeping us waiting, which is so annoying, honestly, it's just a standard approval process that's supposed to be a two week turnaround at most, but lately everything has been taking twice as long to get processed.



**alt\_penelope**

Anyways. I'm sorry Ptolemy's been such an arse. (I know, I know, he's been having a stressful time at work, and family's always been a sore spot with him, but I still can't believe he said that about your mum, and I don't care how much stress he's under, that's still no excuse.)

I think I can make it for drinks on Thursday after work. Balestra, right? I'll let you know if anything comes up between now and then.

**2014-10-12 00:03:00**

*Order Only Private message to Alice,  
Draco, and Hermione*



**alt\_severus**

As I promised, an accounting of the five newest residents of Moddey. With some diligence towards searching houses and personal effects, we were able to identify all but one of the individuals we selected, and their ages and dates of birth, through such means as Muggle identification papers carried on or near the sleeping person or around the house, though some of the identifications are essentially assumptions:

Patient 1: Robert Smith, age 28  
Patient 2: Elizabeth Smith, age 27  
Patient 3: Joseph Heller, age 22  
Patient 4: unidentified male, mid-20s  
Patient 5: Victoria Barnes, age 26

To the best of my ability to determine, the Smiths are a married couple; I made the decision to bring them both because I did not want to separate them. Likewise, on the off chance we are able to aerosolise the antidote (when it is developed) in much the same fashion as the original potion was, I left notes at each location indicating, to anyone who may come searching for their relocated family members after we are able to wake the village, that they had been removed not by the Protectorate's cleanup teams but by someone who had their best interests in mind. (As foolishly optimistic as that might be.) As I did not wish to give us away to anyone malicious who may visit in the interim, I did not provide any further detail identifying us or where they were taken, only that they would be cared for to the greatest extent possible.

Taking a cue from Muggle hospitals and their practice of identifying patients by providing wristbands with identifying details, each of the patients is now wearing a wristband of worked leather with the name that is our best guess for each of them stamped into the leather.

Hermione, Draco, I must thank you again for your assistance in transporting our unfortunates to Moddey, and in searching their houses and personal effects to identify them.

Alice, I will now spend the next several days attempting to discover as

much as I can about the physical effects of the Sleeper potion. I will not proceed without informing you of our status.

---



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-12 06:12:54](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you, Severus. Draco, Hermione, I very much appreciate your help as well.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-12 20:49:29](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I was talking to Regina about what we were planning, to see what she'd think about it.

She said she'd known it was something we were trying to do, but the reality of actually testing on people was a little difficult to process. She also said that although not everyone would agree with her, she wanted this done, and if Fu had been a sleeper, she would have agreed to have it tested on him. So there's that.

She also said that it's customary for Muggles to call unknown men John Smith, and unknown women Jane Smith. Perhaps we should use a similar custom for our own unknown.

I've also passed along the news to Davidson, with a request not to let others know until we have a greater degree of certainty. He's cautiously on board as well, and, Will being Will, immediately brought it round to review our previous conversations of tactical uses should we prove successful. (He's already generated a list of priority targets, naturally, although the logistics of supplying, arming, and housing give us both headaches.) It's all been hypothetical, of course, as it always has been, it's just more potentially immediate now than it has been before.

I am honestly uncertain of Poppy's reaction, but I've sent what assurances I can, as well as letting her know we're all doing this with eyes wide open about the possible risks. We'll see.

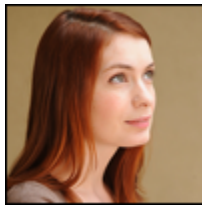


**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-12 22:36:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Now that you mention the alias for unknown persons I do remember it, vaguely. John Smith he shall be.

I do not pretend that the process of deciding who to wake, and in what order, will not be excruciating, nor that the question of obtaining access to those Sleepers who have been carted off and warehoused will not be vastly difficult. I suppose all we can do is take it one step at a time, however.

I have spent today attempting to study what I can of the effects the potion had, and match them to the sample we obtained previously. I am cautiously optimistic about our prospects, as much as it is within my nature to be I suppose.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-13 03:29:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I wake up nights sometimes thinking of everything that could go wrong before we have a chance to make it right. MLE and the Council may sort out what we're trying to do, and in anticipation, may start simply killing Sleepers to prevent the possibility of our giving them freedom. We may be missing a vital key that only a handful of people know of, which may very well die with them if there is to be a conflict. But we must try. We *must*.

And although I doubt and worry and fear and question, I do trust you. Please know that. Your level of care and concern will never be taken for granted, and I know you hold yourself to the highest standard. I will take your cautious optimism as a good sign indeed, because I know the degree of thought that's gone into it.

These people are not subjects in an experiment, they're patients under our care, and we will try our best to do right by them.

And Severus, I know this is necessary, and important, and you have my fullest support. The best we can do is put one foot ahead of the other, hope for the best, trust that we're headed in the right direction, and learn from our mistakes as we go.

Are you getting enough sleep? Do you need anything?  
I'll bring tea over tomorrow.



**2014-10-12 00:13:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Poppy*

Poppy -- Severus's Sleepers antidote is now ready to test.



**alt\_alice**

This has not been an easy path to take. Although I am confident that Severus has taken adequate care and caution, and will continue to do so, the bare truth is that we are testing an experimental potion on people that cannot give their consent. Even though we have every intention of providing help for these people as well as an untold number of their fellows, and have taken pains to make this process as safe and humane as possible, there is always a risk of harm. I believe the possible benefits outweigh the risk. I understand if you disagree.

You'll have access to all notes, of course, and we will be sure to keep you informed. Your schedule may make it difficult for you to just slip away whenever you wish, but if you can come up for an hour or two, you would be most welcome.

**2014-10-12 14:09:00**

*(no subject)*

Cor! There's a massive set-up at the Care of Magical Creatures paddock. I mean *massive*. (Well. It'd have to be, wouldn't it?)



**alt\_ernie**

I asked, and one of the Keepers said it's supposed to get here at five. Bloody fantastic. We got to see some at the Triwizard Cup, but not up close. They aren't letting us get too close, of course, but still.

---



**alt\_justin at 2014-10-13 00:23:11**

*(no subject)*

Ernie,

I say, that was jolly well spectacular, wasn't it. Well worth the queues.

-Justin



**alt\_ernie at 2014-10-13 01:13:12**

*(no subject)*

No kidding, mate. Absolutely ridiculous. If Care of Magical Creatures was that interesting every day, I would've stuck it out.

**[2014-10-12 22:44:00](#)**

*Private Message to Charlie and Ginny Weasley*



**[alt\\_ron](#)**

That was brilliant! Tonnes better than Mr Lestrangle's talk, and that was dead interesting.

EVERYONE'S talking about the Horntail. I mean it was beyond wizard you were able to bring it here!

And you do know that all the witches are completely over the moon about you. It's hilarious. Every time I passed a group of them this evening, they come out in giggles and whispering. I tell you, tomorrow they'll all be writing 'Mrs Charlie Weasley' all over their notes, won't they?

Heh.

---



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 04:00:15](#)**  
*Order Only*

Say. Thanks for what you said at lunch. (Thanks for lunch, too. I'd almost forgotten what real food tastes like!)

Anywiz, yeah. Thanks for not trying to talk me out of tying myself to Desai. I know Mum probably doesn't like it at all, but she hasn't tried to stop me, either.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-10-13 04:44:31](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

I might try to stop you, if I thought it would work.

Mum doesn't like it, but she's given up trying to tell any of us what to do. It didn't help, anyway.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-13 07:14:04](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

You're welcome. It was good to see you both, especially since it was in a way that nobody could look twice at us for. I mean, of course your big brother is going to have lunch with you when he's there at Hogwarts to give a lecture.

If you ever do need an afternoon of just sitting with somebody, let me know. I can come down to attend another one of these lectures and just show up a bit early.

And no, I'm not going to try to talk you out of doing anything. For one thing, I'm trying to think of any case where somebody was able to talk one of us out of doing something we had our minds set on and I'm coming up blank for as far back as I can remember. For another, well, I know that somebody trying to talk me out of doing something I have my mind set on just means I'm not going to talk to them again in the future when things go tits up. And I'd rather that you always feel comfortable coming to me to talk about stuff, and that you know you're not going to get a lecture. I'll always listen. Might be you have to sit through me trying to give some fumbling advice after, but I'll always listen.

That goes for you, too, Ginny-bean. Even if it's just by journal. I know there are times when I've been all conflicted about something and it's really helped me to write it all out to somebody -- Tonks or Bill or Alice -- and get it all straight in my head. You can always use me as a sounding board, yeah? It's not a sign of weakness or anything like that.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-10-13 04:43:10](#)**  
*(no subject)*

UTTERLY wizard.

And Ron's right. You're just lucky it's not early February or you'd get a load of scented nonsense by owl on the fourteenth. (But it's October, so I expect they'll have moved on by Valentine's Day. Unless you make the mistake of encouraging anyone.)



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-13 07:04:55](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'm glad you both enjoyed it!

And oi, thanks for the heads up. I'll hide from my post for a few weeks.

**2014-10-13 09:29:00**

*Order Only: Crimson Company*

Alice,

There's an article in this morning's paper you ought to know about.



**alt\_sirius**

*Ministry sources report that late last week, the Aurors executed a large-scale operation against the Crimson Company. Arrests are said to have been made at several locations, leading to the complete dismantling of this shadowy opposition group.*

It goes on to describe the Crimson Company and - well, I have to say, it's hard to imagine anything like this making an appearance in the *Prophet* a year ago. Here, I'll copy out the important parts:

*Readers will remember that the Crimson Company have claimed responsibility for a series of 'Robin Hood' kindnesses that left sacks of galleons on the doorsteps of needy families, particularly those facing eviction or harassment from bill collectors or threats from rogue 'security officers'. Where the Crimson Company obtained that largess has been a question on the minds of many, but it has not seemed until now to have been a priority for Magical Law Enforcement.*

*Magical Law Enforcement declined to comment on the details of an investigation in progress, but issued this statement: 'The Crimson Company are a band of troublemakers who have abducted and murdered Ministry personnel, who have targeted state institutions, and who, through vandalism and fraud, have sought to undermine many of the successful enterprises on which our country's commercial success and financial security rest. The Crimson Company's reign of terror has now been brought to an end.'*

As if that weren't critical enough, it concludes:

*So far as The Prophet can learn, there have been no convictions to date against anyone affiliated with the Crimson Company for any act that would rise to the level of disturbing the peace.*

*Independent information about the Crimsons is scarce, difficult to confirm, and always contested by Ministry officials, but the public have a right to know what is being done in their name, to whom, and why.*

We can discuss the impartiality of the *Prophet* later; presently I'm more worried about our own security.

Have you heard from Sam Fawcett? He was supposed to be our contact within the Company, wasn't he?

We're on alert here, in case he was taken. Everyone else might want to pay close attention today, if MLE should come calling.

---



**[alt\\_alice at 2014-10-13 15:06:16](#)**  
*(no subject)*

We haven't heard a thing, no. He has a drop point for messages, I'll have someone monitor from a distance. He's also gone to Sherwood for his get-togethers with Sarah and Matthew, but he hasn't been to Moddey

before.

Sarah, Tim, Fin, Terry, see that you keep a sharp eye out. Tim, love, please be sure to tell John and Davidson to increase the security levels at camp.



**[alt\\_alice at 2014-10-13 15:11:28](#)**  
*Private Message to Sarah*

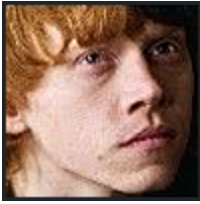
This goes without saying, my dear, but if you hear anything, please let us know. He's family, and I know how much you care for him. We'll see if we can't sort out what's happened, and go from there.

I very much hope that he's safe, and can make his way back to you and Matthew both.



**[alt\\_terry at 2014-10-13 15:49:56](#)**  
*(no subject)*

All the Zulu companies were briefed this morning; security's already been increased, and we'll be keeping our eyes peeled for Sam.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 15:14:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Erm. We're keeping an eye on our journals. As much as we can do. And we know what to do if we have to run, but I expect we can't count on there being any warning. I mean if any of you lot get picked up.

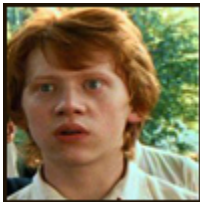


**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-13 15:19:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Did they really arrest Igneous Freed? *The* Mr Freed?  
That's

I mean, he's on the board of nearly every charity I'm a member of. And he's really well-regarded, too. *Everyone* likes him. The Society Witches are going to be absolutely beside themselves.

Do you think he's



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 15:27:22](#)**  
(no subject)

I know, what?

They think he's the head of Crimson Company? I mean, he's bleedin rich, innit? How does that even make sense?



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-13 15:52:38](#)**  
(no subject)

The head?

Where'd you here that?

I'd say that being wealthy doesn't mean you can't see suffering. Or that you can't see through the Protectorate's awfulness and want to change it.

I wish I'd known, though. If he really was, that is.





**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 17:06:28](#)**  
(no subject)

About Freed? It was on the wireless this morning. Bundy heard it. And I've heard other people saying the same.

I suppose that's true, only, whenever you hear about the Crimsons, it's about how they're giving money to poor people. That just doesn't seem like the sort of thing the head of a big, flash company like Firebolt would be concerned about.

Though... maybe it's just that he can see what would get a load of people stirred up against the Ministry and the Protector, yeah? Nice bit of strategy if that's what it is.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-14 02:00:24](#)**  
(no subject)

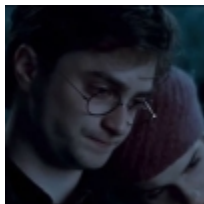
Blaise offered to lend me his broom so I wouldn't have to fly a Firebolt.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-14 02:21:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Well that was... loyal of him.

What are you going to tell him? I mean, I've never noticed what he flies. Just that he flies it like a cautious old witch. I reckon it's expensive, whatever it is, but that doesn't mean it'll hold up to match flying.

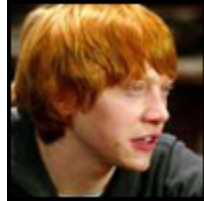


**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-14 02:41:18](#)**  
(no subject)

He flies a Nimbus. A very expensive model, but you're right, it's not a proper Quidditch broom, especially a Seeker. I mean, you could use it for a pickup game, but --

Anyway it doesn't matter.

I don't think I can say I think the Crimson Company hasn't done a thing wrong and they should let the Freed bloke go. But I can certainly keep flying on my own broom and let people talk.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-14 03:02:17](#)**

*(no subject)*

That's you, mate, keeping things interesting! I wonder what people will say? I reckon most of them will twist it round in their heads until they think they can see it as a perfectly loyal

thing to do.

I mean, when things don't fit with what people expect, they just squint at them slantwise until they see exactly what they think they should.

Which is to say, I reckon you can get away with doing or saying nearly anything you want, and people will explain away any whiff of subversion in it.

Hard luck if you want to lead a rebellion, but better luck if you want to get away with being a traitor under their noses.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-14 03:03:24](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yeah I guess we'll see how that works.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-13 15:49:53](#)**

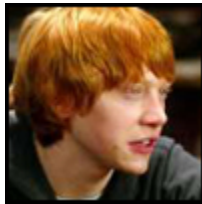
*(no subject)*

I know they said that one of those arrested 'appears to have been Igneous Freed', and it's the Prophet, so you can't take it all at face value, but honestly, they wouldn't just say that about someone like him unless they were ~~dead~~ sure absolutely certain.



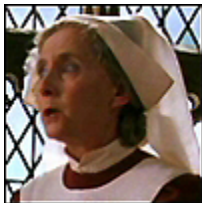
**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 17:08:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, you're right about that. He'll have their pelts if they're wrong.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-13 17:09:38](#)**  
(no subject)

MLE's, too, if they're the ones that got it wrong.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-13 15:25:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Gracious.

Well, that rather trumps my concern that Severus' operation with the Sleepers would somehow trip an investigation.

Of course, we'll keep alert for any sign of MLE on our doorstep. I trust you all to do the same.

And... I agree it's not as important as the rest, but it does leap out at one: the paper's rather enamoured of the Crimsons, aren't they?



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-13 15:47:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, and that's rather surprising that they'd be so open about it.

I think I'll arrange to have lunch with one of my former colleagues in Communications. Sometimes they do get wind of the latest rumours first, which could be helpful, and they might also be willing to gossip a bit about how the usual Ministry clamp on the Prophet's editorialising seems to have slipped a little.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-14 02:03:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Serves them right for sending Mr Malfoy to Azkaban.

That was one of his jobs. Making sure the Prophet didn't print anything like this.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-14 02:35:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Did you learn anything more than the news reports are saying, Bill?



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-14 03:42:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I can tell you that Igneus Freed really was the head of the Crimsons. That's not just gossip.

They picked up someone last week, very quietly -- Anders Kinlan. You might have heard of him; he owns a company that makes luxury cauldrons of various sorts, which sounds a bit ridiculous but he's been extremely successful with it. Also he was on Witch Weekly's last 'Most Eligible Bachelors' list.

Kinlan knew a lot of names, unfortunately, and I think he shared them all before they decided they were done with him. I heard last week that Crouch personally took someone out to Azkaban, but it wasn't until today I found out who it was.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-14 04:44:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Ugh. How awful.

Why'd they take him to Azkaban instead of kill him, do you think?

Was it his family?



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-14 05:09:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know. It might have been the Lord Protector's decision, in which case...I still don't know.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-15 00:37:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Bits and pieces, and I'm still trying to put the puzzle together, see how they add up.

One tidbit that was very interesting: Kieran Drumgoole told me that he's picked up whispers from MLE--and no, he refused to name his sources--hinting that 'they're still squeezing juice from a stinker they picked up last spring.' There've been some quiet arrests, entirely under wraps, and MLE is building a picture of networks--like the Crimson Company--by leaning heavily on these sources. Kieran wouldn't say much more, but the targets seemed to be the sort that operate on the shady side of the law. Black marketeers, dealers in fake potion ingredients, grifters, that sort of thing. What he said led me to understand that one in particular they've hung onto longer than usual has been unexpectedly cooperative, feeding them good information. Well, good for them, dangerous for underground revolutionaries like us.

Rachel, can you shed any more light on that?

There was quite a bit of general talk about both Igneous Freed and Anders Kinlan. Well, Jenny Simmons went on a bit about how fit Anders Kinlan was, but more to the point, apparently he was living quite simply, much more than you'd think, given his income. Like Freed, he made himself quite visible, serving on several charitable boards. Both were bachelors, but Freed tended in particular tended to show up anywhere there was a camera with a variety of different witches hanging on his arm, but he never settled down with one woman for long. I'll bet some of them may be regretting those those evenings spent hanging out with him, eating foie gros at a charity event, because I'm sure MLE will be breathing down their necks. Even the ones who went on to marry other men.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-15 03:40:07](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I think Drumgoole's intel got a little skewed along the way. From what I understand, the original lemon gave up all its juice almost immediately, and the rind was discarded. The *investigation*, though, that's still bearing fruit. You know -- Person A gives you the names of B, C, and D. You have to find those people, which may be tricky, but let's say you snatch D quietly enough their contacts don't all go to ground, and D gives up E, F, and G. This sort of thing can go on for quite some time. And take down the entire Crimson Company. For instance.

No one spends half a year in the interrogation dungeons. Days, sure. Weeks, possibly. Months... I'm not going to say it couldn't happen, but it's certainly not likely.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-15 03:42:20](#)**  
*Private message to Sirius Black*

You were Bellatrix's prisoner, weren't you? For a bit?  
How'd you get away?



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-15 03:45:22](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Sirius Black*

Lots of luck. And someone else dying to give me a chance to run.

Even at that, she hit me with a curse that ought to have killed me. If I hadn't been able to transform, and been in close proximity to loads of salt water, it would have done.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-15 03:58:12](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Sirius Black*

This sort of thing is why Dogstar organises with cells. You can only betray the ones you know.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at 2014-10-15 04:08:11**

*Re: Private message to Sirius Black*

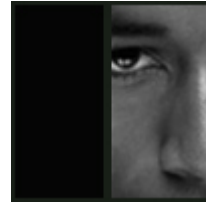
I think you're the only one who's ever survived the Bellae Mordre curse.

(That's what Aurors call it. I don't know what Bellatrix calls it.)

**2014-10-13 14:16:00**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Are you following all this with Mr Freed's having been arrested? It's astonishing, really.



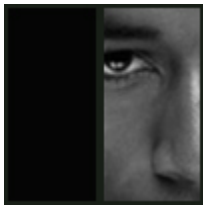
**alt\_blaise**

Listen, I was thinking, I don't have any particular use for my broom on any given day, unless we ever have an exercise for Desai that requires one. What I mean to say is, I know you must be setting yours aside now, at least until the shadow's been cleared from Freed and Firebolt. You're welcome to fly mine for however long you need an alternative ride. It's a top-end Nimbus, and if you like, you can trim it up however it suits you. Obviously, I haven't tuned it for top performance or Quidditch handling.



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-14 01:59:06**  
(no subject)

Thanks for the offer, but I don't think my broom is tainted.



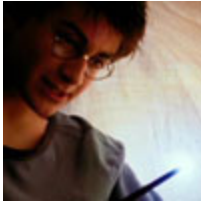
**alt\_blaise** at **2014-10-14 02:13:55**  
(no subject)

Of course, I understand that serious Quidditchers have an attachment to their brooms like the one knights are said to have felt for their steeds. The peculiar genius of your own mount must seem irreplaceable.

It's a matter of appearance, though, is it not? Only, I expect you'll wish to signal that you deplore Freed's treachery, and refusing to be associated with his signature broom sends an important message.

The offer stands. You've only to say.



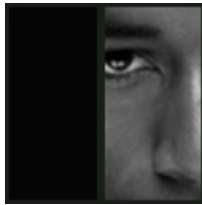


**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-14 03:08:40](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think there's any treachery in the paint, or the wood, or the polish, or any of the rest of it.

Regardless of what Freed did. Which was mostly leaving sacks of galleons for people, if you read the paper.

So I'm going to keep using my own broom.



**[alt\\_blaise](#) at [2014-10-14 03:44:23](#)**  
(no subject)

As you should, of course, if that's what you prefer.

**2014-10-13 21:25:00**

*Private Message to Zach and Justin*

Two birthdays in one week. You lot are ridiculous. At least Justin had the good sense to have his on a weekend this year, hey? Zach, man, hope you're not too knackered tomorrow. We'll make a proper day of it on Saturday. Trust.



**alt\_ernie**

Either of you going to Marvolo's flying thing tomorrow?

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**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-14 23:20:58**

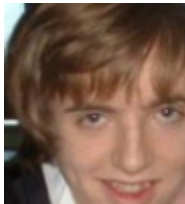
*(no subject)*

Ernie,

We shall jolly well have quite the party this weekend, what!

I think Zach went this afternoon. You?

- Justin



**alt\_ernie** at **2014-10-14 23:31:49**

*(no subject)*

Yeah. I did.

You know how Marvolo can be. He tends to get hangers on and loads of firsties following him around looking for attention, which can get really annoying.

Still. It wasn't half bad.

**2014-10-13 21:52:00**

*Flying*

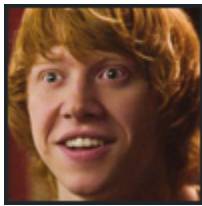
For those who don't have Quidditch practice tomorrow I was thinking we might do a bit of recreational flying, you know, just around the grounds, after classes. We'll stay out of the way of the Hufflepuffs on the actual pitch, of course.



**alt\_harry**

If anyone's wondering, I will be riding my Firebolt.

Anyone who wants to come is welcome. Borrow a school broom if you don't have your own.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-14 03:10:20**

*(no subject)*

Brilliant! I'll be there. Never pass up a good chance to fly, I always say!



**alt\_pansy** at **2014-10-14 05:00:22**

*(no subject)*

Flying club during hols really is quite a lot of fun, isn't it? I don't get to fly during the term nearly as much as I'd like.

I'll be there too.



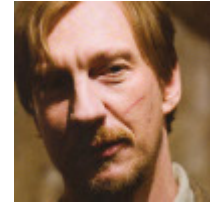
**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-14 05:20:04**

*(no subject)*

I'll be there.

**2014-10-13 22:11:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Alice, Sirius, Tonks, Poppy, and Kingsley*



**alt\_lupin**

Sam Fawcett just turned up. Alive. Him and an associate from the Crimson Company. Sam's rather badly hurt, which I think is why they came here -- he can't apparate himself, and his friend knew how to get here.

They're of the opinion they haven't been tracked. I hope they're right. I got them to one of the other Order safehouses -- I'd have preferred to bring them into 12GP, but I didn't want to risk delay for long enough to get Alice. I don't think I want to move Sam again until he's been seen by a Healer. Poppy, is there any chance you can come tonight? I want to get him to Sherwood -- well, if you lot will take him - or inside a Fidelius, as quickly as we can.

His companion's name is Zeke. Doesn't want to leave him, or I'd send him to Sherwood tonight.



**alt\_sirius** at **2014-10-14 03:25:29**  
(no subject)

Well, that's that question answered. Good thinking to get him away from the garden as quickly as possible.

Did anyone see him arrive? Apart from our people, that is.

Was he or this Zeke in any shape to tell you what happened?



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-14 03:33:24**  
(no subject)

Sam wasn't the one who came in -- he hid in the same abandoned building Beth uses. Zeke came in and found me. I'm sure a few people saw Zeke come in but hopefully he just looked like a customer. I don't think anyone got a particularly good look at his face.

What happened -- Zeke tried to explain but he didn't do a very good job. It wasn't Bellatrix who came to arrest Sam, though, so there's that.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-14 04:22:45](#)**  
(no subject)

If it was, I doubt he'd have been able to get away.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 04:36:18](#)**  
(no subject)

No.

Apparently he was also just lucky. He said he saw them before they saw him. Not fast enough to get away unscathed, though.

If it had been Bellatrix, though -- she'd have used the curse she cast on Sirius, the one he nearly didn't survive. The one that killed Benjy.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-14 04:55:33](#)**  
*Private Message to Remus*

Times like this, I really don't like to think about the fact that I can't Apparate. Not for another few months, anyways.

It makes me itchy.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-14 04:59:24](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Remus*

...and by can't, I mean 'really, really shouldn't.'

Still.

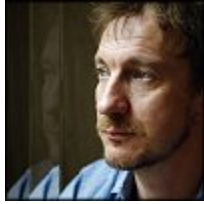


**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 05:11:52](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Remus*

Do it if you have to and don't hesitate.

It would be a shame to lose the baby. It would be a lot worse to lose you both.

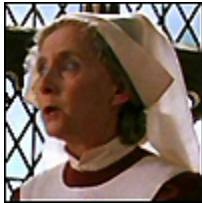


**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 05:17:26](#)**

*(no subject)*

Poppy's theory on that curse of Bella's is that it's to allow her time to interrogate them. And to ensure the opportunity for her to savour their agony. 'A curse as twisted as they come; far crueller than the killing curse.'

There's no sign it was used on Sam.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-14 03:48:27](#)**

*(no subject)*

Remus, apologies for the delay.

I'm able to come now. Can't risk a long stay, so let's hope that's not what's needed.

I'm bringing everything that might be useful and can be carried.  
Where shall I meet you?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 04:05:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

That flat in Highgate. It's not on the floo.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-14 04:11:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank goodness. I thought you'd got tied up and might not answer. Never mind. Gave me time to get out beyond the gates, clear of the school's wards.

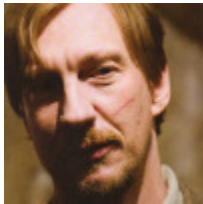
I'll be there directly. Hold on.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-14 04:21:19](#)**  
(no subject)

I see. Thank you. I'll pass along word to Sarah.

I agree we should move him and his companion as soon as he's cleared for side-along by Poppy.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 04:30:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Sherwood, do you think? The longer I sit here the more it occurs to me that I really don't know the first thing about Zeke. I don't think he's even in the Crimson Company -- I think he's just a trusted friend and Sam knew he was a sympathiser, so he went to him when he got away.



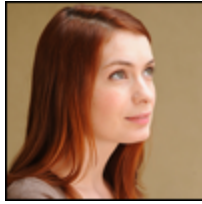
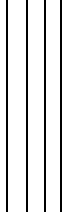
**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-14 04:34:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. Sherwood would be best. Especially given that Sarah's there.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-14 05:19:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Poppy's nearly done with Sam and she says he can be moved once she's finished -- it's not ideal, but staying here is a good deal riskier. I'll take them both to Sherwood, if there's somewhere sheltered for Sam to rest.



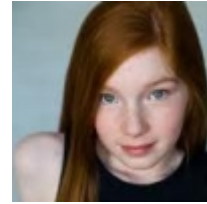
**alt\_alice** at **2014-10-14 05:24:34**  
*(no subject)*

I'll go ahead of you and make sure they're ready for him. I'll see you there.



**2014-10-14 20:31:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Snape*



**alt\_evelyn**

Hello.

I was wondering how you've been?

It's rather odd seeing Mr Milland walk around in the halls, and assign people detention with him, and walk by his office, and know he isn't you. I can remember so very fondly sitting in that chair in the corner and reading while you were writing reports, or going through meditation exercises, and it was just such a warm little place, really.

Lana Sandoval is rather awful, but I suppose you know as much. She leads us in meditative exercises, just like the ones you taught me, and I'm fairly good at it because it's something I'm used to doing every day, but because I do it right before bed, I tend to drift off and fall asleep during, which annoys her. It doesn't take much, though, and I'm far from the only one.

I've been hard at work sorting out reams of Arithmancy with Jeremy and Professor Sinistra. Sometimes, I get so involved in it that I dream in numbers and spiralling patterns, but I find them rather beautiful, and it feels like everything makes a little more sense when I wake up. I've also started learning Arabic by using some children's books that have rhymes and songs that are frightfully catchy. I think I'll learn Hebrew next. Some things are far easier this term, especially with Kitty and Artie in the Order, but it's still hard to sort out where my place is in everything. I still can't believe I'm a Prefect. It's rather terrifying sometimes, to be noticed like that.

Anyways. I was doing my rounds tonight, and found myself in a familiar hallway, and realised just how much I missed knocking on your office door. Hogwarts is a little lonelier without you in it.

I very much hope you are doing well.

Sincerely,

Evelyn.

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**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-15 05:08:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I am well enough. And quite busy — Miss Granger and I may no longer have the resources of Hogwarts to draw upon for our research, even in secret and stolen fashion, but we are repaid for that loss by the gain of a great deal more time in the laboratory and for our research than we had.

Lana Sandoval is a perfect example of the banality of evil and the precise sort attracted to an excess of power; I have known many like her. You will not have to suffer her for more than this year, at least. Keep your head down and your mouth shut, afford her every inch of the respect she believes she deserves, and do your best to remain in the middle of the crowd, neither prodigy nor dunce, and you ought not have trouble.

As for the rest, it gives me great pleasure to hear that you are enjoying your work. I have forgot most of my Arithmancy that is not applicable to Potions work, but I often found it a comfort in my own Hogwarts days to have something that would always make sense.

I will confess to missing our time together as well. I regret the loss of my position at Hogwarts for several reasons; that is one of them. I am but a journal message away, however.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-15 05:25:35](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll keep that in mind, sir.

And I'm so glad Hermione can be brilliant as often as she wishes, and doesn't have to keep up appearances any more. I miss her too, of course, and I know she'd rather things didn't end the way they did, but it must have been so hard. All of it.

For Draco too. Not entirely in the same way, and not that things have gotten much easier for him, only a different sort of hard, but still.

I'll keep your advice in mind. I'm rather good at being

unremarkable. I got in quite a bit of practise during my first three years, at least. Hopefully it'll pay off.

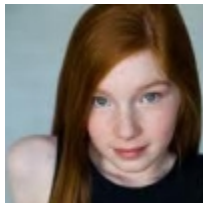


**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-15 05:42:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

It is unfair that you are under such scrutiny, and must dedicate your behaviour and your choices so thoroughly to the necessity of appearing beyond reproach, but there is much that is unfair about the world in which you find yourself living. And at least the rest of the Order is aware that you are more remarkable than you must pretend to be.

Miss Granger and Mr Malfoy are both doing well enough, as well. The events of spring were a shock to them both, but they are enduring. And, as you note, Miss Granger is at least able to drop her own pretense, which is a benefit. Not a bargain she would have willingly chosen, I believe, but it is some small consolation. I am certain she would enjoy hearing from you, should you be so inclined. As for Mr Malfoy — he is finding the transition difficult, but no one can fault his determination. And at least the question of his loyalties and what he is willing to sacrifice has been decidedly answered.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-15 05:56:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

I shall have to write her, then.

And yes. I can't imagine what it's been like for him, but I do have a small idea of how hard it is to see one's parents in danger.

I very much hope he knows that his sacrifices are noticed, and appreciated, and important.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-15 05:42:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

I was wondering

I was wondering what you thought about the Dark

Arts. About whether doing it can change your soul forever.

I've got to do it regardless, for class. So it doesn't matter overly much, I suppose. And I've talked to Dad about it some, and I know that there are people I love and respect who've used it, and I saw what Draco wrote, about how I shouldn't care what the centaurs think, and I can see his point, I can,

but

it's still difficult.



[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-15 06:08:32](#)

*(no subject)*

I am not an expert in centaur relations, but the complex and arbitrary nature of the restrictions they have placed upon who they are willing to welcome into the Forest makes me believe they are simply trying to keep humans out of their territory — not that they are making any moral judgement.

That having been said, I will not dismiss your fears. Yes, using the Dark Arts can change you; there is one school of thought, in fact, that says all the Dark Arts are powered by sacrifice, but in many cases, the sacrifice you are making is primarily internal — that to cast *Crucio* you must sacrifice your image of yourself as someone who would not cause pain to another, that to cast *Imperius* you must sacrifice your belief that you will respect the boundaries of another's free will, and so forth. There are, in addition, those who are drawn to the Dark Arts because of the pleasure they take in hurting others, or because the physical process of casting such magic provides them with a sense of euphoria. There are those who believe themselves to be unmoved by the Dark Arts at first, but discover over time that the experience of having cast those spells has wormed its way inside them, eating away at their capacity for goodness and kindness and all the positive emotions. The danger does exist; I will not downplay it.

It is not, however, an immediate danger, and you are unlikely to be required to cast the sort of magic that will take a permanent toll upon you in a single year's worth of classes. True damage to one's spirit takes time to accumulate, and the signs are plain long before the point of no return. You have before you the example of some of

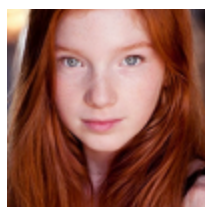
the worst of what the Dark Arts can shape people into, but that is not a given; the sort of people who exemplify the worst of humanity would be that sort of person whether or not they practised such magic, and it was not (only) the magic that led them there.

You know — or I trust that you do — that in my youth I was as dedicated a Death Eater as any other, and that the attack of conscience that led me to renouncing the Dark Lord's service came well after my own hands were far from clean. It was not the practice of the Dark Arts that led me to the Dark Lord's service; I will not burden you with the details of my misspent youth, but I found myself there because the Dark Lord and His his faithful showed me a kindness I did not find elsewhere, and desperately sought.

Even the Dark Lord's most degenerate servants are capable of kindness, and even those who have never touched the Dark Arts are capable of immense cruelty. It is not the magic we cast that defines us; it is the choices we make.

Hold true to yourself, remember your values, and examine your motives, reactions, and impulses closely after you have been casting Dark spells; the worst of the effects of Dark magic flourish in self-ignorance and self-deception. It is why I have taught you all to be brutally honest with yourselves.

I am not worried on your behalf. If it will ease your mind, however, I will promise you: should I see any warning signs, I will call them to your attention immediately.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-15 06:21:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, sir.

