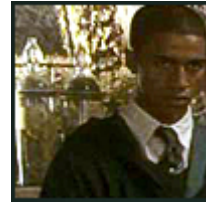


2011-09-01 09:10:00

Daphs, Draco, Harry, Teddy, Pansy

Have any of you looked at The Prophet this morning?



alt_blaise



alt_draco at 2011-09-01 14:32:47

(no subject)

Oh, that - yeah. It came up at breakfast. Auntie Bellatrix said that MLE has gotten fake Sirius Black photographs before, and it was only a matter of time they started trying to sell them to the papers.



alt_blaise at 2011-09-01 14:51:31

(no subject)

That explains it, then. Magicked up to look like Black.

Makes sense, actually. Someone scheming to take advantage of all the confusion.

Hope they have time to arrest the person who did it. I imagine it gave lots of people a nasty start, seeing it.

2011-09-01 10:02:00

Private message to Padma

I'll see you on the train.

Mr Rosier says the pictures are fake, but that MLE is pretty well convinced it wasn't the IMA, but one of the others.



alt_seamus

Mr Rosier thinks it was Dogstar -- they had that horrible journal entry saying 'kill everyone on the Council, especially Lucius Malfoy' a few months ago, and the worst injuries were on Level 20 where most of the Council was, and the person in the Protector's Box with the worst injuries was Lucius Malfoy.

Did you see the interview on page five? Premylus Payne, who's a sort of expert on the IMA. He said MLE had contacted him to come in to give them all the information he had on the IMA, and then they suddenly changed their mind -- that's part of why Mr Rosier said MLE's decided it's not the IMA. It's an interesting interview, though. The IMA successfully assassinated one of my second cousins last month, using solely muggle weaponry, and they've made attempts that almost worked on several others. And there are rumours they've got some self-hating wizards working for them now, though no hard evidence yet. Anyway, it's an interesting article.



alt_padma at **2011-09-01 15:43:12**
(no subject)

I'm going to read it right now. Actually there was that special edition last night, too, but someone said the whole paper was a fake. It didn't have the picture, either, or anything about the IMA, so maybe it was.

Only - do you think people will still try to hurt you, because they think it's the IMA? And Seamus, I read some more about the IMA last night. Is it really true they kill their own people sometimes? Just for disagreeing about what to bomb or who to target? I mean. That's horrid.

You'd better still plan on sitting with me on the train, okay? Just so everyone sees that you are.

2011-09-01 10:12:00

Holy Crow!

Did anyone see last evening's Prophet? I even saw it in this morning's paper as we were leaving the house for Kings Cross.



alt_dean

Sirius Black is **ALIVE!**

At least that's what the paper said. I thought that was his body we all saw in New London.



alt_neville at **2011-09-01 15:11:17**
(no subject)

I saw that Draco Malfoy was saying over on Blaise Zabini's post that it's a fake. Anyway, that's what his aunt said. I wonder if they'll make the *Daily Prophet* print a retraction?



alt_padma at **2011-09-01 15:45:42**
(no subject)

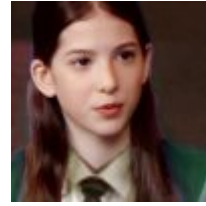
Someone said it last night as well, only that 'Special Edition' didn't have a picture.

And isn't the new editor just starting this month? Maybe he let something slip through that oughtn't to have done, just to sell papers.

As long as it's not the IMA. I reckon it was Dogstar all along.

2011-09-01 10:13:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good: Sirius Black*



alt_sally_anne

That's totally him, in the picture. The way he was carrying that person -- surely it was one of the muggleborns who escaped that night. That's HOW they got away, he was helping them. ~~Madam Pomfrey must have~~ Of course the paper says he's kidnapping a victim to use his body parts in Dark Potions but that's rubbish, he'd NEVER. And his people would never have set off an explosion that treated the muggleborns like the eggs in the basket you don't care if you break.

I can't believe it got in the paper -- well, I suppose with Mr Malfoy hurt, it's less surprising, he oversees an awful lot of stuff.

I'm not surprised MLE is saying it's a fake, but they surely know it's not.

I hope he's good at hiding.



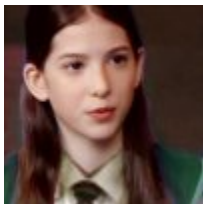
alt_pansy at 2011-09-01 15:42:08

(no subject)

But they weren't aiming for the servants. They were aiming for the Lord Protector.

And he blames the Lord Protector for Regulus's death. Among other things.

And why would he be there for the Cup? I mean, if he just wanted to see the game, that's an awful risk. Not that he isn't the type to take a risk, mind, but not just for a bit of fun. He had to have had a reason.



alt_sally_anne at 2011-09-01 16:15:37

(no subject)

They weren't aiming for them, but whoever set the bomb clearly viewed them as no more worth worrying about than the support beams.

Anyone who'd go to all the trouble of smuggling wands in to give

them to muggleborns would take care when they set the bomb not to kill loads of them.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 16:18:45](#)
(no subject)

That's a good point about him being at the Cup, though. I wonder what he was doing there? Maybe he had some other plan that got thrown off by the bombing.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-01 15:42:12](#)
(no subject)

What are you TALKING about?



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-01 15:43:44](#)
(no subject)

There's a picture in the paper of Sirius Black at the World Cup after the explosion, carrying a body.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-01 15:45:51](#)
(no subject)

He
I

He wouldn't have been behind the explosion. He wouldn't.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-01 15:47:55](#)
(no subject)

And he's

well, he'd have to be good at hiding, right? If he's stayed hidden for this long.

But now they know about him. Bugger.



[alt_lee](#) at [2011-09-01 15:48:35](#)
(no subject)

Except that they're saying it's a lie.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-01 15:49:22](#)
(no subject)

Well, of course they'll say it's lie. And work like hell now to find him, we'd bet.



[alt_tery](#) at [2011-09-01 15:50:31](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I bet that Bellatrix Lestrange has gotta be furious.



[alt_tery](#) at [2011-09-01 15:51:50](#)
(no subject)

I'll bet Hermione would know all about it. Except we can't ask her.

Bugger, bugger, bugger.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-01 15:44:01](#)
(no subject)

A big article in the Daily Prophet, Terry. It has a photo of Sirius Black. He was at the Quidditch World Cup, and I guess he was helping some muggleborn wizards escape. So now everybody knows he's live.

Well, except that Draco Malfoy is telling people that his aunt says it's a fake.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-01 15:53:05](#)
(no subject)

Wait. You say that there were muggleborns who escaped that night? How many?



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-01 15:54:04](#)
(no subject)

Nine, according to the paper. At least, nine are still missing.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-01 15:55:44](#)
(no subject)

...

nine

I



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 16:02:15](#)
(no subject)

I know you think my parents have something to do with him, but I think maybe that's wrong. I mean, they were with Nev and Evelyn and Ginny the whole time and then with us in the campgrounds. They weren't helping muggleborns escape, that's for certain.

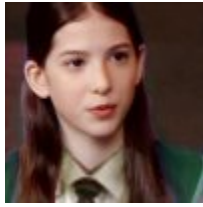
Only

I guess I sort of liked the idea they might have been. Working with Sirius Black, I mean.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-01 16:04:01](#)
(no subject)

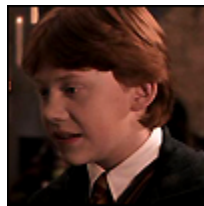
Well, of course they couldn't have gone popping off to retrieve muggleborn with that lot tagging after them, could they?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 16:17:37](#)
(no subject)

Especially Ginny.

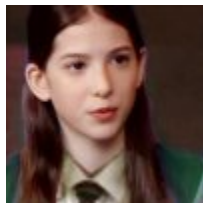
And Level 9 and a Half was a long way from where the servants were.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 16:21:02](#)
(no subject)

But if they were with him, working with him, wouldn't they have left Gin and the others with someone they could trust and gone off to help? I mean Bill was there, and Charlie, too, and once they all found each other-

I dunno. It just seems like maybe they're not, after all.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 16:29:12](#)
(no subject)

How would your parents have even known what he was doing? It's not as if he posted a GRIM TRUTH: MUGGLEBORNS TRAPPED UNDER PROTECTOR'S BOX, WILL BE RESCUING AS MANY AS I CAN CARRY message.

All your parents would've known was, there was a horrible explosion right by you and Fred and George!

I did tell Madam Pomfrey that I thought the worst of the explosion might have gone into the servant's area and that they probably really needed a healer. But that was a private message. I think most of the people in your parents' section didn't even know there was a servant's area up near level 20.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 16:34:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

That's true.

Yeah.

So maybe

Only

If they were working with him, they'd have known he was going to be there, right? And they'd have been part of whatever he was planning. Only it looks like they weren't.

I don't know.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 16:45:34](#)
(no subject)

1. They might not tell each other everything.
2. They might have had some plan that got blown to hell when the explosion happened and from that point on people were just

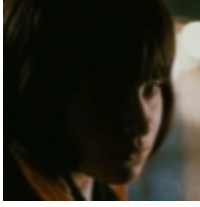
improvising.

3. They might have had a plan that could have included your parents running over to help free the injured muggleborns except that they were going to have Ginny with them and Neville and Evelyn so they really couldn't.

I mean my plan for the day did not involve running around healing people who'd gotten hurt so bad they might die. And neither did Pansy's. We just climbed down out of the box and did what we could.

If we'd planned in advance I would have told Harry that he **NEEDED** to have Su Li come and sit with us because she did a bunch of the mediwizardry stuff during CCF and was quite good at it. And we'd have planned that in advance and so on. But instead she was off somewhere with her foster family, nowhere near the people who were seriously injured. I even could have sent her a message, I suppose, but I didn't think of

it and anyway I don't think she could have gotten to where we were.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-01 16:25:25](#)
(no subject)

Not if he's the sort to set off a bomb in a crowd of people, I'd hope.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 16:29:38](#)
(no subject)

Don't be daft, Pans. He's not the one that set off the bomb.

You're talking like the papers.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 16:31:12](#)
(no subject)

Mind you, that picture made him look like a mad mass murderer.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 16:46:02](#)
(no subject)

It really did.

2011-09-01 10:21:00

Order Only: Sirius

Well. You are certainly the Man of the Moment this morning! It's a wonder our journals don't spontaneously combust with all the crowing and cursing and carrying on that's splattering these pages. I've tried every charm I know to tell mine it needn't show me what every witch in Westlinton thinks about your picture.



alt_poppy

And what a photograph it is, too! Dear me.

You were even the subject of cheerful talk here this morning. To summarise: Irma Pince and Gwendolyn Acton agree that you're not at all as thin as you ought to be if you've been in hiding all this while; Pomona chipped in that it looks as if you're suffering terrible tooth ache and haven't seen the right side of a brush in months, which prompted Rolanda Hooch to note that you're clean-shaven and to theorise that you must have your wand even if you haven't a comb; Cordelia Carpenter has, it seems, been having visions of you ever since you were said to have died, and you've consistently told her that you will show yourself again; Professor Brutka offered to lay wagers that we'll hear before evening about little old witches dying of fright from having opened their papers to see you glaring so fiercely out at them; and Horace Slughorn offered that it was the least flattering photograph he's seen in the papers since the one they ran of Dolores Umbridge overtop the announcement that Cornelius Fudge would be replacing her as Minister.

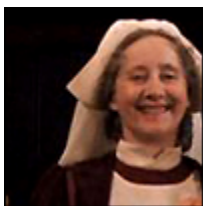


alt_bill at **2011-09-01 17:33:45**

(no subject)

It definitely isn't your good side, Sirius.

(Then again, do you have a good side?)



alt_poppy at **2011-09-01 17:41:07**

(no subject)

Actually, I believe I saw Gwendolyn Acton snipping the picture out of her copy.

Perhaps she fancies the way it captures him. Very rugged in a 'bit o' rough' sort of way, don't you think?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-01 18:25:20](#)
(no subject)

If you have to ask, Bill....



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-01 18:36:52](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure my mum is very relieved that I have to ask.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-01 18:04:30](#)
(no subject)

Should I send in a better one, do you think?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-01 18:05:21](#)
(no subject)

How about one holding a gnome up against various landmarks, like the arch in Green Park, outside the back gate at Buckingham and in front of the Hog's Head?



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-01 18:15:10](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure the papers would be very grateful for the boost in circulation.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-01 18:22:27](#)

(no subject)

Better yet, I could have Paul take some saucy ones for *Sky Clad* and we could take care of the funding shortages and all.

It'd be a whole new career, that.



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-01 18:40:15](#)

(no subject)

Oh, Madam P. Don't wind him up.

There'll be no living with him.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-02 02:33:00](#)

(no subject)

Maybe you should. MLE's insisting it's a fake, but they certainly know it's not. Might as well make it clear to the world you're alive and well.

Though a Grim Truth would probably be a bit more effective.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-02 04:08:44](#)

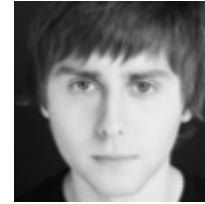
(no subject)

I know, I know. I've been trying to compose one all day.

[2011-09-01 10:50:00](#)

Farewell for now

I just wanted everyone to know that I'm back in France, and quite safe. I've been hearing very grave reports - Draco, I surely hope your father will be on the mend soon. And anyone else who was injured.



[alt_justin](#)

Also, I suppose many of you are starting at school today, so *bonchances* to you all!

As for what happened to me, well, the French delegations were all checked by your Healers and some of them had some minor cuts and bruises but mostly the protections, as I'm sure you all know, worked smashingly well. (I'm not sure my mother quite agrees; in her opinion no bomb should have gone off in the first place!)

So as soon as we were all pronounced healthy, Professor Froissart and M Froissart said their farewells, as Mr Malfoy is her brother, you know, and naturally she wanted to stay to be with the family. But P Froissart had to get me home as soon as possible, they decided. Which is a shame - I mean, I was meant to go home afterward anyway, but I'd hoped there would be some celebrations. It's too bad that all had to get ruined and so many people were hurt.

Apart from that rather horrible ending, of course, I really did enjoy my time in England. I don't know if I'll get to come back, now, though. I mean, if there's ever another opportunity. I'll have a job convincing my mother that it's ordinarily very peaceful.

Only we've heard the news and someone said that it's all been revealed to be the work of Sirius Black?! ~~Is that even~~ How can that be? We heard he'd been caught here in France ages ago, and people told me while I was visiting that everyone viewed his remains. Blimey Merlin, I should think he's even more dangerous than anyone realised if he could pull off a switch that fooled everyone, including the Lord Protector, and he's about as clever a wizard as I've ever heard of!

Ron, Sally-Anne, Blaise, Pansy, Daphne, Harry - it was lovely to meet you all. I was very relieved to see you all posting and know that you're okay. They did let me keep the book, as you see, so let's keep on writing, shall we? I mean, if you've time. Luna, Padma, Michael, anyone else I may have forgot - the invitation stands for you as well.

Do tell me how you're getting on this year, and watch out for mad terrorists! I'm sure your duelling club will come up with loads of ways to send them packing, what?

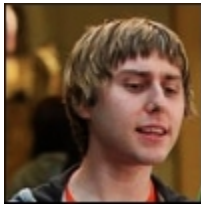


[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-01 15:49:46](#)
(no subject)

That's very kind of you, Justin.

I'm sorry your visit ended the way that it did, but I'm so glad that the people you came with weren't injured too badly.

It's a shame you have to go back to France, but it will be ever so much fun to be able to write back and forth in our books. I'm absolutely terrible at written French (I'm rotten at spelling!), but it was delightful to practice speaking with you, and I hope that some day I can return the visit.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-01 19:07:01](#)
(no subject)

Bien sûr, nous pouvons écrire les uns aux autres pour la pratique: l'anglais pour moi et vous le français!

And I can correct you whenever you need it, I'm quite good as you see.

Are you truly all right, then? You and Sally-Anne were brilliant, you know, jumping in to help like that. I'm afraid my minders whisked me away without giving me much choice about it all.

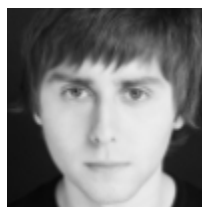


[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-01 20:59:34](#)
(no subject)

I'll be better once Lucius is more himself, but thank you for asking. *Nous vous remercions de votre préoccupation.*

It's funny, isn't it, how someone can do something they didn't think they could? I'm not the sort to jump into something headlong, but

being with a friend who was also helping made me braver than I usually am, I guess.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-01 21:13:28](#)

(no subject)

Lucius? Oh, do you mean Mr Malfoy?

I didn't know you were that close. Goodness, I am dashed sorry, then. What a way to start off the year, eh?