That does put things into perspective.

It's like what you've talked about before, about our inner mirror. I'll just have to be more conscientious about making sure that it shines light in all the corners, and not to shy away from looking at it out of fear of what it could show me.



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-15 06:45:14](#)**

*(no subject)*

Diligence in your meditation practice ought indeed help.

We have spoken before about the very human tendency to avoid looking too closely at those dark corners, in the belief that if one does not confront what one finds there, it will not be real. But things are what they are, whether you look them in the eye or no, and it is only when you face what the mirror shows you that you can begin making decisions about how to adjust the things it is reflecting, so that your inner self and outer self both match your self-image and the person you want to be.

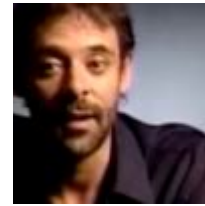
Had I been more diligent about such self-knowledge in my youth, my life would have been far different than it was. It is not something I would admit to many, but twelve years in Azkaban, with little to do but think and the need to keep my self tucked away inside my mind as far as possible to minimise the effects of the Dementors, has left me with few illusions. Not many would understand, but I am a better man for that self-examination, I suppose. You need not go through the same misfortunes I have — indeed, I most devoutly hope you will not — but take the lessons I have learned and benefit from them: the more you understand your own inner landscape and the forces that act upon it, the less conflict you will suffer. It is that inner conflict that causes suffering indeed.

That you are worried in the first place is a sign of your inner goodness; as long as you do not allow that worry to fester, and do not allow your fear for that goodness to keep you from facing your whole self and confronting what you find there, it will serve you well enough. The worst tragedies happen when a good woman believes her goodness alone will be sufficient shield against the danger inherent in the Dark Arts. If you are honest with yourself and diligent in your self-examination, you will be no more and no less at risk for finding you have acted contrary to your ethics than any other — and indeed, a habit of rigorous and frequent self-inspection will leave you far more likely to spot it quickly than most would be.

**2014-10-15 06:55:00**

*Private message to Lana*

Shaltson's Conjecture. I knew it would come to me as soon as I took my mind off the task of recalling it. That was sufficient to allow me to identify the book I was thinking of; I will pass it along to you at breakfast, or at lunch if you were up late working again and decide to sleep in a bit.



**alt\_antonin**

If you are amenable, meanwhile: you have been working exceptionally hard lately, both on your teaching preparations and on your personal study. You have found your feet in the classroom, and while of course my evenings will continue to be yours for as long as you are with me, I believe we are at the point where we can allow ourselves an evening off here and there. Would you care to move tonight's session to the salle instead? It is up to you whether for coaching or simply to spar.

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**alt\_lana at 2014-10-16 03:56:28**

*(no subject)*

I was infinitely more focused after running the course. Honestly, I've got more done tonight than I did all weekend. The logic in Shaltson's was exactly the thing. I finally got through the proof, and have notes for writing it all up.

And just that one change in the Fier-à-Bras grip made all the difference in casting. I ran through the whole class of spells, and it's like night and day, the difference. Thank you.

I should see you at breakfast. I'm in good shape for tomorrow's lessons.



**alt\_antonin at 2014-10-16 05:25:48**

*(no subject)*

Good, good. Sometimes an evening of physical exertion will shake one's mind up nicely and cause all sorts of things to fall back into place in a different configuration, I have found. (Also, it keeps me from becoming one with the library chair when I am in full research

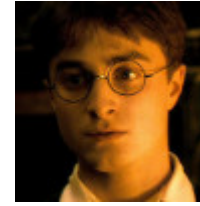
mode.)

And, my dear, you have made it through your first month and a half of teaching with flying colours. Do you want to take this weekend back in New London? Next weekend is Hogsmeade, and I'm afraid I will have to stick you and the other newcomers with chaperoning unless someone else volunteers -- it would not do for me to interfere with the sacred order of seniority -- but this weekend ought be calm enough for you to take the time, and if you are behind in marking I will assist if it would allow you to win free.



**2014-10-15 19:55:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Draco and Hermione*



I was thinking about both of you tonight.

I miss you. Writing to you in the journals isn't the same as having you here.

**alt\_harry**

The Slytherin boys' dorm feels really empty. (Not that I miss Teddy.) I thought I'd get used to it, but I haven't yet.

What are you two doing tonight? I ought to be writing an essay for Herbology about where to find these six rare plants that can only be gathered wild, but that class isn't until after lunch so I was thinking I might just do it tomorrow morning.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-10-16 01:12:03**  
(no subject)

Not much. I mean, Tim came over for a while but he says visiting is making him soft, so he's gone back to Sherwood. So I'll probably work a little on the potions Mr Snape and I have been making, or else do a little reading.

Tim's right that just staying here at Grimmauld is fairly soft. It doesn't feel quite right, but then there's really no sense going anywhere else, unless we need to do.

We've been trying to research muggle orphanages in and around New London. There were loads of them, though, especially when Voldemort would have been a boy. It could take a long time. I've been thinking we might need to find old libraries first, to look up old information. I'm not sure, though, if that would be particularly useful or even possible.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 01:19:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you mean old muggle libraries? Are the books still in them?

Maybe there's a map somewhere that would tell you?



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 01:30:29](#)**  
(no subject)

What did Hogwarts do, back when they let muggleborns in as students, do you know?

Did they just get letters? How did that work, since muggles weren't supposed to know about magic? Did they send someone to explain?



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-16 01:33:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I think they must have sent someone, yes.

Actually, that's a good thought. I wonder who was sent to tell him? I hope it wasn't Professor Slughorn or Professor Flitwick; we'll never be able to find out anything about it, then.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-16 01:24:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. I miss being in lessons, as well as just being a student. And a quidditch player, not to mention being a Prefect and a Slytherin.

Anyway, I think I've found a spot for a safe house near Hogsmeade. I'll need a secret keeper, though. The first Hogsmeade day is the 25th, yeah?



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 01:28:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, the 25th.

I'd be your secret keeper if you'll have me.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-16 01:35:38](#)**  
(no subject)

That's why I mentioned it, you great pillock. Who else would I ask?

Plus, it'd be best if the secret keeper met me under an invisibility cloak. I'll give you the location details just before, yeah? I want to check it out at least one more time to make sure it's secure.

I can't believe Hermione hasn't yet scolded you for putting off an essay til morning. Though I reckon Harry Marvolo can do what he wants. Like order people to treat halfbloods the same as purebloods.

How's that been going?



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 03:47:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Morning's a great time to do essays. Fewer people around to distract me.

Anyway, it's been going great. Everyone said, 'why, what a sensible idea! why didn't we think of this on our own?' and it's all sunshine and equality now.

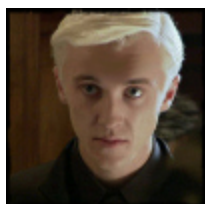


**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 03:50:55](#)**  
(no subject)

The problem is, mostly it's not any sort of official rule. Some people just get shouldered aside and they just get out of the way. No one actually says, 'Oi Perks, stand aside and let a pureblood go first,'

but they don't have to because she's already got out of their way.

Sending halfbloods to the camps if they fail too many OWLs -- that's an official rule. But I don't know how to make them change it.

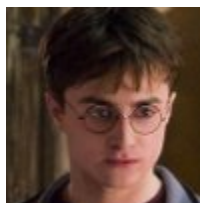


[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-16 14:32:28](#)

*(no subject)*

It looks like sunshine and equality because they're following your lead. Some of them are probably relieved and glad you said something, but others are probably resentful, you know. You won't change their minds so easily.

Which isn't to say it can't be done.



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 16:25:25](#)

*(no subject)*

It's not really sunshine and equality. I was joking. As far as I can tell nothing's changed. Or almost nothing.

But I'm not sure how I'd even know because I got treated like a pureblood all along.



[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-16 16:52:52](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, that's the thing, isn't it? You can keep reminding people you're a halfblood but they're never really going to treat you like one or think of you as one, and you can't know what it's like to be one, either. It's similar for me - when I go out to Moddey Arista and Hector are so chuffed to see me and in part it's because I'm *like them*. And I can tell that it's difficult for Sarah, too. Like she thinks if we'd both never left Hogwarts, we probably wouldn't be friends, let alone more than friends.

Thing is, she's probably right. It's not something I'm proud of

but it's true just the same.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 16:55:15](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, Sarah was always so quiet, too, when she was here. She wasn't in our House, she wasn't -

Yeah.



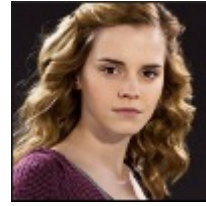
**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 16:56:02](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I should ask Luna if Madam Pince is still making her wait at the back of the line, when I'm not there.

She's not doing it when I'm there, anyway.

**2014-10-15 20:40:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Professors Dumbledore and Sprout, and Madam Pomfrey, Draco, and Harry*



**alt\_hermione**

This might be a really strange question but do any of you happen to know how Voldemort came to know about Hogwarts and to become a student?

The thing is, we found the letter at the Gaunt place, near Little Hangleton, right, and it suggests rather strongly that his mother was from there. But Hydra remembers that the young Tom Riddle, the one in the diary, told her he grew up in a Muggle orphanage in London. (Old London, that is, before all the Muggles were made to sleep and everything.)

So, someone must have been sent from the school to tell him he was really a wizard and he could come and be a student, mustn't they? Only if it was Professor Flitwick then I know he's been dead for a long time, and if it's Professor Slughorn, he doesn't want to be found, so maybe it was someone else? Or maybe they told one of you about finding him?

Because we think the next place to look is where he was raised, you see. So if any of you know anything about that, it might help.



**alt\_poppy** at **2014-10-16 03:30:43**  
(no subject)

Hogwarts sends owls to the homes of young witches or wizards who are to be admitted the next autumn. In the days when Muggleborns were among those entering each year, the letters went to their homes just the same. I should imagine the birds saw no barrier in delivering to an institution like an orphanage.

If the communication was not managed in the usual way in such a case, it would have been because of strictures imposed by the Statute of Secrecy. I can't speak to that possibility, but Albus could.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-16 04:12:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne says that her mum's parents were visited by Headmistress McGonagall. (Though she was Professor McGonagall at the time.)

So at least sometimes there were visitors.



**[alt\\_albus](#) at [2014-10-16 17:50:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Poppy is quite right that owls were the usual method but the orphanage complicated matters.

I was sent to speak to him, and arrange his attendance with Mrs Cole, who oversaw the orphanage.

I do not think you will find much there - it is a place he abhorred - but I will write up my notes for you, of what I remember.



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-16 18:16:24](#)**  
(no subject)

The thing is that the site we found in Little Hangleton had been blasted to the ground. So maybe he went back precisely because he hated the place so much, and if that's so, then he could have gone back to the orphanage for the same reason, to destroy it.

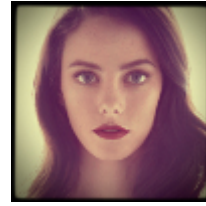
The big question is whether we'll learn or find anything by going there. I mean, that shack wasn't destroyed, just that old house (or what we were told was an old house). On the other hand, the cabin had obviously been ransacked. So maybe he did hide something there and someone else found it and stole it. (Which could make tracking down whatever it was really difficult.)

But we won't know that until we try, anyway.

**2014-10-16 09:00:00**

*Private message to Mother and Father*

Alright, I've made some time on Saturday afternoon. I still don't understand what could possibly be so important that it can't wait til Hogsmeade on the 25th, or why you don't want me to tell Queenie and Astoria that you'll be coming 'round. Remember, Mother, I'm *not* interested in thinking about marriage yet, so if this is about that, I'm afraid you'll be wasting your breath.



**alt\_daphne**

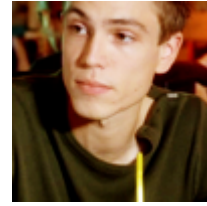
I'll make sure that there's a decent tea spread, though. (No raspberry anything, Mother, I remember!). Father, are the little custard tarts still your favourite?

-D.



**2014-10-17 15:16:00**

*Order Only: private message to Siz and Ev*



**alt\_jeremy**

Right. Shared your thoughts last night with Cecelia, Siz, on those scenario calculations and analysis Ev did. The bit you pointed out with that star, Antares -- if it makes that much of a difference to the locational magics, especially considering alignments, then the analysis is all pointing one way, yeah?

Ev, Cecelia was really impressed with the scope of what you did.

---



**alt\_evelyn** at **2014-10-17 20:32:32**

*(no subject)*

The replacement scenario is right out, isn't it? I could tell when I was doing iterations that the odds just weren't in our favour for that one. It kept coming up weird.

And you're sure that it checks out, that I've run them properly?

Do you need me to factor in the Anteres datapoint and re-run the other two scenarios? I don't know if there's quite enough time to get both done, but I could possibly manage the one we want to do the most, just to make doubly sure it works out the way we think it will.

And remind me. The centre scenario is looking slightly better than making a new spoke? Sometimes I got sort of lost in the weeds with those two, because the replacement one was so clearly different. Forest for the trees, all that.



**alt\_sinistra** at **2014-10-17 20:37:59**

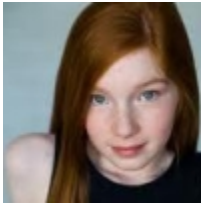
*(no subject)*

I think it might do more good, if you want to run other variations, to see if we can figure out the best place for a centre addition might be.

I keep going back and forth about the security issues versus the optimal location based on calculation.

(And if Cecilia's right about them being polarity compass points, there's no way to balance it that way - we'd need to put the ninth stone off the coast of Grimsby, which makes no sense. But we could maybe do something geographically, in the center of the protected space, as it were.)

But clearly, somewhere we could Fidelius would be best, and that's a bit limiting.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at 2014-10-17 20:41:53**

*(no subject)*

And it'd have to be on a central ley, too, of course. A good strong one.

It helps that they wouldn't be looking for something in the middle -- they'd probably focus security on the perimeter instead.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2014-10-17 20:53:04**

*(no subject)*

True enough. Though they could follow the leys if they got the idea to look.

Right. Calculations keep making my head spin, and I hate being unscientific and using instinct, but I keep being told to trust my instincts for complex magics.

I keep looking at this spot near Stanfree and Boslover (bit west of Sherwood Forest.) That might have complications - something for Alice to ask Will Davidson, don't know who's near there who might be at risk. But they might also know a good location, too, for the stone.

But that's both on the ley between Grimsby and St David's, and the one that runs from Cumbria to Dover, and it's more or less the right middle, if you know what I mean?



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-17 20:56:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Get Vector started sometime on the part intuition plays in higher Arithmantic discovery, yeah?

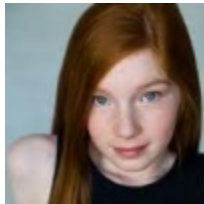
Verification, of course. But the leap is sometimes the way to find where to look.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 20:59:50](#)**

*(no subject)*

And if the energy is to be roughly spread out like we think it will for the centre scenario, if it's a mile off of direct centre, it shouldn't impact things too terribly, I wouldn't think.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 21:00:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

It'll be absorbed, I mean,



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 21:06:28](#)**

*(no subject)*

That, yes.

And the theory goes that the major leys can take more backwash of energies and disperse them, and so on. (Well, most of the theories. There's a half-dozen dissenting academic arguments, like you'd expect.)

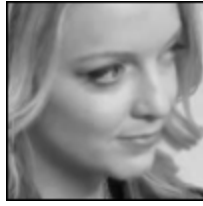


**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 23:00:05](#)**

*(no subject)*

It'd be a bit like a wave, wouldn't it? Or ripples in a tide pool.

Ooooooh.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 23:03:40](#)**  
(no subject)

I can lend you more books, if you like. Or wait, if they'd be too distracting, just yet.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 23:11:02](#)**  
(no subject)

After we're done, perhaps? And we see what ends up happening, in which order? So I can wrap my head around it. I've just been focusing so much on permutations, I'm not sure broader theory would make as much sense to me right now.

We'll have to ask for a tonne of our people to be out and about to take readings, but it'd be worth it, I think.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 23:21:50](#)**  
(no subject)

You ask when you'd like them, then.

And quite a lot of readings, yes. We should sort out a list by priority, really.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 20:59:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, I've heard that potted speech. Regularly, trust me.

(I've always been better at the intuitive leap than the calculations. Very glad you two have handled most of those, I don't trust not flipping numbers around in my head these days.)

~~Tosha's kept~~

Funny how you learn things from the oddest places, mind.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 21:38:32](#)**

*(no subject)*

Evelyn - if you're up for one more set of calculations, do you want me to chart out that spot for you (and I'll look and see if there's more that might also work.)

Tosha will be up here after supper, but before then or right before my evening classes, or tomorrow once I'm awake, whichever's handy.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 23:02:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes. Tonight'd be fine. I can come up and help you set up for class after we're done.

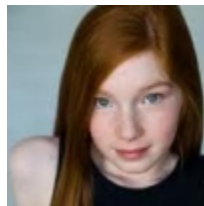


**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 23:04:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

That would be very kind.

If you come up at eleven fifteen or so, that would give us time. (If that's not too late for you, mind.)



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 23:12:01](#)**

*(no subject)*

Of course not.

I'm more of a night person anyways, and I've got rounds right before, so I'll be out and about already.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 23:17:17](#)**  
(no subject)

So few people appreciate that time of night.  
Good.

If we're still talking - chances are we will be -  
just knock. I've made a note to warn him you'll be coming up  
to help.



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-17 20:48:11](#)**  
(no subject)

We both looked them over. They seem quite solid.

Cecelia went over the replacement scenario with a  
fine-tooth comb twice. The rise in risk was a bit  
startling, but if this is right, well then. Can't go strengthening the  
wards when we're trying for the opposite. Or blowing the  
Protectorate up trying to save it. (We were quite glad to see that  
risk drop, small as it was before!)

Centre scenario does have the edge. When we talk with Alice and  
factor in logistics of accomplishing the physical part of the plan,  
centre scenario will probably take the snitch.

Good thing we had all that mapping data, yeah?



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 20:56:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think I've ever been as happy when the  
readings from September came through and fit the  
model.

And yes, we certainly have enough mapping data to work from.



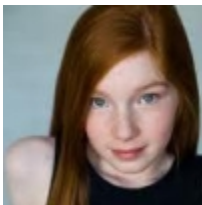
**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 20:33:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Antares, yes. And really, it's not the Neptune/Uranus/Pluto bit that bothers me for the planets as much as Mars being in there.

All sorts of unpredictable reinforcements.

The more I've looked at Evelyn's calculations, the more I think just trying to replace it is a bad risk, unless someone's seeing something I'm missing.

(Entirely possible. You've both done excellent work on this, and Cecilia, long before I knew a thing about it.)



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-17 20:44:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. I mean, it seemed perfectly reasonable at first, to just put the non-working one where the working one was, but honestly, it just didn't pan out at all.

It's like putting it there would run the risk of just flipping the non-working one back to working instead or something.



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-17 20:49:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. The split-signal-and-surge model is much stronger than I expected.



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-17 20:50:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Whole thing's fascinating, really. Wish we had time to follow up some of the implications.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 20:54:55](#)**  
(no subject)

It seems very backwards to be doing the practical testing before the theoretical's properly understood.

Needs must, though.



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-17 20:57:30](#)**  
(no subject)

True enough.

Hope the practical testing wins us the chance to investigate the theoretical properly some day.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-17 21:04:50](#)**  
(no subject)

My research mentor was always very clear that astronomy was made to be used, and that if you weren't practical about it, what good was it?

Magic, too.

But yes. If we manage a world where there's leisure for exploration, as opposed to just not-dying, I've a long list of things I'd love more time with. This very much among them.

(I found a fascinating older text - I mean, about 16th century - that mostly isn't relevant, but some of the applications might be, if we were doing something entirely different about protections, I mean.)



**2014-10-17 20:05:00**

*Private Message to Professor Desai*

Professor,

I really enjoyed that book on reflexive exercises. I know it's only been a week or so, but I think it's already helping. Also, running after lessons has been a good habit to start again. I've thought about trying to find time for *Natya* as well, but--well, I dunno. Marvolo seems to think it's disrespectful to Our Lord to practise anything too...too *ethnic*. So perhaps there are other activities that would help with balance and core strength. What methods do you use, if you don't mind my asking?



**alt\_padma**

I wanted to ask if you're planning to go to New London over the Hogsmeade weekend? Because Headmaster Dolohov offered to take me to Ouroboros and Elysian and all the other Council places, to register, but if you were already going down to Town, I thought perhaps to go with you, and save him the trouble.

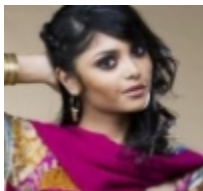
Padma



**alt\_savitha** at **2014-10-18 04:10:01**  
(no subject)

My practice for improving strength and balance is also a bit *ethnic*. What exactly did Mr Marvolo say to you, my dear?

I was indeed planning to go to New London next weekend, and I would be delighted to take you to the Ouroboros and Elysian, as well as Morgaine's, which is a private club for select Witches that I think you might enjoy.



**alt\_padma** at **2014-10-18 04:56:20**  
(no subject)

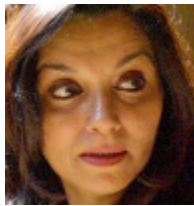
Oh, that would be splendid! Thank you very much.

As for Marvolo.... Well, I don't want to criticise him, certainly, but you know Seamus and I spent a fair amount of time with him, over the summer. It was right after Dra--

well, right after losing his best friend, of course, so maybe he was just having a rough time of it. Which is to be expected! And he hasn't said much about it since, but at the time, he came right out and told me that I had to 'give up' being a Hindu. He said I should only put my faith in Our Lord. And of course, I do! But, well, I asked Lana, and she advised me to do whatever Marvolo said. So I've been really very careful not to mention Lakshmi or Krishna or any of our ancestral patrons, at least not around him, or in my journal. The thing is, it's clear from the way he spoke that he didn't really *understand* how having a religion isn't quite the same thing as following Our Lord faithfully. So, I've just been quiet about it, I guess.

I mean, eventually if I ever get married, I want that to be a proper ceremony. And things like that. And I know Tøsha there are others on the Council who still consider themselves Christian. Or other things.

But of course, I wouldn't want to disobey Marvolo.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-18 05:05:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, how utterly absurd of him. Of course there's no conflict between being a Hindu and serving Our Lord.

I wonder if he was trying to see whether you would follow an order, even if it was difficult and unreasonable. Was he at all specific about what he wanted you to give up?



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-18 05:11:45](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I thought about that. ~~So did Lana~~

He just said that I was meant to have 'other priorities' and that I had to give up 'all that'-- meaning my religion, basically--and that Our Lord ought to be my only god. Well, I mean, I *think* he was thinking that we think of gods the way Christians think of Jesus, which is just ignorant. And when I tried to point out that it didn't work that way, he said 'It wasn't a suggestion' or something like that.

And I understand the point of testing whether I'd follow his orders--only I just think it's an odd thing to ask someone to give up.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-18 05:17:14](#)**  
(no subject)

It doesn't sound like he has any real idea what he wants you to do, or give up. Has he said anything about it since?

Frankly, I think you should go right ahead with *Natya*, if you can find the time.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-18 05:22:05](#)**  
(no subject)

No, not really. I mean, he might do if I started talking about it, or made an announcement about Diwali or something. But he hasn't asked or anything.

I was also figuring that he wouldn't consider yoga too Hindu, since it's so similar to the meditation exercises Tosha's had us doing for years. Also, I remember from Muggle Studies that some muggles thought they understood yoga, even ones who weren't Hindu themselves.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-18 05:30:41](#)**  
(no subject)

If he doesn't, that just shows how utterly ignorant he is about it.

I've been a Councilwitch since we were called Death Eaters, and Our Lord has never had anything to say to anyone about their private spiritual practices, so long as they didn't interfere with our service to Him.

I have an idea, my dear; you and your sister organised a celebration of Diwali a few years ago, didn't you? I'll organise one this year, assuming the Headmaster doesn't object. And we'll see if Marvolo has anything to say about it to *me*.

**2014-10-17 23:05:00**

*Private message to Antosha*

I don't expect you'll object, but I told Miss Patil that come Hogsmeade weekend, I would take her around to the Elysian and the Ouroboros and save you the trouble. I was thinking I'd take her to Morgaine's, as well -- it can be nice to have a retreat that is Witches-only.



**alt\_savitha**

As you're the Headmaster, though, it occurred to me I should probably ensure you're not going to make me stay home to play mother hen to the chicks. Between the truly new hires there ought to be enough, yes?



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-18 14:29:58**  
(no subject)

But of course you have seniority over the new arrivals, even if your service to the school was interrupted. And if you hadn't been teaching back then, we would have thought of some other excuse to exempt you -- no, my dear, schedule yourself with impunity.

I had thought to bring Miss Patil around myself, but another witch might be more suited. She is in need of a mentor, quite sincerely so. Shall I take it you are interested in serving as such?



**alt\_savitha** at **2014-10-18 15:43:33**  
(no subject)

Yes. She seems oddly neglected. Lana Sandoval sponsored her, and has the greatest right (and responsibility) to stand as her mentor, but appears to have forgotten she exists -- she's rather more focused on Hydra, ignoring the fact that Hydra is really no longer *her* protégé.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-19 01:22:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I have noticed that, yes. I suspect Lana is uncertain about her own place in Our Lord's service -- she, too, was elevated without anyone in particular standing for her -- and is uncertain about what she ought to provide for her own protégé. (And I would not be surprised if there were not a touch of worry that her own position might be affected by a poor showing from one with whom she was closely associated -- that would, at least, explain her interest in Hydra, who (as fitting Bella's daughter) is destined to be one of the greats of her generation.)

I am hopeful that with a Mastery under her belt -- and with closer connections with those of us in residence -- Lana will start to feel more secure in her position and thus more willing to reach out, but in the meantime, it would be good of you to lend Padma a helping hand. We've all seen what happens to those who lack strong mentorship; it is never pretty. And Padma does have a great deal of potential, when she decides to use it. (As to that: if you are able to gently persuade her that life in Our Lord's service is not a class for which she will receive marks but rather a series of pass/fail tests, where failure carries unpleasant consequences, you will be doing her a great favour. I have tried, but I believe she believes me to be needlessly alarmist.)

But yes, take her around. I had intended to use the afternoon to reach out to her more, but I can come up with some other pretext. And she's likely to find you more sympathetic, anyway; you've a great deal you can teach her about being a witch in Our Lord's service.

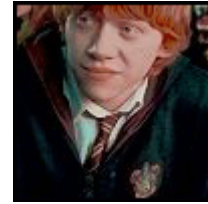
Oh -- while I am thinking of it -- there was an incident last night with Clarriker and Preece abusing the course in the salle. (Camping upon one of the blind turns and throwing hexes haphazardly around with no thought for who might be coming up behind them; Weasley and Finch-Fletchley nearly ran into them.) I've given them both detention through the Hogsmeade visit and revoked both their access to the salle for two months, past which they will need to petition me for re-entry, and let them know that any future incidents will result in their losing privileges for the remainder of their time at Hogwarts. They seemed chastened, but keep an eye out for them both.

**2014-10-17 23:08:00**

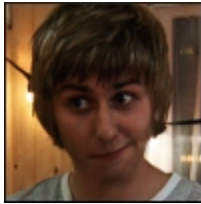
*Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley*

Clarriker and Preece. What tits.

Mind it wouldn't've been funny if that stinging hex had actually got you in the eye. Spending your birthday with Madam Pomfrey's probably not at the top of your list of things to do, yeah?



**alt\_ron**



**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-18 04:18:38**  
(no subject)

Ron,

No, indeed, not. Particularly as Ernie's planned rather a spread for me and Zach, what.

I say, Preece is lucky you didn't hex *him* in the eye, getting shirty like that!

Did you take them right up to the Headmaster, per your threat? Or did they agree to behave themselves and go on their own?

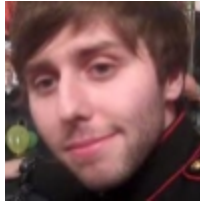
-Justin



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-18 04:40:32**  
(no subject)

I followed them. Really, I would have let them go in by themselves as long as they went straight up there, but as it happened, we all ran into him in the corridor. Or he ran across us.

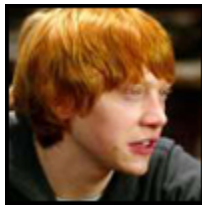
And they were silly enough to look at me when he asked what was what. Heh. So I said what'd happened and left them to it. He didn't sound best pleased. Guess maybe you'll hear from Clarriker whether they pulled detention for it. Or got banned from the Salle.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-18 04:46:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Serve them right if Tosha did decide to make an example of them, what. I shouldn't be surprised if he does, just to drive home how bally well serious he and Professor Desai are about preventing another Fight Club. Revoking their privileges would send that message jolly well loud and clear.

-J



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-18 04:59:36](#)**  
(no subject)

True enough. Mind you, with that pair, telling them they couldn't go to Hogsmeade might hurt worse. Not sure how much they care about training.

Oh, speaking of which. Hogsmeade, I mean. Since we can't go for a drink tomorrow, I'll buy first round at the Broomsticks when we're there.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-18 05:03:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Cheers, that sounds perfect, mate!

Night, then.

-J



**2014-10-18 10:37:00**

*Private Message to Alexa Bawsley*



**alt\_lana**

Trust you made it to sleep eventually last night. Not sleeping is undoubtedly part of your problem--you can't be rational when you're exhausted. But if you did the things we discussed--sealed your bed drapes and put the aversion charms on, you should have been quite all right. You saw for yourself that the charms on your amulet are all sound as can be, so you should have been well protected from any mischief.

Seriously, Bawsley, you've got to get hold of yourself. We're studying conjuration with spirits, not practising it. No one's using the castle ghosts to spy on you, and it's completely impossible they'd be conjuring malevolent shades. I can't see that anyone would find whatever you get up to interesting enough they'd bother taking that sort of trouble. Did you pay attention to what you read this week? And what I explained in lessons? There's always a very high cost to that sort of magic, and spirits are nothing if not shrewd negotiators. I hardly think you've got enemies sophisticated enough or powerful enough to be marshalling that sort of surveillance against you. (Then again, one might not have to promise much to that ridiculous flop-headed ghost in your tower, but surely you're not having all this panic about Sir Nicholas peeping at you?)

Of course, I don't mind your writing me when you're feeling anxious. Better you should do that than become one of the people Madam Pomfrey labels neurotic. Seriously, you want to hold off visiting her for when you've cut off an arm or at least been properly hexed.

But most of all, you'll want to face these fears of yours and get beyond them. You certainly don't want your parents to learn what a basketcase you're becoming.



**2014-10-18 21:23:00**

*(no subject)*

I will be offering a workshop on effective use of chaining offensive spells in battle in the training salle on Monday evening for students who have earned admission to the salle. If you are interested, join me there after supper, dressed for exercise. Please prepare by thinking of five or six spells you feel would chain together well.



[alt\\_antonin](#)

Admission will be limited to twenty students. If there is more interest than that, I will happily hold another session later in the week.

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**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-19 03:46:24**

*(no subject)*

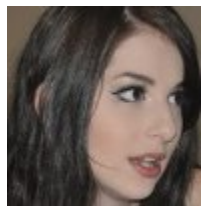
Thank you, Headmaster. It sounds like a useful way to spend an evening. I'd be interested in taking part.



**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-19 03:48:19**

*ORDER ONLY*

I wonder how similar it'll be to what we learned last term, with Professor Raz? I think we might have a good showing.



**alt\_sally\_anne at 2014-10-20 04:12:44**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Just make sure, when you think about spells to chain together, everything we know has an explanation that isn't, 'oh, I picked that one up over hols from when I was practicing in the secret muggleborn sanctuary with Sirius Black and the Longbottoms.'

(Not that I'm paranoid about that one, or anything! Reading those posts on the Order lock from when Neville actually turned you blue was a little sobering, though.)



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-19 19:46:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I shall look forward to seeing you there, Miss Parkinson.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-20 04:10:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I would also be very interested.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-19 19:39:25](#)**  
*Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Tosha,

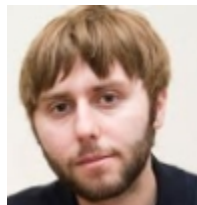
Of course, I'm interested in attending. Will Professor Desai or Sandoval be partnering you, sir? Or have you asked Auror Crouch to make the trip? Either way, the demonstration ought to impress the N.E.W.T. pupils.

-Justin



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-19 19:46:10](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

I had intended to ask for volunteers -- you would be ideal, of course, and I would have asked, but I would not wish to cause awkwardness for you among your classmates by always using you as an example.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-19 20:21:42](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Oh, I say. I appreciate your diplomacy on my behalf, sir. I daresay it's unnecessary, however. Those who might complain are unlikely to pose much bother.

It jolly well would resolve the difficulty of pairing with less experienced partners, what. Though it must be said that there is

great value in teaching others as a method of refining one's own technique.

I should say, Ron, Harry, Councilwitch Lestrangle or Councilwizard Finnigan would also provide a splendid showing, if they were so inclined. But if there seems to be a shortage of willing volunteers, I should be happy to oblige.

-Justin



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2014-10-19 20:51:27**

*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

There is that -- though you are correct in that teaching another can help clarify what you know but do not know that you know, there is a certain relief in not having to hold back. (There is a reason I am scrupulous about finding, or making, time with those at my own level, and why I have advised you to do the same; only sparring with those who are less experienced will train you into no end of bad habits.)

I shall see who on your list will be attending, and choose demonstration partners accordingly -- though, of course, if you think it would be beneficial for your fellows to be more aware of your skills, that could also be arranged.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-19 21:13:14**

*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

I shouldn't say *beneficial*, necessarily, but rather let us say...it would not *inconvenience* me, should certain people take note. Though one jolly well hopes my fellow students are realistically aware of how they measure up, what!

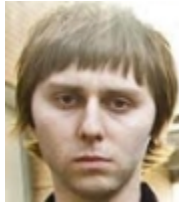
-Justin



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-19 21:15:45](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Of course, one often finds that those who are least capable are most convinced they are prodigies...



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-19 22:35:54](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Headmaster Dolohov*

It's lucky that yours is a practical subject, in that case. Sir.

-Justin



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-20 03:08:38](#)**

*Private message to Padma*

Professor Desai has let me know she has offered to show you around the facilities in New London next weekend, and I let her know that sounded like an excellent idea. I cannot think of a better mentor for life as a witch in Our Lord's service.

I would, however, still like the chance to spend some time with you outside the classroom, and while thinking upon what might suit, it occurred to me that you might be interested in an introduction to my favourite bookshop. It is a mostly-secondhand shop in Nocturne that specialises in services for the scholar, including an excellent selection of books ranging from the useful to the esoteric, a book-search service where they will both hunt down specific titles for you and set aside books from their new arrivals that fall within your areas of interest, and several reading carrels for those times when you need a quick consultation across a number of books not often found in public libraries but do not need to purchase the books for later use. From the days before Our Lord rose to power, the public face of the shop is a rather unassuming estate bookstore; the proprietress saves her best work for those who will truly appreciate it, and an introduction from someone who is already known to her would save you some tedious time of proving your bona fides.

If you are interested in a visit, do let me know. I would be happy to bring you into New London on a weekend when your schoolwork is

not overwhelming, or we can plan a visit over hols.

In service,  
Antonin



**[alt\\_padma at 2014-10-23 01:03:21](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Headmaster,

I'm so sorry, I'm terribly behind in answering people. Thank you for the offer; it sounds lovely and I'd be quite pleased to go.

Thank you, also, for coming to the lake tonight. It was--well, it's something we always do, but having Professor Desai lead it, and knowing that she and you both supported it, meant a lot. In more ways than one.

Padma



**[alt\\_antonin at 2014-10-23 03:19:16](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

No need to apologise -- you are very busy, after all. The next time I'm heading to the bookstore in person I shall let you know; what good is Council membership if one cannot use it for small perks such as skiving off an afternoon of classes occasionally?

I was pleased to be there. I've always found Diwali a beautiful celebration; I was welcomed to the celebrations of a friend in Geneva several times throughout the years. I've always found it interesting how many cultures have similar celebrations. Some things are universal, I suppose.



**[alt\\_harry at 2014-10-20 04:09:53](#)**

*Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

I would be very interested in that, sir.



**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-10-20 04:22:47](#)**

*Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

I would be very interested, sir.

I'm going to try to ensure that Padma comes. If she doesn't reply, can you hold a space for her anyway?



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-20 17:48:29](#)**

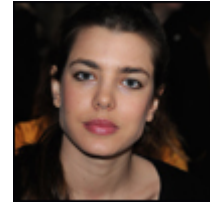
*Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Yes, of course -- you and Padma, and Hydra, and Harry, are certainly special cases.

**2014-10-20 14:51:00**

*Private Message to Antonin Dolohov*

I've just been looking through the parcel that arrived from Poundtree's this morning. They found a first edition of Mensur! And the corrected edition of Posten's Alveary! Several other things, too, that were on my list and two works they sent on spec because they thought I'd be interested. It's like Christmas every time something arrives from them!



**alt\_lana**

I'm just on my way in to teach now, but I wanted to offer my services this evening. Tomorrow's my lightest day and I've everything prepared, so it's no trouble if you could use the extra wand or simply an extra pair of eyes and ears.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-20 20:47:36**  
(no subject)

An extra pair of eyes and ears would be appreciated, yes -- I will never demand that you help supervise extracurricular tutoring, but likewise I will not turn down the help if you offer. (The little darlings are endlessly inventive in their disasters, as you have undoubtedly realised by now.) I am planning a fairly standard set of demonstrations and then pairing them off to work together for a bit. Finch-Fletchley already offered to be the first sacrificial goat for the demonstration; I shall see who else comes before I decide who else to press into service.

And you are not the only one who views a parcel from Poundtree as Christmas morning come early. (When I returned to the Protectorate, Amaryllis said she could clearly stop fretting about making rent on the shop. Not that she was, but I do imagine her income dropped precipitously when I was no longer handing over sacks of Galleons wholesale every month.) I have often suspected her of hiring clerks at least partially for their skill in Divination; in the entire time I have been patronising the shop I have never had them set aside something for me in error. I have known many, many bookshops in my time, and although there have been others with a similar range of stock and the like, I have never found one better at tailoring their offerings so precisely to my interests!

A good bookshop is one of the great delights of life; it gives me great

joy that I was able to introduce you to one of the best. I look forward to inspecting your haul.

Oh -- and if you are in need of any supplies for your workshop, give me your list as soon as possible. With the Hogsmeade weekend my usual schedule is entirely disrupted this week; I will be out of the castle on Wednesday and possibly Thursday afternoon to make up for it, and will be stopping by New London to restock as part of my errands.



**2014-10-20 18:15:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Madam Pomfrey*



**alt\_daphne**

Madam Pomfrey,

I have a personal matter to address that requires a healer's expertise and absolute discretion.

May I meet with you in private to discuss it?

Sincerely,  
*Daphne*



**alt\_poppy** at **2014-10-21 01:51:23**  
(no subject)

Of course, my dear.

I've seen relatively little activity here this evening, and of course we can withdraw to my office if you wish to come now--or if you have rounds this evening, you'll find things even quieter if you come just before or after you see to those duties.



**alt\_daphne** at **2014-10-21 01:56:44**  
(no subject)

I should mention that this isn't at all Order business. It's personal.

The Headmaster's workshop has just ended and even though some people are lingering around to ask him questions, I'll just duck out now. Everyone knows I have a tonne of quaffles to keep up in the air, anyway, so they'll think nothing of it.

Thank you for your prompt response.



**alt\_poppy at 2014-10-21 01:58:44**  
*(no subject)*

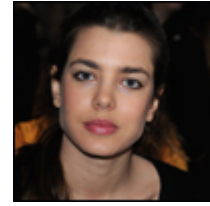
You're certainly welcome to come now.

No casualties on the duelling floor, then, I take it.  
That's decidedly good news.

**2014-10-20 21:04:00**

*Duelling Session*

It was an interesting evening. A few surprises. A few disappointments.



[alt\\_lana](#)

Lestrangle: your work is very efficient. You don't seem to enjoy yourself as much as you ought, though, given how thoroughly you're able to keep control of your attack. You could take a leaf from Miss Greengrass's book--she was pressing her advantage with visible enthusiasm and drawing energy from the momentum of her attack. (That was a surprise. A significant improvement over the last glimpse I had of your work, Greengrass.)

Marvolo: you're best when you don't overthink. You're more fluid when you let your instincts carry you. Otherwise, you give away what you're going to do, and an opponent like Lestrangle simply reads your tells.

Finnigan: you were right when you said you need more of the kind of challenge you saw tonight. Finch-Fletchley was hardly breaking a sweat, and he was throwing you puff pastries and marzipan. You need a sharper attack to make him work at all. Mind you, it was churlish of Finch-Fletchley to hold back. (Insulting, really.) I expect you'd have done better if he'd pressed you. Blandness breeds mediocrity.

Which, really, is all I can say about your performance, Patil. It was mediocre because you had no need to stir yourself. Don't think no one noticed that you shuffled off your assigned pairing. There's nothing you can learn by duelling the head boy. Nothing you need to learn, at least. If you ever need to defend yourself properly, you'll wish you'd taken opportunities like this more seriously.

Like Weasley. Weasley, I expect you think that was a shambolic mess tonight. It was, rather. But your instincts are good and your reflexes. You were reading ahead, most of the time: I was able to surprise you with spell choice, but you were anticipating placement and physical transitions well. You haven't got that Imago multiplier down, but when you did manage it, it was a screen for your next moves. That's worth perfecting, even if it gets you hexed black and blue until you've mastered it.

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**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-10-21 03:33:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you for your assessment, Professor Sandoval-Pennifold.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at [2014-10-21 05:23:54](#)**  
(no subject)

You're welcome, Finnigan.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-21 03:34:17](#)**  
*Private message to Lana*

Dear me, that must have been a delightful evening! I gather you assisted the Headmaster?



**[alt\\_lana](#) at [2014-10-21 04:25:41](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Lana*

I volunteered to help with crowd control, mostly, but then it ended up with an uneven number, so I was pressed into lending a wand, as well.

It wasn't entirely tedious. I don't have many chances to see the NEWT classes in action. Always good to see what those coming up are capable of.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-21 04:30:54](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Lana*

And...?

It looks like a few people impressed you. Both positively, and negatively.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at 2014-10-21 05:11:09**

*Re: Private message to Lana*

Yes.

The one to watch is Hydra Lestrangle. And Finch-Fletchley, but then he's been under the Headmaster's wing for some time. Not that he was putting much on display tonight. It's almost funny the ones who feel they have to posture and preen and the ones who think they'd be clever to hide what they can actually do. Either to show average so they could take someone by surprise someday or to appear nonchalant, so everyone might imagine they have super-prowess that they just can't be bothered to show, having no one worthy to show it to.

And then there's Patil. I think I may have to offer to help her. If she'll accept. She won't risk losing face by duelling anyone who might actually challenge her, and she's too sensitive to take criticism.

It's the ones who are willing to dig in and take risks that catch your eye. Mostly because there are so few of them.

Do you know Crabbe--Councilwizard, has that security service, does work for Mulciber sometimes? He has a son in this cohort, and you'd think, looking at him, listening to him, that he's an imbecile. But he's a deadly wand. And can hurl some seriously Dark curses as though it's nothing at all.

Oh, and Weasley, but you knew that already. Think you saw more in him than I did, and you're right. He's picked up a taste for testing himself, too, and for using a new sparring partner to tune up his improv.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at 2014-10-21 22:42:08**

*Re: Private message to Lana*

Lestrangle is no surprise, nor Finch-Fletchley, given the Headmaster's interest in him. Crabbe, though -- you're right, I've met him a few times and I'd barely expect his son to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. Good to know. I'm sure someone will find a use for him, after he's done with school.

And good to hear about Weasley.

Did you make an offer to Patil? Was she at least appropriately appreciative? You could assign someone else to tutor her -- well, I suppose you're just teaching up through the OWLs, that's no good.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at 2014-10-22 00:17:30**

*Re: Private message to Lana*

Well, that's the thing. I've got the third to fifth years to teach (and chivvy and prod), and then I've got my own work, which is a whole other story. A terrific one, but so consuming. I've only got two years to complete it, and there's so impossibly, wonderfully much to study!

And then there's Patil, who's all hurt that I don't have time for her. Last night she wrote me a PM to Professor Sandoval. Honestly.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-21 03:34:56**

*(no subject)*

Noted, Professor.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at 2014-10-21 05:29:13**

*Private Message to Hydra Lestrage*

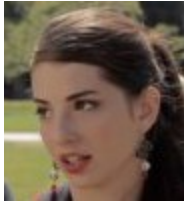
Your work with Crouch shows. I mean that in the best way. You've learned well.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-21 15:18:42**

*Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrage*

Thank you. I still have much to learn from him, of course. He won't be satisfied until I am better than the rest who were there last night, and neither will I.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-21 03:38:09](#)**

*Order Only*

Why, thank you for the compliment, Lana! Don't think I didn't notice Patil didn't dare duel me.

This was an educational evening but it would've been more fun if I could have duelled someone other than Belinda. Sue, maybe the two of us could work together in the salle this week? I think we're at about the same level.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-21 03:45:59](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Sandoval*

I'm taking the opportunity quite seriously. I have my own strategy for improvement, thank you. For reference, I prefer to put in a good showing at occasions like this and then take my real work to the salle in more privacy. Duelling Linus gave me plenty of time to think about the Headmaster's lesson and put it into practice.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at [2014-10-21 04:10:49](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Professor Sandoval*

Duelling Moon was a waste of your time and was in no way a good showing. If you're meaning to choose someone you're certain you'll out-duel, that's one thing, but if everyone else knows it's a foregone conclusion, you undermine yourself. Worst of all, you signaled disrespect for the Headmaster when you refused the pairing he assigned you.

I suppose you must be anxious about the impression you might make in a public situation like the one tonight. Really, it's very important to find confidence in your own abilities so you can show strength rather than caution on occasions like these.

Do you need someone to train with?



**[alt\\_padma](#) at 2014-10-23 01:00:04**

*Re: Private Message to Professor Sandoval*

I've been working with the pells and with Capper. Professors Desai and Dolohov have both offered help, as well. If you have time, I'd appreciate more private work, but I know you have loads to do, too.

I really am working on it, Lana. Calling me out like that doesn't help, though. It's not as if being Marked will instantly turn me into an Auror-level duellist.



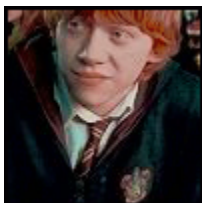
**[alt\\_lana](#) at 2014-10-23 03:29:53**

*Re: Private Message to Professor Sandoval*

I do have my plate full, but I have time scheduled every day for training. Meet me tomorrow morning at five at the salle? It's always quiet then.

You do need to work at it, steadily. And not by choosing partners beneath your level. That's why you earned a public telling off. When the Headmaster assigns you a partner, accept the assignment. Assume he has a reason. A reasonable one, even.

Honestly, this is more important than improving your sparring: you have to learn not to balk at any assignment, even if you can't see its reasons. Even if you can't imagine how you'll manage what's being asked of you.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-10-21 04:36:18**

*(no subject)*

Can't learn if you don't ever try anything new, right? I think I've nearly got it worked out. The thing is, it's not a difficult spell if it's the only thing you're casting. What I really needed to see was whether I could get it into the rhythm of any of the chains I use. In an actual fight with someone I don't practise with all the time.

Guess that's a no, not yet. But, yeah, I will get it.

Thanks.



**2014-10-20 22:49:00**

*Diwali*

My dear students, this week is a traditional Indian festival, Diwali. It is celebrated to mark the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and -- among Indian wizards -- pure wizarding blood over the blood of muggles and animals.



**alt\_savitha**

Naturally, I do not expect anyone to celebrate with me who does not want to, but on Wednesday evening there will be a special dinner that I've arranged with the house-elves, followed by a celebration at the lake, and all who are interested or curious will be welcome to join me.

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**alt\_savitha at 2014-10-21 04:13:57**

*Private message to Antosha*

I've been thinking I'd like to organise some sort of regular get-together for those of us at Hogwarts who are on the Council -- including the young ones. I could arrange for a hamper of treats, something a bit more luxurious than one would ordinarily run across, and invite everyone for tea on alternate Sunday mornings, or maybe monthly. Do you think you'd have time?



**alt\_antonin at 2014-10-21 04:22:31**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Yes, of course. I had been thinking along those lines myself, in fact! Tea sounds lovely. We can use my office if you'd like, or -- no, your quarters or mine would be more suited; better to take things firmly out of the realm of professors and students. But a chance for the children to get more comfortable would be an excellent idea.

And, in case I do not remember to say on Wednesday -- may your festival be filled with joy and prosperity, and may the Creator rain down blessings upon you and yours.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at 2014-10-21 04:29:04**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Why thank you, my dear. May you be blessed in the coming year with success, prosperity, and happiness.

Let's use either your quarters or mine, to encourage the children to begin to think of us as colleagues, rather than professors. We could even alternate. I'll host the first time.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2014-10-21 04:39:24**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

It's a deal. Alternate Sundays? If we plan things for early enough, it ought not conflict with my preparations for the Sunday lectures -- I have, after all, set matters up so that they need minimal involvement from me, for the most part. (Mr Weasley's dragon aside.)



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at 2014-10-21 04:41:09**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Perfect.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at 2014-10-21 04:14:34**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Do let me know if Harry brings up the Diwali celebration.

Otherwise, I will most certainly expect to see you there. Send him my direction if he has any complaints.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-23 01:00:57](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

It was wonderful. Thank you.

I'm so relieved



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-21 04:17:26](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm sure the student body would welcome you saying a few words at supper on Wednesday to explain the significance of the festival, as well, so that even those who do not join you for your celebration can be enlightened -- no pun intended -- as to what we are celebrating. A few moments to honour Hogwarts as an institution of knowledge, and to celebrate our beloved Protectorate and the purity of wizarding heritage that composes it, would certainly be appropriate.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-21 04:18:06](#)**

*(no subject)*

I would be delighted, Antosha.

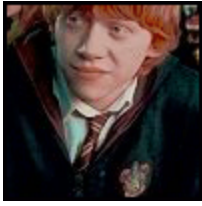


**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-21 04:17:34](#)**

*Private message to Ron Weasley*

I'm not sure if you could tell this from Professor Sandoval-Pennifold's comments, but you rather *thoroughly* impressed her, I think. I appreciate you doing me credit this evening, my dear.

I'll ensure you have the opportunity to duel with her again. In the meantime, let's see if we can arrange the time for a little private tutoring. Perhaps you can surprise her.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-21 04:49:18](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron Weasley*

Do you rea Thanks, Professor. For saying so.

I definitely have things I want to work on after tonight. It was interesting some of the combinations she used... I sparred with her once over the summer, but I don't think she took it very seriously that time. This was different.

I'd like to surprise her.

And not just her.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-10-21 04:52:40](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron Weasley*

Excellent. I'll check my calendar for next week.

**2014-10-21 19:54:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

we did a few tests today, and looks like I'm cleared for short distance apparation.



**alt\_frank**

not going to push things, still don't want to try for long distance just yet, but it's good to know I won't splinch myself to hell and back if it comes down to it.

training's been going well. the current crew is in damn fine shape, if I say so myself. we've got our regulars in all the free zones running like one of fu's machines, and we've started doing cross-training with people from different areas sparring to mix things up a touch.

from what I can read, looks like you lot at hogwarts are keeping sharp too. not that I'd have expected any less, but it's good to see.

kingsley, man, I was talking to davidson today, and he had a bead on some coal that could end up missing pretty easily. said we could get our hands on it as soon as next week. and I think it's high time we hit up the london museums. we've well cleaned out the countryside ones, and fu says the royal artillery and national maritime would be worth our while. (he's got ideas about cannons.) we've got to do some checking to see how accessible they are, and whether they've been repurposed or not first.



**alt\_frank at 2014-10-22 03:18:52**

*Private Message to Colin*

hey, kiddo.

I know you'll crack this open later tonight.

thanks.

for everything.

you've been my right hand man for almost a year now, kept me moving, kept me sane. I don't know when I'll be able to apparate regularly on my own, but once I do, I'm still going to want a partner.



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 05:36:08](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Colin*

There is nothing in the world I would rather do, sir.



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 03:19:42](#)**

*Private Message to Tonks*

by the time you have your sprog, I'll be ready to thoroughly kick your arse.

be prepared.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-22 03:20:21](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Tonks*

In your dreams, old man.

Well done, you.



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 03:21:17](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Tonks*

still have a ways to go yet. it'll be damn good to be out in the field properly again, though.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-22 03:25:49](#)**

*Private Message to Frank*

You are amazing, love.

I know we've been testing to see who else could do the modified Fidelius, but honestly, my dearest, you have taken a great challenge and faced it with such strength and courage that it's difficult for me to imagine anyone else as remotely capable as you.

You are the strongest, bravest, and best of men, and I love you.

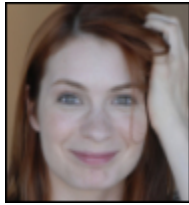


**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 03:48:13](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Frank*

you're the reason I'm still here.

love you back.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-22 03:48:51](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Frank*

And when are you coming up to bed?



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 03:51:52](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Frank*

now.

cheeky.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-22 03:58:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

Knew you could do it, Frank.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-22 04:01:22](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well done, you.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-22 05:11:24](#)**

*(no subject)*

That's utterly brilliant.



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-22 05:38:26](#)**  
*(no subject)*

(It is, isn't it? He used the same field you did your test in, for luck. Everyone was whooping like mad when he managed it.)



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-23 04:25:26](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Frank, this is excellent news!

I'm so pleased for you!



**2014-10-21 23:23:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*

Batya.

Finally able to make time to meet with Rod today. He's finished the schema--iron for repelling the horrors, nearly a foot long, runes running down both sides, and woven with spells of command.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Elegant piece of work.

Expect to go tomorrow, and will see what it can do. I think there's as much chance this will succeed as anything else we've tried. Hopeful, but not expectant, in other words.

Other things exceeding expectations. OL continues to be pleased. Gratifying. To say the least.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-22 05:07:17**  
(no subject)

'Gratifying' is as good a word for it as any, I suppose. In no small part because it does make one more sanguine about continued failures elsewhere. Or rather, it makes me more sanguine, and I most fervently hope it does the same for Him. (The longer we go without results, and without His displeasure, the more I agree with you: He cares less for the outcome than the message sent by our continued attempts.)

Still. It has been good work, I suppose. And an excellent anodyne for the idiots of the deep. (As to that: this week is full of administrative nonsense, so I am declaring tomorrow my day for banging my head against the wall, not Saturday. I will meet you there.)

Speaking of good work: your protégé made an excellent showing of herself last night. I pressed her into service as one of my partners for the lesson with which I opened my workshop; she made me work for it. She does you credit.

**[2014-10-22 19:41:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think my mouth is still tingling a bit from the lamb dish. It was all quite good. Especially the mango drink. I nearly didn't have any, but the younger years seemed to like it, and it tasted a great deal better than the last time around.



**[alt\\_pansy](#)**

And the fireworks were a rather nice touch, if I do say so.

Thank you, Professor Desai. It was a beautiful evening full of colour.

---



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-23 02:46:32](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred*

Three guesses as to whose fireworks she used.

They were brilliant, by the way, not that I'm surprised in the least. The animal shapes went over particularly well, and worked beautifully.



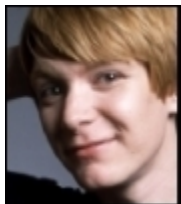
**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-23 02:48:04](#)**

*Private Message to George*

Three more nights.

Counting tonight.

You've no idea how very much I'm looking forward to seeing you again.



**[alt\\_george](#) at [2014-10-23 21:27:29](#)**

*Re: Private Message to George*

Not nearly as much as me, believe me. And not because I'm planning on lugging along the shop ledgers and asking you to straighten out the bookkeeping over butterbeers, either.

Wish I could whisk you away farther than Hogsmeade. Been missing you. Fred's been teasing me awfully about it.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-23 21:34:15](#)**

*Re: Private Message to George*

I wish you could too.

In the grand scheme of things, I know it'll only be a few more months till I'm done with school, it just seems such a long ways away. Especially when I've got so much to look forward to once I'm finished. Like seeing you whenever I please.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-23 21:34:56](#)**

*Re: Private Message to George*

And don't mind Fred. He'll get his. After all, he's poking fun at one of the legendary pranksters of Hogwarts, and his Slytherin girlfriend. That's a downright deadly combination.

I'd bet between the two of us, we could come up with a way to get him back for it.



**[alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-10-23 13:39:15](#)**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred*

Thank you! One of our very best, we reckon.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-23 03:45:37](#)**

*(no subject)*

It was brilliant. Best food we've had all term.

Who knows, turnip loaf might taste loads better if just had a bit of curry in it!



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-23 04:50:24](#)**

*(no subject)*

I can't believe people actually ate whole servings of that lamb dish. The lassi was brilliant, though. And the bread was just as good as I remembered, and the chicken dish wasn't too spicy.

Anyway, I'm with Ron, it's a shame we don't get food like this more often!

**2014-10-22 21:31:00**

*Private Message to R Lestrangle and A Dolohov*



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Remarkable how five hours in interrogation can turn a day around. Feeling less entirely useless, at least.

Rod. Appreciate your help. The runes and design offered robust protection. Repellant properties held firm: allowed them no nearer than ten feet, a reasonable buffer zone. Very useful in that regard. Abject failure, though, as an object of command. We tried all likely combinations.

Quite sure it was no inadequacy of the device itself--the first time I raised it, an enormous flock of geese rose from the marsh and assembled before me in formation. The thing works. Just not on inferi. Which the geese found to their dismay.

As did Our Lord's 'guests' to the site today. Came out to spectate as He sometimes does, and brought Greyback and two of his feral followers. Apparently as punishment. Or to impress a point on Greyback. Imperiused the pair to walk into the midst.

Batya. Trust you found your appetite before tonight's festivities at the school? Was glad to avoid supper, myself.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-23 03:21:31**

*(no subject)*

I am fortunate to have a strong stomach, I suppose.

I find myself wishing He would give up on this farce; He has made his point well enough by now. But if it pleases Him that we continue beating our heads against a brick wall, well, I am His loyal servant.



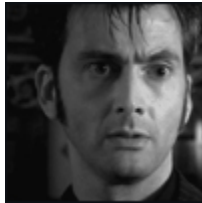
[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-23 03:32:54](#)  
(no subject)

Without question.



[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-23 03:44:57](#)  
*Private message to Barty*

I saw your face while He was playing with his toys.  
Are you all right?



[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-23 03:50:55](#)  
*Re: Private message to Barty*

Let's just say I took His point.



[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-23 03:59:44](#)  
*Re: Private message to Barty*

Quite.

I will confess that if the short one had laughed that laugh one more time I would have 'accidentally' shoved him into the arms of the shambling horrors myself, but I was distinctly pleased He was looking at Greyback and not at us.

I wonder how long it will please Him to waste our time with this.



[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-23 04:14:46](#)  
*Re: Private message to Barty*

Have had the thought that He might be waiting for us to admit defeat. Possibly all we've to do is say we've run out of spells and devices and strategies to test.

That is one thing we've not tried.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at 2014-10-23 04:18:10**

*Re: Private message to Barty*

So. How was the feast of Light?



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2014-10-23 04:39:19**

*Re: Private message to Barty*

Revitalising, I suppose is the best word for it. You will laugh, but Diwali is one of those festivals that never fails to soothe my soul -- something about the human tendency to celebrate light and fire in these months when the days are growing shorter and shorter speaks to my sense of the perverse. The same part of me that loves the All-Night Vigil so well, I suppose.

Savitha seemed entirely too pleased with herself, though, and not only for holiday celebrations. And something Padma said made me think there are machinations going on behind the scenes to which I am not privy. Not alarmingly so, but I shall keep my eyes open.

**2014-10-23 00:17:00**

*Hogwarts lecture series*

I'm certain the student body and the wizarding community would join me in thanking Mr Charlie Weasley for his interesting and informative look at dragonkeeping as a profession and the beauty and majesty of dragons as a species. I'd also like to thank his colleagues, who sacrificed a Sunday afternoon to helping him transport and exhibit the Stornoway Reserve's specimen.

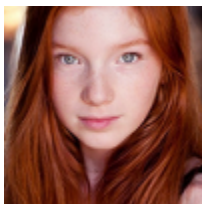


[alternity](#)  
[alt\\_antoin](#)

The next installment in the Hogwarts lecture series will be Sunday, 26 October. Professor Egalantine Marwick, Hogwarts' own new history professor, will be lecturing on historiography in times of dramatic social and political upheaval. Professor Marwick is the author of four books on Our Lord's rise to power: *The Calm Before the Storm*, *Wizard War*, *The Dark Before the Dawn*, and *Glorious New Morning*. He is working on a fifth, as-yet-untitled book, tentatively scheduled for a release in August of next year.

The lecture will begin at 7:30PM in the Hogwarts library. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Great Hall. It is open to any citizen of the Protectorate who wishes to attend, not simply students and their parents.

Our next lecture will be Sunday, November 9.



**alt\_evelyn at 2014-10-23 05:47:50**

*ORDER ONLY*

Our new History professor can be rather intense. And he hasn't spent a lot of time talking about the war, but when he does, I feel like a specimen under glass.

I suppose I'm just not looking forward to hearing his version of things particularly.





**alt\_padma** at **2014-10-27 02:35:47**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you, Headmaster, and Professor Marwick, for such a stimulating evening's programme.

I'm sure many of us feel that our own History of Magic education would have been much improved had we had the benefit of Professor Marwick's knowledge long before now. Third-years, I hope you appreciate his insights as to Our Lord's immeasurable impact on our glorious realm.

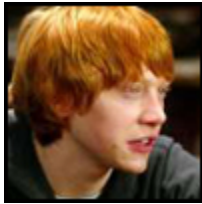
**2014-10-24 22:42:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Pansy, Ron, Daphne, and Susan*



**alt\_sally\_anne**

HOGSMEADE WEEKEND. About time, too. This castle has never felt so small. (Well maybe second year when they didn't let us leave it or even get post for months because of the sickness? But not since then.)



**alt\_ron at 2014-10-25 12:35:03**

*(no subject)*

Wonder if that juggler'll be there. The one with all the mad hats that could twist himself into a knot and juggle with his feet.

First stop's Honeydukes. I seriously need some chocs.



**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-25 16:12:46**

*(no subject)*

I know what you mean!



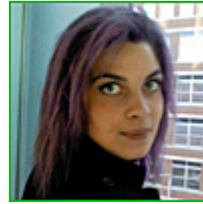
**alt\_daphne at 2014-10-25 22:40:17**

*(no subject)*

I wish I could say I'm having a snitch of it, but Oglethorpe and Montrose tried to sneak out and made it halfway to the village before Whitacre noticed. I've had to escort them back and assign them detention with Milland. Loo scrubbing, no wands. That should teach them!

**2014-10-25 10:13:00**

*ORDER ONLY:Private Message to Charlie*



**alt\_nymphadora**

That private party finally confirmed (kept us waiting til the last minute, but we need the dosh, business has been slow), so we'll need all hands on Sunday, and Merlin knows how late they'll be staying.

Tuesday instead? I can come up there, you can see if Bap will decide to give a command performance (felt a few kicks this morning, so chances are good), and I can have a proper week-end even if it's a few days late.



**alt\_charlie** at **2014-10-25 16:28:18**  
(no subject)

That sounds lovely!

Although, you know, I've been mostly working the wee-hours shifts lately. If you wanted, I could come down after the party, help you clean up and the like.



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-25 21:16:59**  
(no subject)

You don't mind rolling up your sleeves, I'd bet we could find something for you to do.



**alt\_charlie** at **2014-10-25 23:07:33**  
(no subject)

I never mind rolling up my sleeves. Gets all the girls staring at me and giggling!



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-26 00:05:33](#)**  
(no subject)

As if they could help themselves. We'll get those arms of yours nice and soapy, and they'll be flinging themselves at your feet.

Just make sure you share their generous tips with the rest of us, and that they don't swoon too dramatically. We've got work to do, after all, and they'd take up valuable floor space.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-26 03:24:52](#)**  
(no subject)

You got it.

I don't know if I'll be able to get there before your party ends -- it all depends on how late I wind up sleeping, since Sunday's my only night to sleep in even if "sleeping in" means "past supper" because I'll be climbing in bed around breakfast-time or so. But I'll come down as soon as I do wake up and pitch in as much as I can.

**2014-10-25 11:24:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Miss Greengrass*



**alt\_poppy**

My dear, I'm afraid that the sample Miss Lestrangle contributed for us has not proven a match, but as you know, that rules nothing out. Had it indicated a family connection, we could have taken that as proof, but the reverse is not true. The negative result may only mean that her mother's influence outweighs or dilutes the markers of her Lestrangle heritage.

If you wish, I will contact Rodolphus Lestrangle and ask if he would be willing to contribute a sample to corroborate his claims. I could also, of course, enquire of Healer Fletcher about the results he obtained for Professor Lestrangle, but I'll wait for your decision before I proceed with either of them.



**alt\_daphne at 2014-10-25 22:35:38**  
(no subject)

I can contact Mr Lestrangle myself, if you'd rather not draw the attention of a council wizard. He's already meddled in my life, so I have no compunctions about meddling in his. In an entirely polite fashion, of course.

I should think Healer Fletcher may not be forthcoming, since he's proven himself to be secretive in the past. Have you reason to believe he would be honest with you?

Though, if I don't share any 'markers' with Hydra I would think that the odds of me being a Lestrangle are somewhat small, surely?

Thank you, again, for your discretion on this matter.



**alt\_poppy at 2014-10-26 06:04:10**  
(no subject)

If you are willing to contact Mr Lestrangle yourself, I agree that would be the most direct course. As for Fletcher, one never knows what a collegial approach might yield, but if you're able to obtain a sample

from Lestrangle, then there will be no need to approach him.

I'm sorry not to have been more clear about the testing: it's not that your sample and Hydra's share nothing in common, but that the test didn't produce anything approaching certainty.

You could still quite well be cousins, but testing cousins rarely yields the sort of match that resolves doubt, because in this case, the Lestrangle connection is mingled in her with her mother's Black line and in your case with the Montague line through your mother.

When paternity testing relies on a comparison of cousins, things can be greatly muddied by the intermingling of our older families: similarities are to be expected and cannot be taken as proof, because at one degree or another, you are almost certainly Hydra's cousin, whether Rabastan Lestrangle is your father or not.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-26 16:58:16](#)**

*(no subject)*

If purebloods are so intertwined as that then I probably share a connection with Rodolphus Lestrangle whether he's my Uncle or not, so his sample may not be conclusive, either. Perhaps he has something of Ra - of his brother's. That's the only way to confirm for certain that I'm not his child.

I'll ask him.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-26 22:36:38](#)**

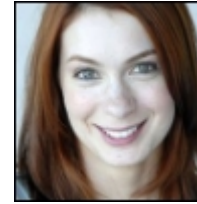
*(no subject)*

I've written to him. He says he'll send you a sample that actually belonged to his brother.

I suppose it makes sense that he would have access to such things.

**2014-10-25 16:23:00**

*ORDER ONLY*



**alt\_alice**

Thanks to the hard work of our Octoboros group, we've got a plan to weaken and potentially take down that set of wards (leaving us with additional wards to take down, naturally, but it's a start).

They've been working out many possible scenarios, and I gather the best one will be to place the stolen Octoboros in a central location along two key leys, place a Fidelius around it, and use runes to link it with the rest of the network. I gather there are a few possible outcomes (including a small possibility the wards could come down altogether due to an energy surge), but regardless, our having a stone networked with the rest gives us a greater degree of control over things and would allow us to eventually dismantle the network from within. This method is the safest, both from a security risk, and from the standpoint of unanticipated side-effects due to powerful surges of magic.

Cecelia, Jeremy, Siz, Sarah, and Evelyn have done an incredible amount of work leading up to this moment, and they have depended heavily on the data collected on our many flying missions -- a hearty thanks to everyone who got on their brooms over the past year to track leys and gather readings.

We'll need some spare hands to help place the stone and stand guard while we perform the Fidelius. As many of us as can be spared can come to Moddey on the evening of the 27th for a quick mission.

Seeing as how we'll have several of us in one place, we can also take the opportunity to more widely distribute the secrets for the Argleton and Inverary farms. Kingsley, Poppy, you'll be happy to hear that Regina's finished her assessment and has given a very positive report on Argleton's crop capacity and has already started preparing them for an aggressive winter harvest, which will lessen the strain of providing supplements for Inverary. I know Inverary's stores aren't quite as robust as they will be next June, Molly, but I hope it's a start to helping your Alpaca problem. And Lee, love, I'm hoping things have been going smoothly on your end.

---



**[alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2014-10-26 13:41:13](#)**  
(no subject)

That's excellent news. And a big relief.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-26 13:43:13](#)**  
(no subject)

I can join the broom brigade on the 27th.

Bloody hell, what a tremendous leap it will be if we can knock out that ward. Well done, Octoboros team.



**[alt\\_lee](#) at [2014-10-26 16:13:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I can be there Monday night.

On the other thing, we're mostly just trying to find a date now, around the last bits of harvest and things.

Um. Everyone else, we're sort of coordinating a conversation, conference, something like that, between the different places. Some people are right touchy, not that they don't have reason to be, but we're hoping if everyone actually gets to see each other and talk a bit, it'll be easier. So some of it's going to be talking about who wants to swap this thing for that thing, but some of it also about different ways of making decisions, and what that means for trading and all and how things are going.

Wayne and I've also mostly worked out a sort of round robin courier system, to help get notes from one place to another more reliably. We're currently trying it by alphabet (Aldrich to Argleton, Argleton to Bedford, like that, with Wayne and me being at opposite points in the chain) but it's an awful long way from Bedford to Inverary, so we might try a different order. (Only then it's hard to keep track of how fast something's going to get somewhere.) And it means they see both of us about once a week, and we figure that's not a bad thing, right?



**2014-10-26 16:01:00**

*Private message to Mr Lestrangle*



**alt\_daphne**

Dear Mr Lestrangle,

Since I understand that you have been in regular communication with my parents, I'm sure you know by now that they have informed me of your independent paternity evaluation which concluded that your departed brother Rabastan Lestrangle is my biological father. In the interest of a full and complete analysis which rules out any of the former mishandlings by Healer Fletcher, I have sought out my own independent evaluation through the school matron, Madam Pomfrey. I hope you are not offended by this gesture on my part; I only wish to be thorough, seeing as it is my life which will be the most altered by the outcome of the evaluation, should it corroborate with your own.

If you would be so kind as to send a sample from yourself to Madam Pomfrey, I would be most appreciative.

Sincerely,  
*Daphne G. Greengrass*



**alt\_rodolphus** at **2014-10-26 22:33:16**  
*(no subject)*

- Miss Greengrass,

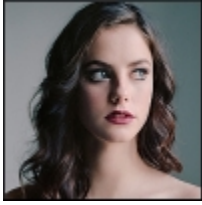
I would be all too happy to supply your school matron with a sample from Raz himself. He is no longer with us, but he did grow up at L'Estrange Hill and his childhood bedroom has remained warded and untouched for many years.

I understand that this all must come as a terrible intrusion to your private life. It is not my intent to embarrass or shame your family, and I will do all in my power to ensure that any such unpleasantness is minimised for you as much as is possible.