But as for the other, you don't strike me as someone who cowers behind when there's work to be done. Not that I know very well. But you didn't seem anything other than fearless to me!



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 21:35:38](#)

(no subject)

Hey, Pans.

Do you see where Justin thought he'd met my dad-- some bloke who looks like a pirate!

Was probably Bill, but still!

A pirate!!



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-02 04:44:26](#)

(no subject)

That is rich!

I mean, Mr Weasley is just so very not pirate-like. Not even close. Like the absolute opposite of one.

If the man was ginger and wearing an earring, I'd bet it was Bill. At least Justin's good at spotting Weasleys!



[alt_luna](#) at [2011-09-01 16:24:35](#)

(no subject)

It's good to hear that you were not hurt, either.

Yes, it would be lovely to continue to write back and forth. I don't think a person can have too many pen friends. Good luck to you with your new year at school. When do you start? We're here on the train on our way back to Hogwarts now.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-01 19:03:18](#)

(no subject)

I do rather have to admit that I shouldn't have minded being hurt just a tiny bit, to have a scar I could show off as a souvenir, but on the whole, I think being not hurt is much preferable to being hurt at all, and certainly not when so many people were quite seriously wounded.

But this Sirius Black chap - everyone's saying he's quite the devil of a fellow, what? Mind you, we haven't seen pictures recently but I do recall when they were looking for him all over Europe, and he seemed the sort that would harm a hundred just to get at one.

Our term doesn't start until the 6th. So I've nothing but my schoolbooks - and pen friends - to keep me occupied for a little while longer.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 20:40:08](#)

(no subject)

Hey, Justin.

Good you got home, then.

Sorry I didn't get to meet you, really. Next time you come, maybe?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-01 20:53:31](#)
(no subject)

If there is a next time, then yes, I'd quite like that, I think.

By the way, I never did get a chance to tell you: You asked about your father. Well, I said I *think* it was your father, anyway. Tall bloke, thin, wears a queue - and an earring! I say, I'm not sure where that doesn't mark a chap as a cool one. Like a pirate, rather, what?



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 21:34:02](#)
(no subject)

Hahaaaa!!!

Erm. That wasn't my dad, mate.

Might've been my brother Bill, I guess. Probably was, if someone told you he was a Weasley.

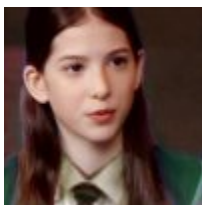
Heh.

That's a good one!

I mean, my dad's nice and all, but he's not what anyone would call cool.

Or a pirate!!!!

Man, Fisheye's gonna to have a laugh at that one!



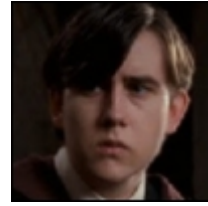
[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-02 00:38:48](#)
(no subject)

It was very nice to meet you, and I'm sorry things went so horribly wrong.

2011-09-01 10:55:00

Private message to Seamus Finnegan

It's good news, yeah? I mean, not that Sirius Black might be on the loose, but that there's someone else to blame for the bombing beside the IMA.



alt_neville

Someone said you were on the train, but I haven't seen you. Are you coming back to school?



alt_seamus at **2011-09-01 16:19:57**
(no subject)

Yes, it's good news, and yes, I'm on the train. I'm sitting with Padma.



alt_neville at **2011-09-01 16:26:52**
(no subject)

Glad to hear it. We're going to have a good year, we'll see.

2011-09-01 13:26:00

From your Head Boy and Girl

Mr Avery and I would like to officially remind you that as your Head Boy and Girl, we are here to help you with anything you might need. For many of you, it's your first time away from home. The Prefects, Mr Avery and I are prepared to assist your transition to life at school.



alt_penelope

Particularly as we enter a year where there has been recent turmoil, we understand that many of you may feel more anxiety than usual. Let me assure you that the Hogwarts Express, and Hogwarts itself, are perfectly safe. Our Professors include some of the best-trained wizards and witches in the world, none of whom would willingly allow an outside source to harm any students in our care. If you have any concerns, please speak to a Prefect. Once at school, Madam Pomfrey, our Matron, is also at hand to address any doubts you may harbour.

A few brief announcements: On the train as in school, no running and no magic in the corridors.

Prefects, we're holding our usual meeting in the back compartments after the trolley has come through with snacks. See you there.

Best wishes for a proper start to the year.



alt_pansy at 2011-09-01 17:44:13

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

That's a load of bosh.

What about last year? When Hannah Abbott was killed? By a *Professor*? And when we had that basilisk wandering around petrifying everyone it could find?

sure didn't feel safe then.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-01 17:51:44](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

At least there won't be Dementors wandering around this year. And there's one fewer Carrow to worry about at the school.

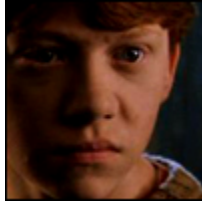


[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-01 17:53:41](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And if the remaining one gives us any trouble, I'll just scramble her brains again.

so they can't be unscrambled.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-01 19:04:33](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

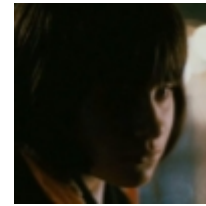
Only if I don't get to her first.

2011-09-02 00:23:00

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

I know you probably can't read this right now.

But you will be able to soon. I know you will. I've written you a card too, of course, but I wanted to put this down in a place where it could be private. Just between us.



alt_pansy

I don't say it enough, but I love you, Lucius. I love you so very much. And I'm sorry to not have said it more often, but I very much hope that you know how I feel anyways. I know I have been a burden to you sometimes, but you have always treated me with respect, and you have always tried to do what was best for me, and even though I couldn't always see it at the time, I can look back now and remember all the things you've done along the way to make me feel loved, and safe, and happy, and I have given you so little in return. I can't find the right words to tell you just how much you've meant to me, and I have always known that I could depend on you and trust that you would be there to help me no matter what.

Thank you, Lucius.

From the bottom of my heart.

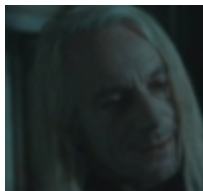
I can't imagine my life without you in it.

Get better soon.

Please.

I will always be your

Little Bit.



alt_lucius at **2011-09-02 18:01:41**

(no subject)

Foolish.

Sentimental.

Thank you.

I'm fine, LB.

Yrs,

L



alt_pansy at **2011-09-03 15:08:58**
(no subject)

I'm so glad to hear it, especially since it is coming from you.

2011-09-02 11:09:00

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Thought your statement hit all the right notes, following Bella's statement on behalf of the Protector and MLE.



alt_crouch_jr

Pleased you differentiated between the general attack and the opportunistic strike against Lucius. There was an appreciative murmur here in the department not only for your praise of our efforts (though we do thank you for that), but for your making clear that there are two important and separate investigations ongoing.

The two are tied together in Hooper, of course, but that's a detail beyond what the public needs to digest. It will come out with the trial, in any case. Father has another client. I'm sure he's overjoyed to add to his tally of hopeless losses at the bench.

You did receive notice they've decided to take it to trial? I assume Baddock will have said.

It's well that you left something of Mr Hooper to stand trial, Narcissa. I understand how very much you might have wished to take satisfaction yourself.

I trust Lucius is responding to the Re'em treatments. My admiration for Fletcher has gone up several notches if he's got Lucius to agree to working from home.

Did Bella tell you that Scrimgeour, Hopkirk, and Yaxley have all been summoned to Our Lord's presence this morning? We're waiting for that news before releasing anything publicly about the trial. Unlikely to be this afternoon, so there will be debate about whether to put it out over the weekend or wait until Monday. Obviously, we'd rather not wait.



alt_narcissa at 2011-09-02 16:59:09
(no subject)

'Privacy' apparently is a word our new editor-in-chief needs to learn afresh, it seems. Shall be re-posting the statement again shortly in my own journal, on Ari's advice.

Yes, he's told me he'll see Hooper Kissed (what's left of him).

Thankfully, as you know, my husband is made of hardy stuff. He's responding quite well, expects to be back on-journal by tomorrow, and if he'll have his way, he shan't be working from home much longer.

Still, Draco has asked to stay through the weekend and I see no reason to ferry him up to school any earlier at this point. I've asked Bella to borrow Rigel so he and Draco and I may visit Harry's menagerie tomorrow; Ari thinks it would be good to be seen doing something pleasant and ... domestic.

Monday cannot come soon enough; if Lucius really is as mended as he insists then that, I fear, and only that, will still the incessant din of rumours.

Oh, botheration. *Him* again. Why will he not *stay* dead?

2011-09-02 12:23:00

Grim Truth: 94/2/9

2 September, 1994

Greetings, British Wizarding World!

And here you thought you were done with me. Well, with the *Prophet* seeing fit to splash my face in the papers again, I thought it only proper to set some rumours to rest. Yes. I'm not actually dead.



 [altermity](#)
[alt_sirius](#)

Cousin Bellatrix: Surprise! Guess you were more off your aim than you thought. (Oh, and just in case you'd like to claim I'm an impostor: I remember what hat came out of the Christmas cracker you pulled at your fifteenth (my seventh) birthday party. Do you?)

But you know, alive - and dead - and alive again, I still get my share of mail. Things like, 'Your sainted mother turns in her grave every day just knowing she spawned you' (clearly written by someone who never met my mother) and 'You're nothing more than a pustulent Pogrebin. I am sending you a curse by parcel post.' And other invectives far more interesting but less printable here. Most of the time, though, it doesn't really bother me, I have to admit. Because I used to read the Letters to the Editor long before I was an outlaw, and people don't change much, no matter who's in charge.

I did get one letter yesterday, just after the announcement of my resurrection, that troubled me very much.

It said: 'You needn't worry about my bothering you anymore if you're the sort of person who sets off a bomb in a crowd.'

It said a deal else, as well, including very grim and very true things about what bombs do when they're ignited among mobs. Especially when heavy objects fall (or threaten to fall) on helpless people below. More eloquently than I could hope to argue here, in point of fact.

As it happens, I do know what bombs do and I didn't need this week to remind me. Monday was not the first mass conflation I've seen, I'm sorry to say. I had the ill fortune to be in Barcelona in 1987, when Basques killed 21 people with a bomb fitted into a car. I've seen more footage of the effects of Muggle warfare than my young correspondent has ever or I hope *will* ever see. I was at the Cup, as

well, but not to set off any weapons, Muggle or wizard-made, and certainly not to harm innocent spectators.

Let's make no mistake about that: The majority of people who died or nearly died at the Cup were not guests at the match. It was Muggleborn servants, penned up below the Lord Pretender's viewing stands, who took the brunt of the blast, and were largely left to their fate by their wizarding 'masters.' Yes, I was there, but I chose to risk revealing myself in order to help them escape their deathtrap. And then there were the Muggles in the camp nearby, and we all know who's responsible for their injuries and their deaths, even if we'll never be able to trace all the wands.

There are a number of groups (the last count I heard was 23) claiming some responsibility for the device that detonated at the Cup. I've seen the article trying to blame the Irish Muggle Army; I've read the sickening claims that the DogStar Company have made; I've even heard tell that the Crimson Company is using Malfoy's condition as a recruiting slogan.

I've got one thing to say about all that: Claim what you like, but leave my name off it. During the time I've been 'dead' you seem to have forgotten what I wrote back when I was alive. So let me remind you what I really support and what I don't. Free the people who should never have been enslaved in the first place. Depose the puppets you have given control over your society, your livelihoods and even your very thoughts. Do it without taking more lives in the bargain.

It occurs to me that it's amazing what a large group of people can do when they've the luxury of hiding behind the mask of the faceless mob. If you'd turned your wands in the other direction that night, what a difference it might have made.



[alt_terry](#) at 2011-09-02 16:57:22

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Hermione, you can get word to him, right? You're in contact with him somehow?

So how about we ask him questions and you pass them along. Then can you pass along his answers back to us? I realise it may take awhile, and he maybe can't answer all of them publicly...

Dear Sirius

I don't believe you had anything to do with what happened at the World Cup. But I must admit I'm curious about why you were there at all. (Aside from watching Quidditch, of course. It just seems incredibly dangerous. and I don't want you to get caught!)

What happened to the muggleborns who disappeared? They didn't all die, did they?

Is there any way we can help you? (Well, maybe not me, because I'm stuck here with the git. But people in general.)

That's all except that...it just made me really really happy to open up my journal and see a Grim Truth again.

It also made the git just furious. Which makes it even more special.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-02 17:15:48](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

So...Sirius Black.

We're pleased as punch to see you popping up on our journals again. Well done, sir. You've managed to pull off one of the best pranks in the history of the Protectorate (of course, that's not saying too much because in general the Protectorate has a lousy sense of humour).

We have some suspicions about the identity of some of the people you have helping you. But we're not going to ask, both because if we reckon that if we asked we'd be sent about our business because you probably figure we're too young to know. And anyway, we don't want to get anyone in trouble if we've guessed wrong.

If we knew what you were up to, we'd have an idea if there was anything we could do to help. We understand why you're a bit shy to report on your whereabouts and all that. But we're following your exploits with interest.

Deep interest.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-02 17:34:33](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

that letter he was talking about?

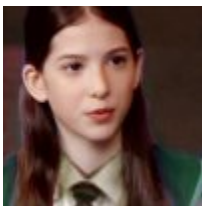
...it was mine.

I was just so angry about what happened, and about all the people that were hurt, and thinking that he could've done it made me all twisted up inside. Because there are people who think that what they believe gives them the right to kill other people just to make a point or show their power. And I didn't think he was that sort of person, and the thought that he might be made me ill. Made me think that I'd been mistaken about a lot of things. And that frightened me.

I'm not stupid enough to take everything he says at face value. But this does make me think more and more that I was right, and that he wasn't the sort that would kill people to make his point.

He gets awfully sideways when answering questions. Like with this one. I didn't get a reply owl, but he puts it right in the middle of his Grim Truth. Most of the time, he doesn't answer me at all. It might be different with Hermione, though.

But I'll bet a galleon that even if he doesn't answer them, he'll read them.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-02 17:37:24](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Dear Mr Black,

Is there a way through the wards? I know someone who might like to leave the Protectorate. I don't think anyone would notice if she were gone. Can you

tell me how you got here from France?



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-04 01:44:46](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Um. I've been thinking and I don't know what to ask, really.

Except. I want to know what it's like outside the Protectorate. What's it like in France? I wanted to ask that Justin bloke, but of course, I couldn't really because it's not the sort of thing you can ask about where everyone will see. And I don't know him well enough to know if he'd have told me off for being a traitor. Even if I'd met him and could've asked him in person. But I want to know. What's it like other places? Is it better or worse for wizards? I mean. What's it like to have to keep it a secret you're a wizard? And what's it like to live in a place where Muggles aren't slaves, but live all around, and control laws and things that wizards have to fit in with even if wizards have their own laws, too? And, well. What would happen here if you found a way to kill the Protector and get rid of the people who, y'know, serve him? What would that take? Blowing people up? Fighting battles? What's your plan? And if you did it, what would be left? For the people who are still alive afterwards, I mean.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-03 01:38:08](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

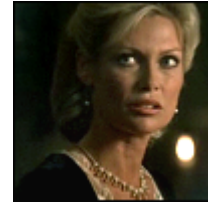
All the questions that I want to ask I don't think he can answer. (Nor can Hermione).

Like...how do you know my parents? (Because I know he does, because they sent him a birth announcement for my little brother.) Do you just know them, or do you work with them, somehow? Helping muggleborns, or smuggling wands, or doing both? Or something else entirely?

2011-09-02 12:59:00

(no subject)

Follows is the transcript of the conference this morning, broadcast on wireless:



alt_narcissa

On behalf of myself, my son, my sister-in-law and my husband, I wish to thank Auror Lestrangle for her detailed and informative report on Our Lord's response to the terrible and senseless crimes of Monday night's Quidditch World Cup. I also wish to set to rest certain rumours about the attack suffered at the Cup and the extent of my husband's injuries.

Our party were seated in the Protector's Box, which as all know was dislodged from its mooring by an explosive device at approximately five minutes past ten p.m. on the evening of 29th August. We are most grateful to the heroic efforts of Magical Law Enforcement, first that their protections prevented what could have been major loss of life and second that Our Lord was in no way harmed by the blast or the events that followed, as Auror Lestrangle stated.

There has been speculation regarding the fact that my husband suffered the worst injuries of anyone in the top box. Aurors Lestrangle and Crouch, in addition to their excellent support staff, have been working tirelessly since the 29th to determine whether the severity of his wounds were co-incidental and not specifically related to the threats to his life and limb called for by the miscreant followers of the Dogstar Company, as alleged in their public posting of the first of July this year.

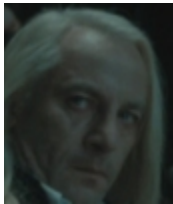
While that investigation is ongoing, I am assured by Aurors Lestrangle, and Crouch that several persons of interest have already been identified in connection with what may have been a deliberate attempt on my husband's life.

The Malfoys are no strangers to such adversity, unfortunately. As before, we have been blessed with Our Lord's gracious peacekeepers in ensuring our safety and continued health, and as before, His officers will, we have no doubt, catch the villains responsible for this unprovoked attack on a national hero. As for my husband, he is resting comfortably and will continue to convalesce under the care of his private Healing staff. We expect no interruption to the business of the Lord Protector during Mr Malfoy's recovery. We thank each of you

who have expressed sympathies and cooperation to ensure that, as he regains his health, he will be able to maintain his responsibilities and see to it that the realm endures. Already we have made provisions with several of his colleagues so that he may continue to work from the comfort of home.

At this time, we ask that you respect our family's need for privacy. When our son returns to school, we would remind the witches and gentlewizards that there is to be no change to our arrangements regarding requests for interviews, photographs or other intrusion into his life. My own responsibilities remain unchanged, save that my sister-in-law, Madame Amanda Malfoy Froissart, has graciously agreed to remain in England to assist us during this period, whether it be by representing me outside our home or staying on-hand to see to her brother's needs.

In the meantime, we shall address credible inquiries through our staff and through our family solicitors, Boniface Caldecott and Aristotle Baddock. Thank you.



[alt_lucius](#) at 2011-09-02 18:03:57

Private Message to Narcissa

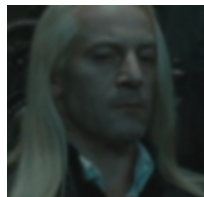
Sry.



[alt_narcissa](#) at 2011-09-02 18:08:59

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

You agreed to rest until tomorrow, my love.



[alt_lucius](#) at 2011-09-02 18:09:55

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Just a few private messages. Nothing strenuous.

Hate this.



alt_narcissa at 2011-09-02 18:45:56

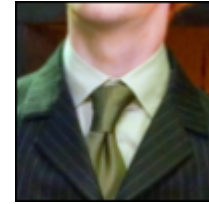
Re: Private Message to Narcissa

I know.

We almost lost you. Let us fuss a bit longer.

2011-09-02 14:19:00

Private message to Mrs Malfoy



alt_percy

I received your note by owl. I am not quite clear what gave Miss Robins the impression that she could be admitted to see Mr Malfoy, notwithstanding any documents she brought along, but I assure you it was not due to anything I said. On the contrary, I have made it quite clear to all of his well-wishers that while Mr Malfoy warmly appreciates their concern at his behalf, no one will be admitted without a very good reason, subject to the advice of his healer. And you of course, ma'am.

I suppose that Miss Robins...~~prevari~~ simply may have misremembered the terms of our conversation. I am certain that it must only be that she--like many of Mr Malfoy's work colleagues--was quite distressed at the news of his condition.

Flower arrangements continue to arrive, almost on an hourly basis. As I understand that the Manor is overflowing with other, similar offerings, I have arranged for the extra to be delivered to brighten the children's ward of St Mungo's--with one exception. One arrangement was delivered this morning, with an unsigned card, consisting entirely of stinging, poisonous and venomous plants. I have sent word to the offices of MLE, who will be arriving to pick it up (with the card) within the hour for further analysis.



alt_narcissa at **2011-09-02 19:53:57**
(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Weasley. As always, your diligence does you credit.

2011-09-02 19:48:00

Private message to Madam Pomfrey

Do you ever have nightmares where you're surrounded by people who are hurt and dying and you're trying to heal them but they're dying around you while you try?



alt_sally_anne

How do you make them stop?



alt_poppy at **2011-09-03 01:44:01**
(no subject)

I'm very sorry to think that you are having such distressing dreams, Miss Perks.

I have several things I could offer. Not all of them potions, but if you would like to begin with a night or two of dreamless sleep, I would not hesitate to provide it for you. First, though, I'd like to see you and have a bit of conversation with you about these dreams you're having.

Do stop up, please, before curfew.



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-03 01:51:24**
(no subject)

I'll come up. I took some Dreamless Sleep while I was staying with Pansy but I'm a little worried about becoming one of those people who can't ever sleep without a potion. So last night I tried to do without

it.

2011-09-02 20:38:00

Firsties!

Have you noticed how ickle they are this year?

I mean, seriously!



alt_ron



alt_penelope at **2011-09-03 02:25:48**

(no subject)

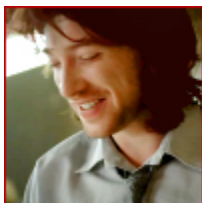
Really, Ronald.



alt_ron at **2011-09-03 15:34:20**

(no subject)

What?



alt_bill at **2011-09-03 11:29:12**

(no subject)

They'll keep getting smaller. Firsties tend to do that. Amazingly, eventually the second and third year students will, too.

[2011-09-02 20:42:00](#)

XXIII

This has been a trying time for all the good people of the Protectorate, but my own feelings are with my family right now, who have been through a trying time but - as always - come through the dark with their dignity and strength, as it will always be.



[alt_bellatrix](#)

While I wish I could reply to all correspondance personally, please refer to all my public statements for my stance on the World Cup attack, the related investigation, and, of course, the "reapperance" of Sirius Black.

MLE has seen more than our share of photographs that claim to show Sirius Black alive, and all were carefully studied by experts and determined false. It's a pity that the *Prophet* is so easily fooled and apparently lacks any sort of investigative skills, even more the pity that they should fail during a time when our people are so ill at ease. On the journals, we have endured enough individuals claiming to be Sirius Black to no longer trust a single one. It is all too regretful that his journal was never found on his body, and that someone was able to recover it and act out a most insidious ruse.

As has already been stated, MLE does not currently feel there is enough evidence to warrant launching further investigation into the impossibility of traitor Black's return.

Rest assured that were he actually alive, we would have figured it out a long, long time ago.

This will be my final word on the matter.



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-03 04:03:18](#)

Order Only

Oh, Sirius.

The most devilish *Weasley* part of me (the part that tends to show up in the twins most often) whispers in my ear that she's all but begging you to start issuing an increasingly embarrassing series of anecdotes about her. Just to prove the lie. The more humiliating the better. Like, let's see. How old was she when

she stopped sucking her thumb. Words she used to lisp.

When did she stop wetting the bed?

(Did she ever stop?)

Even if she insists and insists and insists that your Grim Truths are a fake, it'll put her in an increasingly ridiculous light.



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-03 04:04:33](#)

Re: Order Only

You must be mad, Bill. Baiting Bellatrix Lestrange? That'd be like baiting a Hungarian Horntail.



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-03 04:06:03](#)

Re: Order Only

What's she going to do if she catches him? Kill him? Oops, she already tried that. It'll be no news to Sirius.

When she's already determined to do the worst, there's really no downside.



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-03 04:06:45](#)

Re: Order Only

You may be underestimating her inventiveness.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-03 12:00:29](#)

Re: Order Only

I like the way you think, Bill.

It's too bad I've somewhat limited information. She is eight years my senior and a cousin, at that, not a sibling. I bet your sister would be hard-pressed to tell many tales on you, except whatever Molly and Arthur have used as examples. I'll think on it, though; I don't remember Mother holding Bella up all that often, but when she did it was usually to tell us to *follow* her

lead and not for the embarrassment of the anecdote.

I'm sure I can come up with ammunition to provoke her one way or the other, though.

[2011-09-02 22:26:00](#)

Private Message to Percy Weasley

How are you doing? I saw Mr Malfoy's sent a few messages here and there, to Mr Crispin and Mr Baddock and such. That must take some of the pressure off.



[alt_penelope](#)

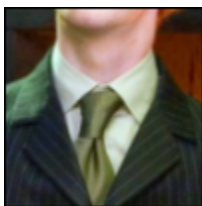
We're off to a good enough start, here. Avery's stern enough I don't feel quite like I've got to jump on every little thing. Besides, he seems to enjoy it, rather.

But honestly, Perce, your *brothers!* They act like I can't tell them anything as the Head Girl just because I'm your girlfriend. (Your sister's worse, but at least she hasn't already commandeered a loo cubicle and told the firsties they've got a bake sale running inside.) They'll run me right round the twist.

Now, I know the worst thing would be for you to step in; it'd just cut me off at the knees even more. Oh, but I wish you could!

Well, really, that wasn't why I'm writing... Just wanted to know if your week has any light at the end of it.

Miss you already. I'm proud of you, too, you know. You're showing them the next Minister right now, remember. And I'm sure they'll all take note.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-03 04:18:24](#)
(no subject)

They were at their worst at the beginning of the school year last year, I remember. Something about being back at Hogwarts does something to the twins in particular, bringing out the worst of their prankish streak. Maybe it's being back with all their friends. They were just about unbearable for a couple of weeks, and then things simmered down a bit. Tonnes of homework will steady them all a bit, too.

No, I wouldn't undermine you that way. Good for you for being smart enough to realise it.

Miss you, too, although probably it's a good thing you're off at school again so you can't get cross at me for neglecting you. I've been

putting in tremendous hours, but then of course this is really a sort of emergency situation. Even Crispin never faced anything like this. I am handling it all right, I think. At least no one at the Ministry has called for my head yet.

That isn't a very funny joke, now that I think about it. Especially after what has happened to Hooper's family.

Never mind. I'm tired and not thinking straight.

I have to get back to synopsising these reports.

2011-09-02 23:56:00

Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Things have been quite hectic, but I didn't want to delay any longer before writing to say that your CCF students were truly a credit to the program in the hour or so following the attack at the Quidditch World Cup.



alt_selwyn

A number of reports have mentioned the CCF students who used mediwizardry to provide first aid to injured guests. There were two girls on level 20, I believe, and another down on level 12. Others assisted children who'd become separated from their parents (including my own daughter), put out fires, organised the people sitting near them to discourage a stampede as people started leaving, offered their services to MLE, etc. I believe Draco Malfoy freed a lady sitting near him from a pile of rubble, even as Healers worked to keep his father alive.

I would very much like to recognise the CCF programme, and the heroic service provided by these students, at some point this autumn. Perhaps at a YPL meeting? I would welcome your suggestions for honours that would prove meaningful to the students involved.



alt_sinistra at **2011-09-03 22:56:55**
(no subject)

Director Selwyn -

Thank you for your kind words for the programme! I am most proud of how our CCF students leapt to help others, and used the skills they had so recently learned.

One of the students who helped on level 20 (Sally-Anne Perks) has suggested to me that a YPL session on basic medwizardry might be quite helpful. I need to see about making arrangements with appropriate staff, but perhaps that would be an excellent occasion to recognise the good work of the CCF students?

In terms of honours, while some of our students certainly have a glowing future ahead of them already, others would greatly benefit from a letter of recognition that could be referenced as they apply for future training and employment. (And as you know, encouraging talented students who do not come from the best families to be of

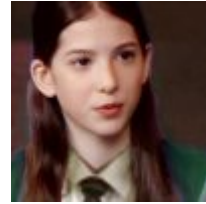
great use to the Protectorate is one of the goals of the programme).

Perhaps some sort of party or other pleasant occasion might also be appropriate, however, since of course students are not always long-term thinkers yet. Perhaps something special at Hogwarts, or maybe a special afternoon in Hogsmeade without other students could be arranged? (I'd certainly be glad to assist in arrangements, or in chaperoning in the latter case...)

2011-09-03 12:24:00

Private message to Professor Sinistra

Professor Sinistra, I wanted to suggest that for one of our YPL meetings this year you offer a first-aid class so that more students could learn basic mediwizardry. A couple of students have wanted to talk to me about what happened at the QWC and there are a lot of people who'd like to learn the spells that you can use to stop bleeding or stabilise an injured person until the real Healers arrive.



alt_sally_anne

It would be nice if older students could come, too, who'd normally be too old for YPL. (I don't know if the first years could really learn these spells yet, or even the second years. There are things you can do without a wand, though, like wrapping someone in a blanket to keep them warm instead of using the spell for that.)



alt_sinistra at **2011-09-03 22:51:21**
(no subject)

Miss Perks -

You are a credit to the YPL, for not only your wise and brave actions during the chaos, but for continuing to think about how students could continue to be of service. Of course, we all hope that a situation like the QWC attack will not happen again, but I agree that some additional training would be quite the thing. I'll see about coordinating with some possible teachers.

I also agree that allowing a broader attendance for this event might be quite sensible, and I will see what I can do. (If nothing else, surely the skills are useful for things like accidents and Quidditch injuries as well, and it never hurts to be prepared.)

I have also had several notes, including one today, thanking those CCF students who took part in helping after the explosion. I've been asked what might be appreciated as a thank you. I'm certainly going to suggest that formal letters that could be used by those of you who might seek further training or employment might be particularly welcome, but is there anything else you think would be particularly appreciated by your fellow students? Some special activity, a party, that sort of thing?

I do hope you are able to settle into the school year after a difficult experience (and a challenging course of training over the summer), and I look forward to seeing you in class, as always.

- A. Sinistra

2011-09-03 15:43:00

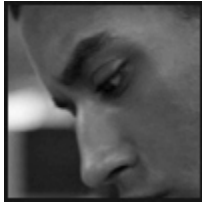
(no subject)

Well it's nice to be back at Hogwarts.

The World Cup wasn't as fun as I thought it would be.



alt_harry

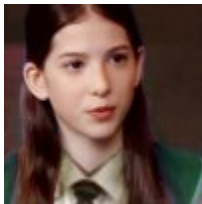


alt_blaise at **2011-09-03 19:55:41**

(no subject)

I agree. Hols are nice for a while, but then there's really not much to do. I imagine it'll be different when we're older, but there's just not that much to get up to even in New London, y'know? And Mother doesn't like having me underfoot.

The best parts of the summer were when we went off to Chester and then to CCF. And the Cup. But then, of course, they had to go and spoil it.



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-04 00:30:42**

(no subject)

Well, the game part was brilliant. The explosion wasn't, though.

Thank you again for inviting me to sit with you.

2011-09-03 18:57:00

Private message to Arca Sinistra and Diane Haley



Mum and Diane -

I'm sure Andromeda's gotten around to writing by now, but I thought I'd add a few notes, since I know you were both anxious over her first days at Hogwarts. (I meant to write sooner, but it's been quite chaotic here, getting everyone settled.)

alt_sinistra

As we'd all expected, Andromeda was promptly sorted into Hufflepuff, and seems to be settling in quite nicely with her classmates. (I don't know any of them well yet, but they seem as pleasant as first-years ever are. It always takes everyone a few weeks to stop being nervously on their best behavior and relax into being themselves a bit more, as well.) There seems to be plenty of cheerful conversation from that part of the table during the meals I've been around for, and of course, I've checked in with her casually several times, just to make sure there isn't anything she needs.

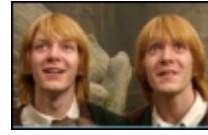
(Her biggest complaint is finding her way around - but really, that's true for everyone and there's nothing for it but practice.)

As you can imagine, we're still all a little bit overwhelmed with the aftermath of the attack, especially having so many of our students actively involved in really quite dangerous situations. At the same time, I'm so very proud of the students in the CCF programme who stepped forward to be of help, and I've received some really quite gracious thank yous from senior ministry officials, as well as those who were directly helped.

Mum - thanks for the package to start the year. It was much appreciated. I've been able to share them with Poppy, and with Rabastan, and I'm sure the rest will quickly disappear once students remember I sometimes have treats out before I go up to observe in the evening.

2011-09-03 20:43:00

Private message to Mr Ludo Bagman



alt_gredforge

Mr Bagman:

We made an unhappy discovery upon our return home from the Quidditch World cup.

The money pouch which you had bestowed upon us in payment for the little wager we had arranged with you no longer seems to be stuffed with the gold galleons you owe us. It is now, in fact, full of a lot of nothing. We suspect that you must have absent-mindedly filled the pouch with leprechaun gold; an oversight, we're sure.

We await the full payment of the monies by your return owl, here to us at Hogwarts.

2011-09-03 23:23:00

Private Message to Percy Weasley

These restrictions placed by Fletcher are ridiculous. I'm fine. Though the business of writing all communication is damned inconvenient. Shall need you to attend meetings along with me for next week; possibly two if I allow Fletcher his caution.



alt_lucius

Meanwhile, see no reason not to re-commence business as usual after the week-end. Only leave Monday afternoon open since Mrs Malfoy will be taking Draco back up to school and returning. (Need to be back at the Manor before her *Witch Weekly* commitment has been met for the day.)