In the interim, I can see why you may wish to refrain from discussing the ramifications of this matter until you are satisfied with the validity of the results.

I will sent the sample and await Madam Pomfrey's report.

Rodolphus Lestrangle



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-26 22:35:08](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Mr Lestrangle,

I thank you for your prompt and cooperative response.

Sincerely,  
*Daphne G. Greengrass*

**2014-10-26 19:15:00**

*Private message to Barty*

Alert from Jennings: Suspicious canine  
Animagus at Ponds shop, Doughty Conduit.

I'm leaving Buckingham now. Pull Truncheon,  
Crannock, Fracas, Beaker, Covington,  
Zuckerman, Painter, and Boyde.



**alt\_bellatrix**



**alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-10-27 00:24:26**  
(no subject)

Ponds.

On it.

**2014-10-26 19:34:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

I'm at Grimmauld

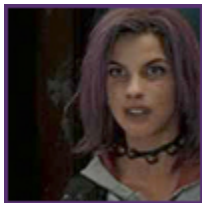
I'm safe

Where's everyone else?

Charlie. Charlie, don't come to the beer garden.



**alt\_nymphadora**



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-27 00:33:02**

*(no subject)*

Alice, there was an alarm at the beer garden.

It happened fast, Ellie was shouting at us to run, and Remus was pulling me over to the floo, and he didn't

follow me

No-one else has come through



**alt\_alice** at **2014-10-27 00:41:21**

*(no subject)*

Yes.

I see.

You're secure at the moment? Who else is at Grimmauld?



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-27 00:44:14**

*(no subject)*

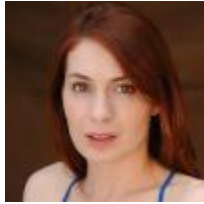
I've been shouting, looks like it's just me and Kreacher.

Tell me Bea is safe. Just go get her and check on her for me, would you?



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-27 00:45:04](#)**  
(no subject)

Keep her there for now, yeah?



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-27 00:45:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. Of course.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-27 00:46:17](#)**  
(no subject)

She's playing with Maureen. She's safe, love. I've just given her a kiss.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 03:41:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Can you bring Bea back to Grimmauld? I think Tonks would feel better if she could see her.

The Floo's down, though, you'll have to  
apparate.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-27 03:48:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. That won't be a problem. I'll come over with her right away, and can stay and keep some company if it'd be helpful.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-27 00:38:10](#)**  
*Private Message to Remus and Sirius and Ellie*

Please.

Please be okay.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 00:39:55](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Missed the warning, thank Merlin I came in at the corner instead of right outside. I'm in the curry takeaway instead.

There's --

There's a Dark Mark over the shop. And one of the Aurors has Remus.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-27 00:42:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

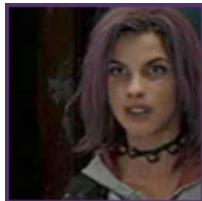
Oh.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 00:46:48](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I was watching as much as I could but the Auror took Remus around the corner to the Apparition point and I couldn't see.

I'm trying to look like I'm just waiting for a takeaway.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-27 00:49:51](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Don't let them get eyes on you. Be careful.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 01:04:14](#)**

*(no subject)*

No, I'm all right. I got enough warning.

I'll be at Grimmauld as soon as my takeaway is ready. (Had to order something, I was getting

funny looks.)



**[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-10-27 00:48:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

A Dark Mark? But -- but they haven't used those in years!

Oh, Charlie.

Right now the clock says we're all safe. Those of us in the family. I'll keep watch.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 00:52:09](#)**

*Private message to Charlie, Alice, and Tonks*

I'm heading into the office.

You do realise I won't be able to save him. At best, I'll -- well. No guarantees of anything, really.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 00:59:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

Right.

Truncheon's off-site. I don't know where. He might actually be at Doughty Conduit, or possibly they're conducting the interrogations elsewhere, which isn't unheard of.

I can't be too obviously about lingering. And there's no telling when they'll bring him in.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 01:33:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, Merlin, I'm sorry you saw that. I didn't think --  
Sirius used polyjuice. That was Sirius taking me out.

Worked a treat.

If I'd seen you I'd have written sooner. Sirius got sick, and he'd been hexed -- and Terrie wanted explanations. But we're all right. Neither of us was captured.

Bellatrix apparently doesn't want Sirius alive anyway.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 01:34:20](#)**  
(no subject)

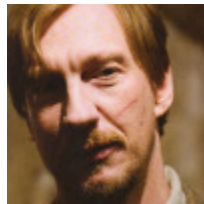
Thank goodness.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 01:43:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you tell Sirius from me that his Auror impersonation is damn convincing from a distance!

Tonks and I are here at Grimmauld. She's all right, a bit shaken up but hearing you were both all right helped.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 01:50:57](#)**  
(no subject)

It was damn convincing up close, too. My arm's still sore from the way he twisted it back.

It needed to be convincing, though. It was our only chance of getting out.





**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-27 02:36:43](#)**  
(no subject)

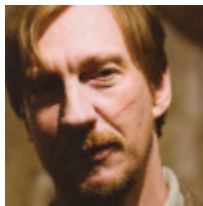
Thank Merlin. Thank bloody Merlin. What a *sweet* trick. Well done.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 02:48:12](#)**  
*Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

I've just had a moment to re-read. You say Sirius was hexed? In your own message you said he was indisposed, and I assumed it was Apparition sickness.

What sort of hex? Have you been able to care for him? to reverse it?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:06:53](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

I don't know what it's called exactly, it causes stinging and gets worse over time. He was able to shrug it off while we were getting away, but once we were safe -- and on top of him getting sick -- you can imagine.

I know how to reverse it, though, just not how it's cast. He'll be all right. I'm not taking him anywhere else tonight, though, not even back to 12GP.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 03:13:52](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

A wise choice, I'd say.

It wasn't Bellatrix who cast the hex, then? Even so, do keep an eye out for any sign it was more than a common hex.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2014-10-27 03:26:01**

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

No, she concentrated on the Killing Curse.

Which I ought to have used on her, when I had the chance, Mordred curse me. I was turning, there were too many people in the way ... I had her down. I could have ended it if I'd been a bit quicker. But then Crouch was closing and - Ellie - I knew Remus was still inside. We only had moments to escape.

If I'd stayed, I'd have had to duel Crouch with 20 odd bystanders right there.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at 2014-10-27 04:43:54**

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

There were too many people, lots of them were our friends, several were in the way. Could you live with yourself if you'd tried to hit Bella with the killing curse and hit Jill Hibbering?

And you were not going to be able to duel Crouch. Not with that many Aurors. You'd have made yourself a gift to the lot of them.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-10-27 01:06:57**

*(no subject)*

Hermione and I are still at the safe house near Hogsmeade, testing the wards we set up earlier.

Should we Apparate back to 12G or stay put?



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2014-10-27 03:23:28**

*(no subject)*

Come back to 12GP. I need to leave in an hour or two, and I don't want Tonks alone in the house, or without someone who can side-along her once we disable the Floo.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-27 03:28:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

What, isn't Kreacher there?

We'll gather our things and be off in a few.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 01:07:09](#)**

*(no subject)*

Want you to know I've seen this. Do, please, tell us if you hear from Sirius. Or Remus.

The rest of the Hogwarts contingent are all in the library listening to one of the Headmaster's Sunday lecturers. I've just been and pulled Albus away to alert him. He's gone back in and has his eye out for any sign that it's necessary to evacuate.

We aren't panicking, but if it's necessary, we'll get the children out.



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-27 01:26:17](#)**

*(no subject)*

If you need us to help extract anyone from Hogwarts, let us know. We're right here and Harry knows just where to come.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 01:33:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, dear, it may prove very fortunate that you've given us a safe place nearby.

If we should need to run, we will get ourselves to safety. Don't attempt to come to us. That would add difficulty to the task.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 01:10:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Right.

Starting to get crowds watching. The Aurors keep snapping at them to get back, but you know how people are. The girl behind the counter here at the takeaway looks like she's about to jump out of her skin, too.

Crowd's getting too thick, I can't see much. No sign of Sirius. Somebody inside the shop is screaming at people, although I can't tell who it is or what they're saying.

I don't dare stay much longer past when my takeaway's ready. The girl behind the counter keeps looking at me like she's trying to decide if she knows me.



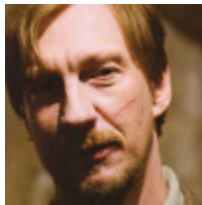
**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 01:23:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Would you get out of there? They could decide to sweep the whole area!



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 01:25:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm at Grimmauld now. I thought it would be more suspicious for me to turn around and immediately disappear!



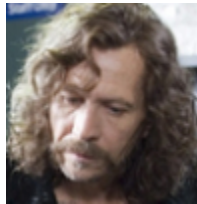
**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 01:51:47](#)**  
(no subject)

If you look out the window, does our honour guard look like they're -- I don't know, moving in? or anything?



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 02:43:55](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Holding steady, but looking rather intent.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 03:18:19](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Charlie, you should disable the Floo. It's secured by Fidelius but no sense giving MLE any sort of trail they can follow.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 03:22:02](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, good plan. I don't like leaving Tonks without any way out, though -- I'll ask Draco and Hermione to come back so they can side-along her if she needs to evac. I have to be back at the Reserve by no later than 1:30 or I'll be in the shit, and it's not a good time to be in the shit.

I'm glad you're all right.

**2014-10-26 20:26:00**

*Order Only*

Sirius and I are all right. Well, Sirius will be in a bit. We're at Bedford. Thought it better to go somewhere else, I mean, to split the group of us just in case.



**alt\_lupin**

Ellie's dead. Threw herself in front of Sirius when Bellatrix cast the killing curse.

She was the one who cast the Dark Mark. To warn people. Anyone who might be coming, to stay away.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-10-27 01:32:13**  
(no subject)

Oh, thank goodness!

By 'she cast the Dark Mark,' do you mean Ellie? Not Bellatrix Lestrage, not to warn others.

What happened? I mean, how did they find you?



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-27 01:34:16**  
(no subject)

Ellie cast it.

How'd they find us --

Sirius probably knows better than me, and he's still a bit indisposed. I haven't entirely pieced it together.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-27 01:37:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank Merlin you're all right.

How did Ellie know how to cast the Dark Mark?  
And how the hell did you and Sirius get out of  
there?



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-27 01:48:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Ellie's--Ellie was--always very curious. About everything from before. And the war. And all sorts of things, and every spell she could find out about.

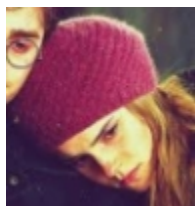
I wouldn't be surprised if she got the incantation out of Mr Snape.



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-27 02:26:38](#)**  
(no subject)

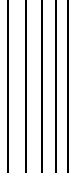
She had quite an interest in history, and in how we got where we are. We spoke often.

I did not teach her the spell specifically, but I spoke of it often enough, and it is not difficult to cast. It was designed to take as little effort as possible, after all.



**[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-10-27 02:30:57](#)**  
(no subject)

She'd have seen pictures all over, too. In books and signs and all. And she was an artist. I mean, she liked to draw. She could have cast it if you'd ever told her the incantation.



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-27 02:42:42](#)**  
(no subject)

I had, yes.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 01:38:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Goodness.

Poor, brave girl.

You must both feel-

I'm sorry. It's terrible.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 01:34:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, we burned the floo. At the shop. After we sent Tonks through.

So they won't be able to see any of you lot using it.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 01:47:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay.

We aren't usually open on Sunday evenings but tonight there was a regular wanting to hold a little party for his anniversary with his ladyfriend. Mr Prentiss and Miss Hibblings.

Some Enforcer bloke turned up and wormed his way into the party. This sort of party, about half the people there won't necessarily know the other half, so people didn't realise right away he didn't belong, but Ellie worked it out and let Sirius know. A little after that, he ducked out, and Sirius followed him. Caught him sending a message to MLE -- couldn't keep him from sending part of it off, but stupefied him and took some of his hair and then came back in barking his fool



head off to raise the alarm.

Ellie told everyone to run for it and sent up the Dark Mark. We'd -- I mean, she'd never have seen it cast, back in the day, but she'd heard people talk about it a few times, she knew it would scare people off.

But even as people were trying to leave, a LOAD of Aurors showed up. Tonks took the floo, and then we blew it up to make sure no one could trace anything from it -- and then Sirius saw Bellatrix. And she saw him.

If it weren't for Ellie he'd be dead.

He got Bella with something -- don't know what, it wasn't Avada Kedavra, but it took her down for a minute or two. By then, MLE had got their anti-apparation ward in place and I thought we were done for, but Sirius had that Enforcer's hair, so he dropped it in some polyjuice we'd kept for emergencies and then he turned into Jennings and came out with me as his prisoner and we just walked right out. He told everyone we passed it was on Auror Crouch's instructions and they got right out of the way. We made it out of the wards and I side-alonged us both to Bedford, and here we are.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-27 02:17:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh Merlin. Thank you for checking in. It's a relief to hear that you two are safe.

I am so sorry to hear about Ellie.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-27 02:42:44](#)**  
(no subject)

That was brilliant of her.

Oh, how I wish Dad could know. Because he helped pick her, for Doughty Conduit. He would have been so bloody proud of her. And of the way you got Sirius out.

Remus, Sirius, Tonks...I'm SO sorry about Ellie.



**[alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-10-27 02:46:16](#)**

*(no subject)*

Bloody hell.



**[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-10-27 02:49:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, my...the ledgers! Laszlo's ledgers. MLE will go right for them. Remus, did you manage to grab them? I suppose you couldn't; you were brilliant to save Sirius. But is there anything in those ledgers that could lead to anyone else that we want to warn?



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-27 03:00:54](#)**

*(no subject)*

Rachel, you said you were heading into work. Who is likely to get the ledgers, if they've been confiscated? Is there any chance you would be assigned to look them over?



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-27 03:04:45](#)**

*(no subject)*

Bloody hell. And can you glean anything about how long they've been watching the place?



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:08:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, apparently they hadn't noticed yet we were a massive nest of traitors with Sirius Black cleverly concealed as the family dog.

Or they'd have started with Bellatrix, rather than sending for her later.



[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:14:46](#)  
(no subject)

Remus is right: if they'd had any idea at all, they'd have had the floo reset to send anyone coming through straight to Truncheon before you had any notion of what was happening.

They got loads of leads from that Crimson Company bust, most of them the sort of very dull dead end you want followed up on by someone you keep around for precisely that sort of thing. If it looks interesting, you send for backup, which is precisely what the Enforcer who came tonight did.

Fortunately.



[alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2014-10-27 03:28:49](#)  
(no subject)

Fortunate.

Anything you can glean in the next few days which will help us with damage control, we'll be mighty glad to hear it.

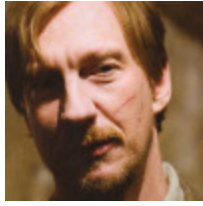
Without blowing your own cover, naturally.



[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:11:43](#)  
(no subject)

I left once I'd heard from Remus. No point in making myself more suspicious than necessary. Especially given how many times I've hung round that beer garden myself.

Probably they'll pass the ledgers on to my boss. I might get the assignment to follow up, but then again, I might not, if they decide I'm in the circle of suspicion on this one. (Rather than merely having been an idiot. Bellatrix had been there too, though, hadn't she? And Narcissa used to shop there. So at least I'm in good company.)



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:24:35](#)**

*Private message to Rachel*

Thank you.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:25:10](#)**

*Re: Private message to Rachel*

You do realise I wasn't there to try for a rescue.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:26:15](#)**

*Re: Private message to Rachel*

I do.

I also realise you might not have made it out yourself, after.

So thank you.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:26:49](#)**

*Re: Private message to Rachel*

You're welcome.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:03:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

We kept two sets. The ones with the incriminating information are at 12GP.

Won't stop them from harassing some of our suppliers, I'm sure. And that includes Jeremy's parents, there were some items we bought from them, so MLE might be coming around.



[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-10-27 03:08:34](#)

*Personal message to Remus Lupin*

Oh, thank goodness!

But your business and oh, your *home*...all your personal things. Oh, *Remus*. All of Bea's WORLD.

And Ellie...

Please, tell me if there is anything, any supplies you need.



[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-10-27 03:14:42](#)

*Re: Personal message to Remus Lupin*

I mean, I know you've been living at 12 Grimmauld Place for awhile now, but oh dear...I just remember all the times watching Bea toddle around the beer garden.



[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:23:46](#)

*Re: Personal message to Remus Lupin*

Most of our things were shifted over to 12GP. There were a few things in the shop -- a picture that had Ellie in it with some of our customers. I might have liked to have that. And this stuffed duck Bea used to carry around the garden, before we had to stop letting her come. She'd lost interest in it anyway, so we kept the duck in the windowsill.

They're just things, though. It doesn't really matter.



[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-10-27 03:30:32](#)

*Re: Personal message to Remus Lupin*

You're right, Remus. They're just things.

I'm so glad that you and Sirius and Tonks and Bea are all safe.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 03:07:07](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm all right.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-27 03:09:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Bless.

I'm very glad that you are.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-27 03:22:43](#)**  
(no subject)

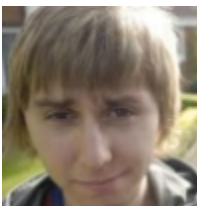
Oh, love.

I'm so very grateful.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-27 13:37:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Good.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:55:32](#)**  
*Private Message to Sirius and Mr Lupin*

Sirius,

But you're all right, aren't you? Both of you?

I'm dashed sorry about Ellie.

-Justin



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2014-10-27 03:57:25**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius and Mr Lupin*

Yes. We're both fine.

More than I can say for everyone we abandoned back there.

We're all right, kiddo. Stay sharp, okay?

**2014-10-26 21:08:00**

*Private message to Hopkirk*

16 taken into custody; 11 dead; approx 7-8 at large, including Black and the Ponds.

Correction: 12 dead. Forgot about Jennings.

Request clean-up to Doughty Conduit ASAP.  
Case, Crockford, Holcomb, Laverty, and Pelton.

Send Leonora Dawkins for a sketch at 2300. I should be returned from Buckingham by then. Will distribute priority alert first thing in the AM.



**alt\_bellatrix**



**2014-10-26 21:31:00**

*Private Message to P Brundage*

Need you to round up the local watchers in Camden. Doughty Conduit. Guilford Street. Bring all in.

Take Forney with you. Any others you think you'll need to make quick work of it. Want them asap.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**



---

**alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-10-27 02:55:21**  
(no subject)

To interrogation.

Move.

**2014-10-26 22:22:00**

*Order Only Private Message to the Juniors*

So. Right. Guess we're not expecting MLE to come crashing in here tonight, then.

Not sure we can assume there's no chance of it, though, either.



**alt\_ron**



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-27 03:37:09**  
(no subject)

Do you think we ought to remind them we went there about a hundred times to appreciate tea?

I mean, lots of people went there. Some of them weren't even traitors. But.

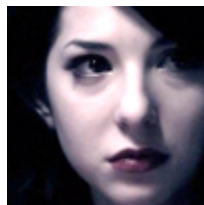


**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-27 03:41:41**  
(no subject)

Ha. No.

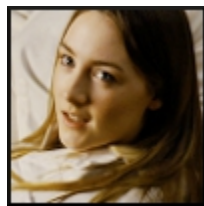
If they haven't thought about that yet, let's not remind them.

I wonder how long it'll take Mrs Lestrangle to remember Hydra went there for tea with loads of friends.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-27 03:43:35**  
(no subject)

I'm sure she'll think about it by morning.



**alt\_hydra** at **2014-10-27 03:53:47**  
(no subject)

But Mummy had to take me to the shop first to make sure that it met with her approval, which I suppose it did, since she never stopped me going there.



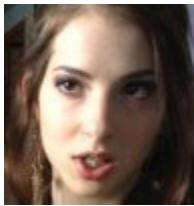
**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 03:55:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Let's be sure to point that out to her. I think that'll go over really well.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-27 04:01:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I was already planning on it. She may well be in a lot of trouble right now, since Sirius escaped *again* and the shop that she herself cased out, which was also operated by her niece, turned out to be harbouring him.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 03:37:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Not to worry, though, they'll be sure to get the children out if there's any cause to worry!



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 03:39:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. That.

Gag.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 03:42:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Ron,

No. I say, it's bally well awful about Ellie. And I'm well relieved Sirius is all right.

But--dash it, one can't help feeling as if we've too much invested in our work here to give it all up. Obviously, if it's necessary, it can't be helped, what. It's jolly well sobering, isn't it, though, to think how close we might be to being discovered.

-Justin



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 03:45:11](#)**  
*Private message to Justin*

Yeah this is why I went back to wearing my ring.  
Even though it didn't work for Hermione anyway



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 03:47:07](#)**  
*(no subject)*

But yeah. I don't want to have to run. I'd rather run away than get killed, obviously, but if I run, that'll be it for finding a Healing apprenticeship (other than with Madam Pomfrey, when she's on hols and has time) -- I mean, I'm sure they'd find a use for me but I will be MORE useful if I can AVOID having to run away.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-27 03:53:06](#)**  
*(no subject)*

If we ran, we'd just end up hiding like the adults, wouldn't we? Taking care of babies.

I mean, I know it wouldn't be that dire.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-27 03:56:30](#)**  
*(no subject)*

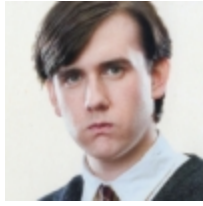
I have never once taken care of a baby, thank you very much.



**[alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-10-27 04:00:26](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Sometimes running away means you can more openly fight another day.

But I agree that Sally-Anne'd be most useful to us as a Healer. Which means avoiding running, if she can.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-27 04:20:48](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think that's a fair thing to say at all.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-27 04:25:57](#)**  
*Private message to Daphne Greengrass*

My Dad may have changed plenty of baby nappies, but he was nearly killed in Ireland. AND he lost his magic for almost an entire YEAR to save all the people at Saltash. And my Mum changes nappies, but she's *running the bloody Order*.

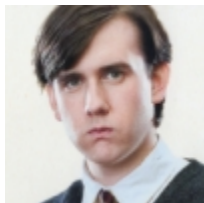
I'm sick of hearing people rag on the adults like they're cowards. Remus and Sirius and Tonks almost got killed tonight. So maybe you could be a little less disdainful.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-27 04:28:43](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass*

I'm sorry, Neville. I don't mean to be so dismissive, or to diminish what the adults do, but for many of us, going into hiding would be devastating. Has been devastating, though I realise Draco doesn't need me to speak for him. You'd be reunited with your parents and brother so it may not appear entirely unappealing to you. And for some, like Terry and Hermione, it's been positively liberating.

But do you honestly believe that the Ponds are going to be happy about being fugitives now? I'm certain that they'll manage, but it will be a blow, surely.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-27 05:08:34](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass*

It was devastating for my parents, too, don't forget. They lost everything. Their home. Their careers. And they gave up me and Evelyn to my Gran, and I know that just about killed them to

have to do that. And it was even worse back then, because there was no network. Just about EVERYONE they trusted was on the run at the same time. There were no safe houses for them to retreat to.

But they've done a bloody amazing job in the fifteen or so years since. No, of course the Ponds can't be happy about it. But they'll be all right because of all those people out there *hiding*, who've been through it, too, who will help them. And they'll show them that no matter what they've lost, they still have the brains and wands that can help.

Just like Draco's discovering, I guess.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 03:54:44](#)**  
(no subject)

I know. This totally mucks everything up if we have to run off to Moddey or Sherwood or wherever and hide.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 04:01:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Yes, that's just it. Do you know, it's rather odd: Professor Sandoval accused me of being 'churlish' to soften my duel against Finnigan on Monday, what, but one feels far more 'churlish' hoping that our adult colleagues in the Order don't do anything to cause any more of us to have to run, like Draco and Hermione. We've spent loads of time building up our relationships with Death Eaters, some of us, only to have to throw that work away.

I say, I think I know how they feel when we've done something that jeopardises their safety, what.

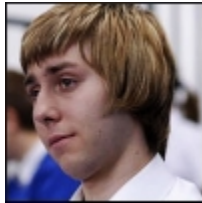
-Justin



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 04:10:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Did they do something to bring this on, d'you think?

I was thinking it could've been because Fawcett's brother went there when he was running from MLE. But they took their time going to investigate, if that's what it was.

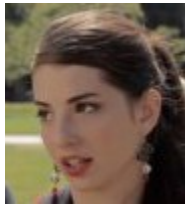


**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 04:22:14](#)**  
(no subject)

It could have been, yes. *Something* sent that Enforcer nosing about. So he was either looking for them or looking for someone else, what, but he certainly *found* something.

I wonder what message he sent, before Sirius cut him off.

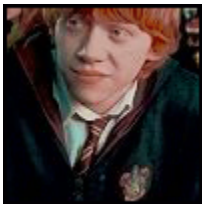
-Justin



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 04:30:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, it's certainly not churlish to hope our adult colleagues don't get themselves into dreadful trouble. That's both considerate and sensible.

If you TELL them you want them staying out of trouble because you'd really prefer not to have to go on the run till you've learned all you can from Professor Dolohov, that would be less 'churlish' and more 'unnecessarily honest.'



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 04:06:01](#)**  
*Private Message to Justin and Sally Anne*

So have you stopped into the trophy room to see what Dumbledore did with the portkey we're meant to use? It's a trophy to old Phineas Nigellus Black. Looks dead old. Like it's been there forever.



I'm with you, though, I want us to hold out as long as possible and not run unless it's absolutely necessary.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 04:32:56](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Justin and Sally Anne*

Yeah, pretty much as soon as they told us where to look I went to be sure I'd know where to find it.

It's a good spot, I'm sure I'll be able to find that trophy again, and if we have to get out we'll be able to get out. I really hope we don't need it, though.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 03:54:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

Draco always told me to disavow people when this sort of thing happened.

I'm not going to do it. (Sorry, Draco. At least you won't get in trouble this time.)



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 03:55:37](#)**

*(no subject)*

You mean make a public statement about the Ponds?

Ugh.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-27 03:58:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Hey, do what you want mate. But what if Auntie Bella decides to legilimise you?

Then again, she left you alone even though you were best mates with a blood traitor and unnaturally friendly with your muggleborn servant.





**[alt\\_harry at 2014-10-27 04:04:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Never mind Auntie Bella, Voldemort might decide some day to drop by and have a look in my head.

I guess I'll just keep hoping he doesn't.



**[alt\\_draco at 2014-10-27 04:07:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Bloody strange that he never has, isn't it?

I wonder... I mean, it's really strange. Got to wonder if it means something. Though I have no

idea what.



**[alt\\_harry at 2014-10-27 04:12:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Mostly he just takes no notice of me. When he does, it's never good.

Honestly he may well have legilimised me back when I was younger, and I just never even knew.



**[alt\\_neville at 2014-10-27 03:55:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Ron,

Am up in the room, had just gone to bed when I checked my journal. Don't see the point in making Seamus wonder by getting up and going down to the common room after saying I was about to turn in.

Bloody hell, that was brave of Ellie. And quick thinking.

I hope I could do that well, if it comes to it.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 03:58:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Neville, I know I make a lot of jokes about hiding behind the Gryffindors, but I really don't ever want you to take the killing curse for me, just to make that really clear. If Bellatrix is ever pointing her wand at me, by all means feel free to throw any curse you can think of at Bellatrix but don't, you know, jump between us, okay?



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-27 04:04:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I suppose she made a calculation: who could do more for the cause, her or Sirius. Ron's always going on about how you have to make sacrifices in chess, yeah? But it wasn't just that, it was that she had the brains to throw up the Dark Mark. So she maybe saved loads of other people, too.

I don't want to sacrifice myself if I can see another way out, honest. But I suppose MLE is very good at not giving you the time to size up all the chess possibilities.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 04:22:34](#)**  
(no subject)

She did sacrifice herself.

Sirius said she launched herself in the way. That the curse would have killed him if she hadn't.

Maybe she was thinking Sirius could do more for the cause. Or maybe she just acted.

I think she'd have been Sorted into Gryffindor, if she'd had the chance to be Sorted.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 04:32:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, I say.

Jolly good show, Ellie. Yes, Sirius must be feeling horribly responsible. Did he say anything different to you, Harry? He simply said to me that he was all right, which was 'more than he could say for the people he abandoned' - his words. I say, I'm sure he was thinking about Ellie, in particular. And everyone else who's been captured tonight as a result, what.

One wonders what else could have been done to help them.

-Justin

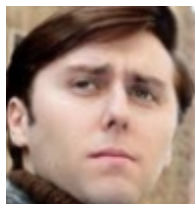


[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 04:36:24](#)

*(no subject)*

I asked him if Ellie had been in the wrong place at the wrong time. He said -- 'She had a better angle on Bella; I was turning out of a duel with one of the other Enforcers. Ellie - she launched herself into the way. As it was, I barely had time to finish my shot before Bella'd fired at me again, but mine hit her just a split-second before and threw her aim off as she went down. No, Moony's quite right. Ellie's the only reason I'm here to write to you now.'

I don't know what we could have done. If there were more of us maybe we could have gone there, and fought back.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-27 04:45:59](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, of course. Masked, perhaps, or as we said, we'd have had to plan not to return to Hogwarts.

Have you ever thought about simply giving up the pretence and joining him in a jolly well straightforward fight? Sometimes I--

Well. We all have our roles to play, what.

-Justin



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 04:54:20](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Yeah, of course I have.



[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 04:00:04](#)  
*Private Message to Neville*

I wonder if she did it on purpose. I mean, did she just happen to move the wrong way or did she throw herself in the way of that curse?

I mean, I know what Remus said, and maybe I shouldn't wonder. Only, things happen so fast in a fight...

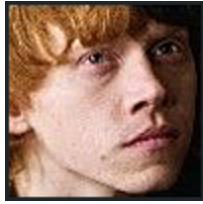
Anywiz, it's a terrible thing that happened. And it was dead brave of her if she did jump into the line of Auror Lestrage's wand. Or it's really horrible she was in the wrong spot at just the wrong moment if that's what happened instead. I reckon Sirius feels awful about it.



[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-10-27 04:12:22](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Neville*

Well, whether or not she *did* it on purpose, I hope the Order the Order will *honour* her like it was on purpose. I don't know if that'll make Sirius feel much better, but she did save him. And she did throw up that Dark Mark, and THAT was on purpose.

I dunno. If you have to die, and you know it, right in that split second right when it happens, maybe it just helps a little if you think it was for something that meant a lot to you. Rather than thinking you've been snuffed out by mistake.



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-27 04:19:21](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Neville*

Yeah. That's it. I hope she chose it. And wasn't just that unlucky, y'know?

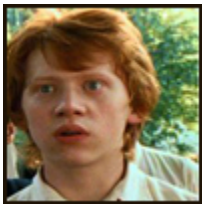
Because in a fight, unlucky happens a lot. And you'd like to think you'd know it was coming and know you'd done all you could before it does.



**[alt\\_draco at 2014-10-27 04:04:02](#)**

*Private message to Ron*

By the way, your brother Charlie is being completely odd with Tonks over here. Hovering around her and being exceptionally attentive and such. You reckon he fancies her?



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-27 04:16:29](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

That what it looks like?

Because that'd be a bit awkward because I'm pretty sure Bill fancied her. Though that was before he and Auror Lamont started seeing each other.

Why's he there, anyway? Charlie.



**[alt\\_draco at 2014-10-27 04:22:19](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

He's here to hover and serve weak tea.

No, I think he was on his way to the beer garden but MLE arrived just before he did, so he dodged them and then he went to 12G to check on Tonks.

Stornoway's a long way to Apparate for a beer.



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-27 04:29:37](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

And weak tea.

What's she think of him, then? Can you tell?



**[alt\\_draco at 2014-10-27 04:38:17](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

She's too busy being a bit weepy for me to tell. I've never seen her be weepy, it's dead strange. But she was close with Ellie so not surprising I guess. She is being a bit weepy on *him*, though.

Charlie, that is.

Hermione's mostly being quiet, though.



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-27 04:44:20](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

Sorry. I suppose you're all feeling it with what happened to Ellie.

Had you got to know her very well, then? I only talked to her a few times.



**[alt\\_draco at 2014-10-27 04:50:40](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ron*

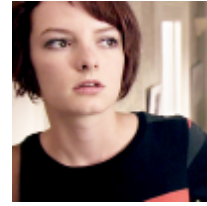
Hermione knew her better than I, but I talked to her a bit when she came 'round here. She was pleasant, you know, and seemed sharp. I don't know beyond that, though.

**2014-10-26 22:28:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Bill*

That was an awfully close call.

I'd already been half-expecting one of those strings they've been tugging on since the Crimson Company bust to lead back to me. I spent a good half hour this evening thinking I might have to kill a friend, and sometime next week I'm doubtless going to have to answer for the fact that I went round that beer garden more than a few times and never noticed it was a nest of traitors. I'm not sure, 'look, they're not likely to tell ME, an AUROR, that they're traitors' will exactly have wings as an excuse.



**alt\_rachel**

Anyway, I'm not really expecting to sleep tonight. You?

---



**alt\_bill** at **2014-10-27 03:41:25**

*(no subject)*

I spent a lot of time at the beer garden, too.

I'm bloody glad you didn't have to kill any of us tonight. Merlin. What a thing to say. But it's true.

I won't sleep, either. Unless you're with me. I might not do much sleeping anyway.

Would it look better for you, if your superiours come calling, if you're at your flat or mine? I can come to your place, if you think that's best.



**alt\_rachel** at **2014-10-27 03:42:00**

*(no subject)*

Mine, but if they're coming to arrest me and you're there, they'll arrest you with me, so maybe we should just spend the night at your place and if they want me they can go hang themselves.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:42:10](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't have any particular reason to think they'd come arrest me, mind you.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-10-27 03:47:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. Neither do I. But I'd still prefer to spend the night in your company.

Come on over. I've put the kettle on. We can talk or fuck or whatever you like. Or And if we want, we can watch the sun come up and then both roll into work with our eyes totally bloodshot.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 03:49:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah perfect. I'm on my way over.



**2014-10-26 22:59:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Sirius*

Are you really okay?



**alt\_harry**



**alt\_sirius** at **2014-10-27 04:04:16**

*(no subject)*

Of course I am.

Sorry if I scared you. Are you lot all right?



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-27 04:05:31**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, we're all fine.

Are you going to write a Grim Truth? About Ellie.

~~Did she really step in front~~



**alt\_sirius** at **2014-10-27 04:07:41**

*(no subject)*

Yes. Probably. Once I can think what to say.

What would you say, Harry, if you were to write one?



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-27 04:10:28**

*(no subject)*

I don't know.

Did she

Was she just in the wrong place at the wrong time? I couldn't tell, from Mr Lupin's post.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 04:14:53](#)**

*(no subject)*

No.

She had a better angle on Bella; I was turning out of a duel with one of the other Enforcers. Ellie - she launched herself into the way. As it was, I barely had time to finish my shot before Bella'd fired at me again, but mine hit her just a split-second before and threw her aim off as she went down.

No, Moony's quite right. Ellie's the only reason I'm here to write to you now.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 04:20:09](#)**

*(no subject)*

If I were writing a Grim Truth about her, I'd say that if she'd ever been allowed to go to Hogwarts, she'd have been Sorted into Gryffindor.



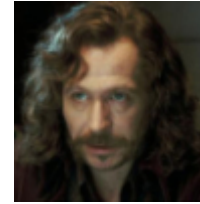
**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 04:24:27](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I think so, too.

**2014-10-26 23:57:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora*



**alt\_sirius**

Sorry I've lost us Laszlo's. And Ellie.



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-27 05:00:35**

*(no subject)*

Dora, I'm sorry we sent you off, and didn't follow, and didn't get back in touch, and left you wondering.

I didn't realise Charlie had seen us making our escape, and Sirius was sick ... but those are stupid excuses.