So. First things first: Have you contacted Rousseau's office since the Cup? Shall need to ensure that nothing about the incident has affected plans for Hogwarts. Suspect Selwyn has thought of it already but sure he has not had time to address it with Pontner; can only hope that Pontner exhibited some intuition regarding the need for action. Would be advantageous to take the initiative there as soon as possible. Same for the Bulgarians, though Pontner has been taking the lead there all along, so presumably he has already assuaged any misgivings they might have in light of the incident.

On that note, Bartley and Runcorn can wait. Push them out to mid-month.

Instead need Cuffe - first thing Monday. And bring the report on the casualties from the Harrogate camp reprisals (are they calling that the 29th or was it 30th by the time the demonstrators left the arena? No-one has told me). Want him *here* before MLE's press gaggle at ten o'clock.

Also Clarriker: Have the books ready. Wish to instruct him to increase the percentage of imports tithed to Buckingham by 10% - half of which ought to come from his portion, of course. He'll object; we shall impress upon him the importance of Our Lord's continued good favour; he'll capitulate. Tuesday would be acceptable if he cannot come Monday morning.

Blast. Reminds me: Thursday was first of the month. Need to go over the accounts to-morrow, then. Come to the Manor ... after tea will do. Should take no more than an hour or two.

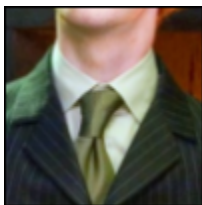
Mrs Malfoy mentioned you had to answer for one or two rather insistent (and inventive) would-be visitors who slipped through our outer protections before someone discovered their presence. Kindly provide a list of the names. Trust that neither Hooper parent was among the invasive ones; of course, were there any of a suspicious nature, it would be prudent to inform Zuckerman immediately.

Speaking of which, understand that the younger Runge presented him-self to Our Lord at yesterday's Court. No need to guess why. Contact him but not before Wednesday noon and arrange tea at the Elysian or the Ouroboros sometime in the next week month.

Finally, seem to recall that we had agreed to host a supper at Ouroboros for new members. Check the diary. Think it may have been 17th September. See if Yaxley will take it on; if not him (though it would be wise for him with MLE's upcoming announcement), then try Avery or barring him, Mulciber. Any of them ought to be attending, at any rate. Merely a matter of acting as master of ceremonies.

Sure there will be more by to-morrow. Already forgetting something.

Ah, yes. Mme Froissart's accommodations. Munroe's written to say he's had a change of heart and he'll vacate Mellerstain. However. In light of recent events, my sister feels it makes no sense to return to France in the interim. (Some plot she and Mrs Malfoy have concocted, I assume, to plague me with nursemaids over the next three weeks.) As a result, she would like to take residence at the end of September instead of the end of October. Have drafted an agreement for him to consider which you may deliver after we're done here in the afternoon.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-04 12:33:21](#)
(no subject)

I am exceedingly glad to see you putting quill to parchment again, sir.

Now then, in answer to your questions: first, I believe

that yes, Director Selwyn has contacted the French and Pontner the Bulgarians and will follow up to learn the results of those conversations.

Bartly and Runcorn have been rescheduled to the 21st and 22nd respectively.

I will try to reach Cuffe in time to schedule something for Monday, although the meeting may not take place until Monday afternoon, sorry, sir. MLE is rather demanding of his time at the moment. I will have to check to determine who has those reports on Harrogate.

The accounts have been balanced, and I will bring them over. I will bring the list of visitors for you to see at that time, as well.

Noted on Runge, and I will contact Yaxley.

I will see you this afternoon.

2011-09-04 15:41:00

Private Message to Lana Sandoval



alt_padma

Lana,

How is your grandmother doing? I hope she's all right. Haruman said he'd call to check on her if you like.

I've been thinking more about everything that happened Monday night and, well, it was all very frightening, but honestly it was also kinda cool to be able to pitch in and help. And I hope I did. Help you, I mean. Setting up the checkpoints and the relay stations. You were amazing, I hope someone's told you!

I'm already incredibly busy being back at Hogwarts, and lessons haven't even started yet! Finnigan and I are continuing History Club, of course, and then we've been talking about some other ideas for the CCF, based on everything coming out of Monday. We got to talking about the IMA and some of the other terrorist groups, and of course, the false Black post and so on, and we came up with a proposal we're working on for Professor Sinistra. (And Professor Raz, really.) It's to do with learning more about the ways one can help decode things in the journals - you know, how some people say that all those posts from the Crimson Company are nothing but encrypted messages to their followers? We want to start a cryptography workshop. I thought perhaps someone from MLE might come and give us pointers. I just think...it's hard when we're reading things in the journals, sorting out what's real from what's just a load of stuff, and no one really tells us much here, they like to just tell us that everything's perfect.

Well, we know that's not true, but the whole point of YPL and CCF is to make it more perfect. And it seems to me that knowing what might be going on below the surface is a good way to do that.

And the Corner is really going strong already. We've been putting together timetables for when to revise what. There's hardly going to be a free night, at this rate!

Now, don't fret at me, but Lares Tamblyn actually told me yesterday that he thought Page acted horribly last year and that if I'd like to sit with him and his brother and the other Prefects at meals and such, that'd be all right. And then he said - well, he said Davies even told Page he'd been beastly, 'and especially to someone as fit as Patil,' was

what he told him. Cox and Samuels overheard him in the locker rooms, I guess, after one of their matches. Tamblyn said he figures Davies might like to ask me out but he doesn't want anyone to make a meal of it like they did with Page last year. So he suggested that sitting up with the Prefects would put me *close* to the Quidditchers but not right in among them, because obviously that would look like I'm just trying to catch Page's eye again. As if I'd give him a second chance to be a gentleman!

Well, I'm not sure what I'll do about it. I don't think Tamblyn's the type to wind one up; if Chambers had told me then I'd be sure she'd just putting a kneazle among the occamies! But I always thought Davies fancied Chang, so I don't know quite whether Tamblyn's really drawing the right conclusions. I mean, it could just be that Davies is too decent to let the side's reputation get tarnished by one player's foolishness. Couldn't it?

But anyway. I thought you'd be interested to hear. What else? Well, you probably already know that Karoline Moon's already quite the mope since Baddock's gone. (Clearwater, too, but she does a better job, at least, of not letting it rule her every conversation. Though, honestly, I think I'd be sick if she *did* go on and on about Weasley, of all people. By the way, what do you think of them choosing her for Head Girl? You probably don't want to say but personally I think, as much as I'd like to see a Ravenclaw with the job, the Headmistress is rather scraping if Clearwater was her best choice. She's not at all a leader like you were. At least, not so far.) But anyway, Dames says Moon and Baddock wanted to get engaged over the summer, but Baddock's father wouldn't allow it! She's been a mope about that, too. Dames thinks it's not that Mr Baddock objects, really, it's just that he thinks they're too young. I thought perhaps he wasn't happy about the play, from last year, you know, how Ptolemy let Karo put in all the stuff about his parents. But Dames doesn't think so, not really. She says Mr Baddock's far too sensible to hold something like that against someone our age. Well, Karo's age. I asked Lines what he thought about his sister getting engaged to Baddock but he just shrugged.
Boys.

Oh, and can you believe there were actually no new Bobolis cousins in this year's firsties? But there are some promising ones. Persephone Sanditon's supposedly got a lovely voice and Orla Quirke dances, I hear. And my own cousin, Darshana, she got sorted into Ravenclaw as well! ~~I'm sure Sanji would have been Sorted~~

Well, I've really gone on and on, haven't I? I'm sure you've loads of

important things you're learning at the Ministry and I haven't even asked what you're specialising in now. Of course, Monday was far from the time to catch up but I hope you'll write back and tell me all the exciting parts of your training nowadays!

2011-09-04 20:35:00

Tea-Time Once More!

Cheers everyone!

It was wiz-nift to have that to come back to yesterday; we could all use a bit of fun right now.



alt_susan

Welcome to TTOTS, Lovegood--you didn't have any trouble following our directions, so I think that means you'll fit right in.



alt_luna at 2011-09-07 19:09:58

(no subject)

I enjoyed it ever so much. Thank you for including me!



alt_susan at 2011-09-07 23:11:04

(no subject)

I'm really glad you had a good time; Pansy and I thought you might.

[2011-09-04 22:33:00](#)

Order Only: Busy Weekend



[alt_sirius](#)

Well, we've finally shifted the last of tonight's crowd out from 'Laszlo's Unlimited,' which is the unofficial name our clientele have begun calling the little beer garden. Both last night and Friday were extremely busy. Luckily, Remus seems to still be riding the high of rescuing those Muggleborns (how are they adjusting, Allie? Any better?) so he's been all too happy to play host to a brisk trade.

And the discussions have been *fascinating*. DogStar were responsible for the bomb; no, it was the Crimson Company; no, it was actually a Ministry stunt designed to turn public opinion back against the Muggles. The name Sirius Black, of course, was on many a wizard's lips, and I'm pleased to say not entirely with universal condemnation. Apparently I was either stealing Bellatrix's own Muggleborn servant or I was simply under the impression that Bagman's commentary for the Cup was sadly lacking in statistical accuracy, so I popped up to the Top Box to offer my services when the bomb went off. As far as the Grim Truth, they seemed to be equally divided whether it's real or not, but all agreed that anyone brave enough to twit Lestrangle over the journals deserved a drink at the very least.

Interestingly, I noticed some familiar faces both nights this weekend. One was our shady character who'd seemed so chatty with Dora a couple of weeks ago. The other was one of our more regular regulars. (As it happens, she's one of the few who seems to look for Padfoot whenever she's in and always sneaks him a bite or two of whatever's on offer.) But she hardly ever speaks to anyone. I do know a couple people have referred to her as 'Beth' but other than that, no idea who she really is. Well, last night she struck up a conversation with Mrs Parsons, one of our other frequent patrons. I trotted over for a skritch and out of blatant curiosity.

Mrs Parsons had an interesting tale to tell her, about her landlord troubles. Apparently he objects to her running a seamstress' shop out of her flat. At first she thought it was just because he wanted to raise her rent but it turned out that his main protest has to do with the fact that it means she's got people in and out of the building all hours. She wondered why.

That's when it got interesting. Because her tablemate asked her

where she lived and when Mrs Parsons told her, she smiled. 'Ah, you live in one of the Quirkes' buildings, then.'

Mrs P wanted to know how she knew that. Beth just patted her arm and said, 'Oh, Quinn and I go way back. I know where all his property is. I'll have a word with old Quinn about you. Don't you worry any.'

'No offence, dearie, but I've not a clue what you could say to him to change his attitude, that I couldn't tell him myself.'

'Well, I'll tell him that your hours aren't *his*, that's all. And you might tell him that you come here. That'll soften him to you as well.'

I shoved my nose under her hand for a thank-you for that comment. But Mrs P wasn't all that impressed. 'Laszlo's? Why should this place make a difference to him?'

Beth laughed. 'Why does it make a difference to *you*?' she countered. And then she gave me another rough scratch behind the ears and said her good-nights.

Dora and Remus and I are talking about what the business of hours might mean but I wanted to put it out here, as well, for all of us to puzzle over. And, too, we've been talking about more means to help out the Muggleborns on a direct basis. Getting them the tools *and* the knowledge they need to use them.

Well. That's about all I have. Dora starts back at the Ministry again this week, Arthur, so she says to tell you she'll see you in the corridors and maybe stop for a cuppa one morning if you've the time.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-05 03:51:50](#)

(no subject)

Does Bellatrix have any muggleborn servants?

As far as Beth goes, hopefully it's as simple as knowing they're both sympathisers. It sounds like she might be suggesting subtle blackmail.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-05 04:01:15](#)
(no subject)

I'd be shocked if she does. But if so, they must be miserable, poor devils.

I dunno. Quinn Quirke knew my father. He's been a member at the Elysian since before Voldemort's rise. I think he actually contributed to one of my father's campaigns for policies to give priority to purebloods when it came to properties, Ministry postings and the like. He's as pure as they come, so sympathising with halfbloods just doesn't sound like it would make a difference to him.

It could be blackmail, though. I really wonder what she means when she says she goes 'way back' since she's got to be half his age.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-05 04:54:35](#)
(no subject)

Maybe she's older than she looks. She might be drinking polyjuice, or using some other spell to disguise herself.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-05 05:05:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, now that's an interesting notion. Given how much trouble we went to to keep our supplies of Polyjuice even remotely stocked, I'd be very pleased to know who else has ready access to the raw ingredients.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-05 05:25:33](#)
(no subject)

MLE certainly would.

(No, I'm not seriously suggesting that Beth's in MLE.)



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-05 11:42:56](#)
(no subject)

Don't withdraw the question before considering it, Remus.

She could quite easily be MLE. Any of them could be.

It needn't be suspicion of you or concern about the business that would draw them: they might find you by happenstance whilst watching the movements of one of your customers.

[2011-09-05 14:42:00](#)

More Grim than True



 [alternity](#)
[alt_doris](#)

Much as it pains us to agree with anything the murderess Bellatrix Lestrange may have to say on the subject of her cousin, we must caution all not to take false hope from the recent resurgence of someone posting in Sirius Black's name.

Sirius Black is dead. Doris Purkiss is certain of this as he has not contacted her in any way. Doris knew Sirius Black, remember, and would have been the first he'd have told had he managed to survive. If he had somehow returned to our embattled country, we would be first with the news.

We are equally disappointed to hear the outcry vindicating the actions of those responsible for the violent protest that erupted a week ago. We have mentioned before the dire consequences of radical anarchy. It is not and can never be a just solution to any society's problems. One has only to look at the average wizard's response to realise how wrong-headed the attempt was to the true cause. Muggles were hunted down that night; muggleborns suffered worse casualties than the wizarding folk.

We believe MLE, however, when they tell us (as they have done this morning) that the attack could only have been executed with the assistance of someone within the Ministry, placed in just the right position to endanger so many lives in a single action. We were as shocked as anyone, though, to learn that MLE have identified that insider as Fortinbras Hooper. While we will not speculate on his particular guilt or innocence, we cannot imagine how the DogStar, of all organisations, managed to corrupt and twist the loyalties of a man whose own brother they had already tortured for information pertinent to his time with Mr Lucius Malfoy, and killed when they had exhausted his usefulness. That seems, to us, beyond the pale. We find MLE's explanation, that Hooper somehow believed Mr Malfoy, and not DogStar agents, responsible for his brother's death, to be a trifle too convenient for our credulity. We suppose we'll have to wait and see what his trial brings to light and why MLE are so convinced it was DogStar and none other that allegedly brought him to his betrayal.

We have a different theory about the whole ordeal. We believe that the

incident was intended as an attack on the visiting dignitaries as a warning against giving the current government any more credibility than necessary. While the Cup was thrilling to witness, it was also a step toward legitimacy among other wizards unlike anything we have yet accomplished under the Lord Protector's rule. We believe that the disturbance was meant to indicate how very far we are from a peaceful, settled land. Judging by the number of people who were willing to bloody their hands afterward, whomever is truly responsible may well be right. We are savages still.

One thing is certain: Magical Law Enforcement has just grown a little less lawful and a little more enforcing now that Claudius Yaxley is in charge.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-06 19:30:36](#)
Order Only

I'm afraid they have the right of it with that last assertion. Did you all see the Prophet yesterday? The cover story's account of the whole miserable business of Fortinbras Hooper's having conspired with Dogstar was genuinely awful, but the thing I found most chilling was the photograph of Yaxley locking all those prisoners into his dungeons. He looked even more pleased with himself in that picture than in the official portrait they ran with the announcement of his ascendancy over MLE.

Speaking of which, do you think they really allowed Scrimgeour to retire? 'Looks forward to tending the gardens at his home in Dorset', my foot. I shouldn't like to be him, and that's for certain.

2011-09-05 19:05:00

(no subject)

Fourth year, hey?

Did anyone expect to get loaded up with so much homework on the very first day? I've already got, like, about five chapters to read and another three essays due end of next week.



alt_zacharias

But I do have to say, Professor Brutka knows his way round the Transfiguration classroom just about as well as he knew Creatures, doesn't he? ~~I hadn't realised we were doing the water goblets wrong, for example~~ I think that's going to work out rather well, on the whole. And I'll wager Professor Carrow is just as happy where he is, as he's able to carry out his research projects all the time now. He was always complaining about the students, and now he doesn't have to put up with us!

Malfoy, you said there was going to be something spectacular at Hogwarts this year. Somehow I don't think it was just staff changes. Give over, then, is there anything really planned or were you winding everyone up?

Anyway, MacMillan and I are officially inviting all the boys in our year to meet Sunday next for a special event of our own. Come up to the attic halfway up Ravenclaw Tower, overlooking the pitch, at three o'clock, for a few laughs.

Hey, Sue, are you still thinking of going out for Quidditch on Saturday? Because I think I'll try for a Beater position. If you want to go flying once or twice this week to practise, I bet we could fit it in somewhere (if I can finish all this reading!).



alt_susan at 2011-09-07 01:18:43

(no subject)

Yea, flying practise would be snitch!

I've been thinking of going out for something this year too. Haven't decided what though--Beater or Chaser

most likely.



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 01:39:38](#)
(no subject)

Still want to go for Quidditch, Bones?
Or are you feeling more like a champion?



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:42:03](#)
(no subject)

I'm still for Quidditch I think.
Tossing Quaffles and whacking Bludgers I
understand--who knows what the Triwizard contests
will be like?



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 01:46:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, it certainly seems to me like Quidditch is
more likely to give us a successful outcome.
Let's go after lessons tomorrow, right?



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:49:44](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, let's!
Who do you think should enter from Hufflepuff? I'd
like to see us make a good showing.



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 01:55:28](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Diggory, no question. Dunno if he'll be
picked, though. There's Fleet and Bobolis, as
well.

Though I suppose it could be a girl.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:58:26](#)

(no subject)

You suppose!

Though I agree with you about Diggory. Fleet too.

Maybe we should go ahead and enter--I think you're right that it'll likely be a 7th year, but maybe we should show willing?

2011-09-06 20:11:00

A Triwizard Tournament!!!!

HOW SNITCH IS THAT?

Who's entering? It'll probably be some NEWT student but I reckon there's no harm in trying, right?



alt_seamus



alt_padma at **2011-09-07 01:18:35**
(no subject)

Maybe we should convert History Club to an extra practising session per week? I'm sure we'll need loads of charms and such, and improving our skills and

This is going to be UTTERLY AMAZING.



alt_seamus at **2011-09-07 01:20:47**
Private message to Padma

On one hand I think it'll probably be a NEWT student but on the other, we learned a lot over the summer in CCF. It would be brilliant if it were one of us, wouldn't it?

Unless it were Weasley. But it wouldn't be.



alt_padma at **2011-09-07 01:41:55**
Re: Private message to Padma

No fear there!

And yes, we've learned loads. Besides, I don't care about being the champion so much as participating - you know, that's the sort of thing they'll look for when it comes time to figure out who to make Prefect, and even continuing in CCF and YPL.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-07 01:56:55](#)
(no subject)

We Weasleys always relish any opportunity to show some Gryffindor pride. And the opportunity to snabble up a bunch of Galleons to boot makes it a real win-win!



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-07 01:59:36](#)
(no subject)

Are you going to try, Seamus?

It's help if we knew the sorts of things the tournament will require of people....



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-07 02:18:55](#)
(no subject)

I'll try. I don't expect I'll get in, but it's worth giving it a go, anyway!



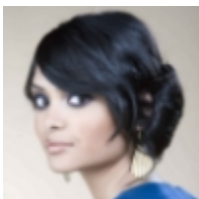
[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:16:10](#)
(no subject)

Then again, NEWT students already have loads they need to be doing, don't they?



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-07 02:18:28](#)
(no subject)

True enough!



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 02:24:40](#)
(no subject)

That's a fine point, Draco.

I think it's worth entering, anyway. There's no harm

in trying. And if loads of people are putting their names in, then there's no shame in not being chosen, right?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:26:06](#)
(no subject)

Exactly. I'm putting mine in - it shows initiative.



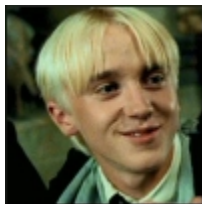
[alt_blaise](#) at [2011-09-07 02:34:35](#)
(no subject)

Absolutely right.

I'm putting in, too.

I'm still working on Teddy, but he says he'd rather watch other people put their necks on the block.

Did you hear Vince and Greg talking about it earlier? Of course, if it only took raw strength and nothing more, they'd be naturals.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:37:29](#)
(no subject)

The tasks are sure to involve a whole range of skills, from spellcasting to quick thinking to physical strength.

Poor blokes. They wouldn't have a chance even if they could team up together.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 02:36:54](#)
(no subject)

Exactly my thought.



[alt_lavender](#) at [2011-09-07 02:25:17](#)
(no subject)

I can't wait to meet hopepeople from the other schools!

Especially France--I've always absolutely loved French style!

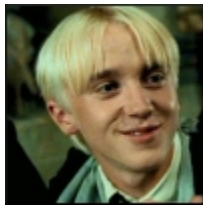


[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 02:38:14](#)
(no subject)

It's going to be ridiculously marvellous, isn't it?

(And if they're all like that Finch-Fletchley bloke, they'll be polite as well!

I wonder if all Bulgarian boys are are dark as Krum?)



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:43:14](#)
(no subject)

Sorry to tell you, but the French really aren't particularly polite. I mean, they don't have to be - they're *French*.

Not to say that Finch-Fletchley isn't.



[alt_lavender](#) at [2011-09-07 02:47:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, a young lady can still hope!

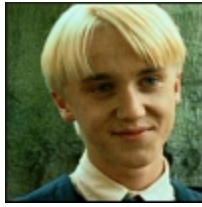


[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 02:47:53](#)
(no subject)

Finch-Fletchley seems like he's the type who can't help being polite.

(Even when he has no reason to be.)

But then, he's not really French, is he? So, what are they like then? French boys, I mean.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 03:12:42](#)
(no subject)

I haven't really taken the subject under consideration, you realise.

Though if pressed to answer, I'd say that they're very direct, always know what they want, and have a good appreciation for the arts and fine wine.

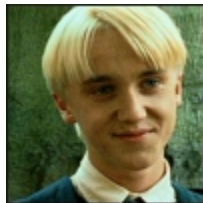
Actually, they're rather like my father, except with an accent.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 03:16:43](#)
(no subject)

Well, I would say your father is always polite. Isn't he?

So long as you realise that accents, by definition, always make boys more mysterious and appealing!



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 03:19:17](#)
(no subject)

To a fault.

But not in the same way as Finch-Fletchley.

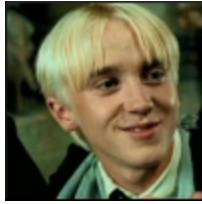
I'm well aware, yes - and also aware that to the French girls (or, er, Bulgarian) who arrive, it's we Hogwarts' lads who will have the accents.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 03:22:49](#)
(no subject)

Hm.

But they'll be interested in the older boys, I'm sure.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 03:24:23](#)
(no subject)

About as much as the older boys will be interested in fourth year girls.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 03:25:42](#)
(no subject)

Some of us have already had older boys' interest, thank you.

Girls are more mature than boys, and everyone knows it.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 03:27:27](#)
(no subject)

Then you have nothing to worry about, do you?



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 03:29:18](#)
(no subject)

No, but it sounds as if you might do.

You're impossible.



[alt_lavender](#) at [2011-09-07 02:48:08](#)
(no subject)

We'll be finding out very soon!

Krum is rather, er, rugged-looking, isn't he?



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-07 02:49:06](#)
(no subject)

Rugged's a good word!

I think he's brooding.

2011-09-06 20:17:00

Wizard! Wizard! Wizard!

Get it? Tri Wizard!

Heh.

It's going to be the most amazingly snitch thing ever!!!



alt_ron



alt_justin at **2011-09-07 01:20:34**
(no subject)

Nice one!

Yes, I think I'll be allowed. At least I hope so. No more explosions, though, what?

Oh, I say. Sorry, that was probably not as funny as it sounded in my head.



alt_ron at **2011-09-07 01:26:23**
(no subject)

I think NO EXPLOSIONS is pretty much at the top of the list for this tournament.

Also. NO DEMENTORS. And NO BASILISKS.

Oh, and NO PLAGUES.

Other than that, anything could happen.



alt_justin at **2011-09-07 01:29:06**
(no subject)

Basilisks? Dementors?

Blimey. They don't half expose you lot to real-world applications, then, eh?



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:31:44](#)
(no subject)

You have no idea--

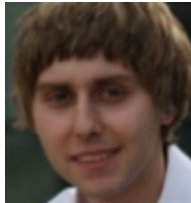
--well, now I guess you do. After what happened at the QWC and all.

Weasley, that was the lamest pun ever but it made me laugh.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 01:37:11](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Bones.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 01:37:30](#)
(no subject)

No, I've not any idea. I suppose I've a lot of catching up to do!

By the way, hullo, I'm Justin Finch-Fletchley.
Pleased to 'meet' you.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:40:01](#)
(no subject)

I'm Susan Bones. Nice to meet you too!



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 01:32:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. We're looking forward to a nice quiet year here.

Just a huge, giant tournament with visitors from overseas!

I can't really believe it, y'know? I mean. It was such a huge

surprise when they let people from outside in for the Quidditch Cup. And, well, after that, I'd've thought they'd've kept us closed up for another dozen years at least. But this is totally, completely, absolutely wizard!



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:38:28](#)

(no subject)

I know! And it's not as if we really got to meet a lot of the people who were here for the QWC (well, except for the people that met Justin earlier), but now they'll be right here at school!

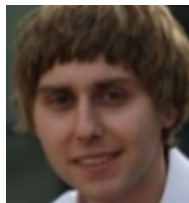
I'd love to learn more about continental Quidditch!



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 01:40:14](#)

(no subject)

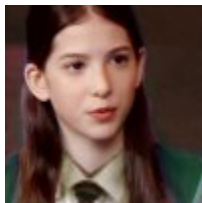
A giant tournament with visitors from overseas will be quiet and relaxing compared to plagues, basilisks, and dementors, yeah?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 01:43:35](#)

(no subject)

Wait, wait, Perks...I still want to hear about plagues, basilisks and dementors!



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 01:46:29](#)

(no subject)

Well, it's really not that funny, honestly.

Second year, there was a basilisk inside the school, and a bunch of people got petrified and Draco's servant died. At the same time this was going on, there was a horrible illness happening outside the school so no one could leave, we were all quarantined for spring hols.

The Dementors were last year, they were looking for some dangerous criminals who'd escaped from Azkaban. They were supposed to be guarding the school but a few times they came

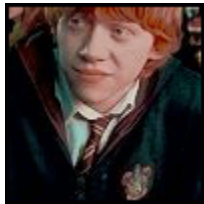
onto the grounds. It's horrid having Dementors anywhere near you, so we're all quite glad they're gone this year.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 01:44:00](#)
(no subject)

Well, when you put it that way...

I dunno, Perks, you and Weasley are making me nervous.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 02:00:47](#)
(no subject)

Nah. It'll be great, you'll see. It'll be dead amazing to have the school full of people from other schools.

And they say the competitions are really amazing. I mean, sometimes Champions have died even.

Or that's what the twins are saying, so, y'know, it might be rubbish.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 02:07:07](#)
(no subject)

Can we not talk about people dying, okay?



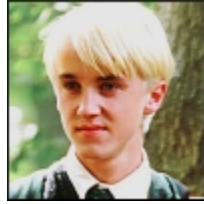
[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 02:11:28](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Bones.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 02:08:37](#)
(no subject)

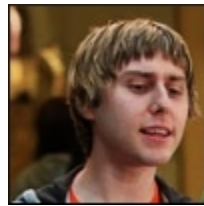
Yes, champions have died before. But Mme Maxime said they were fixing the challenges this year so that they're safe. Relatively, of course.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:14:40](#)
(no subject)

Seriously. I mean, when you think about it, you could die in this school any day of the week if you weren't looking right when you took a rotating staircase.

Well, you'll see, if you get to come here.

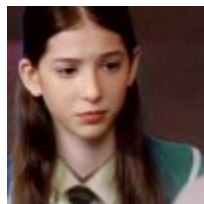


[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 02:17:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh, we've a few niches like that, as well. My first year I simply could not remember that at a certain time of day the most direct passage between our Transfiguration classroom and our Potions Tower closed itself off. Got myself rather stuck more than once!

But, if what Perks says is true, about monsters in the castle and such, then I should say you've all had much more experience with the sorts of things in this bally old TriWizard Tournament than anyone we'll be bringing!

I wonder what the students at Durmstrang are like, what?



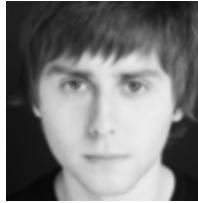
[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 02:15:23](#)
Private message to Justin

Just so you know, there was a student in our year who died last year. She was murdered by a professor.

He's not at the school anymore, but his sister still teaches

here (Professor Carrow).

Anyway, the student who died was named Hannah Abbot and she was in Hufflepuff. Which is why the Hufflepuffs are maybe a little extra touchy about this sort of thing.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-07 02:19:57](#)

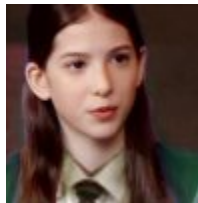
Re: Private message to Justin

Oh, I say.

Thank you for telling me, Perks. Jolly kind.

How awful, as well. I can't imagine being murdered by one of my profs. Well, I mean to say, there are one or two who don't care for me much because I'm--because I didn't know I was a wizard for a long time.

But I don't think he'd up and kill me, either. Blimey.



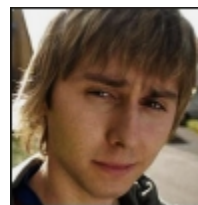
[alt_sally_anne at 2011-09-07 02:25:50](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I wish I could say none of us could have imagined it until it happened, but -- it wasn't really as much a surprise as it ought to have been.

Did you show your magic late, then? That seems like an odd thing to hold against someone.

How much do Professors at Beauxbatons care about blood purity? Some of my professors hold it against me that I'm a half-blood.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-07 02:35:18](#)

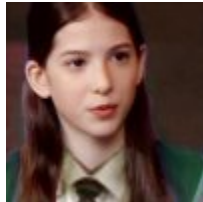
Re: Private message to Justin

Oh, no, I showed my magic--well, round about the usual time, I expect. I ~~just didn't know~~ wasn't very healthy when I was younger, do you see, so my mother held me back a year. I had tutors, though. I started a bit behind everyone but I

caught up quickly enough.

Draco tells me you've a classmate with a similar situation. Thompkins, I think? Anyway, it rather sounded like the same sort of, well, track, I suppose one might call it.

Most of the Professors here care more about it than they did two years ago, I can bally well tell you that.

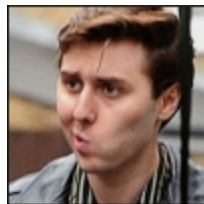


[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-09-07 02:42:24

Re: Private message to Justin

Oh -- I see. ~~Wait, but why~~

It's Dean Thomas, and he started late because people didn't realise that he had a wizard parent; they thought he was a muggleborn, a mudblood. So he was in the camps, first year. Then someone was going through some old records and realised that actually his father, his real father, was a wizard. So he was taken out, assigned a foster father, and he came to Hogwarts.



[alt_justin](#) at 2011-09-07 02:51:30

Re: Private message to Justin

Oh, I see.

Quite.



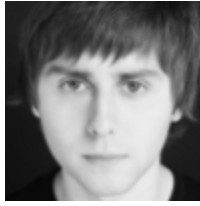
[alt_gredforge](#) at 2011-09-07 01:51:29

(no subject)

Well, we can see your point with no dementors, basilisks or plagues.

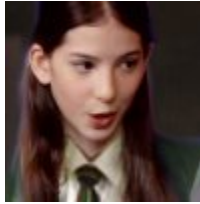
But NO EXPLOSIONS?

THEN WHERE'S ALL THE FUN?!



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 02:04:54](#)
(no subject)

I should jolly well hope your explosions don't kill anyone, though.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 02:07:18](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Bloody hell, you two. Joking about explosions is usually fine but maybe not this week!



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-07 02:29:57](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Er...very good point, Perks.

Sorry.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 01:28:07](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So. Who wants to lay wagers the Champion is anyone other than Harry Marvolo?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 01:44:06](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I don't know, he's only a fourth year, same as us. We haven't even taken our OWLs yet. And frankly Harry's not that good a student!

So it'll be Harry if they want it to be Harry but it'll be someone else if they actually want the Hogwarts person to be the champion, I think.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 02:15:24](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Of course they'll want it to be Harry. He's famous. Everyone in the Protectorate will want it to be him.

D'you see what Justin's saying about them 'fixing' the challenges so they're not so dangerous?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-07 02:16:58](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Sure they could make it less dangerous.