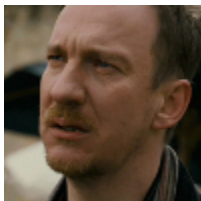
**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-27 05:16:19**

*(no subject)*

I know why you did it.

And I was too busy going spare about the fact you'd been taken to get properly furious with you.

You're here now. I'm here too. I feel about as useful as a pram, but that'll pass.



**alt\_lupin** at **2014-10-27 05:01:18**

*(no subject)*

And Padfoot, don't be a git.

You're not personally responsible for everything that goes wrong ever.



**alt\_sirius** at **2014-10-27 05:06:41**

*Private Message to Moony*

It's the second time, though.

The second time someone else -

She was so young, Remus. I'm already older than I ever thought we'd be. Not that I'd want Bella to kill me but, well.

I'm responsible for that much, anyway.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-27 05:12:07](#)**  
*(no subject)*

For a while there, I thought it would just be me and Bea left.

This is far better than anything I could have hoped for.

I'm so bloody grateful you two are still alive.

And you didn't lose Ellie. She made a choice, and she made it for us, and I'm so damn proud of her.

**2014-10-27 12:57:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter*

How do you stand Acton's arse kissing? She's laying it on with a trowel today, isn't she?



**alt\_ron**

And, y'know, it's really impossible to concentrate for wondering if MLE are about to turn up and ask the lot of us about Tea Appreciation and the Ponds.

---



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-27 18:17:34**  
(no subject)

Well, today I'm putting up with Acton's arse-kissing by thinking about how glad I am to be listening to Acton being smarmy instead of talking to an Auror about Tonks and Lupin and their family dog.

It's working pretty well.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-27 18:21:31**  
(no subject)

I keep looking to see if Auror L writes Hydra. I figure she'll want a list of people who went along for tea.



**alt\_harry** at **2014-10-27 18:29:55**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I've been thinking about that.

It wasn't like Tea Appreciation was the only thing that happened there, though, there were loads of regulars. And only some of them were traitors, most of them were just regular people looking for a cheap place to have a pint.

It might take them a while to get to us, anyway.

And we've all been working on occlumency.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 18:42:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I know. It's a shame there were such a load of people there. And it feels... wrong that a bunch of them got mixed up in it when our lot got away. I... it's a bit like a sea captain not going down with the ship, innit? But I know they couldn't've done because letting themselves get caught would really have put all the rest of us in the fire.

Anywiz. You're right about us. We're not going to be first priority, but I bet they get to us. Auror Lestrange is going to be thorough like we've never seen thorough. People in the department talk about it, how mad she is on the subject of Sirius Black.

If we're lucky, they'll send some Enforcers to question us up here instead of bringing us all down to the Ministry. If that's what they do, they might not send a Legilimens, y'know? But we can't count on it. We really can't. And if it happens to be Lestrange herself? We're dead. None of us could block her out. Or, well, I guess I could now, but y'know what I mean.

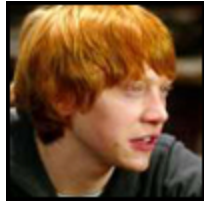
I just hope they don't get Ginny on their list. I mean, she didn't ever come along for tea, but they could get her from questioning some of the rest of us and, well, she's really pants at occluding. I think it runs in our family. I mean, I was absolutely useless at it.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 18:46:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you think she could learn to transform? That's what you did. Not that it was easy for you, I mean, but maybe she'd be better at it than she'll ever be at occluding?

The thing about Bellatrix is I think most of us could keep her out, at least for a while, but she'd notice we were doing it. And that would just make her more suspicious.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 19:20:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Bloody quizzes. What did you write for #2?

Anywiz.

Do you think all of us are good enough Lestrage wouldn't just barge on through? I'm not sure about Sue, y'know? I reckon Evelyn and Nev are solid. They've been protecting secrets forever, yeah? And are bloody good at it. And Luna, well. I dunno, but my guess is she'd manage. What about Daphs?

I don't know about Ginny. Maybe so. I should talk to her about it for sure. Only, that does no good if they're coming to question a load of us this week. Ugh.

Did you ever want to be an animagus? There were loads of kids stories about them, of course, but I never really seriously thought about trying it. Not until it started look like the only option I had if I'm going to make a real run at Auror training.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:27:09](#)**  
(no subject)

148.6. But I'm not sure you should trust that.

About Bellatrix -- Draco kept her out. And he's brilliant at occlumency actually, but she wasn't just legilimising him, either, she used crucio and had Mulciber beat him.

I think most of us could keep her out for a little while. But yeah, I don't know about Ginny. Or Daphs either, for that matter. They're so new, they haven't had much time to learn.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 19:41:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. I think I got that one wrong. I got 128.2. Oh, well.

Is Daphne worried, d'you know? Someone

should talk to her. Make sure she's okay. I doubt this is what she bargained for, joining us, y'know?



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:44:37](#)**  
*(no subject)*

No one exactly gets what they bargained for, you know? When Draco found out about the ISS lock he wasn't going to give it up but he certainly didn't think it would lead to him becoming a fugitive. Even after he joined the Order he thought he knew what his future looked like, he thought he'd fight from the inside as a spy, not go on the run.

I mean

What did you think you were signing up for? Did you think you were signing up to learn to be an animagus and join MLE?



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 19:47:57](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, yeah. Actually. But then I kind of grew up with it.

I mean, I didn't know, but then... then everything clicked together and I realised I'd sort of known for a long time. And yeah, I wanted to join because I knew what kind of risks my parents had been taking. But then, I was doing it because I really believe all of this has got to change. And it won't unless we take some serious risks, yeah?

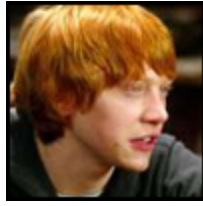


**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 19:59:29](#)**  
*(no subject)*

But the animagus thing. That's more than I thought when I did it. I mean, I learned it so I could occlude, but now-

Ugh. I'll tell you when we get to Potions. Hang on.





**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 20:16:32](#)**  
(no subject)

So, yeah.

Dumbledore's got me running 'errands' for him. Snakeform. Listening in on people. And taking things around for him and leaving them in odd spots. Stuff he can't do himself or doesn't want anyone connecting him with.

Oh, this is interesting: yesterday afternoon when I was there, Dumbledore said he's pretty sure Dolohov has a thing, a device, that let's him know where people are in the castle. Don't know how it works, but yeah. That's... awkward. Said he's not sure, but he's been trying to test the notion. That Dolohov has this thing. Anywiz, he's assuming Dolohov does have it, so there are places he won't go because he doesn't want Dolohov knowing he did. Some odd rooms tucked away in places I didn't know about. And Dumbledore wants to know if Dolohov ever goes into those rooms.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 20:18:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Wait, really? Which rooms?

Also, how does that even work? I mean is it like that map your brothers gave Hermione?



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 20:37:40](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know.

He was talking like Dolohov might have a device. Something complicated and technical, I think, because when he told me he wanted me to put these pebbles around, he sort of laughed and said they were the unsophisticated kind of spying device. But he seemed to think they could serve his purpose well enough.

I don't know what either thing can tell them. Names like on

the map? Or just if they want information about particular people, a kind of yes or no. Not sure. I don't even know what Dolohov's is supposed to be. I'll ask Dumbledore next time I go.

Anywiz. I've taken them to the Potion's supply cupboard and the laboratory, to the Salle, each of the House common rooms, and some teacher's private rooms. Hooch's. Gimlet's. Marwick's. Oh, and the secret room. Only, it was the room with all the things in when I went in to drop the stone there. That's what he wanted.

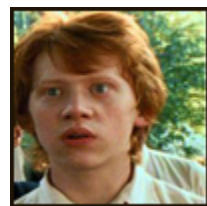
I think he's got some more for me to do next time.



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 20:41:01](#)  
(no subject)

That's brilliant that you're getting to do that.

How are you carrying pebbles while you're a snake?



[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 20:49:43](#)  
(no subject)

Swallowing them.

Then gacking them up.

Did you know snakes can sick up? I didn't. Dumbledore says he's heard of pythons that've been seen 'disingesting' antelopes or something. Something ginormous.

Makes my jaw hurt to think about that.



[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 20:50:41](#)  
(no subject)

Oh yeah, I knew snakes could sick up. I didn't know they could do it on purpose, though.

Does Sally-Anne know? About what you've been up to with Dumbledore, I mean.



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-27 21:36:31](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah. She knows.

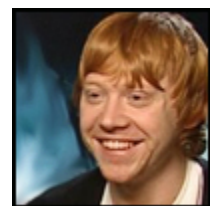
He took me along in his robe pocket one time when he went to talk to Desai. Wanted to know what I could taste on the air in her office. Dumbledore said all he could smell in there was incense, but I smelled loads of different things. Or, y'know, tasted them. The one he was interested in, though, was a lot like the smell that comes after someone casts one of those creepy hallucination hexes. (Those are really distinctive, the way the afterburn tastes.)

I expect he's going to ask me to go snoop on her again sometime on my own. Probably when she talks to Dolohov.



**[alt\\_harry at 2014-10-28 02:29:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

You smell things after someone casts that hex? Just in snake form, or all the time?



**[alt\\_ron at 2014-10-28 03:20:13](#)**  
*(no subject)*

It's a queer thing, but I can pick up scents now that I never noticed before. I mean, there are definitely differences. When I'm a snake I taste things more than smell them, and that's very, very odd. Made me feel ill at first. Seriously. But, yeah. I do smell stuff or notice it more now even when I'm not in snake form.

Sometimes I can tell supper's going to be horrendous before I even get all the way down the tower stairs.

Oh, and here's a weird fact--Dark spells? Smell really, really good. I mean, sometimes all of a sudden I realise I'm standing there with my mouth open because I'm trying to taste them and I didn't know I was doing it.

I told you it was weird.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 03:22:52](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, that is weird.

Never imagined tasting Dark spells when I was pretending to be an animagus as a kid.



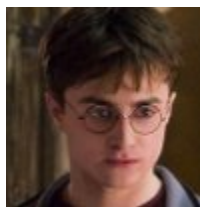
**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-28 03:42:42](#)**  
*(no subject)*

No, me neither.

So. You wanted Malfoy to be a dragon. What did you want to be?

I always thought I'd be a lion or a panther or something that could run and hunt and had sharp teeth. Maybe a lynx or a fox, even. Though now I think about it, a fox is probably as likely to be hunted as to hunt, yeah? And that's definitely not what I was thinking when I imagined it as a kid!

And I reckon at least I turned out to be a hunter. Did I tell you I tried to eat Sally Anne's rat the first time I changed? Sebastian still acts like he's terrified of me.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 03:49:28](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I wanted to be a bird. Preferably a big, impressive bird like an eagle. But anything with wings, really.

Was Sally-Anne cross that you tried to eat Sebastian?



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-28 04:02:36](#)**  
(no subject)

What about an owl?

I thought a lot about that when I was trying to learn the transformation. Dumbledore had me imagining what it would be like to be different types of animal--a fish, a hippo, an elephant, a bird, y'know. I do think it could be nift to be a bird. And an owl could've been dead useful to the Order. That's what I was sort of hoping for, and there was this one time that I woke up with a feather on my pillow and I thought... yeah, it was probably Pig's. But I was sort of hoping.

It was dead surprising when I turned out to be a snake.

Certainly surprised Sebastian!

Actually, I don't think Sally Anne was cross at all. She was more worried for me because I disappeared down a hole and didn't come back for hours. And then everything happened with Hermione and Draco and McGonagall, so she didn't really get a chance to be cross about her rat. I mean, she takes the mickey about it sometimes. When he acts like he's having a coronary because I'm in the room.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 04:12:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't want to be an owl because someone might make me deliver their post. And that didn't sound fun. When I was seven.

You're right though, that would be dead useful.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-28 04:40:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Ha. You're right about that! It could be a total pain in the beak to be an owl. Never really thought of it that way. Imagine if you were the owl that had to deliver all the

enormous parcels Clarriker's always getting?

I mean, what do his parents send him, anywiz? I should ask F-F whether he shares with the rest of the Puffs. He doesn't look like he's stuffing himself, so maybe it's all monogrammed handkerchiefs and new socks and pants for every day of the year? Or gourmet cat food?

Anywiz, you're right. Guess I'm glad I'm not an owl after all.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:28:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh and yeah, I wanted to be an animagus when I was younger, but only if I could be some really nift animal.

I remember trying to convince Draco to pretend to be an animagus who could turn into a dragon (because his name means dragon). He never wanted to pretend at being an animagus, though.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-27 19:44:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. He didn't seem like the 'Let's pretend' kind of kid. Back then. Guess he's got a bit more... I mean the bloke who went shoplifting at Harrods and fancy shops all over New

London, yeah? A bit more adventurous.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:51:04](#)**  
(no subject)

He'd pretend with me. Sometimes. So long as I didn't make him pretend to be anything he didn't actually want to be.

**2014-10-27 13:43:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Narcissa.

Not going to make it to Katyenka this afternoon.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Has Bella been to see you? Suppose that's unlikely. Look. We got called last night to Nymphadora Ponds' shop. Turns out to have been a centre and cover for resistance activity. And it turns out they've been hiding Sirius Black there--as the family dog.

Have been in interrogation ever since, and only have a moment now, but didn't want you to go to the trouble of coming into town only to be stood up.

The three of them--your cousin, your niece, and the mousy husband (who was not, it turns out, actually 'Junius Ponds')--all three of them got away from us and are on the run. Most likely, they're all holed up in the Black house on Grimmauld Place, but obviously if you hear from Nymphadora with some story about needing shelter, do welcome her in. And call us.

You know she's expecting again? (You can guess how merry Bella is to think that even the pregnant woman got away from her...)



**alt\_narcissa at 2014-10-27 19:25:34**  
(no subject)

That's - quite a revelation, dear.

Should I write to Dora or would it send too clear a signal you're hoping to entrap her?

I take it there's no doubt she's colluded with the other two and wasn't simply a dupe?

There simply *must* be a way to reach the elf. If they haven't killed it already. I shall think on it.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-27 19:30:34](#)**  
(no subject)

It would seem more than coincidental, I think. Unless you did know about this pregnancy? If so, you might try it. Writing today it might be just barely conceivable that the timing was coincidence. Have you seen her since she visited at Cottesmore?

No doubt about her involvement, no.

The elf could be useful. Very.



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-27 19:39:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Not since that visit, no. Though she did tell me about the child; I thought rather little of it at the time.

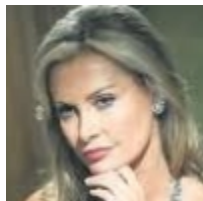
Now, though, one wonders.

And one wonders if ...



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-27 19:50:37](#)**  
(no subject)

If?



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-27 20:02:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not sure.

If Black is as stupid as I remember, he'll not have bothered to touch the contents of Walburga's home. Which might mean we have a spy who can't be compelled to obey him.

I can't believe I didn't think of it before.





**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-27 20:04:53](#)**  
(no subject)

What are you thinking?



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-27 20:07:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Phineas Nigellus.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-27 21:42:18](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a brilliant idea. Truly. Walburga did have one of his portraits.

Reg and I used to talk to him sometimes. Being idiots. He'd get disgusted with us quickly, but that was the point, rather. Annoying him.

Haven't thought of that in years.

It would be useful if they still have him hanging. Wonder what the chances are.

**2014-10-27 13:46:00**

*Order Only*

The bloke who dropped by Laszlo's yesterday was an Enforcer by the name of Jennings. He worked under Quill Pugh in Illicit Commerce, and he was following up one of the leads from the Crimson Company bust.



**alt\_rachel**

Bellatrix killed him for his incompetence last night.

A message is going out to the Aurors and Enforcers with a sketch of a known animagus who's wanted dead or alive. Sirius, she knows what your dog form looks like. I don't know if she read it out of Jennings' mind before she killed him or if she caught a glimpse of you, but every Auror in the Protectorate is going to be looking for large, shaggy black dog.



**alt\_rachel at 2014-10-27 19:01:11**

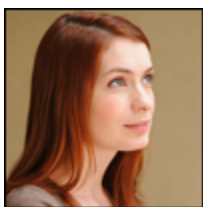
*Private message to Alice Longbottom, Bill Weasley, and Sirius Black*

I'm going over in another hour to chat with one of the Aurors on the case. They don't appear to suspect me of anything but mild incompetence -- I was asked to make a list of everything I could ever remember noticing while I was there, and bring it with me.

Bill, they're going to want to know why I was there, and I'm going to have to tell them it was on dates with you. There are enough actual regulars that they're very unlikely to bring you in to ask you anything, but I can't rule out the possibility. I can't NOT tell them, though, because someone else might, and then they'd want to know why I was hiding the fact that you were there with me. We have to act like we have nothing to hide. This is going to truly link us, though. If I'm ever caught, you'll need to go to ground as fast as you can.

Alice, speaking of going to ground, if you can possibly get word to anyone and everyone you know of -- any regular at the beer garden who has something serious to hide had better go on the run. I sent a message to Ridley to the effect. I don't know if you have any other contacts.

I'm going to try to give them only names I'm sure they'll get from other people anyway. I didn't go often, I didn't know most of the people, and it never crossed my mind the dog was anything other than a dog. But I can't not answer their questions, I can't refuse to name names, and I can't risk acting like anything other than a chagrined Auror who can't believe she might have had Sirius within her reach and never even knew it.

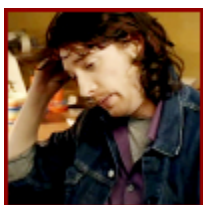


**[alt\\_alice at 2014-10-27 19:11:45](#)**

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom, Bill Weasley, and Sirius Black*

Yes. I sat with Tonks some last night and started generating a list of people we might try to find before MLE does. Beth's network might be of help, too.

Do what you need to do, Rachel.

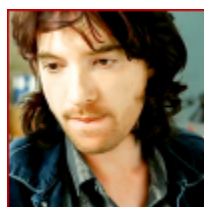


**[alt\\_bill at 2014-10-27 23:41:25](#)**

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom, Bill Weasley, and Sirius Black*

I understand.

As for my presence there, I've brought by office mates for beers, and they've brought by mates, and I hope with enough passage of time it'll be unclear who actually went there first.



**[alt\\_bill at 2014-10-27 23:52:47](#)**

*Re: Private message to Rachel Brodie*

Thank you for talking about exit strategies with me last night. I realise carrying poison isn't a fail safe, but in case I didn't make myself absolutely clear last night, you absolutely have my permission to give me the coup de grâce if it's necessary in your professional judgement. In return, I'll do the same for you, if you can't act and there's no hope.

If I'm taken out, and you have access to my body, and your back's against the wall, the poison's in my earring. It's inert unless the

end tip is touching your skin as you say, or think as a non-verbal incantation the trigger phrase: 'Weasleys hate the Chudley Cannons.'



**[alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-10-28 00:21:23**

*Re: Private message to Rachel Brodie*

Another thing.

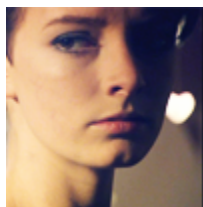
It's funny. After our talk last night, I realised I've crossed a line awhile ago without quite seeing it until now.

I'm willing to entrust you with my life. To save it or execute it, and I know whichever you'd decide would be the best for the Order. So it makes sense to me to trust you with this.

Brace yourself, because I'm letting you know this even if you can't say it yourself, or you may not want to hear it.

But these are crazy times, and after seeing what almost happened to the folks at Doughty Conduit I'd hate myself if I left this unsaid.

I love you, Rachel Brodie.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at 2014-10-28 02:22:53**

*Re: Private message to Rachel Brodie*

Bill, I trust you more than anyone I think I've ever met. You know more about me than any person alive. Or dead, either.

When the war's over, if we're still alive, I promise I will say it back.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-10-28 11:54:55**

*Re: Private message to Rachel Brodie*

That's good enough for me for now. It gives me all the incentive I need then, to keep us both alive. If I can. I know it might not be possible, but I will try.

||||| And to work like hell for the end of the war.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 19:11:37](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Brilliant. Yes, I'm not sure how but he had clearly been prepared to look for anything unusual. When he was reporting, he said distinctly that he believed he'd found 'Lestrage's Animagus.'

Well. Harry suggested I write a Grim Truth. Guess I've got more material.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 19:12:03](#)**  
*Private Message to Rachel*

Saw what you wrote about your own interrogation. Was going to ask. You all right, or sugar-coating it for Bill?



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 19:20:40](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Rachel*

Well, no one's cruciated me yet, and my summons for this afternoon doesn't have that distinctive flavor of 'and prepare to atone for your mistakes until we are satisfied,' this time anyway.

I'm to meet with Heloise Laverty, who's certainly not anyone I'd prefer to cross, but she's not Bellatrix, either.

All that said, if I get through this next week without being cruciated by somebody for my stupidity and incompetence, it's going to be entirely down to the fact that everyone's too busy with the real investigation to take the time to mete out punishment.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at [2014-10-27 19:21:20](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Rachel*

The good news is, they apparently don't suspect I'm one of the traitors.

If they did, they'd have come last night.



**[alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:15:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sirius,

When I went back to Hogwarts as the Professor, when I was staying with Cedric, every time I transformed, I had Cedric do a transfiguration spell on me to change the colour of my fur, to coal black. I was afraid that people might recognise the dog that had been hanging around with Fred and George a few years before, especially since Professor MacGonagall transformed me back in public. It worked, because nobody looked at me twice.

It's a pain, and it limits you. But if you have someone nearby with a wand, Remus say, who can change your fur colour everytime you transform, or maybe the length of the fur or the texture, well. It might help throw them off the track for awhile.

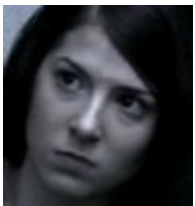


**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 19:29:54](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh bloody hell, Terry, I'd forgotten about that.

You were running around as a BIG BLACK DOG. If they're looking for big black dogs -- how many people saw you? It was LOADS, wasn't it? And Cedric doesn't have you anymore, if they come round asking him about his pet, what's he going to say?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 19:30:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

I mean okay actually you were sort of a smallish black dog.

But people will just remember the black dog. Someone's going to call MLE, and they'll send someone round to talk to Cedric.



**[alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:35:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

I really don't look *anything* like Sirius, even when black.

It's a pity that Professor Umbridge didn't put black puppies on plates instead of kittens. We could flood the market with false positives.

Hey, that's actually an idea. Is there a spell that would change the fur of EVERY dog within a certain area to black? Let MLE go crazy trying to find a needle in a haystack. What do you think, Sirius?

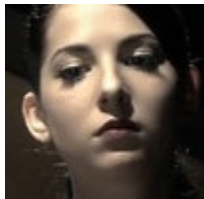


**[alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-10-27 19:37:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

Although they may simply resort to putting a bounty out for or even killing ANY and all dogs.

That may backfire badly on them, actually, considering how people feel about their pets.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 19:45:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, they could require everyone to have a licence and before you could get your licence your dog had to be inspected to make sure it's not Sirius and any dog out without a licence gets killed. People wouldn't like that, but there'd be plenty who'd say 'well, you should've bought your licence, serves you right.'

Anyway we'd have to individually change the colors on the dogs, it's not something we could do across a square mile. And they'd probably trace it back to whoever was doing it rather quickly and the MLE is not known for their sense of humour.



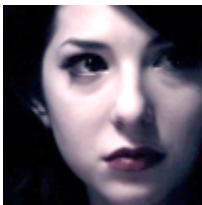
**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-27 20:35:25](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think they'd either kill them or cast widespread dispelling spells to remove any transfiguration that might be on them. The spell that forces an Animagus to revert to human is essentially a nullification of transfigurative property. It's simple enough to perform, even on large numbers.

No, I think it's probably a waste of effort to try to avoid detection. Easier to use the motorbike for long distances or develop a taste for ginger.

And you'd best be careful not to have anyone dye you black, too.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-27 19:31:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

And honestly if they're clever at all they'll be watching for any large dog no matter what colour it is, because you're right, a colour transfiguration is easy.



**[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-10-27 23:48:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

If anyone asks any questions I'll say the same thing I've been saying since you left. You were a stray I'd taken a liking too and you appear to have gone walkabout months ago. I'll also emphasis your small

size.



**2014-10-27 14:48:00**

*Private Message to Headmaster  
Dolohov*



**alt\_narcissa**

Tosha,

In your office, there ought to be a portrait of Phineas Nigellus Black. I'm not entirely certain but I believe it just might be connected to a matching portrait in my aunt's house.

If I'm right we just might be able to gain a window into the place.

Has Barty told you of last night's business?



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-29 00:57:51**  
(no subject)

Spent some time talking with Phineas Nigellus this afternoon. The old snake was frustratingly vague in places, and was more interested in lecturing me about how Hogwarts has gone downhill since his days, but I did manage to get from him that yes, he does still have a portrait in Grimmauld. Unfortunately, Black seems to have thought of the possibility already; Phineas Nigellus's other portrait has been taken off the wall and placed in a cupboard.

Apparently Harry's mudblood speaks to him occasionally. He was quite grumpy about the fact that she was the only one to do so. From what he has overheard, there are several others living there, but he didn't know names.

I've asked him to listen for whatever he can discover.

**2014-10-27 18:31:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Harry and Justin*



**alt\_draco**

Hey-

There's something I've been wondering, and you two are the best people I can ask, because I know you're both sentimental about Sirius for different (albeit related) reasons.

Ellie leaped in front of Sirius so he could live, and near as I can tell, that's the only reason he's here now.

Are you glad about that? I mean, I know you aren't happy Ellie's dead, obviously, but when it comes right down to it, would you rather she be dead and Sirius be alive, instead of the reverse?



**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-28 00:54:16**  
(no subject)

Draco,

I say, old man, what a question. Obviously, one would prefer that *neither* of them were dead, what, but if you're asking about tactical choices, Sirius can do more for the Order than Ellie could have done. If you're asking about personal attachment, well, I say, I suppose I would have to say I respect Ellie's choice and I'm grateful to her for making it.

You're not saying you would have wished the reverse, what? Or are you feeling well guilty for being 'glad' Sirius was spared?

-Justin



**alt\_draco** at **2014-10-28 01:10:09**  
(no subject)

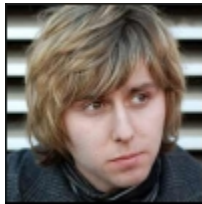
The question isn't outrageous. We all might have to choose to save one person over another some day. It isn't out of the realm of possibility at all. And it might come down to choosing to save yourself over someone else, or allowing yourself to be sacrificed, or any other of

those combinations. ~~Hermione and I~~ already

And can you really call what she did a choice? It might have been an impulse. Who knows what she was thinking when she did it. She might not have even fully comprehended that Bellatrix was casting to kill.

Last night I almost told Ron that I thought it was bollocks. A muggleborn believing that Sirius Black's life is more valuable than her own? Bollocks. But then I realised we need him more than her. It's shite but it's true. And I'm not even sure I *like* him more than I liked her.

Now I'm wondering whether we're supposed to plan this all out in advance. Pick who's expendable and who's not. Or do you just wait until the moment comes and decide then, in whatever amount of time you have left.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 01:31:47](#)  
(no subject)

No, it's not that it's outrageous, it's simply--well, it's rather a complicated issue. Yes, we all might well have to choose, of course. Some time back, Hydra and I have talked about just that, about saving one person over another or sacrificing oneself for the good of the others. Sally-Anne and I, too, and Ron, how we all have to have our eyes open about the dangers and risks, and that we four in particular (and you, while you were at school) are treading a path that could easily force us to choose suicide rather than give up Order secrets.

I do think Ellie's was a choice, yes, given what Sirius said about it. It might not have been meditated, what, but she still committed to that act in order to save him.

As for who's expendable--well, to be honest, old man, nearly all of us are, in one way or another. Even Sirius would likely say there are circumstances in which he would be willing to die if it meant the Order would achieve its goals. One could drive oneself mad doing mental mathematics about who is *more* expendable than others. That sort of calculation can't be made in the abstract, I think. With certain exceptions, what.

-Justin



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 01:46:51](#)**

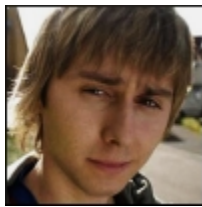
*(no subject)*

I just wonder if there's someone out there right now who would rather it had been Sirius instead of Ellie. Someone who hates Sirius right now, who would hate all of us if they knew we'd rather have

him alive than her.

In the Utopian vision of almost every resistance, some people still matter more than others. It's like what I told Harry: he can remind everyone he's a halfblood, but he's always going to matter more than the rest of them. That's not his fault, it just is what it is. But it's still bollocks.

Sorry, this is the sort of rubbish I think about now that I haven't got essays to write or a council wizard career to prepare for.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 01:55:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

Someone who cared for Ellie, you mean. I don't know. One of the worst parts of her death is that I don't think she ever had a chance to develop that sort of attachment. I suppose it's possible

that someone who frequented the garden harboured feelings for her, or someone in the Order. But no, old chap, I can't say I know if there was anyone special.

That's not to say that Sirius himself isn't feeling well horrid about it. He mentioned 'abandoning' the others to their fates. I'm sure it's because he believes he ought to have been able to save her, or save any of them, what.

In any case, yes, it's entirely true that he's made himself a lightning rod. If he had died, the whole country would feel the loss, one way or the other. Ellie was a sweet, clever young woman, and it's terrible that her life was cut short, but she wasn't a figure of the revolution of anything like Sirius's magnitude.

It's not rubbish, what, it's quite natural to wonder 'what if' after something like this.

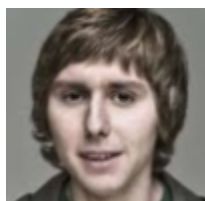
-Justin



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:03:45](#)**  
(no subject)

She was also a muggleborn. I mean, we're doing this all for them, right? For people like you and Hermione and Terry. And yet a pureblood, born to one of the most important pureblood families in all of England, is the figure of the revolution. Alice, also a pureblood, is head of the Order.

Sometimes I guess it seems a bit naff that purebloods are running the revolution. I don't know how else it could be done but it seems naff just the same.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 02:20:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Whites from the north of America were the ones who formed the Abolitionist movement in the United States. There were some freed slaves in their ranks but no one would bally well listen to them without the weight of their white compatriots.

It's the nature of revolution that it relies on some measure of goodwill from the enlightened among the class which is oppressing the others. The alternatives are examples from Muggle history such as the Russian revolution, the French Revolution and the Chinese Communist Revolution--all of which were jolly well bloody, and directly destructive to the former ruling class. Our people don't wish to go about beheading every pureblood wizard who ever raised a wand, what. We're trying to minimise the damage. I daresay that wouldn't be the case if we were all Muggleborn.

What's naff is that we make any sort of distinction about where one's magic originated. Instead of looking at what sort of families our leaders and heroes came from, what, look at what they've chosen to do. Sirius eschewed his family's beliefs about purity to become best friends with a halfblood and werewolf.

He's put his life on the line, helped supply the Order, rescued children and Muggles and Muggleborn and continually reminds the public that the Protectorate fosters all sorts of ills which must be corrected. Mrs Longbottom was an Auror who has devoted her life to raising a new generation of children who will grow up without any sort of distinction made between purebloods or muggleborn, who will learn magic and eventually either join the cause or enjoy the freedoms we've helped to win for them. She's not doing that because she's a pureblood who feels guilty about being a pureblood, what. She's doing that because she believes it's the right thing to do.

I suggest that if you want to stop the 'naff' distinction that purebloods are somehow handing equality to muggleborns, you could start by not dwelling so much on who is or isn't a pureblood.

-Justin



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:39:17](#)**

*(no subject)*

Cheers for the history lesson, Binns.

If I'm still dwelling on it it's because everyone *else* is. I thought when I died I could finally forget about that stuff, but Sarah, even some of the other kids at Moddey... they act like I'm more important than them somehow, and I doubt it's because I 'eschewed my family's beliefs.' I mean, good for me and Sirius for being basically decent.

I know no one's expendable, like Harry said. But be honest: if you were in a situation where you could only save one of them, would it be Sirius or Hydra?



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 02:50:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sorry, old man. I spent the first ten years or so of my life doing bally well nothing but reading. It does tend to colour one's conversation.

If I could only save one, it would be Hydra, of course. But I

also know Sirius would support that choice, what. But if I could save them both by sacrificing myself, I hope I would choose to do that, instead.

-Justin



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 03:04:20](#)**  
(no subject)

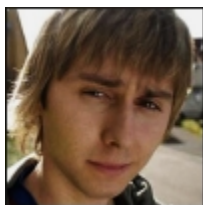
You certainly arrived at a very tidy conclusion, with little fuss or muss. How'd you manage that?



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 03:09:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Some choices are clearer than others, what. I said there were certain exceptions.

-Justin



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 02:51:28](#)**  
*Private Message to Draco*

Sarah treats you as if you're more important because you're a pureblood?

-Justin



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 03:02:56](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Yeah. She pretends so hard that it doesn't matter that it becomes really obvious that it matters, you know?

For example, she'll make a joke about how I would have never given her a second glance if we were both still at school. Or if I mention Daphne, it'll be really apparent that it makes her uncomfortable.





**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 03:06:03](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Do you think it's the blood purity or is that merely an excuse for other insecurities?

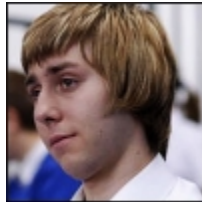
-J



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 03:07:01](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Does it matter? Either way it's a problem.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 03:13:15](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

It's not easy, is it, to move on. I'm sorry, old chap.

-J

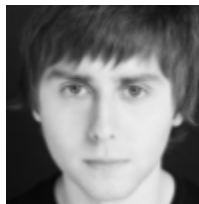


**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 03:15:55](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'm trying. And I like Sarah, I do. She's witty and sweet and has this cute half-smile thing that she does. We have fun together, most of the time.

But yeah.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 03:32:17](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Does Hermione make it clear that your purity doesn't matter to her?

It can't help that you're such close friends and spend so much time together. Distance makes a difference, what, but you and Hermione haven't exactly taken that route.



I say, she's seeing Clark, isn't she? Have you any sense of whether their relationship is solid or just as problematic as yours with Sarah?

-J



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 03:47:53](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

What? Oh, that - it never comes up. I mean, not in a personal way. Not at all. Everything we went through together completely erased all of that.

I've thought of that, yeah. Spending more time apart would make a difference, and we do, sometimes. She'll go see Tim and I'll go see Sarah. But then she once told me that if I ever needed her for anything, she'd leave Sherwood straight away. I'd do the same for her. So it can't really be called a typical friendship.

Their relationship reminds me of what you'd see from most of our school set. Lots and lots of snogging and groping, I'd wager, a little chatting now and then. I think she's definitely enjoying herself but it doesn't come across as... particularly meaningful, you know? Though I'm not in a neutral position to judge.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 04:11:04](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

That's a start, I suppose. Thinking of you as equal, it means she isn't intimidated and sees you as yourself, not by a label, what.

It doesn't mean she'll ever necessarily turn round and think of you romantically, sad to say. But perhaps what she needs is something that isn't deep and meaningful, what. So that she can leave it behind if she needs to do.

-J



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 04:28:40](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Intimidated by me? Ha, that's a right laugh. She's really, really not. Oh, and the bit about leaving Sherwood if I needed her, it's not about serving me or some nonsense. It's - well, hard to explain, to someone who wasn't there. Who didn't go through what we did.

I don't believe that she will ever think of me romantically, no. And I wouldn't want her to do so just because we experienced an enormous trauma together. We're not even leaning on each other like we once were and that's good.

Sometimes when I'm with Sarah I don't even think about Hermione.

But I know who I think about when I'm just by myself, and most of the time, it isn't Sarah.

I don't know. Maybe if I just give it time, someday things will be different.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:18:02](#)**

*(no subject)*

I don't.