He'd still get bludgered if he were up against a couple of seventh years. Or whatever they are at Durmstrang and Beauxbatons.



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 01:50:00](#)

(no subject)

Got your eye on that prize money, then, Weasley?

Never happen. The champion's certain to be a seventh-year, innit?



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-07 01:52:54](#)

(no subject)

Don't count your basilisks before they're hatched. We Weasleys are going to give the champions a run for the galleons.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 02:05:06](#)

Private Message to Zacharias Smith

Zach!?! Do you have to wind people up?



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 02:06:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Zacharias Smith

Wot?

He's a *Weasley*, Sue. So are those idiot twin brothers of his. Everyone knows they're pure as snow but poor as field mice.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 02:10:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Zacharias Smith

The twins are mad, true--which is maybe a good reason not to wind them up actually. Who knows what colour they might turn you?

Ron doesn't seem too bad though.

Or is this part of that whole "No More Mr. Hufflepuff Nice Bloke" thing that I heard some of the 5th years talking about at lunch yesterday?



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-07 02:31:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Zacharias Smith

Too right, it's about that. We're tired of being thought of as completely naff.

Besides, I shouldn't worry about getting chummy--or not--with Ronald Weasley, of all blokes. For my money, Weasley's not worth bothering about. And no one who pays any attention would bother about him, at that.



[alt_susan](#) at [2011-09-07 02:44:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Zacharias Smith

Eh, I can see where you're coming from a bit on that. We aren't a lot of pushovers like some seem to think.

It's not like I'm queuing up to spend time with the Weasleys, but I don't see why people have to jarvey them down all the time either.

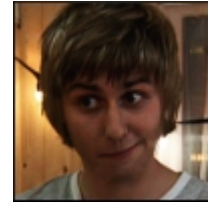
Well, except the twins--I caught some firsties crying in the corridor the other day because the twins had sold them some sweet that made their tongues swell up.

2011-09-06 21:05:00

ALORS!

Hello, all my new friends,

I've arrived at Beauxbatons - where our Headmistress just made the most amazingly SNITCH announcement!



alt_justin

Have you already heard as well?

I think I might be coming back to England this year, after all!

(Draco, mate, if this is what you meant earlier, then I owe you an apology. It's definitely superior!)



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-07 01:12:40**
(no subject)

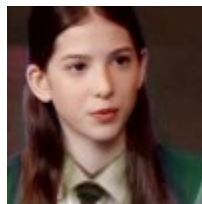
YES! Are you going to get to come with the French delegation? Are you going to enter?



alt_justin at **2011-09-07 01:16:20**
(no subject)

I'm not sure if I'll be allowed but I certainly would like to come back!

And if I do come, of *course* I'm going to enter! Can't have you all thinking my French education completely - er, naff, what?



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-07 01:18:33**
(no subject)

Well, Finnigan's right, it'll probably be NEWT students who get chosen, or whatever you have at your school like that (NEWTs are the second set of tests Hogwarts students take, the NEWT students are the 6th and 7th years). But no harm in trying!



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 01:25:44](#)

(no subject)

I'm not sure how they're choosing us, in point of fact. Mme Maxime (that's our Headmistress) said we'd be told who's selected.

Still, it stands to reason that those students who go ought to be making an effort to stand as champion, what?



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-07 01:16:23](#)

(no subject)

Totally wizard, isn't it?!

So you're going to get to come? That's brilliant.

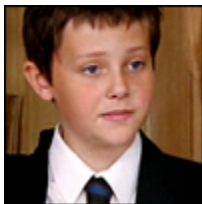


[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-07 02:04:48](#)

(no subject)

That's right!

Apology accepted.

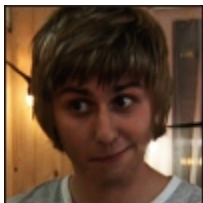


[alt_michael](#) at [2011-09-07 02:40:48](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, it's cool!

I hope you come back.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 02:54:28](#)

(no subject)

Rather.

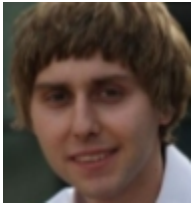
Yes, me as well.



[alt_lavender](#) at [2011-09-07 02:51:23](#)
(no subject)

We'll certainly be happy to welcome you and the rest of the delegation!

And the Bulgarian delegation too, of course.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-07 02:52:39](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, then!

How do you do? I'm Justin. Justin Finch-Fletchley.
Pleased to meet you.



[alt_lavender](#) at [2011-09-07 02:55:25](#)
(no subject)

And I'm very pleased to meet you as well! I'm
Lavender Brown.

2011-09-06 21:19:00

Private Message to Wilhelmina Grubbly-Plank



Auntie Mina,

Okay, when you said you had a big surprise for Ed and I, I didn't realise it would be that you were **becoming a Hogwarts professor!**

alt_susan

Seriously, in a million years I'd never have guessed.

Congrats, though! It should be pretty wizard, although getting used to calling you Professor Grubbly-Plank has been a bit odd.

I wonder if Professor Sprout knows that you used to tell us stories about all the mischief you two got up when you were in school?

Not that I think she'd mind--she has a sense of humour after all.

2011-09-06 21:57:00

Tri-Wizard Tournament

As was announced at supper in the Great Hall this evening, Hogwarts is to play host to the Tri-Wizard Tournament this year. We must all be grateful to have a chance to illustrate the strength and brilliance of the Protectorate to other nations!



 **alternity**
alt_mcgonagall

Any questions may be directed to me, or to individual Heads of House.



alt_lana at **2011-09-07 02:07:15**

(no subject)

Congratulations, Headmistress.

I know that Hogwarts will make us all proud with this tournament.



alt_percy at **2011-09-07 02:11:44**

(no subject)

Now that the news has finally been announced, I must say congratulations to Hogwarts! We are all so very proud that the school has been given this opportunity to shine for the Protectorate. I hope all the students--and the visitors--have a marvellous time with the tournament.



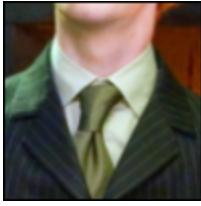
alt_penelope at **2011-09-07 03:02:21**

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Yes, it's very exciting.

And more work for the Prefects, I'm sure.

A little warning would have been welcome.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-07 11:47:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

And it would have been my neck if I had. I was cautioned more than once that this information was to have remained Top Secret.

But don't you see? It's real proof that Professor McGonagall thinks quite highly of you, that she picked you to be Head Girl, especially this year.



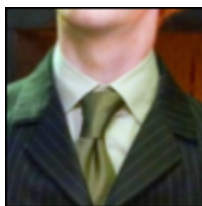
[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-07 12:40:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

No, I don't mean you ought to have told me 'The Tri-Wizard Tournament's being played at Hogwarts this year, Penny!' but you could have said *something* was coming, or to be prepared for

more than the usual number of students, or that we'd have a challenge, or something.

Look, I've got to go. Avery and I called a special meeting for the Prefects before breakfast. We're compiling a list of their questions for the Headmistress, since - well, you know, she sometimes responds better if one can get to her in person, with a number of questions, instead of all in a muddle.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-07 13:32:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

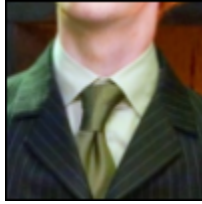
Actually, I do have to admit that I rather envy you. I mean, the Triwizard Tournament! Nothing like that's been seen at Hogwarts in ages! It's going to be such an exciting year for you, and it'll be a wonderful opportunity for your contribution to really stand out, which will certainly be good for your career prospects.



[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-07 13:48:27](#)
Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

Nice try. You're not off the hook.

Not that I'd trade you for your job, at least lately. How is Mr Malfoy? Still at home?



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-07 19:06:56](#)
Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

Still at home, but recovering. Not as quickly as he would like.



[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-07 03:03:42](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure that all our students will make an extra effort to be welcoming, gracious and upstanding examples to our foreign guests throughout the year.

Hogwarts will do you proud, Headmistress.

2011-09-07 17:12:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne

Rosa is expecting.

She sent me an owl.

She's known for weeks. She waited until I was away to tell me.

I've known for a long time that I am more of a grown-up than she will ever be, but this is just so infuriating. At least she gave me the courtesy of telling me instead of letting me read about my own half-sibling in the announcements section of the *Prophet*.

And as it is, I'll have enough time to put on a happy face about it when the announcement does come out.

Ugh.

Ugh ugh ugh.

Not that I'm surprised. It was sort of inevitable. I just can't help but feel like I've been completely replaced. Or will be in six or seven months, at least.

It's funny how people can hurt you even when you think that they don't matter to you any more.



alt_pansy



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-08 01:17:40**
(no subject)

She sent you an OWL? seven DAYS after we got on the train, when she'd known for WEEKS???

I don't even

UGH.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 01:18:51](#)
(no subject)

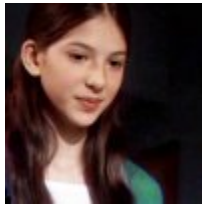
Also:

EW. She is too OLD for that.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 01:33:50](#)
(no subject)

apparently not.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 01:56:38](#)
(no subject)

Point.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 01:57:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm trying to remember now how Hydra found out.
Whether her mum told her in person or owled her.

Because if Bellatrix Lestrange was more considerate than your mum, that would REALLY be something. (All things considered though I imagine Hydra would prefer an owl.)



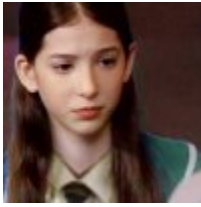
[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 13:18:53](#)
(no subject)

Now there's a thought.

I think the fact that mine is a half sibling is a factor, though. Like it's only half my family, and that half doesn't particularly care for me right now anyways. She's far too busy being the best Campbell that ever was.

Thank Merlin we had things to do this summer, otherwise I would have gone spare. I think next summer I'm just spending the whole

time in London, because it's not like I see them hardly at all even when we are living in the same house, so they wouldn't miss me.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 14:14:18](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Maybe I could come stay with you and we could pretend we're all grown up and living on our own.

That wouldn't be so bad.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 16:08:50](#)
(no subject)

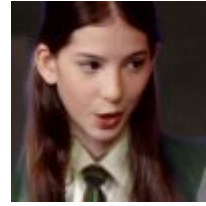
It won't be that much longer until we are.

I can't wait.

Maybe you could write St Mungos and ask them for a summer internship? That way you'd have to stay in London, wouldn't you?

2011-09-07 21:17:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

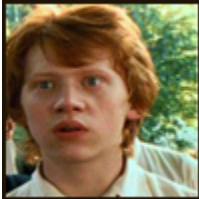


Ron, did you see what Clearwater said about how the Champions get picked?

alt_sally_anne

It's the CUP that chooses who's most worthy.

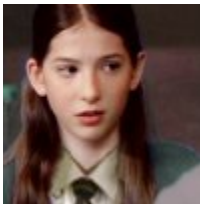
Is anyone going to say anything about how the Cup decides? I don't want to ask, Clearwater already twitted me for not paying attention last night when the Headmistress was talking.



alt_ron at **2011-09-08 12:25:36**
(no subject)

Um.

What do you mean how the Cup decides?



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-08 12:44:26**
(no subject)

I mean, do they know whether the Cup cares more about your spellcasting or your character? Your skill in Charms, or Transfiguration, or Defense? Or is everything sort of rolled in to one?

Maybe they don't even know. I suppose we could look up the historical competition, there's probably something in the library.



alt_ron at **2011-09-08 12:48:19**
(no subject)

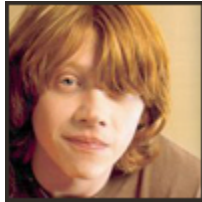
Oh. Uh.

Well, it's magic, innit?



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 13:20:01](#)
(no subject)

Maybe it's like the Sorting Hat.

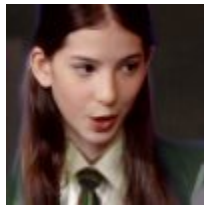


[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-08 14:01:01](#)
(no subject)

That makes a lot of sense, actually.

Sure. So it can sort of see what everyone can do and then compares them.

Heh. D'you think everyone has to put their heads into the Cup?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 14:12:46](#)
(no subject)

No, just a piece of parchment with our names.

Anyway I wasn't trying to guess how it worked, obviously it's magic. I just want to know what the Cup thinks makes people worthy. I know how the Sorting Hat decides who goes into Gryffindor or Slytherin or wherever because it tells you when it sings its song!



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-08 14:25:23](#)
(no subject)

Are you planning to put your name in?

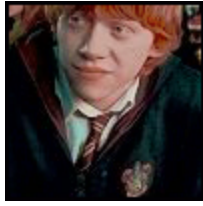
Or planning to bet on who it'll pick?



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 16:10:59](#)
(no subject)

I think it's far more likely that it'll be someone older.

Wouldn't it be funny if the Cup decided that Fred AND George should be our champions? Like a team?



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-08 16:31:16](#)
(no subject)

HA.

Think what Patil would say about that! (She's being a complete witch over on Clearwater's thing.)



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-08 16:40:24](#)
(no subject)

I saw. She's such an utter cow. And she tries to be so *subtle*, but she so is not. At all.

2011-09-07 21:26:00

Some clarifications about the Tri-Wizard Cup

The Prefects had a meeting to compile all the questions people have been asking, and this evening your Head Boy and I had a chance to bring those questions to the Headmistress. What follows are her answers and a few common-sense reminders:



- There is no age restriction for hopefuls but fourth-years and below are strongly reminded that they are very unlikely to be chosen. Please think carefully about your chances and your strengths before putting your name in for consideration.
- The participants from Durmstrang and Beauxbatons will be housed within the castle and will take lessons alongside their age-mates. At the moment, we anticipate that part of Ravenclaw Tower will be made available to the Beauxbatons students and a section of the dungeons will become the Durmstrang students' new home while they are visiting. Please accord them every courtesy as they learn their way round the castle and adjust to lessons with us.
- As a result of the demands on the staff, grounds and champions themselves, we are suspending the year's Quidditch season. There will be no Quidditch Cup this year and the pitch will be temporarily converted for use in the Tournament.
- Challenges for the Tri-Wizard Tournament are under the control of the Department of Magical Games and Sports and the Department of International Magical Co-Operation. Some students or staff may be given prior knowledge of a given task or challenge. Anyone found sharing information with a champion that might prove to give them an unfair advantage will be subject not only to Hogwarts' disciplinary action, but also the Ministry's.
- It should go without saying, but no one will but the champions will be excused from end-of-term exams. Training for the Cup or assisting a champion to train will not be considered a valid excuse for failing to complete any professor's assignment.

- The Cup will be displayed once our visiting delegations arrive in October and students may submit their names beginning that evening. The Champions' names will be drawn on Halloween.

Obviously, we all have or have friends who have aspirations for the Hogwarts Champion, but only one person will be chosen. Avery and I trust that you will all show the champion - whomever she or he is - your full support, but will also remember that the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students are also our guests. The purpose behind the Tri-Wizard Tournament remains, as it was in its heyday, to build relationships with wizards and witches outside our own country and, now that it has returned, to teach them by word and deed of the truly remarkable world which we in the Protectorate can enjoy.

Please bear that in mind as we look forward to the exciting days ahead.



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-08 01:48:43](#)

(no subject)

No Quidditch?

At all?

Not even try-outs?

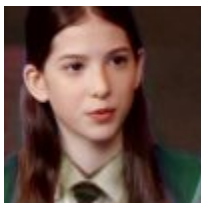


[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-08 01:50:12](#)

(no subject)

No, Smith. None at all.

I expect it will resume as usual next year. You'll simply have to wait.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-08 02:00:33](#)

(no subject)

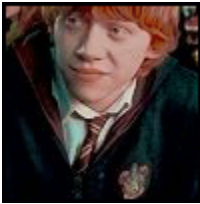
How will the Champions be chosen? I was sort of assuming they'd be chosen by the professors but you said 'drawn' which makes me wonder if it's by lot?



[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-08 02:02:19](#)
(no subject)

You weren't listening when the Headmistress explained last night, Perks?

The Tri-Wizard Goblet will do the Choosing. All you do is put your name on a scrap of parchment and toss it in.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-08 12:28:40](#)
(no subject)

We've got loads of extra space in Gryffindor Tower. Why can't the French kids stay with us?



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-08 12:39:15](#)
(no subject)

I should think that's obvious.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-08 12:47:14](#)
(no subject)

No, I don't think it is obvious, Patil. What are you saying?



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-08 14:27:36](#)
(no subject)

Only that the Head Boy and Girl are in Slytherin and Ravenclaw and that's where the visiting students are staying.

Why, what did you think I meant?



alt_blaise at 2011-09-08 16:45:10
(no subject)

Are you really that dense, Weasley?

Clearly the school wants to show its best face to our visitors. The Headmistress knows what she's

about.

2011-09-08 22:01:00

Private Message to Padma Patil

Padma, I'm very sorry to have let so many days go by without answering your note. It was lovely to hear from you and to remember how exciting the first days back at school always were. It all sounds rather wonderful.



alt_lana

Thanks for asking after my grandmother. I'm so very grateful to your brother and the other Healers who took care of her. They saved her life. But it seems there was much more to it than just the physical injury she suffered. It was really all so horrible that my Abuela Luisa is still in shock over it. She's slipping, I guess you'd say. We're all very worried for her.

Oh, to be honest, I think I'm still in shock, too, rather. Do you know, I've never been so glad I have work to pour myself into, and in the first days after the Cup I was pulled in to help on the investigation. On the office end of it, processing reports and coordinating information among the units.

But now I'm back to my intensive, which is with our very top specialist in Arcane Magics, but, Padma, I never thought I'd say this about a challenging subject, but it's just so lifeless. I can't find any part of it to enjoy. And I don't know whether it's because it seems so useless in contrast to everything that's just happened, or whether it's because Mustinal is dull--and, oh, dear, he really is--or whether it's because I've discovered that I'm really more suited to the active parts of investigation and there haven't been any matters that required him to actually be involved, so he's just working on writing his current book.

It's just really difficult to feel engaged, and it's so easy to think about things that I want to set aside and never think of again.

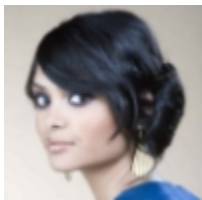
I keep hearing the roar of it, and it's as though I can still feel the way the floor and then everything else rumbled--even the air--and then I see that girder falling and the stone showering down in all those crumbled bits all around us. And on us.

I'm sorry. I know you remember it, too. Only, we just haven't any of us talked about it. Not at home and not at work, except the professional aspects of sorting through evidence.

And I know that's best. Really, it's the only way to get on with all the things that need doing. I only wish I were assigned somewhere I could actually be useful.

Well. That was more than you wanted to know, and I didn't mean to worry you or disappoint you when you think everything I've been doing has been exciting. It was. Really, it was up until this latest assignment, and it will get better again, so don't put much weight on what I've said here.

I hope you continue to have a wonderful fourth year. I rather envy you, having the tournament there and all the visitors. So do enjoy it. And write to tell me about it when you have a chance.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-09 13:04:27](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I don't mind; I know how busy you are. To be honest I've had loads of schoolwork as well.

I think it just takes a long time, sometimes, to get over a really horrible thing happening. I mean, we are all so used to being safe behind the wards, you know? And MLE takes such care with the preparations so there really shouldn't have ever been a problem. It's like Director Yaxley said, that it couldn't have happened without someone like Hooper's brother helping them on the inside.

And maybe the older a person is, the harder it is to recover. Does your grandmother have anything she really likes to do? My Dadi loves to clean, of all things, when she's upset. When Sanji went missing the house was *spotless* and she wouldn't let anyone else even lift a duster.

But I do think that talking about it is bound to help. Not *dwelling* on it, you know, but thinking clearly about what made it scary and how to prevent something like it ever happening again, and being able to be sad now and then. And reflecting on how we all responded to the crisis.

Which you did so beautifully, Lana, really. I'm sure you made an impression on even your worst critics at MLE. And as far as the Arcane Magics--you're right, it sounds as if it ought to be completely fascinating. It's really a shame it's not. It's sort of like History of Magic with Binns, isn't it, or ~~how Professor Carrow got worse~~ I

dunno, revising for OWLs, I expect. Maybe you could talk to someone who's been through the unit with him before and get some pointers on how to make it more interesting. And meanwhile, talk to everyone you can about the next unit, so you'll be sure to get a better assignment.

I mean, it stands to reason that not everything about crime-fighting can be exciting but you're clearly never meant for mere desk work!

I'm actually really flattered that you told me all this. Truly. I remember how much you helped me in my first and second years, with everything that was going on, and I'm glad if I can repay it just a little now and then.

I think the tournament will be interesting, but really, there's only one champion each so what's going to be the most interesting will be having the other students here. Do you know if there will be very many coming who are in our year? Or will they all be older? Or maybe you don't know if you've been stuck in a musty old office all this time.

Oh, Lana, it will get better for you, it has to do! They just can't put you in a cupboard for very long. It wouldn't be fair to the rest of us, either. After all, we need you doing what you're best at!



[alt_lana](#) at 2011-09-09 14:21:35

(no subject)

You may be right about Mustinal. He is like Binns, rather, only he can't drift through walls, which made Binns the more exciting of the two. And Binns didn't reek of cigars.

But to tell truth, I quite enjoyed revising for OWLs and NEWTs: I loved combing back through all the material and designing ways to sort it in my head so I could remember each bit of it quickly. You'll be surprised, I think, how really wonderful it feels to prepare for exams. Especially while everyone else and their familiars whinge on about how overwhelmed they are!

About the tournament, though, I completely agree that the most interesting part will be meeting the students from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. That will be so enriching.

But the best of it is that you'll meet a whole new set of boys you'd never have met any other way. I expect you'll find the French and Bulgarians very much more interesting than the boys you've known for ages.

Meeting strangers is really thrilling, I think. Mind you, I've only had a few chances and all since I've begun working, but it's a treat when it happens.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-09 16:29:53](#)

(no subject)

Well, don't think Lav and Parvati and I haven't thought about that! Of course, there's still the same problem as last year, isn't there, with people getting the wrong idea if one goes somewhere alone with a boy. But I bet we could invite some of the visitors to Ravenclaw Corner and no one would object!

I did sit with the Prefects more often than not this week. Not completely, because I don't want to ignore Su Li and Belinda and Linus, of course. But it's ever so much more interesting taking meals with the older kids. And just last night Davies specifically asked me what I thought about Cox's chance to be Hogwarts' champion. Well, it's the sort of thing that's hard to answer without offending someone, isn't it, but I said that I thought any of the Ravenclaws in 6th or 7th year had a better chance than Bundy or Fleet, and they all laughed and said 'Good show' and Davies in particular sort of smiled at me in a--well, a *considering* sort of way.

I dunno. He's two years ahead. Which is a lot. But if someone like Davies is noticing, then some of the older boys from Durmstrang or Beauxbatons would be likely to take an interest, too. But then what? They'll go back and we'll still be here. Unless this means that the Lord Protector's considering opening the wards more often? That would be wizard, being able to travel.

Then there's that Finch-Fletchley boy. He seems very nice--but then, he seems like he's nice to everyone. It's a little ridiculous, actually. I can't make out whether he's daft or just desperate. I mean, I saw his picture in that little bit that was in the papers, he's well handsome, but, he doesn't seem terribly discerning, know what I mean?

Anyway, I should get on to lessons. But it's so nice to be able to talk to you again. You've been so busy and I haven't wanted to bother you. I hope that when you do move on to another specialty, you can manage to stay in touch even with all the other things going on!

[2011-09-09 10:04:00](#)

Order Only



[alt_macnair](#)

Had some time to think this week, mostly reading through different reports about the explosion at the Quidditch Cup and such. Also re-read what you wrote, Black, condemning those who were involved. I assume that what you wrote was meant to be an expression of the mindset that most of the Order share - the ones who weren't forced on you, anyway.

Thing is, I'm still not really clear on what we do. The Order, that is. Snape and I traveled together because we both saw we shared a common goal: ridding the world of one of the most dangerous megalomaniacs it's ever known. So far, I haven't heard much talk of how to make that happen.

Rousing the people themselves to depose of the "puppets" is well and good, but there are too many people who don't realise who the puppets are, or even see that they themselves might be one. Not all the vital cogs in the Protectorate wear the mark. Most of them - like the camp administrators, the mid-level Ministry workers - probably consider themselves decent folk who are just trying to keep their head down and ride things out.

The only people who are moved to action right now are the ones who have already suffered to extremes, and because of that, their goal is one built on revenge, not change. I share your condemnation of their plots because they are chaotic and put others in harms way, in addition to making more people fear *them*, the resistance, than the one they should really fear.

But, I can't fault them for their desire to take action, even if the way they go about it is wrong-headed. What if the explosion at the cup had been better executed and Voldemort had been killed. Would the deaths of those innocents not have been an acceptable loss?

Because innocents are already dying every day, and in slower, far less merciful ways. Smuggling in wands and hiding people away in a sanctuary doesn't do the rest of them any good. Neither does passing the job of deposing on to people who have shown themselves to be unwilling.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-09 18:50:41](#)
(no subject)

Well, I've told you before, it's hard to get the Order to speak on any topic with a single voice. But no, generally speaking I like to think we don't condone the careless destruction of life. There are times when self-defence is necessary but - well, Dumbledore continually warned us that non-lethal options were always preferable to murder.

I understand their frustration as well, though - and yours. It's difficult to find purchase when there doesn't seem to be a direct path to victory. We've been concentrated on doing what we can on a small scale, person-to-person. Since I've been back in the country we missed that one shipment, which is hurting us a great deal, both for funds to continue our more covert activities and for the supplies we can't get any other way and need to make polyjuice and half a dozen other important potions. That's why Melisandra was such a groundbreaking discovery (and Hermione, again, if you can still talk to Terry, tell him how much it meant that he wanted to get her to us). If she can successfully start making wands, in addition to the ones we can smuggle, then we might be able to accelerate our efforts to get them back in the hands of muggleborns.

And no, it doesn't help them all. If you've got ideas about how to overturn the whole system in a single go, let's hear them. Currently we're nipping at the edges, we know, but every one we save adds momentum.

As it happens, the three of us here at Laszlo's have been talking more about that extra hiding place across the back garden. I do think we could easily get half a dozen people at a time, maybe more, into that building without anyone noticing, if we could then get them on to another spot at some point safely. I'm hoping Lucinda has some more information from that Mrs Fellsworthy; connecting to the Underground would be excellent, I think. If we can get muggleborn out of the camps and safely in place by the Solstice, then we could bring them through the wards to Norway or Sweden when the wards go down. If they want to leave, of course. If they'd prefer to stay and fight, that's all right. I think John would love to lead a skirmish team.

There's that Ministry bloke to pay off every month or so but I think we've got his number now. Assuming we can raise the payment he won't be any trouble.



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-09 21:50:20](#)
(no subject)

If I had an idea that could change things in a single go I'd have shared it. But more talk about it is a start.

I guess I've had the advantage of seeing a long-standing institution obliterated up-close, but I reckon that none of you would want to utilise the kind of tactics it took to change the face of Britain so completely. I'm not keen to revisit them myself.

Wands in the hands of muggleborns helps, but it would be better to have those who have been long-trained in using them on our side.

How often does recruiting go on, if at all?



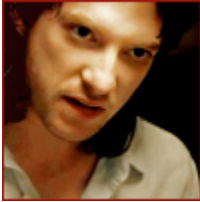
[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-11 14:18:26](#)
(no subject)

I apologise for coming belatedly to this conversation; I suppose my reasons for having not seen it until this morning are indicative of much of the problem: most of us are embedded in 'respectable' cover within the life of the regime we seek to subvert, and that distracts us from the thing we say we wish to accomplish.

I do think a conversation about 'recruitment' is overdue. I do not, however, mean recruitment to our core group. That's far too risky. The one thing I think we might learn from this Dogstar group is the way they appear to organise themselves in order to frustrate MLE's ability to bring down the whole when one cell or another falls.

You do, however, have a point in suggesting that we need more people on our side. Indeed, if we had a way to turn wizards who have served the regime, but who could now be brought to stand against it, it would be something. I suppose the question is whether we need not only to win the consciences of those people away from unquestioning allegiance to the Protectorate but also to organise them and incorporate them into some large, structured movement we would direct.

That has not been our intention heretofore, though our relationship with the group in Sherwood might suggest a structure we could develop.



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-09 19:22:48](#)
(no subject)

I have to admit that when I read this, I had to leave my desk to take a bit of a walk because I was so angry. I guess that means you've managed to hit a nerve.

But maybe that's not a bad thing, that you're challenging us to think about what, exactly, we're doing here. I wish we were doing more, not to save just a person here or there, but to do something, something big that will take down this whole rotten regime. Well, not by committing mass murder. Or at least--

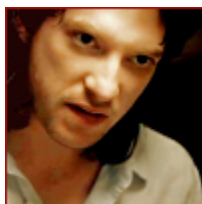
Hmm....if Voldemort had been killed on that day, what then? Would the whole miserable apparatus continue to grind on, enslaving people, and someone else equally as despicable would simply step into the Lord Protector's role? What could get this yoke off our backs once and for all?

I may need to go for another walk.



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-09 19:31:59](#)
(no subject)

Why the anger, son?



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-09 19:33:44](#)
(no subject)

I suppose because...it felt almost like an accusation, that we're not doing enough.

But he's right. It may hurt like bubotuber pus to admit it, but we aren't.



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-09 19:36:57](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps I'm more resigned. Because of the nature of my job. I mean, think about it: the people I'm nominally in charge of, the muggleborns, die every single day, under the most appalling conditions.

If I stop to think about it, the sheer horror of it all would prevent me from doing the bit that I can do.



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-09 22:02:35](#)
Private message to Arthur Weasley

You work at the Ministry - something to do with the muggleborns, then?



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-10 19:32:26](#)
Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

Yes, I'm with the Committee of Muggleborn Labour Services, with work assignments, in other words. I am also a liaison to the Department of Muggle Domestication. That's what gives me an in to the camps, both the muggles and muggleborn.



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-10 20:14:46](#)
Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

So if someone wanted to find out where a particular muggleborn was being kept, you'd be the person to ask, then?



[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-09-10 21:32:31](#)
Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

Yes, I would be. Is there someone in particular you want me to trace?

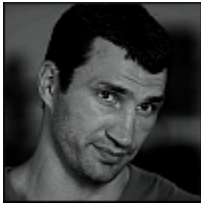


[alt_macnair](#) at 2011-09-11 00:18:55

Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

Possibly.

I'll have to think about it.



[alt_macnair](#) at 2011-09-09 21:59:53

(no subject)

Didn't mean it like that exactly.

A lot of good's being done here, I can see that. But there's a lot of tentativeness too. Maybe a desire to protect the gains that have already been made is favoured over bolder moves.

Don't know if Voldemort being killed would have changed things overnight, but I'm inclined to think it would have emboldened regular folk in ways we can't really imagine. What's the Protectorate without its Protector?

In some ways, he was a fool to fashion himself as a god.

2011-09-10 21:08:00

ORDER ONLY

Sirius, I think --

It seems like I know some people who would like to ask you about some things, I mean people we can trust, really trust, at least enough that I can be go-between, and now that you're officially alive again at least to anyone with a brain, well, if you wanted to answer some questions, I mean, I could ask them.



alt_hermione



alt_molly at **2011-09-11 01:40:55**
(no subject)

He may be Padfoot right now, Hermione.



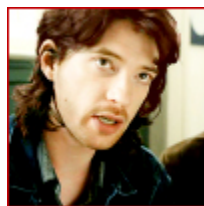
alt_bill at **2011-09-11 01:41:51**
(no subject)

Huh. I suppose it's best not to inquire who's asking.



alt_molly at **2011-09-11 01:42:58**
(no subject)

I'm not sure this is a very good idea.



alt_bill at **2011-09-11 01:44:52**
(no subject)

Well, I think it's a brilliant idea, actually, Mum. They can safely ask without identifying themselves.

Especially considering we have a pretty good hunch who some of these questioners are.



[alt_molly](#) at [2011-09-11 01:45:47](#)
(no subject)

Oh, dear.



[alt_molly](#) at [2011-09-11 01:46:34](#)
(no subject)

Arthur...shouldn't we put a stop to this?



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-11 01:47:30](#)
(no subject)

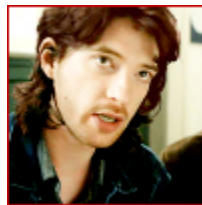
If you'd tried to keep me from asking questions when I was this age, I probably would have never joined the Order.



[alt_molly](#) at [2011-09-11 01:55:19](#)
(no subject)

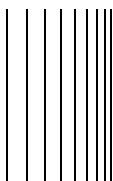
Oh, I suppose.

It's just...the thought that all of the children might joining us....the stakes seem so much higher, and it just gives me chills.



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-11 01:56:06](#)
(no subject)

Except Percy. Probably.



[alt_molly](#) at [2011-09-11 01:56:32](#)
(no subject)

That just makes it worse.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-11 13:09:04](#)
(no subject)

Molly had it right in one, Hermione. Friday and Saturday evenings are particularly difficult with the beer garden doing its trade. But that's all right; you've probably less leisure to write than I.