I don't matter more than anybody.

I don't ever want someone jumping in front of a curse for me again. Anyone.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:24:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Of course you don't, you big tit. You're made of the same goop as the rest of us, I reckon. My point is that most people will always treat you like you're the Lord Protector's son, no matter what you tell them otherwise.

What if Patil jumped in front of you? That's her job now, isn't it?



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:27:48](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think she'd especially want to no matter what they tell her that her job is.

And I don't want her to, either.

Though if I had to choose between Patil dying and anyone else in the Order, well, she made her choices.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:41:12](#)**  
(no subject)

And I never even give Teddy a second thought. (Right now doesn't count.) And we grew up together, in a way. Not like you and I did, but he was another council wizard's kid, just the

same.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:45:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, well, good.

Keep not giving him a second thought. He was like a younger, weaker version of the people we're fighting.

If Sirius had managed to kill Bellatrix yesterday I'd throw a party.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:16:45](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know how we decide who's expendable and who's not.

No one's expendable. No one from our side. Some

people are going to die anyway and we'll have to get by without them. But that doesn't mean they're expendable.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:14:35](#)**  
(no subject)

If Sirius had jumped in front of Ellie would either of you actually be thinking, 'what a waste, he was so much more useful to the Order than she is' or would you just be sad he was dead?

I mean, he can do more for the Order. But I don't think he ducked behind her thinking, 'well, I can do more for the Order so I'll just let her die for me.' I think he'd have stopped her. If he could have done.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:27:55](#)**  
(no subject)

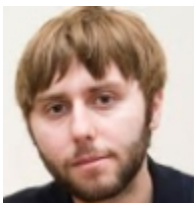
Sad? That's pushing it.

Look, we get on better than we used to, Sirius and I, but if he died I think I'd mostly be thinking it was a waste, yeah. I'd be more sad for you than him, that's for sure. I might regret that I didn't get to know him better. Which. Yeah.. shut up, you.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:31:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Well if he's not going to be able to go out, and he's sick every time he apparates, you may have the opportunity to get to know him a lot better. Unless you move to that house we put under the Fidelius outside Hogsmeade on Saturday.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 02:32:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Harry,

Yes, of course, he didn't save himself callously like that. And no, I don't think the question is one of

whether we're sad or not. As Draco says, no one's *happy* that Ellie died, though it's natural to feel some--relief, what, that Sirius is not dead. The two emotions are not mutually exclusive.

And had it been Sirius, of course we would both be sad *and* mourn the loss it meant to the Order--and the whole realm, for that matter. But we would also still be relieved that Ellie was alive, and would have a chance to live the life Sirius bought for her, had their positions been reversed.

-Justin



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 02:33:45](#)**  
(no subject)

'We' in this case being the Order, what, not merely me and Draco!

-Justin



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-28 02:47:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Are you bringing this up because you think in some way the Order thinks Ellie was less important because she was a muggleborn?



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 02:59:22](#)**  
(no subject)

No, it's not that exactly, I don't think. It's more that everyone's going 'round talking about how brave she was, how she did us all proud and such. And I know it's to make Sirius feel better, but I just wish we could be more honest and tell it like it is. It's a tragedy.

**2014-10-27 18:51:00**

*Private message to Auror Crouch*

(I realise you're busy, so don't read this until time allows - only, I know that you won't.)



**alt\_hydra**

The evening *Prophet* came an hour or so ago. I assume that the news is accurate and my cousin and her husband's shop was raided last night? I've been to that shop, you know. On more than a few occasions. I even saw the dog, once. It just seemed like an ordinary dog.

I ought to have noticed something. I keep trying to think if there's anything I noticed and dismissed, because she was rather kind to me, Dora. And Mummy was the one who brought me for my first visit so I thought if Mummy was alright with me visiting the shop, then there was no reason not to enjoy myself. Dora just didn't seem like the sort... well, I suppose you know what I mean, since your family fostered her.

Only I keep thinking about what happened with Draco, too, and how I never expected that, but then again no one else did, either. You're right, you can't let your guard down with anyone. And not even if you have legilimency to rely on. You can only be prepared, at all times, for anything.



**alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-10-28 02:15:50**  
(no subject)

The facts, yes, all true. Don't get me started on the reporting. Wouldn't be surprised to hear one or two of the *Prophet* staff writers found themselves ghosts by supper tonight. Not that you'll read that in the paper.

(If the rest of them know what's good for them.)

And, no. You can't afford to let your guard down. Useful lesson here: our greatest weakness can be those we hold close. That said, it's necessary to admit that try as you will (and you must), that particular weakness is endemic, it's inseparable from your mortality. Suspect if one studied the matter, the results would show that weakness is frequently responsible for the mortality.

The condition of intimacy, its price, is that we ignore risk and leave ourselves open to betrayal with those we hold closest. It's no surprise

you were blind to the possibility with someone you trusted. It's your choice whether you take steps to ensure no one will deceive you again, but if you take that sort of precaution, you deny yourself... a lot. The alternative is to take a knowing decision to leave yourself vulnerable to particular friends, relations, lovers, colleagues, allies. Not all allies or colleagues or relations or friends. Possibly not every lover.

Should tell you I've not slept in 39.5 hours. Factor that in.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 02:54:37](#)**  
(no subject)

I would rather not be deceived, especially when so few even *can* deceive me.

But that kind of denial is a high price, yes. I don't yet know if I'm ready to pay it. Even with Harry - we're together, I suppose, but it doesn't feel like it. It's more that I'm his adviser. And even then, a while back when he was forming different school clubs to take on a larger leadership role, I suggested that we have one of them meet at the Ponds' shop. "Tea Appreciation."

So, sometimes when you get betrayed you betray someone else inadvertently, in the process. Seems best to avoid it altogether.

And yet I'm discussing all of this with you and neither of my parents. Which means I trust you, I guess. But there has to be someone.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-28 03:35:10](#)**  
(no subject)

That's to be expected. It's a ritual of training. Basically, you've put yourself in my hands, and you have to trust I'm not going to kill you. Because if I were to decide to kill you, you couldn't likely prevent that anyway, so there's little reason not to trust and much reward in doing so. Taking down that barrier opens you to learn more fully, to respond, to be attuned to what's being taught.

Expect you recognise that the mechanism is not reciprocal. Not a symmetrical system.



Intriguing about your relations with Harry. His training has been an extreme case of the above. If he is really as passive, malleable as you imply, expect it's a side effect.

Don't waste energy or concern re. betraying him, however. If anyone is proof against consequences in the matter at hand, he is. If you've led others into harmful connections, it might be another matter, though mere presence there is unlikely to warrant concern.

Would be helpful, actually, if you would provide a list of your peers who went to the Ponds' establishment as part of your tea appreciation. Don't expect much will come of it, but we are assembling lists of those who might have information re. the shop in Doughty Conduit.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-28 04:09:15**  
(no subject)

Yes, I recognise that. I was actually going to add "since you could kill me if you wanted to" but refrained from doing so.

I identify with Harry for lots of reasons.

Whatever you need. Off the top of my head: Harry, Draco (before), Pansy Parkinson, Katie Bell, Ron Weasley, Justin Finch-Fletchley, Remy Jugson, Alfie Jugson, Michael Corner, Sally-Anne Perks, Daphne Greengrass, Mandy Brocklehurst, Jeremy and Gemma Stretton, and Katrina Bundy.

Some only went once, and others went more than once, but I don't feel I can provide those specifics with accuracy. I'll let you know if I remember anything else.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at 2014-10-28 04:18:39**  
(no subject)

Interesting.

Bell... saw Harry for a time, correct?





**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 04:39:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. He ended things with her to see me.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-28 04:43:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Not as dim as he sometimes looks, then.

Good.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 04:45:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't even know you knew Katie Bell.

She seemed... there.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-28 05:05:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Only familiar with what the tabloids printed.  
Gryffindor. Lacking academic distinction.  
Quidditcher of average skill. Scarcely more  
than plain.

In any case, setting aside anyone else for you suggests he's  
cannier than I imagined. He doesn't... convey that in many of  
the situations in which I've had opportunity to observe him.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-28 04:51:26](#)**  
(no subject)

By the way.

You were in better form than I thought you  
might be. Saturday. Desai and Tosha must be  
doing something right.

Will arrange time to come run your new course with you. As soon as we're past the brunt of this investigation. I might come if we follow up with your tea appreciators. Interested to see what Tosha and Desai have designed for you there.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-28 04:57:04**

*(no subject)*

They must be. I surprised myself, too.

I look forward to it, then. I hope the investigation goes well and you are able to

sleep soon.

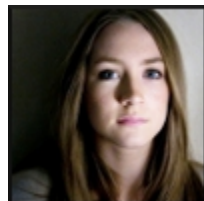


**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at 2014-10-28 05:02:26**

*(no subject)*

Sleep is overrated.

(Which, naturally, does not apply to you. Go to bed yourself.)



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-28 05:06:09**

*(no subject)*

Already there.

**2014-10-27 23:18:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Hydra*



**alt\_justin**

Dux,

Jack brought me your message this morning. You got mine, then?

How has Auror Crouch liked your act so far? And have you been able to find out who's coming to question us, and when?

-Justin



**alt\_hydra at 2014-10-28 04:42:46**

*(no subject)*

He was really odd there, for a moment. He's over-worked and it caused him to let down his guard. He spoke with me about intimacy and being vulnerable, how both can open you to betrayal but without them, you deny yourself "a lot." And then he remembered himself and turned quite stern. But it was a curious glimpse into his psyche. Even the frightening Auror Crouch sometimes needs people to confide in and feel close to. I guess my mother is the only human alive who does not.

Anyway, he then reminded me that my position means I have no choice but to trust in him completely.

I think being vulnerable with him now and again would be a good strategy, though not too often. He would find it repulsive most of the time. But right now he believes I am feeling betrayed by my cousin Dora and upset that I may have also inadvertently betrayed Harry, as a result.

I sound so confident, but I'm not. I can't be sure of what he believes. He's extremely clever. And he's not entirely wrong, either. I do have to trust him, if I'm going to learn anything from him. I hate it. I'm sweating so much I've soaked through the back of my nightgown.

No... I don't think I've done any harm but I don't know for sure if I've done any good.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 04:54:00](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, your mother does want to feel close to someone. Trouble is her choice is more daft than most, what.

I'm sure you'll do everything you need to do to fool him. Don't lose faith, love.

-J

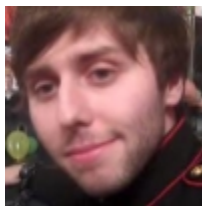


[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 05:03:30](#)  
(no subject)

I won't.

Only my history of subterfuge is not good. It was impossible with Mummy, but she's always had a low opinion of me, and would tell me she was reading my mind even when she wasn't. That's why I always told the truth for so long, just by default. Later, I just played daft or kept quiet, and I suppose that's what I'm used to. So I'm just a little nervous.

He just complimented me, so I think the conversation went alright. He doesn't seem very concerned about the tea appreciators, but he did ask me for their names and indicated MLE might follow up with questioning.



[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-28 05:10:37](#)  
(no subject)

You're fine. You're careful. Being around your mother so long has taught you to keep your cards close to the chest. That's all you need do with Crouch.

I know it's his job to make you feel insecure but you really ought to see yourself when you take decisions the way your parents would do. It's quite impressive. I do believe you could storm the dungeons of Buckingham and no one would think it at all irregular.

-J



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-28 05:21:28**

*(no subject)*

Daphne's advice about lying helped. She says to always mix it with a little bit of the truth.

It sounds like it's quite scary, in addition to being quite impressive. But that might be just what we need.

I've been ordered to sleep, and I really am tired. As soon as I change my sweaty nightgown I think I'll close my book. (Too bad you can't change it for me!)

Goodnight love. Kisses.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-28 05:24:15**

*(no subject)*

Yes, that's just the trick.

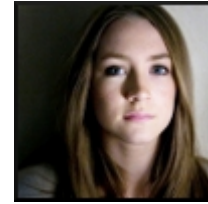
If I were there, I'd tell you not to bother putting on a new nightgown, what! (Now I'll likely lie here for a bit imagining that....) But change it and get some sleep. We can worry about MLE's questioning tomorrow.

Sweet dreams, dear heart,

-Effs

**2014-10-28 08:54:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Juniors*



**alt\_hydra**

Yesterday I went on the offensive and wrote to Crouch, revealing my feelings of betrayal and failure at having gone to the Ponds' so many times and never noticed anything. I also mentioned (more subtly than I am here) that part of the reason I never noticed anything suspicious about the Ponds was that my mother had already approved the establishment, and as such, that's why I suggested it to Harry as a place for the Tea Appreciation club to meet.

I didn't get the impression that questioning a load of school kids is high on the priority list, but it is on the list. He asked for the names of all the Tea Appreciators and I passed them on. It's ideal to appear cooperative.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-28 15:17:44**  
(no subject)

Er.

Good to know.

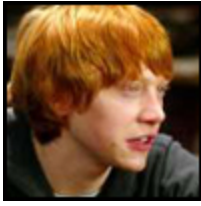
So we're a step closer to getting interrogated. Joy.



**alt\_hydra** at **2014-10-28 15:26:26**  
(no subject)

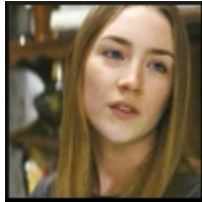
You'd rather appear as if we were trying to duck out of it?

You unwittingly purchased goods from proprietors who were hiding Sirius Black and helping the resistance, and you're someone who wants to be an Auror. Should you not be kicking off your broom to help MLE in whatever way they need?



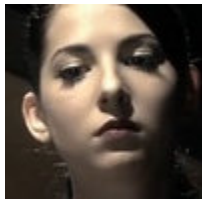
**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-28 15:33:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's not what I meant. Just not privately celebrating that they're going to question us.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 15:36:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe you could think of it as an opportunity to impress them somehow?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-28 15:51:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I wonder if there's something Ron could remember seeing that in retrospect would seem exceedingly useful while not actually doing any good.

Probably a tall order.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-28 15:52:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Song and dance routine, maybe?

They like it when people sing under questioning.

Sorry. Just, I'm not sure what would impress them, short of handing them information on someone. 'You know, I noticed Sue Bones always shared her biscuits with the Ponds' dog. 'Course, I just figured it was a dog. That liked biscuits.'



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 15:58:59](#)**  
(no subject)

And then it becomes a case of "if you saw something suspicious back then, why aren't you telling us until now?"

No, I'd emphasise how innocuous everything seemed, and how you must need to sharpen up your skills so that you can better detect strange goings-on in the future.

Only maybe change it up a bit because that's pretty much what I told Crouch.

Impressing them with your desire to learn, to do better. That's what I meant.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-28 15:30:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you know who they might be sending to question us? I have no trouble lying to anyone, but last time we worked together you said my occlusion still has some weak spots.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 15:35:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, but I know the weak spots, and whoever questions you won't. I don't think it will be Mother, so if they send a legilimens it will be Penderyn, who's good, but not like me or like Mummy.

If we're very lucky, they might send Jason, thinking it would be good practice for him.

Crouch might be coming, too, but I don't know if he'll be part of the interrogation. He wants to see the course Desai and Dolohov set up.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-28 15:38:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Jason? Oh Holda, that would be perfect. Therefore, it will not happen.

Auror Crouch, too? Oh. Well at least he's not a legilimens.





**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 15:50:40](#)**  
(no subject)

He's not a legilimens but in some ways...

He's almost like one. He's incredibly discerning. Not someone to under-estimate. Well, we all know that - but I used to think he was just a mad predator, or something, and he's not. That doesn't mean he's any less dangerous. It might mean he's more dangerous.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-28 15:51:37](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll certainly keep that in mind.

But don't worry, I know how to talk to Auror Crouch.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 15:52:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not worrying. Waste of energy.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-28 16:04:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I've been thinking about writing Aunt Narcissa.

It's tricky, I know, but expressing condolences about everything that's happened would probably be better than not. What do you think, Hydra? Draco?



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 16:24:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know. I meant to write to her this summer but everything I started seemed wrong. And then before school started I went along with Mummy to Cottesmore, to check in on Aunt Narcissa, and she didn't seem to want company at all. She was quite cold, and was

thinking bitter thoughts about how Mummy must be feeling smug because she has the *perfect child* now.

After that I wasn't sure if I should write her.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 16:26:12](#)**  
(no subject)

What? You never told me about that.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 16:29:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Is it really something you'd have wanted to know, only weeks after what happened to your father?



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-28 16:32:04](#)**  
(no subject)

In my experience, when someone makes it very obvious that they want to be left alone, that usually means they very badly need someone to reach out to them.

Though sometimes the one who reaches out risks getting bitten.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 16:35:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I see your point. I suppose I didn't want to take that risk. Aunt Narcissa was always kind to me, especially when Mummy was at her worst. If she were to be cold to me, I'd be hurt, I guess, so I didn't take the risk.

Selfish, really.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-28 16:46:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I can see how that would be difficult.

I don't think I'd be as hurt if she decided to not reply. We've been in close company, of course, but it's been through Draco and Lucius, really, if that makes sense



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 16:48:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Then you're probably a better person to do it than I. In this instance, anyway.

Writing her will not have any impact on MLE's investigation, though. Something to bear in mind.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-28 16:51:42](#)**  
(no subject)

No. I know it wouldn't.

It still feels like something that ought to be done, though.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 16:59:28](#)**  
*Private message to Pansy*

Will you write to her, please?

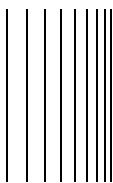
I'd really appreciate it.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-28 17:12:34](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Pansy*

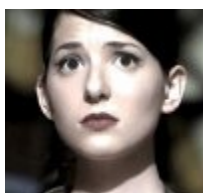
Yes. I'll let you know what she says.

I'll see if I can visit her over Christmas, too.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-28 17:29:00](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Pansy*

Alright. Thanks.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-28 18:06:15](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Corner's a bit nervous, that's why he PM'd me. He wants to know if we're going to be in trouble and if he's in any trouble. I assume they'll read that PM, so I said I thought they might want to ask us questions but I didn't think we'd be in trouble because obviously we had no idea it was anything other than a shop, it was Harry's idea to go in the first place and I thought probably he suggested it because it was Hydra's cousin's shop (and Auror Lestrangle had taken a look and thought it was all right so we thought surely it was safe while also not being at all posh.)

I also told him I didn't think they'd bother with him because didn't he only go once? Now that he's expressed concern in a journal it's a bit more likely, of course. (I didn't point that out to him.)



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-28 18:10:28](#)**  
*(no subject)*

That's alright. It's completely normal and expected for him to be concerned, just as anyone else who shopped there probably is.

Daphne also only went once, too.

**[2014-10-28 12:05:00](#)**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Look, so, I was just reading the papers. There's an article about a massive load of arrests in New London. And if you haven't seen it, it's that shop we went to a few times. Lestrangle's cousin's place. You know, tea appreciation.



**[alt\\_michael](#)**

You lot aren't going to get in trouble, are you? For going to tea appreciation there? I mean, no one had any idea that the owners were traitors, right?

Merlin, am *I* going to get in trouble for going there? (Bets is proper annoyed she never got to go. She said she wanted to see what a traitor's house looked like. I told her she's off her head.)



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-28 17:56:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, Pansy and I saw that last night.

Hydra thinks someone from MLE might come ask us questions, like whether we ever saw anything suspicious. Only, obviously if we HAD seen anything suspicious we'd have said something -- and it was Harry's idea to go there in the first place, and I think he suggested it because Hydra's cousin was the owner and Auror Lestrangle had even checked it out so we had every reason to think it would be safe. (While also being -- oh, you know. Not the sort of posh place he'd normally have tea at.)

Anyway I guess when they come I'll just say that. It's not like I've got anything to hide, we just went and bought tea.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-28 18:00:43](#)**

*(no subject)*

Also -- I don't know if they'll have you come talk to them or not, you only went there once, right? Surely they'll have enough people to talk to without interviewing everyone who EVER set foot in the place.

I went a load of times, though, so maybe. Really, though, it just

looked like a shop. The prices were good but not SO good that you'd know something dodgy was going on. I remember thinking they ought to paint it inside because it looked a little grimy. Mostly I was always just pleased to have an opportunity to see friends during hols, though, and get away from the Strettons.



**[alt\\_michael](#) at [2014-10-28 18:26:54](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah. I tried to tell Bets that it didn't look any different from any other shop, like my step-father's or anyone's.

Anywiz. Okay. Thanks.

**2014-10-29 07:43:00**

*Order Only Private message to Tonks*

How're you doing, love? I've been thinking about you ever since I left Grimmauld Sunday night. You know that if there's anything I can do for you, I will. Anything at all.



**alt\_charlie**

And, listen. This isn't the right time to decide anything, since it's never good to make huge decisions when everything else is falling apart, but I keep thinking about what you said Sunday night. About that twenty minutes you spent terrified I'd snuck in without you seeing me and Sirius and Remus and Ellie and I were all caught up in the raid and dead (or as good as) and you'd be left without any family at all.

Let's sit Mum down sometime in the next week or two and tell her. Because this whole mess brought home the fact that you're right, any and all of us might wind up dead (or as good as) any day now, and Fortuna forbid, if the worst happened I'd feel so much better knowing you had Mum to lean on. Not that she wouldn't be there for you anyway, but you know what I mean.

I hope things have calmed down there some. I keep looking over my shoulder and waiting for somebody to show up and question me, but so far, nothing. (Although -- get this. Dree and Em saw the story in the paper the other morning. Dree looked at it, looked at me, looked back at it, and said something about how the Prophet was nothing but a load of rubbish and pitched it into the fire. And Em just kept drinking his tea. I didn't think either of them would grass, but I'm pretty sure wild horses couldn't drag it out of them.)



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-29 15:58:57**  
(no subject)

Every now and then, something will bring me up short. I'll think about someone I saw at the party that I knew, or worry about a regular of ours getting hunted down, and it'll keep me up.

It helps that we've got a full house again. Sirius and me are a bit more stuck than we used to be, but we've talked about having me go up to the roof and using a broom to fly out under a disillusionment charm if it comes down to it, which ought to make you laugh to

picture it. It certainly did for me.

Bea asked about Ellie yesterday and today, she wanted to know if she was coming over. I think she'd heard us talking. You know how sharp she can be. And how stubborn.

And yes. I agree. We ought to tell your mum. And the next week or two sounds good to me.

I'm glad Bap gave you a kick or two while you were here. Must've known mum needed some company.



**alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-10-29 16:01:41**  
*(no subject)*

And good on Dree and Em.



**2014-10-29 15:38:00**

*Private message to Ronald Weasley*

It's not like you to miss Defence. Where are you?  
Are you all right?



**alt\_neville**

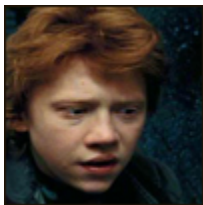


**alt\_neville** at **2014-10-29 20:43:27**

*Order Only*

Yours wasn't the only empty seat.

I'll be glad to hear from you. And that everyone's getting through the questioning all right.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-10-30 01:44:52**

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, say. Nev.

Just saw this. Yeah. They got round to me eventually. Made me wait forever first. And then, eh. It wasn't so bad, really. I mean, it's not as if they could legitimise me, and I didn't tell them anything that would get me in trouble, so really it was just Covington and Montague doing the sympathetic enforcer/tough enforcer show. I think they were just fishing. And they didn't really expect much out of it.

Did you see what Dolohov said about Voldemort coming for Halloween? Brilliant.

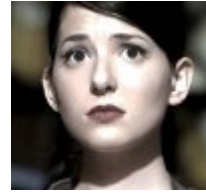
Ugh.

**2014-10-29 17:40:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

Are you done? Did they let you go?

Are they at least going to let you come have dinner?



**alt\_sally\_anne**



**alt\_ron at 2014-10-30 00:20:49**

*(no subject)*

Ugh.

Don't suppose you grabbed something at dinner for me to eat?



**alt\_sally\_anne at 2014-10-30 00:25:43**

*(no subject)*

Well I grabbed a couple of the biscuits but anything else would've been too messy and I figured we could always ask the elves for a sandwich. Actually you should ask Ginny, I think I saw her packing something up.

How'd it go?



**alt\_ron at 2014-10-30 00:39:29**

*(no subject)*

No idea where she is. I'm going down the kitchens and see if I can talk the elves out of something good.

With luck I won't run into Crouch in the corridors. He's here somewhere. Maybe in the Salle with Hydra. (You couldn't pay me to go there tonight.)

It was-

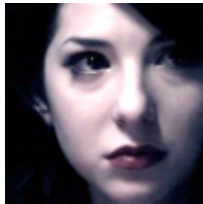
I don't even know. They were ridiculous. Kept asking the same bloody things, and I kept answering the same. Obviously. I mean, I've had the lecture from Truncheon, too, about how suspicious it

is when people change their stories. Or start 'remembering' things conveniently as you go along with an interrogation. Don't know what they thought.

Actually, I think Montague was hacked off that he couldn't get anything at all, legitimising me. He didn't like that at all. And he really wanted to find something to prove that Weasleys are traitors, after all. I mean, it's so disappointing that Percy took the Mark and Bill worked for Mulciber, because they all got used to bashing on about what blood traitors we're meant to be.

Yeah. They kept leaving me sit for long stretches, too. I think that was supposed to make me nervous. They kept muttering things about Crouch, like they were going to bring him in to have a go at me.

What did they do to you?

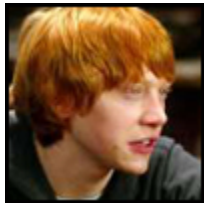


**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-30 00:50:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it was easy enough to keep my stories consistent and my thoughts under control because I just focused on times we had people along like Remy and all we could do was have tea and see each other.

He acted like he thought I was in cahoots with them but I knew it had to be an act. If they'd had ANY reason to think I was actually in league with Sirius Black's cohorts, AS IF they'd have someone like Montague interrogating me. In Hogwarts, after Draco and Hermione escaped. I was just a safe person to bully.

Anyway at least they let me go before supper. I'm sorry you missed yours.

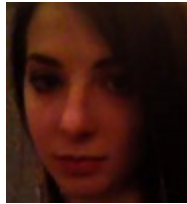


**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-30 01:05:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. I mean, Montague's... he thinks a lot more of himself than anyone else does, I guess. Not that he's a goat in the department. Just, he hasn't made much of himself there yet, but he thinks he will.

Actually. I was surprised it was him. I mean, he was working in MEU last I knew, and they aren't interrogators. I mean, sure, they question people when they go somewhere to paw through a camp's files or a business's account books, but they aren't people who'd get sent on a job that was just about making people talk and getting confessions. I bet he's trying to transfer out of MEU to one of the investigative units. Or to interrogation with Truncheon. It was weird he was in MEU at all. I mean, everyone expected he'd be the one working with Rowle in Protectorate Defence--anywiz, he's more Let's Crack Some Heads, than Let's Crack the Books, y'know?

How's Pansy? Have you heard about anyone else?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-30 01:14:24](#)**  
(no subject)

You might be right that he's trying to transfer. He doesn't really seem the MEU type. Honestly the only person other than Rachel I've met who seemed like 'the MEU type' is probably Linus

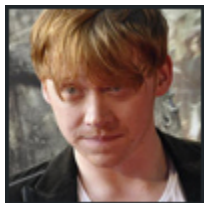
Moon.

Pansy's fine. She said Montague couldn't decide whether to treat her like a probable traitor (because of Lucius Malfoy) or kiss her arse (because of Lucius Malfoy) and in the end he decided to move her on out pretty quickly. I saw Justin posting so he must be out.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-30 01:18:28](#)**  
(no subject)

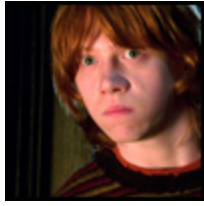
Oh MERLIN MORGANA AND CIRCE did you see what Dolohov just said?



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-30 01:20:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Um. No?

I'm eating. Sorry. Hang on-



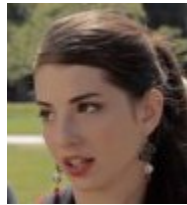
**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-30 01:26:47](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Erm.

That's not good.

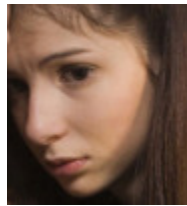
Seriously. Again?

And please tell me there won't be unicorn on the menu.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-30 01:28:45](#)**  
*(no subject)*

SURELY not. They'd need time to set up a unicorn hunt, don't they? It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment thing last time.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-10-30 01:29:58](#)**  
*(no subject)*

~~On the other hand, if he decided to see how we were taking advantage of the duelling salle by having us duel each other...~~

EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

**2014-10-29 18:48:00**

*Private Message to Aunt Narcissa*



**alt\_pansy**

Dear Aunt Narcissa,

I cannot imagine how difficult these last few months have been for you. I wanted to let you know that I've held you close in my thoughts these last few days. I know you're the very definition of grace under pressure, and I have always respected and admired you for it, but I am very sorry that you have had so much placed on your doorstep.

I realise it's rather silly of me to ask after Lucius and how he's been, and I understand completely if you'd rather not talk about it, but I miss seeing him write in these journals so very much, and feel his absence most keenly. Would it be possible for me to send him a letter?

I know it's several weeks away, but I'd very much like to see you over Christmas hols. I can see how you might want some privacy, but if you'd be up for it, I would truly enjoy spending some time with you, even if it's just for an afternoon tea. Oh, and I've sent along your birthday gift, I very much hope it arrives in time, and that it is to your tastes.

By the way, I'll have you know, Diana Derrick has absolutely no idea of how to plan a Gala. It's an utter mess. Every week, I get a new letter that sounds more and more frantic, and it often directly contradicts the last three she's sent. I'm in charge of the music and fireworks, which means that part at least will go smoothly, but everyone knows it would be a different story were you in charge, as you should've been. If they want the St Mungo's Gala to be what it truly ought to be (and Auxiliary, which is floundering in the absence of true leadership as well), they'll come to their senses next year.

I am waiting and hoping most fervently for the day when certain people come to their senses about other matters as well.

Please let me know if there's anything I can do. I am deeply sorry for all that's happened. You have my love and support, as always.

Affectionately yours,

Pansy



[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-30 22:02:53](#)  
(no subject)

Pansy,

Thank you for your kind note. It's quite surprising that you would think to write, now when you've all so much to prepare for, yourselves.

It's my fervent belief that we all are feeling my husband's absence; the appearance of these latest articles are proof enough of that, let alone other indications of all the ways he served Our Lord. I pray that He realises before too much longer that He is even stronger with Lucius by His side. In any case, yes, of course, you miss him. I must tell you in all honesty that from the reports I have received, it's doubtful your letter would reach him. Even if it did, I don't believe he is in a fit state to read it. But if you wish, it would certainly do no harm and might cheer him.

As for visiting at the holidays, I hope you understand that it is impossible for me to say, at this time, whether I shall be 'up for it,' as you say. I do appreciate the sentiment, of course. Perhaps we may revisit the question when the season draws nearer.

My best to your mother and her family.

Regards,

Narcissa C. B. Malfoy



[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-30 22:48:18](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Aunt. I'll be sure to send a letter along. And yes, we can chat further about whether a visit will be a possibility closer to the holidays.

I think about all of you, every day.

I've seen first-hand how very much Lucius was responsible for, and how truly devoted he has always been to serving the Protectorate and Our Lord. It has been his life's work.

And as a small business owner, I can tell that the day-to-day

administration of the Protectorate is less efficient and effective as of late, and have no doubt things would be vastly improved with Lucius's capable presence. These days, it seems to take weeks to have patents and standard paperwork approved and filed, and the raw materials we depend on for our products are frequently tied up in customs for far longer than is reasonable. We've lost revenue due to these delays, and I know that other businesses across the Protectorate are in a similar position. It's interesting, isn't it, to think about how very vital it is to have someone capable of working on those daily tasks to keep things running smoothly? Our Lord surely cannot be bothered with such administrative work, it would demean Him, but Lucius is just so very well suited for it.

We do have quite a lot to prepare for here. We are thrilled at the prospect of having Our Lord grace us with His presence tomorrow. Hydra and Harry have been asked to put on an exhibition for Him, as have two of my other friends. I know they will do their absolute best, and it really is such an honour.



**2014-10-29 20:00:00**

*Private Message to Astoria Greengrass*



**alt\_justin**

Greengrass,

I say, thank you for your concern but there really was no cause for it. MLE were here to talk to those of us who visited the Ponds' shop for 'Tea Appreciation.' I'm sure Daphne could have told you, what. I think she may have only attended once but Harry, Ron, Pansy, Sally-Anne and some others used to go now and then on holidays, for a lark. At any rate, the questions were all perfectly routine, what, nothing to worry about. I was in and out in jolly well no time at all.

Regarding Hogsmeade: Yes, I did go to the village, for a short while. It was really only to get some supplies and return to the castle. I had no intention of inconveniencing you, certainly not. I'd no idea you had even tried to look for me there.

By the way, have you found someone to work with you on Defence or Noble Arts? The last time I mentioned it to Miss Perks, she said you hadn't approached her. I say, does that mean you're working with Moon? I do hope it's going better for you, whatever the solution you've chosen.

Cordially,

-Finch-Fletchley

**2014-10-29 20:12:00**

*(no subject)*

Students: I am delighted to announce that Our Lord has decided to honour us with His presence at Halloween supper on Friday night.

I'm certain that all of you will join me in putting Hogwarts' best face forward.



 **alternity**  
**alt\_antonin**



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-30 01:24:24**

*Private message to Savitha and Lana*

I have just been informed -- He Floo-called directly to let me know. He seemed cranky; I did not press Him for an explanation.

Of course I am delighted and honoured to host Him for the feast, and I am certain you are as well.

We ought to speak tomorrow about the best way to show Him the best Hogwarts has to offer.



**alt\_savitha** at **2014-10-30 01:26:45**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

Oh, indeed.



**alt\_lana** at **2014-10-30 01:33:20**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

Such an honour!

When was He last here for the Halloween Feast?

Gracious, the elves will have to do very much better than they've been doing with the food. And they've not much time to see to that!



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 01:35:47](#)**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

I don't know, actually. Certainly before my time; Savitha, do you remember?

I've just let the elves know; I'm certain they will pull out all the stops.



**[alt\\_lana](#) at [2014-10-30 02:01:38](#)**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

I suppose the Head Boy and Girl ought to be prepared to offer words of welcome if it seems Our Lord is in a mood for that sort of presentation? I'm willing to help them prepare what they'd say.

Should we plan any other sort of entertainment? Would He wish to see what our best duellists can do in exhibition? Or- well, we don't want to disappoint.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 02:09:51](#)**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

He did say He would like to say a few words to the student body, so an extensive address will not be a good idea; He will not wish to sit through it. Still, Miss Greengrass can be safely relied upon to speak both prettily and concisely; I will let her know you are willing to help.

Exhibitions -- it will depend upon His mood, but yes, good thought. Savitha, what do you think, Finch-Fletchley and Weasley?

Hydra, Seamus, and Padma ought to be invited to the head table for the meal, as well.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at 2014-10-30 03:39:28**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

Regarding Finch-Fletchley and Weasley, I think that's an excellent idea. They're both exceptional, especially considering their age and the standards that too often held sway at Hogwarts. Marvolo would also be a fine choice, should Our Lord wish to see how His son measures up.

I'm sure Miss Greengrass will do a fine job expressing welcome. For all our sakes, it may be best if Mr Moon understands his role there to be purely decorative.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2014-10-30 06:09:35**

*Re: Private message to Savitha and Lana*

Excellent. I'll ask them tomorrow -- perhaps F-F and Weasley, and Harry and Hydra.



**[alt\\_rachel](#) at 2014-10-30 01:25:23**

*Order Only*

Oh, how lovely for all of you.

Have a nice meal.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-10-30 01:38:45**

*Re: Order Only*

Ta. Very much.

I mean, why would he want to come here? D'you suppose the elves at Buckingham all decided to take Halloween off? Or his usual fancy dress party cancelled?

It's not as if we're all that entertaining, really.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-30 02:08:24](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

I've offered my help to Tosha, and he asked if I'd sort the elves out, for food and cleaning.

I did ask who else we might expect (one thing I learned with the wedding is that people have some very odd food tastes, and if you get them wrong, it's fearfully insulting. Makes a good excuse to ask for names, though.) He didn't know, but said he'd tell me when he gets the final list.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-30 02:28:15](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Professor,

Did Tosha have any insight as to *why* Voldemort's visiting us?

-F-F

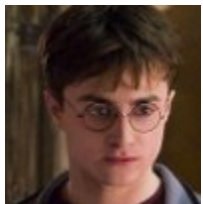


**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-30 02:32:06](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

What he said was 'He was not forthcoming'. You can translate that as well as I can, I'm sure.

It's possible he might share more tomorrow, when I check about details. Or after.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-30 03:35:14](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

He didn't really tell me anything either. I mean, he said that Voldemort had said he'd decided to forego the festivities in New London.

I think he honestly doesn't know.



**alt\_harry at 2014-10-30 01:32:57**

*Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

I'm delighted to hear that my Father will be coming for the Halloween feast.

Did He say why He had decided to come?



**alt\_antonin at 2014-10-30 01:45:26**

*Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

He did not say much -- only that He had decided to forego the festivities in New London to join us instead. I would not dare to speculate, of course.

Perhaps He has decided to commemorate your last year at Hogwarts, or my first year as Headmaster, or perhaps He has reasons of His own.



**alt\_antonin at 2014-10-30 06:21:46**

*Re: Private message to Headmaster Dolohov*

Additionally, Lana has suggested that if He wishes to see a demonstration of the success of Hogwarts' students, it might be wise to prepare a duelling demonstration, to be offered if He is interested. I

had thought to ask you and Hydra as one of the pairs; if you are amenable, will you and she stop in my office at some point tomorrow?



**alt\_sinistra at 2014-10-30 01:48:55**

*Private message to Tosha*

Do you need help with anything, Tosha? Or rather, I'm certain that you do, but not what.

Except perhaps some really excellent brandy when it's all over.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 01:54:06](#)**

*Re: Private message to Tosha*

Save that thought -- I am certain it will be helpful later.

Can I send the elves to you for decisions on the finer points of the cleaning and cooking? I will need to coordinate with the security team all day tomorrow, and it will preclude the sort of support they are likely to require. (My usual method in dealing with them is to agree with anything they suggest, but they do like to hear it from one of us.)



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-30 01:58:38](#)**

*Re: Private message to Tosha*

The brandy? It is already waiting.

The elves, certainly.

Are there other people coming, do you know, whose particular tastes we should take into account? (I do remember the wedding planning and the lists of things it was better not to serve particular people unless one actually intended to be rude.)



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 02:03:08](#)**

*Re: Private message to Tosha*

I'm not quite certain -- He was not forthcoming. I should hear from Broome tonight or tomorrow morning with a final count. I'll let you know.



**[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-10-30 01:49:44](#)**

*Private Message to Tosha and Barty*

Interesting. New London has nothing to offer for Our Lord's celebrations?

Another point for my list of reasons to release Lucius.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 01:56:25](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Tosha and Barty*

They are multiplying, are they not?

No, I've no idea why He decided to grace us with His presence, particularly with such short notice. Let us hope it is simply one of His whims.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-30 04:50:44](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Tosha and Barty*

Who can guess?

Could be nothing more than His wanting to see Toshenka head the feast. Or perhaps He's heard enough about the school's new Salle that He wants to see it Himself.

Ran it this evening, myself, and found it refreshing. Creative. Two or three surprises there. Worth my while. And certainly worth the students' efforts to master its challenges.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 06:10:59](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Tosha and Barty*

Savitha and I did amuse ourselves setting it up. If you've any ideas for other surprises, do let me know; we'll be changing it every few months to keep them from getting too complacent.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-30 02:10:53](#)**

*(no subject)*

Headmaster,

Quite an honour for us all, what!

-Finch-Fletchley





**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 06:14:11](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Indeed, it is.

Will you stop by tomorrow afternoon? Bring Mr Weasley with you.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 02:15:18](#)**  
*Private message to Miss Greengrass*

Our Lord has indicated he wishes to say a few words to the students Friday evening, so I will not ask you and Mr Moon to prepare extensive remarks; it would not do to keep Him waiting to speak, and of course it would be unfair to you to have to speak after.

That having been said, I would like to invite you to say a few brief words of welcome at the beginning of the feast. Professor Sandoval-Pennifold has offered to help you prepare remarks, although of course I am confident you will not need the assistance.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-30 03:25:27](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Miss Greengrass*

Headmaster,

I will take Professor Sandoval-Pennifold's assistance, as I shouldn't like to offend her on the matter. I thank you, however, for your confidence, and please know that I consider the assignment a remarkable honour.

-DGG



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-30 03:21:51](#)**  
*Private message to the Headmaster*

What exciting - if unexpected - news.

Please do let me know if there's any way I can help with preparations.

From,  
Hydra



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2014-10-30 06:19:18**

*Re: Private message to the Headmaster*

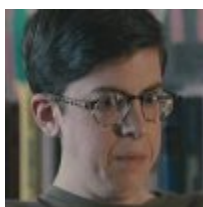
Thank you, my dear. As it happens, there is something you can help out with -- will you and Mr Marvolo stop in my office at some point tomorrow? As we are not quite certain whether Our Lord will want to see an example of student success, Lana has suggested that we prepare for a duelling demonstration, should He wish to see it, and I had thought you and Harry would make a good pairing.



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2014-10-30 14:56:27**

*Re: Private message to the Headmaster*

Yes, I can see that. Harry and I will stop by your office as soon as time allows.



**[alt\\_linus](#) at 2014-10-30 05:59:28**

*Private Message to Professor Dolohov*

Utterly splendid news! There will be rejoicing, as befits such a signal honour. I must, however, throw myself upon your mercy: do you think perhaps one might prevail upon Daphne to carry out any ceremonial verbosity required?

It's this dratted project of yours, sir, lovely puzzle that it is. The good news is that I think I may have a fruitful analysis for you, finally. The bad news, of course, is that between it and revising and several other little projects, I shan't have the leisure of mind necessary for composing remarks that would properly grace such an august occasion.

I do hope Daphs wouldn't mind awfully -- and that you are not disappointed in me! Truly, I can budget my time adequately; it's just now that I am so close to getting somewhere on this project, I am loathe to let it lie fallow for a moment -- as evidenced by the hour at which I pen this missive!

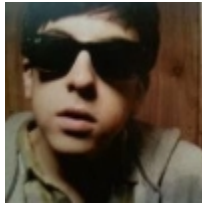


**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-10-30 06:27:44](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov*

Fear not, Mr Moon; I've already guessed you would say as much, and asked Daphne to handle any public remarks that might be necessary. (As it happens, Our Lord has indicated He will say a few words, and as such, the bulk of the attention will rightly go to Him.)

I am quite gratified your work on the analysis is going well -- I had utter confidence that it would, of course; you are the only one I would entrust such a detail-oriented project to. I particularly appreciate your willingness to work with anonymised data. It is not that I do not trust you, of course -- simply that the identity of the organisation whose books I am analysing must remain confidential, and what you do not know, you cannot be forced to disclose.



**[alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-10-30 06:32:58](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov*

Oh, quite, sir. Understood. And a sensible protocol it is.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-10-30 14:59:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

How exciting, sir!

**2014-10-29 21:19:00**

*(no subject)*

OH SHITE. VOLDEMORT IS COMING HERE?!  
WHY??? IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF SIRIUS BLACK?  
I MEAN, BECAUSE WE READ GRIM TRUTHS  
AND PURE VICTORY AND ALL?



**alt\_galleon**

**2014-10-29 21:50:00**

*(no subject)*

He hasn't visited since our first year. Remember, that hunt in the forest? It must be something important but I doubt it's because of Black.



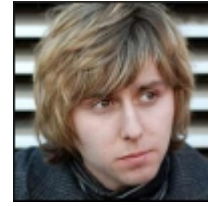
**alt\_galleon**

**2014-10-30 09:49:00**

*Order Only: Preparations*

Hullo, all,

It seemed prudent to have a place where we all might discuss the school's impending visit.



**alt\_justin**

Ron, old man, Tosha wants to see the two of us this afternoon. I suspect he might want us to demonstrate the duelling salle, what, or perhaps our skills outside of the obstacle course.

Daphne, I take it he's asked you to make welcome remarks, as well?

Professor Sinistra, should you hear anything more about others or other preparations, I'm sure you'll let us all know. We don't want to appear too well-informed, what, but a little advance warning might bally well do our nerves quite a bit of good.

Has anyone else become involved in the programme?

-F-F



**alt\_hydra** at **2014-10-30 14:58:31**

*(no subject)*

Antonin wants Harry and I to duel, as well.



**alt\_justin** at **2014-10-30 15:59:23**

*(no subject)*

Hydra,

Are you all right to duel? That mark on your wrist looks quite painful.

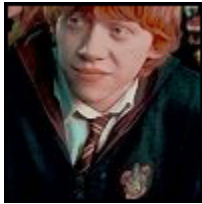
-Justin



**[alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-10-30 16:12:31](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, right. It is a bit, but it's simple to heal. Crouch grazed me when we ran the course last night, and he doesn't approve of mending non life-threatening injuries received in battle. Believes they ought to be badges of honour, or something.

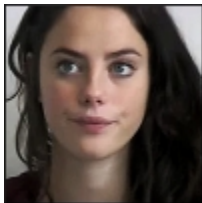


**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-10-30 15:05:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, Desai caught me after breakfast with same message. Think she'll be there, too, meeting with Dolohov.

Hooch posted a notice about a House meeting tonight, too. You lot doing anything House-proud? Hopefully we're not meant to sing, y'know?



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-30 15:08:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

Brief welcome remarks, yes. Setting the stage for the Lord Protector, as it were. Moon won't be assisting.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-30 16:15:20](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank Merlin for that.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-30 16:58:46](#)**

*(no subject)*

Not that I think you'll need to use it, but just in case the LP decides to hold Frost Faire redux at Hogwarts this weekend, Harry has the map that shows several routes to the safe house just outside Hogsmeade.

Everyone ought to take a look at it and once the routes are memorised, the map should be destroyed. And then there's the

portkey, of course.

It won't be of use to you by tomorrow, but I'm also working on a way around the castle's anti-apparition field.



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-10-30 18:20:03](#)**  
*(no subject)*

The Galleoners are getting a little nervous. Should we go through it with them too, you think?



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-30 18:26:03](#)**  
*(no subject)*

That's a call for you at the school to make.

Ask yourselves why they haven't been inducted into the Order yet. If there's good reason, then there might be equally good reason to not let them know the exact location of the safe house, yet be willing to evac them there, should something happen.

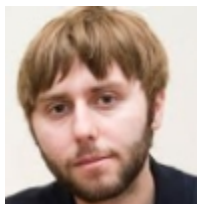


**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-10-30 19:04:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

'Frost Faire redux' is exactly what worries me.

I'm the secret keeper, so if there's someone who needs to get in who can't, you can bring them to me

-- hopefully.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-10-31 01:15:54](#)**  
*Private Message to Harry and Ron*

Harry,

Well, old man, it's bally well unlikely that you and Hydra will be asked to duel to the death, what.

-Justin

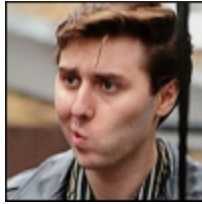




**[alt\\_harry](#) at 2014-10-31 01:30:36**

*Re: Private Message to Harry and Ron*

We're not the ones I'm worried about.



**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-10-31 02:01:22**

*Re: Private Message to Harry and Ron*

Oh, I say.

Yes, good point.

-Justin



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-10-30 22:55:55**

*Private Message to Draco*

Your mother seems to be in reasonably good spirits, considering. She sounded like herself, at least. She isn't entirely sure she'll be free to have visitors over hols, but the fact that she thinks she might is a good

sign, I think.

She seems to be building a case for Lucius's invaluable contributions to the Protectorate, which is also hopeful. I laid it on a bit thick in my response, but I figure at least she knows I'm in agreement, and am willing to provide help to give her ammunition, even in token form.

Also. I might be able to pass Lucius a letter. She said she wasn't sure he'd be in a state to read it, or whether it'd get to him, but I will try. It'll have to be utterly without substance, of course. Still.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-10-31 01:41:07**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

She almost always sounds like herself, so I don't know that it's a sign she's actually doing well. Carrying on, as they say, but people can carry on through a lot.

Anyway. Of course she's not doing well. There's absolutely no reason she should be.

Glad you wrote her, just the same.



**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-31 03:02:18**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'm just glad she wrote back.

And no, of course she isn't.

I'll keep my eye on her. I promise.



**alt\_pansy at 2014-10-30 17:07:54**

*(no subject)*

Is there anything the rest of us can do to help you four prepare for your exhibition? If you need to practise any sequences, and need someone to practise against, let us know.

**2014-10-30 13:21:00**

*Grim Truth: 97/30/10*

Greetings, British Wizarding World!



The *Daily Prophet* has made much in the last week of my recent escape from MLE.

 [altermity](#)  
[alt\\_sirius](#)

I admit, there's only one reason you have read about how I evaded them, rather than about my death by Bellatrix Lestrangle's wand. That reason is a young woman named Ellie Summer.

Ellie was born to Michael and Jean Summer in 1977. We think her birthday was in April, because she remembered it being some time around Easter. When she was five, she was separated from her parents and put into one of the Muggleborn compounds in Stoke-on-Trent. At approximately seven years of age, she was given to Madam Leona Dimmock of Ollerton. Her principal duties were to serve at the witch's social parties, mixing drinks and so on. She was treated as something between a house elf and a pet - until, that is, Ellie grew too old for Madam Dimmock's tastes. She was too tall, too spotty and 'no longer elfin' and so the old woman sent her back to the camps.

Ellie never talked to us much about what life was like there, over the next four or five years. I can only imagine that it's a time she would have preferred to forget. It's not hard to guess what she endured: a young girl, growing to womanhood, alone, with no idea how to survive. The best she could say about her mistress was that under her yoke, she did not know hunger, was not physically abused and knew, when she laid her head to rest, that she would not be robbed or murdered in her sleep. No such guarantee in the camps, where too often it's every one for herself, where the gaolers are more dangerous than the inmates. But nothing prepared her to go back, either.

When she came to us, Ellie was concerned about the rules. Things a free person would never worry about: How and where to stand, what to say or not say, what would happen if she failed to meet expectation. The first time she broke a glass, she almost cut herself trying to clean up with her bare hands, sobbing the whole time, she was that frightened of disapproval. She didn't know she could trust us and had no reason not to fear the consequences of failing to please. But from the beginning, she had a way with the customers, particularly the

other Muggleborn who would shop for the households they served, or some of the older witches and wizards who would drop in more for the conversation and company than anything on the shelves. Eventually, she grew to understand that her new 'masters' were not going to treat her as a slave. They were interested in her as a person.

In time, Ellie came to be more than a servant - she became a trusted friend. She practically ran the shop by herself and customers often came to see her, even when there was nothing they wanted to buy. She was clever, funny, observant, kind and - above all - decent to everyone who crossed her path.

Ellie also talked with us about the change we desired for England, restoring a government that valued equality, condemning the cruel treatment of muggles for no crime other than being in the majority population, recognising that anyone born capable of magic has the right to hold a wand and freeing all of Britain once more, reconnecting it to the rest of the world. We made sure she had a wand and taught her to use it. Her appetite for learning spells was insatiable. She was always interested in tales about how things were before, as well as stories about our ongoing struggle against Voldemort. She was always willing to help in any effort that would further the Order's goals for freedom.

Ellie wanted to see Paris, Rome, New York City. She dreamed of having her own children. But she was also fierce, and practical, and knew that we had to fight to win those privileges which in other countries are rights.

Ellie Summer was killed last Sunday, 26th October. She leapt in front of a Killing Curse, one that would have killed me if she had not acted with outright bravery. She died to give me, and others, a chance to escape, to keep fighting. She died in service to the Order of the Phoenix. She was twenty years old.

Ellie was never given the opportunity to be Sorted, but if she had come to Hogwarts, I believe she would have been a Gryffindor. I believe she would have brought honour to our House. I am proud to have called her a friend. The Grim Truth is that I can never repay her sacrifice - but I *can* make sure she is remembered.

Since you will not read her obituary in any account the *Prophet* might provide, I thought it would be fitting to share it here.

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**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-30 19:12:22](#)**  
*ORDER ONLY*

Thank you for saying this.

Miss you, Ellie.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-31 01:37:23](#)**  
*Order Only Private message to Sirius*

You know, if I had read this five years ago it would have enraged me. I would have said something sarcastic and dismissive about it, yeah, but it would have been in effort to disguise my initial anger.

Some people reading this are probably enraged right now, too. It will make some people so angry that they'll become even more intent on wiping people like you and Ellie off the face of England. But it will make others enraged because it's the only way they can cope with the fear that what you're saying is true.

And it doesn't enrage me now, so - keep doing it. Keep hacking people off. Some of them will get hacked off at the wrong people, but maybe a few will finally get it right.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-31 02:59:18](#)**  
*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

Well, one person I hope is proper hacked off is Madam Dimmock.

But I know what you're saying. It takes a while to cut through all the lies we're taught. And anger's an important part of that process. I know; I went through it myself, once. Thank you, Draco.

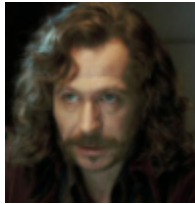


**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-31 03:13:11](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

Probably. Isn't she ancient, though? I've only heard of her in passing.

I guess I'm still angry. I don't know. Not at you, or anything.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-31 03:20:32](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

Well. First, you're angry at the people who are shattering your comfortable worldview, like me. Then, after you get round to accepting that what you've been told isn't really how things are, you're generally angry at the people who told you that. And probably at other people who help maintain the fiction, or who embrace the same lies because it makes their lives more cosy. Probably a little angry at anyone who submits to it, even if it means they don't enjoy all the same privileges, because it makes it seem like they believe they deserve to be second-class citizens.

But I've found it's hardest to be angry at people whom you also love.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-31 03:30:18](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

Since we both know you mean my parents - yeah, I've been angry at them for yonks. But at first I concentrated it on other things, like the fact that the were stepping out on one another.

Now I guess I'm angry because I know they'll never change.

You don't seem to give a knut for your parents, though, so I guess you mean your brother?



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2014-10-31 03:35:13**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

You think because I see them clearly now, that I never loved my parents?

It would have been so much easier that way.

Reg is a different story. He tried so hard to please them that he got in over his head. And then couldn't see a way out, but one.

But ... no, when I was your age - when I was the age you and Harry first started getting to know Hermione - I would have given nearly anything to make my parents proud. What took the longest was reconciling myself to the facts that it would never happen and more to the point, I wasn't willing to do the things necessary to *make* it happen.

That didn't make disappointing them easier, though. Just more justifiable.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-10-31 03:45:43**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

But then neither of your parents are particularly lovable, or even likable. I reckon that's how mine would strike a lot of people as well.

You can't disappoint people when you're dead, though both my parents surely know I'm not. A part of me still hopes that they might accept me, though, even knowing exactly what I am now, and exactly what choices I've made. Pretty sure that's impossible, though.

And it really doesn't matter, in the larger scheme of things. If they can't accept it, that's on them, not me. Just like even though you might've wanted to save Regulus, it wasn't your job.



**[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-10-31 04:52:06](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

Ah, but my parents *could* be - not lovable, exactly, but certainly affectionate, when they wanted to be. They had high standards. Mostly the problem was that they never really wanted to be parents. They wanted children fully-formed, I think. So we never knew whether we were going to get the version of our parents who petted us and gave us rewards, or the version of our parents who sent us to our rooms without supper.

But if you think you can't disappoint even when you're dead, you obviously haven't listened to my mother's portrait lately. I don't know, though. Your parents may not ever forgive you for your choices but - they do genuinely love you. That makes a difference. I'm not sure my parents ever really did *love* us, not the same way.

And it most certainly was my job to try to save Reg. I was his big brother.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-10-31 05:28:57](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private message to Sirius*

They did, yeah. I don't know if there's yet proof that they love me unconditionally, though, and I suppose now I'll never know for sure.

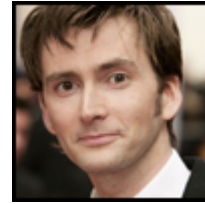
Come on then, even a big poncy Gryffindor like you must know you can't save someone who doesn't even want to save himself, or doesn't believe himself to be worthy or capable of being saved. You never gave up on him, which was the right thing to do, but it's pretty much all you could have done.



**[2014-10-30 18:09:00](#)**

*Private Message to D Greengrass*

Did Hydra find you to return your quill?  
Elegant. Would have been a shame if you'd  
lost it.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)**

Pleasant coincidence, your putting your head  
in just as we finished. Trust you're enjoying  
your service as Head Girl?

---



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-31 01:20:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

Mr Crouch,

She did find me. And yes, it would have been a shame,  
especially as it was a gift ~~from my~~. Thank you for  
seeing that she returned it to me.

Apologies, again, for the interruption, even if it was in service of  
making sure no one un-approved had secreted onto the course. Your  
training has certainly had a noticeable effect on Hydra's skills, by the  
way; there's no question she out-ranks all girls at the school, and all  
but a handful of the boys, as well. Impressive.

Being Head Girl is going well, yes, even if I sometimes pull the duty  
of Head Boy, too. Linus is good at many things, but wielding authority  
is not one of them. Oh, and tonight I've just finished giving all the  
Prefects instructions on how to prepare the students for tomorrow's  
Halloween Feast. You may have heard that our Lord Protector will be  
in attendance? For some of our youngest, this will be their first time  
being in the same room as Him, which of course means they need to  
be tutored in proper etiquette - however last minute.

Oh, and I had a thought about Ms Novello's next feature. If she were  
to profile both myself and Hydra, then a good third witch might be  
Victoria Catchlove - definitely a credit to Slytherin house, even  
though she's just in fifth year. If the topic comes up again between  
you two, perhaps you might mention Catchlove's name?



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-31 03:02:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Imagine there are charms one could set that would discourage extracurricular uses of the course. Perhaps a device. Could ask Rod Lestrangle for you. Imagine he might know just the thing to reduce that temptation and make your patrolling easier.

Unless you find it amusing. In which case, we could probably find you a magnet for trysting couples and let you catch them six or eight a night.

Will pass your suggestion along to Sophia. She was either going ahead or abandoning the thought in the next month. Said she was aiming for an early December feature.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-31 03:32:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, there are already some measures in place, but some of the students at this school are fiendishly clever, especially when their curiosity is provoked. I think they know better than to cross the rules set by our new Headmaster, but now and then there's someone with the intelligence of a nit who will come 'round and astonish me.

If we discover that further measures are necessary and students are sneaking into the course, then Mr Lestrangle's skills may be useful, yes. As for trysting couples - well, it's hard not to be at least a wee bit sympathetic, unless they're frightfully young. The castle may have some sort of magic that prevents girls from finding themselves in a "family way," but it has yet to properly curb rampaging hormones.

In fact, isn't the aforementioned castle magic in some ways *encouraging* that those hormones simply be allowed to rampage? Hmm. What a strange set of priorities this castle has. Was it so much of a problem in your days, as Head Boy?

Early December, you say? Well, I think Ms Novello will have something by then, one way or another.



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-31 04:09:48](#)**

*(no subject)*

Can't imagine a time when hormones would have been at so low an ebb, they'd have left Hogwarts' dark corners and secret passages lonely. No.

Truth? That was relatively low on my list of enforcement priorities as HB.

You may be onto something with your theory that the castle's protections were designed paradoxically and meant to encourage fertility just out of school.

Believe Sophia's idea was welcoming Slytherin's brightest home for hols and ensuring you'd be remembered with invitations to all the holiday parties. She likes to imagine Whirl does more than sell copy, that it makes a contribution to the greater good. (Which brings us back to hormones and encouragements to fertility.)

And on that note, I'll bid you goodnight, Daphne Greengrass.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-31 04:17:39](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think I'll follow your lead, keep it low on my list, as well. Or, better yet, assign it to Linus.

That's very thoughtful of Ms Novello. I'll see to it that I contact her soon.

Enjoy the rest of your evening, Mr Crouch. It was a pleasure to speak with you again.

-DGG



**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-10-31 03:03:19](#)**

*(no subject)*

As for tomorrow. Trust you'll all take the visitation with due seriousness.

At least it's clear you understand the importance of making the right impression.



**[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2014-10-31 03:26:49](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Absolutely. On both counts.

**2014-10-30 18:15:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*

Preparations for tomorrow well in hand,  
Batya?

If there's anything you need delivered at the last moment, let me know. I'm not intending to gate crash your festivities, but would not mind an excuse to be close at hand.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Our Lord is in a volatile mood.

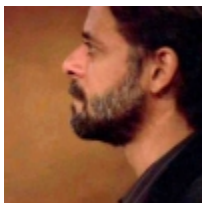
Called me away from today's business (which was not unnecessary work, as you can imagine) to attend him in the fens.

Today's variation on the theme involved my creating six inferi of my own (another skill acquired, another line for my cv). The theory: that I ought to feel the power of commanding my own creations. As though commanding the things would be like learning Apparition or summoning a broom--once managed, the feel for it should never fade. (Perhaps we'll test that proposition in a decade or two.)

You can guess today's result. My half dozen lasted perhaps a minute when introduced to His, and I am no more Master of His thousands than I was the day we began.

Meanwhile, He entertained himself with blasting holes in His own by the scores. Possibly interested in how much could be blown away and the things remain mobile, but it was less a spirit of experimentation than pure bloody temper.

Seemed to enjoy the carnage, at least.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-10-30 23:59:24**  
*(no subject)*

Lovely. Let us hope He has managed to work out the worst of his temper -- and if He has not, that the students are smart enough not to rouse it further.

We have preparations well in hand. Or we would, if we knew the extent of what He plans; even Broome has thrown up his hands and said his guess is as good as mine.

Ah, well. I am confident I have done the best as I could so far with Hogwarts and with the student body; if He finds fault it will not be because I have not been trying.

Oh, a thought occurred to me today -- Narcissa's birthday. Obviously any celebration will need to be exceptionally low-key, but perhaps we could make arrangements to have one of her favourite restaurants cater a private supper at Cottesmore for the three of us. (Assuming I will be able to win free on Saturday evening, of course.)



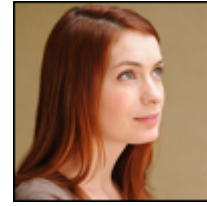
**[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2014-10-31 00:07:04](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Will see to the arrangements for Saturday. Consider it done.

**2014-10-30 21:14:00**

***ORDER ONLY***

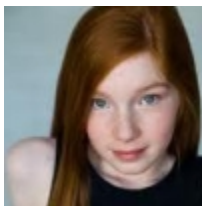
We're in place for the Octoboros event tomorrow. Cecelia and Sarah are camping at the central stone tonight to make the final rune carvings. They've decided to replace the emerald with jet, as it will better serve our purposes. We should find out whether we've been successful with our first phase in a few short hours.



**alt\_alice**

We've had a rather terse message from Beth -- apparently, we're not to use the drop point any more. If there's to be more communication, it'll come at her discretion. I am not sure whether she's been able to give assistance to any of the regulars at Laszlo's who are currently dodging MLE. Rachel, do you have any information from the investigation? What has it been like for those of you who have been questioned so far?

I know tomorrow is going to be a tense day for those of you at Hogwarts. Draco, Hermione, Molly, Rachel, thank you for your help with additional safety measures. Harry, Hydra, Ron, Justin, Daphne, I very much hope everything goes smoothly for you, as well as for the rest of the school.



**alt\_evelyn at 2014-10-31 06:03:35**

*(no subject)*

I'm on needles and pins about tomorrow. Oh, I hope it works, I really hope it does.



**alt\_frank at 2014-10-31 06:07:27**

*(no subject)*

me too, sweetie.

I'm proud of you.

keep your head down tomorrow, all right? you and your brother both.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-31 06:13:20](#)**

*Private Message to Dad*

I will.

I'm worried about Ron. And Justin. Draco mentioned the Frost Faire, and I

I just hope everything goes well. Here and there both.



**[alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-10-31 06:17:56](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Dad*

me too.



**[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-10-31 06:08:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

Won't be for lack of diligence on your part if it doesn't. I'm dead impressed with the amount of work you've done.



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-10-31 06:11:42](#)**

*(no subject)*

You came up with the formula! I just ran it a few hundred times.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-10-31 14:56:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

You've both done amazing work. Truly. So very impressive.

(So have Cecilia and Sarah, mind. The runework is also quite impressive, what they've come up with, to make everything anchor.)





**alt\_jeremy** at **2014-10-31 06:07:32**  
(no subject)

Tomorrow will tell, yeah?

(About to down a sleeping draught. Won't help anything if I'm bleary at work.)



**alt\_sinistra** at **2014-10-31 14:59:15**  
(no subject)

I'm afraid I don't have any more useful news. Tosha really has no idea what to expect. Or who.

(I gather Nic Broome, who usually handles these kinds of arrangements, has no idea either. That's quite worrisome.)

I'm cancelling my night classes, on the grounds that even if everything goes well and easy, no one's going to be in any mood to study nor I to teach. That means I'll be available if there's need.

**2014-10-30 22:03:00**

*Private Message to N Malfoy*

Tosha plans to come to New London on Saturday. Believe he anticipates needing a quiet evening in small company after tomorrow's exertions. Would you join us? Know it would please him, and give him something to look forward to throughout tomorrow and its many details.



**alt\_crouch\_jr**

Have asked Ocrum Zerezhgi to bring us his best. You've been to Gondar, haven't you? Tosha's been wanting to go, but there's not been time.

Say you'll come Saturday.



**alt\_narcissa at 2014-11-01 05:12:41**

*(no subject)*

Gondar? Yes, I've been - once or twice, that is. It wasn't one of Lucius' preferred dining choices.

Supper would be fine. It will give me a chance to go over with you both the points I plan to make to Our Lord about just why He needs my husband back in his rightful place.



**alt\_crouch\_jr at 2014-11-01 05:23:35**

*(no subject)*

Pleading Lucius' case will have to wait, Narcissa. Our Lord is- not in a receptive mood.

Will explain more tomorrow, but He's just avenged Himself on Minerva McGonagall by executing Hooch as afters to Tosha's Halloween Feast.

Lucius is safest where he is. For now, at least.

**2014-10-31 01:22:00**

*Private Message to C Burris and B Bode - Ghost*



**alt\_rookwood**

Tomorrow is the culmination of years of work and blood. You have personally sacrificed a great deal, uncounted hours to research and miles trudged across desolate countryside mapping precise locations. I'm sure you have crossed every 't' and dotted every 'i' because it would be terrible if anything foreseeable were to go wrong. Tomorrow all eyes in Our Lord's realm will be on this, your great work, knowing that you have worked hard to secure our borders.

I trust that *all will be well*, because of course you have done everything in your power to make it so.

**[2014-10-31 10:12:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Miss Greengrass*



**[alt\\_poppy](#)**

The post this morning brought me a parcel from Rodolphus Lestrange. I should be able to execute the needed processes over the weekend (assuming there's no outbreak of plague or folly to upset things).

I hope to have results for you by Sunday evening.

On an unrelated note, I expect this evening's visitation will have its stresses and that there will be an uptick in admissions here in the hospital wing. This would be true were it only a holiday feast--people will overdo--but with the Protector's visit, there is potential for... the unforeseen. If need arises, please know that my ward can hold many and that if there's a need to send anyone out of harm's way or... I frankly don't know what to expect... If there's need, I will welcome anyone whether they've a need of healing or merely a safe place out of the way.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-31 15:51:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

No need to rush, I don't think. If there were, I imagine Mr Lestrange would have exhibited more impatience with me by now. As it was, he came across as politely indulging me in my reluctance to accept what he no doubt believes to be absolute truth.

Yes, last night I spoke with the Prefects on how to instruct the students in matters of etiquette, but I also told them to be prepared for faintings and nervous collapse. Or, who knows, even *happy* collapse. How does the saying go? "Expect the unexpected." In any case, I told them to be prepared - but for what, is the question. I suppose we'll know by tonight.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-31 15:57:46](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Hogwarts is fortunate in its Head Girl this year. You are doing well by the office, my dear.



**[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-10-31 16:54:58](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you. Truly.

**2014-10-31 10:37:00**

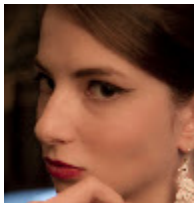
*Order Only Private Message to Miss Perks*

My dear, I'm expecting to have rather a lot of upset tummies this evening (and not a few cases of night terrors over night). The Lord Protector has a well-known deleterious effect on people's digestion and nerves.



**alt\_poppy**

I've no wish to interrupt your supper, but I wonder if you'd be willing to be 'on call' should things become over-busy here. (And in that invitation, I include the possibility that you might wish an excuse to absent yourself from the hall if things become unbearably tense there. I will be pleased to have your company whether it's strictly necessary or not.)



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-10-31 20:05:42**  
(no subject)

Yes ma'am. I can certainly come help in the Hospital Wing if you need me.

**2014-10-31 12:01:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Dumbledore and Poppy and Alice and Charlie*



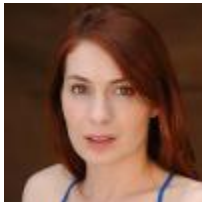
**alt\_nymphadora**

I've been having contractions for the last hour and a half or so. Snape is working on something that should help calm things down, and we're looking up various diagnostic tests to make sure everything is as it ought to be.

Poppy, I know you're up to your ears in it. I'll keep you informed if anything else happens.

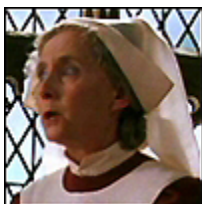
I'm wondering

I know it's been a stressful week for me, which might be part of it, but Cecelia might be in a similar position. It started not soon after the Octoboros business was supposed to happen. So just in case, Alice, you might want to track her down, see if she's all right. Snape's making a double dose just in case.



**alt\_alice at 2014-10-31 19:18:25**  
(no subject)

Yes. Of course. I'll go check on her now, and then come by Grimmauld if needed.



**alt\_poppy at 2014-10-31 19:40:25**  
(no subject)

Let me know if I'm needed. It would be better if it were now than close to the feast.

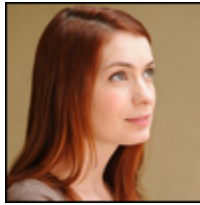
If you feel your health is at risk, I will come immediately. At whatever time.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-31 20:03:11](#)**  
(no subject)

We'll be sure to let you know.

There's no spotting, which is something.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-31 20:30:18](#)**  
(no subject)

You were right to have me check in on Cecelia. She's been having similar issues. I'll be by shortly, Tonks.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-31 21:04:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, darling. I know you're in good hands with Snape. Let me know how you're feeling.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-31 21:28:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Better now that I know it's the Octoboros, strangely.

We're keeping things low-key. It's unpleasant, but nothing like full-on labour. Every now and then I need to get up and walk around a touch.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-31 21:35:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you would know.

Do you need me? Or even just want me? I could go get bit by the Vipertooth. (Before you ask, yes, it's perfectly safe, we have an antidote and you build up resistance through exposure, it just gives you mandatory time off shift. Bill gets weird whenever I mention it.)





**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-10-31 21:39:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Course I want you, always do, but I've got a fair share of hoverers at the mo.

I think you can avoid getting bit for now. I'll let you know if things change.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-10-31 21:43:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Right, luv. Keep me posted. I'm off shift at one in the morning tonight, if you want me to I can come down then.



**[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-11-01 03:11:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Still waiting for a 'hallo mum' kick, but everything seems to be doing fine otherwise.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-11-01 04:15:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm so glad.

But, ugh, all this today made me realise -- what are we going to do when it really is time for the Bap to join us? It's not as though you can go to St M's and say hi, wanted fugitive here, having a baby.

I've delivered plenty of dragons, but 'delivering a dragon' usually means hovering a few hundred feet away and waiting to see if they need you to come in and help break the shell. I don't exactly think that sort of experience is going to help here.



**alt\_nymphadora at 2014-11-01 16:40:15**

*(no subject)*

It'll be fine, luv.

I'll have Sally-Anne and Poppy on call. It's terrifying, no doubt, but I figure babies managed to be born for ages and ages before St Mungo's. Alice was talking when she came by about how she had Evelyn in her mother-in-law's cellar, and that turned out just fine. So.

Had a 'Hallo' this morning, by the way.



**alt\_nymphadora at 2014-11-01 03:10:47**

*(no subject)*

We're a little more settled now round here. Alice, I hope Cee is as well.

We're all following what's happened at Hogwarts.

Bloody hell.

**2014-10-31 14:31:00**

*private message to Susan and Ernie*

If you see Fang please tell me. I think he is hiding somewhere because he ~~does not approve of~~ is put off by all the preparations going on for the feast and I am not really worried but if you see him do please tell me.



**alt\_megan**

It's probably just all the bustle and maybe the weather also has something to do with it. One of the younger 'Puffs just wrote that Creatures isn't going so well today because they were supposed to look at the baby bowtruckles, well not babies any more, that's the point, but they're supposed to do sketches. Only they're all hiding. The bowtruckles, I mean. So maybe it is the weather.

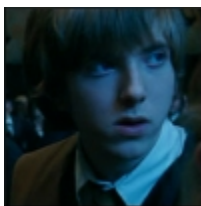
It's probably fine. Right?



**alt\_ernie at 2014-10-31 19:52:41**  
(no subject)

Maybe he knows who's visiting, and doesn't want to be underfoot.

No worries, Megs. I'll keep an eye. But I bet he'll turn up eventually.



**alt\_ernie at 2014-11-01 02:26:44**  
(no subject)

Bloody hell, Megs.

I'm going to fetch some more supplies from the infirmary.

No wonder Fang didn't want to be seen.

He turn up yet?



**[alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-11-01 02:32:21](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Not yet but he probably thinks he is safer wherever he is. And I cannot argue with that.

I'm sitting with some of the younger ones. They have mostly stopped shaking and whimpering now.

**2014-10-31 14:41:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Severus Snape and Alice Longbottom*



**alt\_poppy**

Severus, I've heard from Nymphadora that she is having contractions. Obviously it is too soon for that child to come. She says you are brewing for her and that they are researching diagnostic procedures. Take it you are at GP? Use a vivi varification spell first. It will confirm one life or two. If that is negative, you should be brewing an abortifacient.

Let me know what is happening.

Obviously it would be awkward for me to go missing with the Protector due here for supper. But I will come if needed.

Alternatively, and this would involve some risk to all--I do also have one colleague I believe would be trustworthy (I hope) and will ask her help if this becomes an emergency and if all concerned agree it worth the risk of exposure.

Let me know.



**alt\_alice at 2014-10-31 20:29:18**  
(no subject)

I've just been by the Octoboros site. Cecelia is likewise experiencing some discomfort and contractions. Sarah's keeping watch, and they're staying in place for now.

Severus, I'll fetch extra doses of whatever you're brewing, and will help Sarah keep an eye on Cecelia.

I've done the vivi on her, and it checks out. I also went ahead with the simple self-diagnostics for monitoring maternal blood pressure and foetal heart rate -- they indicated normal blood pressure and a slightly elevated foetal heart rate, but not extremely so. She's quite tired from the late hours she's been keeping leading up to the project, but is otherwise in good health.

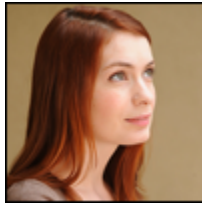


**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-31 21:13:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, the child does not appear to be in any significant distress, which reassures me.

I believe the pains are false-labour, albeit a particularly vigorous form. I have administered the standard potions, and we are monitoring carefully.

Alice -- if this continues you may wish to bring Cecelia here; it will lessen the time between stillroom and dosage.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-10-31 21:17:54](#)**  
(no subject)

It's a bit far by broom, and she's very reticent to side-along. Poppy, would you think it would be safe enough to attempt?



**[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-10-31 21:33:39](#)**  
(no subject)

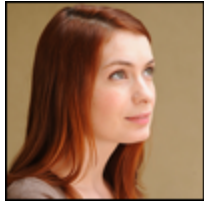
If she is reluctant, it is better to allow her to remain comfortable. I will keep close watch on my journal to see if I am needed.



**[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-10-31 22:59:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I would avoid Apparating unless there's dire need.

(And, of course, things are growing mad here with children turning up sick with wanting to avoid an evening in His company. I've half a ward full already. Which means it really would have to be an emergency there for me to come. I'm sorry.)



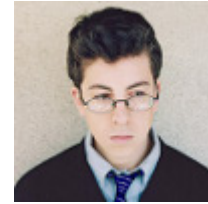
**alt\_alice** at **2014-10-31 23:01:20**  
*(no subject)*

Understood. I've got Colin ready to run errands back and forth if need be, and I'm staying with Cecelia and Sarah for the time being.

**2014-10-31 14:43:00**

*Private Message to Daphs*

May I call you that? It seems only fitting, as we now share such an important trust, that of the wellbeing of our fellow students.

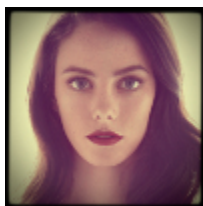


**alt\_linus**

Speaking of which, I have ordered the elves to be ready with warm milk for all common rooms following tonight's festivities, in case anyone's nerves need a bit of settling. You and I can bear up under the excitement of a visit by the Lord Protector, and do Hogwarts proud, but one cannot expect the same of the younger students. I am relieved that I thought it of now, and not later.

If you think of any other last-minute contingencies, I stand ready to assist.

Oh, and do not fret one tiny bit about your upcoming duties. Someone who has studied performance and has a flair for the dramatic will certainly be able to weather the saying of a few words with grace and aplomb. You'll be fine, I am quite certain. And think of the honour!



**alt\_daphne** at **2014-10-31 22:22:39**  
(no subject)

Thank you for the thoughtful reassurance, but I'm not particularly nervous about my upcoming duties, as you call them. They come with the territory.

What we may need, more than milk, is lemon. Though I imagine that Madam Pomfrey has thought of that already.

Just keep an eye on the Prefects and make sure they're following the instructions I provided last night. Lestrangle, Patil, and Finnigan are exempt, of course.



**alt\_linus** at **2014-10-31 23:05:46**  
(no subject)

I most assuredly will. Not the minutest break in decorum will sully our welcome for the Lord Protector!



| Lemons?

**2014-10-31 15:10:00**

*Private Message to C Burris*

Called to His presence. Come to apparition  
point **NOW**.



**alt\_rookwood**

**2014-10-31 16:41:00**

*Private Message to Karo*

I definitely need to unwind. We're *still* waiting on some of those forms to process, and it's driving His Majesty spare.

Anyways. I'm just getting off work now. Are you still by the music? I'll meet you there.



**alt\_penelope**

**2014-10-31 19:16:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ron*

Hey, tuna breath.

You okay? Sally-Anne get in all right?

I've gone down to help Madame P in the infirmary.



**alt\_pansy**



**alt\_pansy at 2014-11-01 02:20:08**

*(no subject)*

He's full of it.

And he's scared of the Order. He's scared and doesn't know how to get to us. That's why he came to terrorise children.

Bloody coward.



**alt\_ron at 2014-11-01 20:34:03**

*(no subject)*

Hey. Fisheye.

I'm sorry. I just didn't have anything to say last night. Not when you first wrote.

And then I forgot.

You're right. And Justin. He just said basically the same. Thing is, feeling vulnerable makes Voldemort way more dangerous.

And that's not good.



**alt\_ron at 2014-11-01 20:35:51**

*(no subject)*

Come up to the secret room if you can. We're meeting up to spar some, Justin and I are, and anyone who wants should come.

**2014-10-31 20:26:00**

*Order Only*

The Lord Protector Really. Does. Not. Like. Gryffindors.



**alt\_neville**

As soon as he came in, he vanished our House's table and benches, and we weren't allowed to eat. All the Gryffindors had to prostrate ourselves on the floor while he ranted on about Professor McGonagall, and all the other traitorous Gryffindors. Um, Sirius, your name came up.

Harry tried to intervene, but it was like Voldemort didn't even hear him. Professor Dolohov tried using tact to redirect him, but he wasn't listening to anyone.

The students are all right. I mean, none of us were hurt, but everyone's shaken up, and a lot of the younger ones are crying. A few of them spewed, right on the floor, because he...tortured and *killed* Professor Hooch, right in front of us all. Then he said he was disbanding the Gryffindor Quidditch team(!), and he stormed out.

He was just...raving.

No one's dared touch her body. Merlin, are they just going to leave her there all night?!



**alt\_sally\_anne at 2014-11-01 01:41:39**

*(no subject)*

No one ate much at the Slytherin table either.

Neville I'm so sorry. About Hooch. I know she wasn't one of ours, but

Ugh.

The hospital wing is bedlam right now, all these firsties crying. Not just Gryffindors either.



**[alt\\_luna](#) at [2014-11-01 01:47:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I think you're about to get some more, second and third year Ravenclaws. I think some of them are going into shock. One of the Prefects is escorting them up.

It was AWFUL.



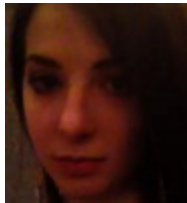
**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-11-01 01:49:59](#)**  
(no subject)

We're trying to keep everyone as calm as possible in our common room.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-11-01 01:51:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I think there are people who really ought to go to the hospital wing, only we can't get out right now.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 02:47:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I've made it to the Hospital Wing with Alexa Bawsley and Madam Pomfrey has her in bed.



**[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-11-01 01:46:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Poppy, I'll come up when I can, you'll need more hands.

Pomona's gone down to the sett. Septima said she'd look in at Gryffindor tower if she can, but who knows when that will be.

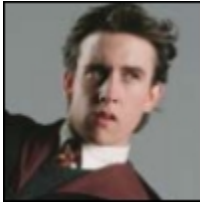
No idea where Albus is.

It was horrible. All round.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-11-01 01:49:06](#)**  
(no subject)

He *what*?



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 01:53:35](#)**  
(no subject)

He tortured and murdered Hooch. In front of all those kids. Because she was the Head of Gryffindor.



**[alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-11-01 01:58:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Did he hurt anyone else from Gryffindor?



**[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-11-01 02:06:07](#)**  
(no subject)

No.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 01:52:45](#)**  
(no subject)

The Fat Lady is bawling, and it took awhile to convince her to open up the portrait.

Everyone's sitting around the Common Room in shock.

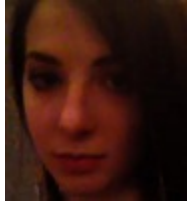
Sally-Anne, some want to go to the Hospital wing, but I think she won't let us OUT. Anyway, the portrait isn't opening like it should.



[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 01:57:16](#)  
(no subject)

I can hear someone outside the portrait hole trying to calm the Fat Lady down. Professor Vector, I think.

It doesn't seem to be working yet, though.



[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 01:59:14](#)  
(no subject)

It's okay. I'm coming to you. I have calming potions from Madam P and sandwiches from the elves.

I think she'll let me in.



[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-11-01 01:53:36](#)  
*Private Message to Neville*

I thought we would be next. After Madame Hooch. When he was going on and on about traitors, I thought

Oh, Pete.



[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 01:56:07](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Neville*

I did, too.



[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 03:41:26](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Neville*

Or that he'd wipe out the whole House. He seemed insane enough to do it.

Did you see Seamus' face, up there at the Head Table? I thought it looked like he was getting up to join us when the LP ordered all the Gryffindors to grovel, but Professor Dolohov stopped him.



Wonder what he thinks of his cool new friends and Master now.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-11-01 01:57:25](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, Merlin, son.

How very awful.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 03:43:02](#)**  
*Private message to Mum*

I thought

We thought

Well, we thought we were goners. But he just ignored us, and went for Hooch.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-11-01 03:55:34](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Mum*

Oh, love.

I'm so very grateful that you weren't, and so deeply sorry that you had to face that possibility at all.

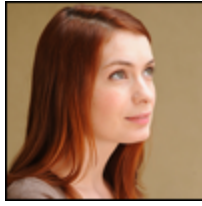
You are such a brave person, my dearest heart.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 15:16:45](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Mum*

Well, I sure didn't feel brave. Nor look it, groveling on the floor like that.

I suppose that's one reason he did it. To make us feel like our Gryffindor courage wasn't worth a...a bucket of spit.



**[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-11-01 16:48:16](#)**

*Re: Private message to Mum*

You're right. He works in humiliation and fear. It's what has let him gain a stranglehold on our country, and he is very good at it.

And my dearest, there is such a difference between doing what one must to live and fight another day, and doing what one is told because one knows no other option.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-11-01 02:01:54](#)**

*(no subject)*

I tried. I tried to get him to stop.

It was like he didn't even hear me.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 02:04:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

Merlin, Harry, no one's blaming you. NOBODY could have stopped him.

How in Merlin's name can he still be running the Protectorate? He's entirely mad, isn't he?



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 02:40:09](#)**

*(no subject)*

I don't think he's precisely running it. I think it's people like Lucius Malfoy who are running it.

Of course, if he keeps sending those people to Azkaban, well...



**[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-11-01 03:20:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Point.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-11-01 02:04:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Fuck a flying duck backwards.

The rest of you are all right? No one else was hurt?



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 02:06:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Didn't touch the rest of us.

I won't vouch for how we're doing emotionally, though. Especially the Gryffindors.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 02:08:16](#)**  
*Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Once I realised I wasn't going to die, there was a part of me that was...this is hard to explain. I was almost *proud*, you know? Because he knows us Gryffindors are the biggest threat to him, because our House is about courage. And that's what'll be needed to finally defeat him, more than anything.

I just hope we can do it before he kills us all.



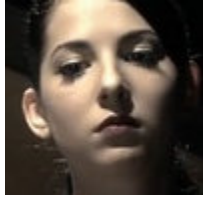
**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-11-01 02:32:28](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Makes perfect sense to me.

On the one hand -- it's horrible that he killed Madam Hooch just because she was Head of Gryffindor, and it's horrible that you all had to see that. On the other hand ... yeah. When he gets that pissed off and that

irrational? It means this is working

Watch your backs, all of you.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 02:39:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Neville, that business with Gareth Archer and Fintan McLaggen I saw while I was there, was that normal for the Gryffindor common room? I'm guessing not?

At least Finnigan shut it down.



**[alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-11-01 02:55:17](#)**  
(no subject)

People have been shaken up, so they're looking for someone to blame, and Evelyn and I make an easy target. I understand that. But it's been awhile since anyone's called me a blood traitor to my

face.

Strange to be grateful to *Seamus*, of all people.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-11-01 03:38:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Sounds like quite the affair. Sorry you're all in the thick of it.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-11-01 03:42:48](#)**  
*Private message to Draco*

A few times I wished you were there.

But mostly I was glad you didn't have to see it. And I was really glad Hermione didn't have to.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-11-01 03:49:52](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Yeah.

Don't jump on my quill for saying it, but for all they're traumatised right now, it might be good in the long run that he did this in front of the student body.



**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-11-01 04:00:05](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Well it won't be hard to convince any of them he's a terrible leader.

But they're utterly terrified. So convincing them it's worth turning against him and not just a dramatic way to commit suicide is going to be that much harder.



**[alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-11-01 04:02:48](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Note I said "long run." Most of them will do anything to keep themselves safe, at first, perhaps even trying to display the sort of hyper-vigilance against disloyalty that he demonstrated tonight.

But they're never going to forget what they saw, so there's that at least.

**2014-10-31 20:51:00**

*Private message to Poppy and Miss Perks*

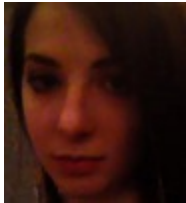


**alt\_antonin**

Poppy -- if you can spare her, I believe it would be helpful to send Miss Perks up to the Gryffindor dorm with as many calming potions as you have on hand. (Do not worry about inventory; we can restock later.)

Miss Perks -- the Fat Lady is being recalcitrant, but if you let her know you are there to help, she will let you in.

---



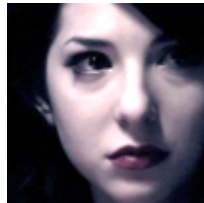
**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 01:55:37**  
(no subject)

Yes, sir. I'll head there ~~now as soon as~~ now.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-11-01 02:05:15**  
(no subject)

Thank you, my dear. If anyone is too distraught, or needs Madam Pomfrey's care, I believe Septima is reasoning with the Fat Lady; you may be able to convince her to let you escort them to the infirmary.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 02:19:09**  
(no subject)

The Fat Lady let me in but she would prefer I not bring anyone out unless absolutely necessary.

I have been giving calming draughts to the people who are the most upset. I'm glad you're going to be restocking soon because I think we're going to be using up almost all we have. I also brought chamomile tea and some medicinal chocolate.

I think Alexa Bawsley is in shock. I've tried the charm, and wrapped her in a blanket and put her by the fire. I'm going to make another round with the last of the calming draughts and then I'll see about getting the Fat Lady to let me out with her to

get to the hospital wing.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-11-01 02:26:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

If the portrait remains recalcitrant, let me know; I will come up and make the situation clear.

Do not hesitate to use up the supplies; these things are there to be used. I will set Professor Gimlet to brewing up replacements so that we need not wait until the morning.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 02:21:34](#)**

*Order Only*

Madam Pomfrey, I didn't want mention this to Headmaster Dolohov since it was the decision of the Lord Protector to deprive everyone in Gryffindor of food.

But, the elves did leave a hamper of sandwiches at the base of the tower like I asked and I've been handing them out. Not everyone's eating them. I suggested cups of broth for the people who can't manage anything solid and those are starting to show up.

The Fat Lady was willing enough to let me in, but Professor Vector had to back off first, she really didn't want her in Gryffindor Tower at all.

**2014-10-31 20:52:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Mum, Bill, Charlie, Fred, George, and Ron*



I know Neville's post might have you worried so I just want to let you know.

**alt\_ginny**

I'm fine.  
Ron's fine.

He didn't do anything to either of us other than make us lie on the floor of the Great Hall through dinner. And I don't think I'd have had much of an appetite anyway.

---



**alt\_charlie** at **2014-11-01 02:06:37**  
(no subject)

Good. Good, I'm -- yeah, that's good.  
Fuck.

Watch your back? All of you. And watch each others'.



**alt\_molly** at **2014-11-01 02:21:55**  
*Private message to Ginny and Ron*

Oh, Ginny.  
I'm so relieved you wrote. And so dreadfully sorry.

Do you think...

Ginny and Ron, do you really, honestly think it's best that you stay?

I'm not going to try pulling parental rank to order you to leave if you think what you're learning at Hogwarts is worth the risk.

I know you both badly want to do what you can to help.

Just think it over. IS this the best way?





**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-11-01 02:23:57](#)**

*Private message to Ron*

You need to stay if you're going to become an Auror.

And that means I need to stay, doesn't it? I mean, if I leave, now, people will be more suspicious of you. And you'll be less likely to succeed.



**[alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-11-01 02:26:20](#)**

*(no subject)*

Bloody hell.

We pulled a lot of pranks on Hooch. But bugger all, torturing and killing her in the middle of the Halloween feast is a whole other order of magnitude.

We're relieved you're all right.

We can send Hitty, if you need her for anything? She can probably get into Gryffindor Tower, even if the Fat Lady's balking at opening the portrait.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-11-01 02:31:55](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm glad and relieved you're both all right. And the rest of the Auxiliary.

If there's anything I can do...hell, I don't know what. Anything you need in packages, for one thing.

Although I bet any owl delivering to a Gryffindor will be searched, if not all Houses. Damn.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-11-01 03:45:31](#)**  
(no subject)

This would definitely not be a good week to ship us off a copy of 'Sirius Black's Guide to Revolution, Revolt, Iconoclasm, Uprisings, and Etiquette.'

But you could send me some sweets. I was wishing tonight I had some Ice Mice, I don't know why I was craving Ice Mice of all things but I was.



**[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-11-01 04:12:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I would pay a lot of Galleons to read Sirius's guide to etiquette.



**[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-11-01 04:18:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, you should try to get him to write it. I could read it on hols.



**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-11-01 14:36:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I would, too.



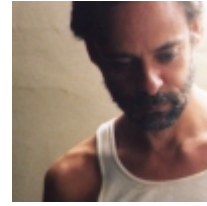
**[alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-11-01 14:35:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Ice Mice on the way, Gin. Along with quite a bit more. Feel free to share them with your mates.

**2014-10-31 20:54:00**

*Private message to Barty*

Well, that was a clusterfuck of epic proportions. Our Lord has decided that Minerva's treachery, Black's continued existence, the entirety of the Order of the Phoenix, and Ausar knows what else means Gryffindor House is a nest of traitors. He demanded the children prostrate themselves to Him, and spent the entire meal torturing Hooch before killing her over pudding.



**alt\_antonin**

I am fine, Savitha and Lana are fine, we are all most fortunate He did not remember Stephen's ward is a Gryffindor -- I had seated our new brothers and sisters at the head table with us -- and the children are traumatised but otherwise unharmed, but when you get a chance, send a team for Hooch's body? It will need to be before morning; I want the Great Hall spotless by then.



**alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-11-01 02:58:15**  
(no subject)

On my way.



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-11-01 03:07:58**  
(no subject)

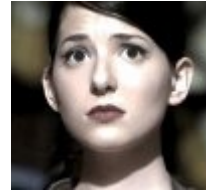
Bless you.

If you've time, stop by an apothecary and buy out their stock of calming potions; we are running quite

low.

**2014-10-31 21:42:00**

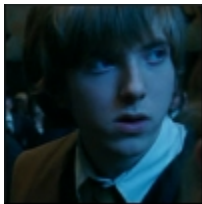
*Ravenclaw, Slytherin, Hufflepuff  
prefects*



**alt\_sally\_anne**

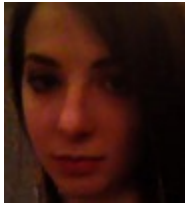
Madam Pomfrey asked me to check in with all of you and see how people in your Houses are doing and whether you want someone to come to you with calming potions, or to help any particularly distraught students get to the Hospital Wing. (She understands you might not want to leave the others to walk the distraught ones yourselves.)

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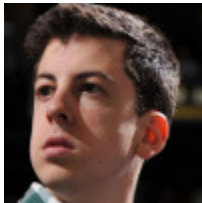
**alt\_ernie** at **2014-11-01 02:52:23**  
(no subject)

We could use some more calming potions. Thanks, Perks.



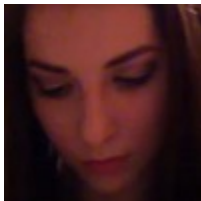
**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 02:54:02**  
(no subject)

I'll bring them straight over.



**alt\_linus** at **2014-11-01 03:47:42**  
(no subject)

A few calming potions would not go amiss, for those who are not made of sterner stuff. Thank you for checking, Perks.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 03:50:45**  
*Private message to Linus Moon*

I'll be right there.

How's Philip Stretton doing?



**[alt\\_linus](#) at 2014-11-01 03:55:05**

*Re: Private message to Linus Moon*

Tolerably well at the moment, but I believe he may be putting on a stoic mien. A potion in reserve would probably be prudent.



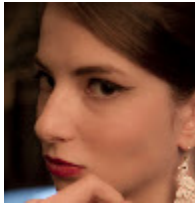
**[alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-11-01 03:55:36**

*(no subject)*

Sally-Anne,

I say, Corner and I are with Professor Gimlet. We've three batches of calming draught simmering now and we're starting on another three. The first lot should be cool enough for use in half an hour, what.

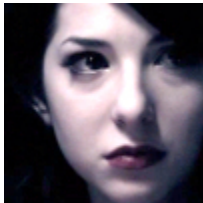
-Justin



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2014-11-01 03:56:39**

*(no subject)*

That's good to know.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2014-11-01 03:57:54**

*Order Only: Private message to Justin*

Seriously, Madam Pomfrey stocks loads of calming draughts, and she'd made extra because she thought a lot of people would need them just from being AROUND the Lord Protector but she was not expecting him to MURDER A TEACHER in front of everyone in the school. So.

Yeah it's good you've got more almost ready because we really are almost out.

**2014-10-31 21:55:00**

*private message to Ernie and Susan*

You should probably come out and see this. There are things. Outside.

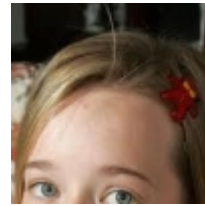
I went outside for a minute to call Fang. Just in case he was there and wanted to know if it was safe to come in. And there were these

They

Never mind I just thought of who to ask

And on second thought do not go outside after all.

---



**alt\_megan**



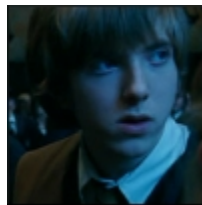
**alt\_ernie** at **2014-11-01 03:03:12**  
(no subject)

They weren't dementors, were they, Megs?



**alt\_megan** at **2014-11-01 03:14:09**  
(no subject)

No. I asked Luna and she says they are thestrals. And not to be afraid of them. Though they do look rather scary naff.



**alt\_ernie** at **2014-11-01 03:18:30**  
(no subject)

Right. Okay.

Loony has a weird idea of what's dangerous, though. So don't try to pet them or anything.



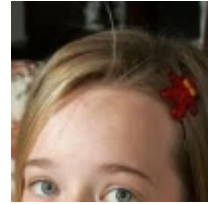
**alt\_megan** at **2014-11-01 03:39:39**  
*(no subject)*

They are not what anyone would think of as pettable. Well, except Luna maybe. But they didn't do anything except stand there when I saw them.

**2014-10-31 21:59:00**

*private message to Luna Lovegood*

You know all about creatures. What is big and bony and black and has wings and is outside right now?



**alt\_megan**

Because I went to call Fang and there were things.

they don't eat cats do they? only they are very scary-looking

---



**alt\_luna at 2014-11-01 03:06:50**

*(no subject)*

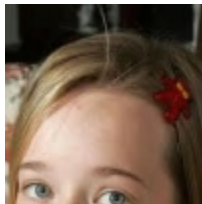
They're called 'Thestrals.' They won't eat cats, although they do like raw meat.



**alt\_luna at 2014-11-01 03:08:33**

*(no subject)*

And you don't need to be afraid of them at all. They won't hurt you.



**alt\_megan at 2014-11-01 03:12:35**

*(no subject)*

Oh good. OK then. Thanks.



**2014-10-31 21:59:00**

*(no subject)*

If you see a skeletal grey horse with wings, look up THESTRAL in Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them. they're actually quite sweet



**alt\_galleon**

**2014-10-31 22:04:00**

*(no subject)*

although i'm sorry that you can see them, if you  
couldn't before



**alt\_galleon**

**2014-10-31 22:08:00**

*Private message to Mr Corner and Mr Finch-Fletchley*



**alt\_antonin**

Professor Gimlet reports that you are both excellent students of his, and as neither of you are Prefects, you are most likely able to be spared. If that is so, and you are not engaged in helping to handle any of the younger students, kindly join Professor Gimlet in the general potions laboratory -- he is working to restock the supply of calming potions, but could use an extra pair of hands or two.

You do not need to reply to me, simply go. If anyone objects to your being out after curfew you may show them this message.

**2014-10-31 22:10:00**

*(no subject)*

If you or someone else in your House needs a calming draught or sleeping potion PM Sally-Anne and she can bring it to you.



**alt\_galleon**

**2014-10-31 22:19:00**

*Private message to Antosha*

Quite a memorable evening.

If there's anything you need from me yet tonight, I'm entirely at your disposal.



**alt\_savitha**

It strikes me that a new Head will be needed for Gryffindor House, and we're fresh out of Gryffindor graduates on the teaching staff (and I imagine it might be difficult to recruit a new one). Perhaps Lana Sandoval could be Acting Head? It might send the proper message to the right parties, having someone who won't have truck with the slightest hint of disloyalty.

---



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-11-01 03:32:43**  
(no subject)

Yes, Our Lord's might is certainly disconcerting for those who are not used to its splendour. I believe we've things under control -- Gimlet ought to be able to brew enough calming draughts to get the younger students through the night, at least, and I'll raid the apothecaries tomorrow for a restock. If any of your young snakes are too distraught, do not hesitate to treat them. Miss Perks will undoubtedly continue to handle the borderline cases to save Madam Pomfrey's attention for those who are in more desperate need.

And that is an excellent suggestion. (She'll hate it, of course, but what good is having an apprentice if one cannot use them to solve intractable problems?)



**alt\_savitha** at **2014-11-01 03:34:27**  
(no subject)

Exactly. I've always thought it to be good for new staff to have to take on some of the more loathsome responsibilities, both at Hogwarts and in MLE.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-11-01 04:08:21](#)**

*(no subject)*

Ha -- quite.

Barty's team is taking care of Hooch's body, by the way, and I'll make sure the elves have everything all cleaned up by breakfast tomorrow. I may also ask them to rearrange things slightly so that the Great Hall does not look quite as it did last night; it may help to avoid some hysterics tomorrow morning.



**[alt\\_savitha](#) at [2014-11-01 04:12:11](#)**

*(no subject)*

Quite. Though I assume you're going to restore Gryffindor's table and chairs, unless Our Lord instructed you otherwise, and that alone will create a subtle difference.



**[alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-11-01 04:21:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

He did not specify, no -- He has not contacted me since He left. I've let the elves know to replace the table, yes. (It would be slightly awkward to have a quarter of the student body eat crouching on the floors.) If He wishes otherwise, of course, He has but to say.

**2014-10-31 22:30:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

I should have been there with you tonight.

Remember? I was Sorted into Gryffindor. I ought to be a Gryffindor, not a Slytherin.



**alt\_harry**



**alt\_ron** at **2014-11-01 03:37:17**

*(no subject)*

I remember, yeah. But who knows what He might've done if you were.

I mean there's just no telling, right? He's completely bleedin mad.

I keep wondering if I'd tried, if I could've got my wand out before one of them stopped me.

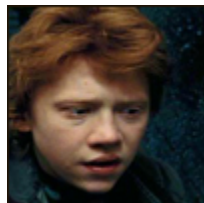


**alt\_harry** at **2014-11-01 03:40:07**

*(no subject)*

I was wondering the same thing. He was distracted. They all were.

Not distracted enough, though.



**alt\_ron** at **2014-11-01 04:36:29**

*(no subject)*

No, and it was over before I really realised what was happening.

I mean, that seems daft now, but- it just didn't seem real, y'know? When he started hurting her. And I think I was sort of dazed from lying there. I wasn't asleep, but it'd been a long time, lying on my face, y'know? And then all of a sudden she was on the floor, screaming. She was really strong, y'know? When she was thrashing around, you could feel it through the stones of the floor.

And then it was just over. Just- too late to do anything.

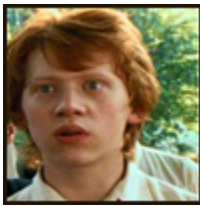


**[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-11-01 04:42:32](#)**  
(no subject)

I tried talking to him. During.

It was like I wasn't even talking.

Maybe he was right, moving me out of Gryffindor. I didn't -- I don't know what I should have done. I was so afraid of making things worse.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-11-01 04:49:08](#)**  
(no subject)

You were the only one who stood up to him at all.

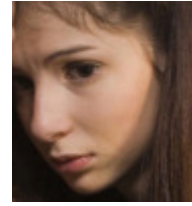
Think that makes you more Gryffindor than any of the rest of us.



**2014-10-31 23:01:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

I just left Ravenclaw and I'm coming back to check on the Gryffindors again.



**alt\_sally\_anne**

I don't think the Fat Lady's going to let you walk me anywhere. And I wish I could spend a few minutes with just you, in between running from Ravenclaw to Gryffindor and down to the Potions dungeon to get the fresh calming draught and then back up to the hospital wing.

---



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 04:05:59**

*(no subject)*

When he made you all lie down I thought



**alt\_ron** at **2014-11-01 04:26:42**

*(no subject)*

At least he didn't make us duel each other to the death.

I mean, that's what I expected if things went wrong.

But, y'know

why did we all just lie down like that when he told us? If he'd decided to kill us, we'd just have been lined up for

why did we do that?

Why didn't I pull my wand and try to stop him?

By the time I even had the thought, he was killing her.



[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 04:32:00](#)  
(no subject)

Because you knew they were all waiting for someone in Gryffindor to try something? Because you knew if you'd pulled your wand, he might have actually killed everyone in Gryffindor, not just

Hooch.



[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-11-01 04:45:20](#)  
(no subject)

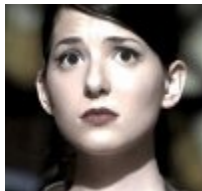
I know you're right, but it's not good I didn't even have the impulse, y'know? How can I ever make an Auror if I don't have the instincts for a situation like that?

Ugh.

I thought you were coming up here.

Maybe you could get me out past the portrait in your robe pocket. Only, it would be bad if anyone noticed I'd gone missing. Anyone like Finnigan, for instance. Or Nev, really. He may be asleep by now, though.

Just come up here and stay for a while. Does Madam P need you back?

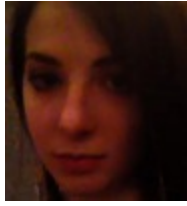


[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 04:49:37](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, there was this second year from Hufflepuff who decided to go to Madam P only instead of telling her prefects she just slipped out and then when she passed the Great Hall she went into hysterics and anyway, that's all fine now but I wound up going for the calming draught before I came back up to Gryffindor.

I should be there soon.

Is Finnigan still up? If he is you'd probably better stay in Gryffindor.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 04:50:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I actually probably could stay for a bit. I mean since Madam P has the calming draught.

Do you think anyone will mind?



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-11-01 05:07:17](#)**  
(no subject)

No, they'll be glad you're here.

The ones that are still up are still too shaky to go to bed. Don't want to pull the curtains and lie there alone thinking it all through again.

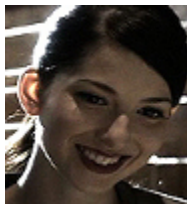
They'll be glad you're here. It'll give them an excuse to stay in the common room a while longer.



**[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-11-01 05:13:00](#)**  
(no subject)

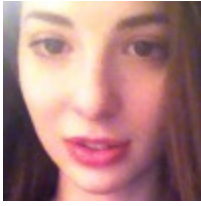
Oh, and Finnigan just left, so there's the only person who might've got shirty about you being here.

If he stays gone, maybe I could slip out with you when you go later.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-11-01 05:17:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, excellent.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-11-01 04:32:39**  
*(no subject)*

But yeah at least he didn't make you duel each other to the death.

**2014-10-31 23:22:00**

*Private Message to Mum and Dad*

Something horrible happened this evening at supper. VolThe Lord Protector came to Hogwarts tonight. He humiliatedhumbled the entire Gryffindor house. He was very angry and after ranting a speech he tortured and killed Madam Hooch. Jasper was there for it all. I felt you needed to hear it from me rather than see it in the papers tomorrow. He's had a calming draught and is in his bed.



**alt\_cedric**