Now, about these people and these questions. Well. I'm happy to answer them if we're able to do without compromising our security. But what I'm not sure of is whether your telling them the answer would constitute a violation of your Unbreakable Vow.

I suppose another problem I can foresee is what to do if the person asking the question doesn't much like the answer. Because I'm not going to ask who's asking but - well, I can think of at least a dozen questions people could ask - people in the position to be asking me through you, that is - that might have very harsh answers for them. I shouldn't want the facts to reflect poorly on you or to get you into trouble with anyone. That's really more a problem for me, in crafting my answers, I suppose, than for you in simply saying what I've said.

So, if we can determine to our satisfaction that your acting as a messenger will not bring about your untimely and incredibly unwelcome death, I think I can manage to reply tactfully enough ~~for~~ ~~Pa~~ that the answers shouldn't offend anyone.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-11 16:14:48](#)
(no subject)

Sorry I didn't get a chance to respond to this more quickly, Hermione. As Sirius said, Saturday nights are busy ones; all the more so when I need to get things in order such that my absence on Monday night isn't noticed.

I, for one, am more than a little curious about what your trusted

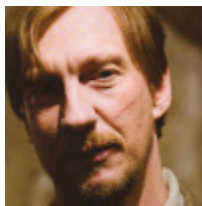
friends would like to ask. You should probably do your best to avoid any details that would identify them to us with any certainty. I'm sure we all have our suspicions, but it would be safer for everyone if we don't know.

Molly and Arthur -- on one hand, I respect that you're worried about your children becoming involved too quickly. On the other, I look at Percy and know how much you don't want your other children to follow in his path. There's no danger of that with the Twins, I'm sure, but Ron is being courted by Dominic Selwyn. At this point it seems unlikely to turn his head, but you never know. And Ginny seems particularly impressed with anything that suggests wealth and glamour.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-11 18:05:39](#)
(no subject)

We were only a year older than the twins when Dumbledore recruited us, after all.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-11 22:21:41](#)
(no subject)

We were that young?

...I suppose you're right.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-11 22:42:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes, even you, Moony, were once that young.

Of course, Dumbledore insisted we be of age when we joined. And it was a different time, with more open warfare. And of course, the biggest difference was that Voldemort hadn't come to power so while we weren't operating with the full support of the Ministry, we were at the least less likely to be thrown in prison for our efforts than our foe.

My biggest concern isn't the people asking the questions, it's what will happen to Hermione if she provides the answers, even if it's merely as a relay.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-11 23:58:46](#)
(no subject)

If they already know she has a way of communicating directly with Sirius, surely passing answers wouldn't matter? Minerva, what do you think? You know rather more about the Unbreakable Vow than I do.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-12 00:10:05](#)
(no subject)

It depends on the questions, though. If they ask anything which requires a revelation about the Order, then we might be in trouble.

If they just want to ask me personal questions, well - then the only worry is *how* personal. In which case 'No comment' is always an option.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-12 00:14:41](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'd say Hermione should ask. And the Order as a whole can decide whether these are reasonably innocuous questions, or if they'd reveal too much -- either because they'd put Hermione in danger, or because children we don't know shouldn't have that much information.

What exactly was the wording of her vow? Minerva?

2011-09-10 22:09:00

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Lucius;

I got your owl today, and the locket is absolutely perfect. I'm wearing it right now, and I just love it. I'd been feeling rather down lately about you getting hurt and Mum being Mum everything else, and this just made me feel ever so happy.



alt_pansy

I'm so glad you're feeling better.

Your LB



alt_lucius at **2011-09-11 02:34:29**
(no subject)

Already arrived? Good.

I do wish that you had not taken the situation as cause for such alarm but I understand that I gave not a few people rather a fright. Luckily I have been under excellent care - and I am made of stronger stuff than Hooper evidently thought.

What else has been troubling you? Draco's last mentioned something about you behaving less than your customary best.



alt_pansy at **2011-09-11 16:30:36**
(no subject)

It's nothing all that important, considering.

I mean, people are still sorting through what happened with the bomb and all, and I don't blame them for it. It was awful. Sally-Anne still has nightmares about it. And I know Draco was

But. Anyways. Rosa is pregnant.

The announcement should be in the paper today. I haven't read it yet to see.

She only just let me know a few days ago, even though she found out weeks before.

I know we haven't been on the best of terms, but it just feels like a giant slap in the face. And a reminder that I am no longer part of her family. Because she has a brand new one. So I've been rather angry and disappointed about the whole thing, when it's something I'm supposed to be happy over, and now that everybody will know, I've got to put on a happy face, which I am not looking forward to.

I'm not looking forward to Christmas hols either. I've always felt like a visitor at Gloss House, and this will make it a sure thing.

It seems so petty, writing it all down. I've just been feeling blue lately, and this made me more blue, is all.

But the locket helped. Because it reminded me that I have people that *do* care about me.



[alt_lucius](#) at [2011-09-11 17:50:17](#)
(no subject)

Now wait just a moment, Pansy. It's one thing your calling me 'Lucius' without any sort of qualifier, as we have an understanding. Your mother is another matter. When did you decide it would be acceptable to call her by her name? Is this a trend we may expect henceforth? How long shall it be before the Headmistress is 'Minerva' or the Minister for Magic is 'Cornelius?'

If we are discussing what is petty, my dear, then it must be said your form of address bespeaks your withdrawal as much as any change on her part. Can you expect her to overflow with warmth if you treat her with so much disrespect?

As for her announcement, yes, we read it in the papers this morning. It's true she and Campbell seem to be losing little time but I fail to see why an impending sibling should signify a desire on her part to separate you further from the centre of her family. Have you evidence of such a change in her affections? Has Prospero ever treated you as less than a full-blooded member of his family?

I shall not presume to know what you perceive or what she may

truly feel, only to note that a strain between mother and daughter is not uncommon at your age. In a few years, you may find yourself in want of her if you pull yourself away now.

Nonetheless, I am glad you like the locket. It is indeed good to be reminded now and again that one is cherished.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-11 18:11:17](#)

(no subject)

It's possible I read a little much into the fact that she chose to wait til I was at Hogwarts to tell me.

And I suppose it's unfair to judge her for the way she went about the whole vault exchange. She was getting married, so she had a lot on her mind.

She's had a new household to organize and new duties as Prospero's wife, which means that she hasn't had as much time for me as she had in the past.

I can break it down and rationalize it piece by piece, but it's hard not to look at all of it as a whole and wonder when I ought to start taking it personally.

Prospero has been kind, but uninvolved. I'm not a Campbell. He's not my father. Which is what we'd both prefer, I think. So that's no loss.

Even though I know it's selfish of me, part of me feels as if it shouldn't be entirely my responsibility. That if my mother wants to continue to be my mother in role as well as title, she ought to extend herself at least a little.

But it could very well be all in my head.

You're right, though. I ought to be more respectful. At the very least, I oughtn't act in the very same way that I'm judging her for.



[alt_lucius](#) at [2011-09-11 18:38:47](#)

(no subject)

That is better. It is always wisest not to let one's emotions cloud one's judgement.

As for your mother's obligations, I cannot say whether she is more demonstrative or less compared to when you and she lived alone. I believe, however, if you consider her behaviour during the worst of her episodes, on balance, we all prefer her healthy, happy and in control over her actions. I should also counsel you that you may wish to decide for yourself what it is you truly want from your mother, rather than waste time guessing what it is she wants from you, in order to determine how best to obtain it.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-11 19:03:05](#)

(no subject)

Sometimes I wish it didn't have to be so difficult.

But yes, I see your point.

2011-09-11 18:48:00

Various notes



alt_draco

It's been a full week back, that's to be said. Along with all the talk about the Triwizard announcement, a lot of people have been asking me if I can teach them to speak French. All I can say to that is that if I had that kind of free time, I'd be some kind of professor or something. But for those of you that already have SOME kind of conversational knowledge of the language, I was thinking of forming a weekend afternoon group where we can just practise talking to each other while drinking tea or something. I'm a bit rusty myself, but when she was here I spoke to my Aunt Amanda almost entirely in French, so I've already gotten some good practise in in the last few weeks.

Along those lines, me and the lads on the Slytherin quidditch team have agreed that it'll be important to keep up with our flying, even with quidditch cancelled for the year. If any of the other house teams want to arrange some impromptu pick-up matches, talk to me or Harry or anyone else on the Slytherin team.

Has anyone else noticed how much nicer the food is at school, compared to last year? The elves must have stepped up their efforts, now that we'll be hosting guests. Or maybe they're getting better food and ingredients - anyway, something's definitely different.



alt_draco at 2011-09-12 01:04:45

Private message to Pansy

I saw the announcement in the papers this morning.

How long have you known? Are you feeling all right about it? In my owl to Father this week I told him you seemed like you were down, but I just assumed it was because of what happened at the cup.

I hope you're all right.

-D



[alt_pansy at 2011-09-12 01:55:30](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I just found out about it on Thursday.

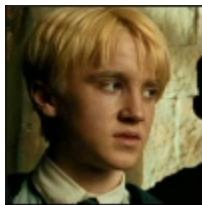
She sent me an owl.

She's known for weeks.

I'm trying not to seem too put out by it, and I talked to Lucius about it earlier, which helped a little, but I'm still

I don't know how I am.

I can't help feeling like I don't have a family any more.



[alt_draco at 2011-09-12 02:00:54](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

She owled you about it?

That's rubbish. Flat out rubbish.

Pansy, I'm sorry. I should have asked you if something was going on - I just assumed it was because of everything else that's happened lately.

I'm sure your Mother loves you, because how could she not. But she's always sort of seemed...juvenile, I guess. And when you think about it, that's the sort of thing a little kid would do, wait to send an owl instead of talking face to face.



[alt_pansy at 2011-09-12 02:05:08](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

It is rubbish, isn't it?

Like she was afraid of what I'd say.

And don't worry. It's partially my fault. I didn't say anything, after all. I guess I figured you had enough to worry about, and really, compared to what other people were dealing with, my problems seemed really small.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 02:13:25](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

It's not small if it had you upset.

Did you reply to your mother yet? What'd you say to her? What'd my father say?



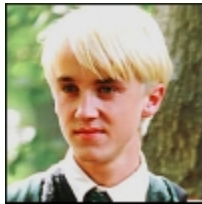
[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-12 02:26:20](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I sent off an owl on Saturday, and told them all my best and congratulations and all that. I'm actually a little grateful I got to write it down instead of having to say it to her face, because

I'm not sure I would've been convincing at all.

He seemed to think it was a normal teenage girl thing, to be at odds with one's mother. And that I ought to be respectful, and not give her reason to distance herself from me. And that it was always best to not let emotions get in the way.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 02:34:08](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

That's sounds about like what I'd expect him to say. It's good advice, really, except not exactly easy. How do you just get rid of your emotions? It's not like a banishing spell would do it.

I've just gotten very good at performing and pretending, myself. *My Father is absolutely fine, of course. What of it?*

But I'm not sure I could do that all the time if I didn't have someone to talk to about how I really felt. So thanks for being there, with what happened with Father, and for the packages and everything else.

I always want to return the favour but I'm not as good at mind-reading as you.



[alt_pansy at 2011-09-12 02:42:30](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Well, you're doing a pretty good job of it right now.

So thank you back.

Are you still in the Common Room? It's been ages since I heard you play your guitar. If you'd be up for it, that is.

And I think that's a good thing to know. That it's easier when you have someone you can talk to. And I have Sally-Anne, of course, and you have Harry, but we also have each other, don't we. And I'll be sure to remember that next time I really need to talk to someone who I know will listen.



[alt_draco at 2011-09-12 02:48:27](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I'll bring my guitar if you bring yours. It's probably in need of a good tuning, actually...

Harry's good to talk to about some things, but not always as good as you, to be honest.

It's too bad summer's over.



[alt_pansy at 2011-09-12 02:57:17](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I know how you mean. Because Sally-Anne is wonderfully sympathetic, but there are some things she just doesn't understand the way that you do.

I'll bring my guitar.



[alt_zacharias](#) at **[2011-09-12 01:11:40](#)**
(no subject)

Flying would be wizard, Malfoy, cheers. We'll have to make sure your French club doesn't conflict with our *other* new little club, eh?



[alt_padma](#) at **[2011-09-12 01:12:57](#)**
(no subject)

What other club?



[alt_michael](#) at **[2011-09-12 01:13:35](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, it's just for the boys, you wouldn't know about it.



[alt_daphne](#) at **[2011-09-12 01:26:28](#)**
Private message to Padma

The boys are having some *boys club* and they're being ever so secretive about it. I only figured it out because Draco and some of the others came down before dinner smelling like smoke and brandy, just like they did after Blaise's party that I arranged for him last year.

Don't tell them we're on to them, though! They're so KEEN on themselves about it, it's terribly funny!



[alt_padma](#) at **[2011-09-12 01:34:05](#)**
Re: Private message to Padma

Oh for Lakshmi's sake! They think they're so clever, don't they?

Well, that explains why Corner was so quick to tell me it was nothing. And why Linus is blushing every time he looks up from his book (which isn't all that often but still).

The worst thing is, we can't even wipe the smug looks off their faces by forming our *own* girls-only club, because then they'll assume we're doing nothing but talking about them the whole time!

Boys.



[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-09-12 01:45:04

Re: Private mesage to Padma

But we must indulge them in their delusions, if we're to stay one step ahead!

I think we *should* form a girls club, yes. And spend every session doing laps, pull-ups, and all the other things we learned in CCF. How baffled they'd be, to see us sweating and fighting while they're all getting together to gossip like old ninnies!

Which isn't to say that we can't talk about them while we're doing laps. Heh.



[alt_padma](#) at 2011-09-12 01:47:49

Re: Private mesage to Padma

That's a brilliant idea, actually! I've been finding it quite difficult to keep up with all the exercises this week but we really ought not to slip.

Yes, let's! Especially if these teas keep catching on - Tea of the Strange, French Tea, boys' teas - we'll be loads ahead of the others who spend their time just pigging out.



[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-09-12 01:51:22

Re: Private mesage to Padma

We should arrange it so that it's going on at the exact say time as the boys' club, too!

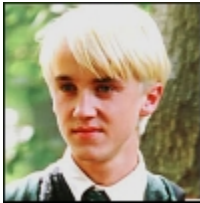
This will be perfectly delightful, I think.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:52:59](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

Right. You tell yours; I'll tell mine. Parvati can tell the Gryffindors and you can have Milli or Parkinson tell the Hufflepuff girls.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:20:30](#)

(no subject)

Not in any ways that won't be interesting, at least.

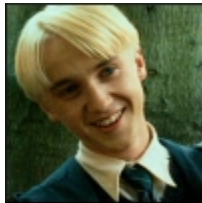


[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-12 01:35:44](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Huh?

What've you got in mind, then?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:40:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Nothing specific, only there'll be a lot of girls wanting to learn French, I reckon. Which equals all sorts of interesting possibilities.



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-12 01:42:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well, yeah. That's why we'll have to keep them separate, so there can be both.

For a minute I was thinking you were thinking of inviting some of those Bulgarian Veela to a future meeting of our club.

Now, that would be interesting!



[alt_draco at 2011-09-12 01:48:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

My reach doesn't extend that far, Smith, sorry to say. Not yet, anyway.

Sounds like the sort of thing Daphne would try to arrange for Blaise's birthday, or something, though.



[alt_zacharias at 2011-09-12 01:51:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

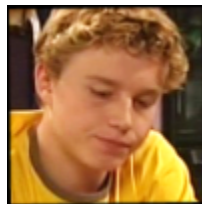
Maybe not, but sounds to me like you're not half planning to have loads of French girls falling at your feet this year, mate.



[alt_draco at 2011-09-12 01:55:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Our girls are already talking about how they're sure to catch the eye of all the French blokes, you realise. Won't be my fault or doing if all the French girls end up lonely as a result.



[alt_zacharias at 2011-09-12 02:02:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well. I'd believe it if Greengrass or the Patils or Brown caught the French blokes' eyes. But the others?

Not half.



[alt_draco at 2011-09-12 02:11:30](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well those four and Dunstan are the ones who are sure of it - the rest are just hoping.

Teddy reckons it's all a plot to make us ask them out *before* the French lads show up.



[alt_zacharias](#) at 2011-09-12 02:36:57

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yeah, Dunstan's fit as well.

Perks isn't too bad. If she weren't a halfblood she could be one of the best in the year, actually.

Tell you who couldn't get a date to save her life, though: Midge. I know she's in my own House, but those spots!

Anyway, Capper reckons it doesn't much matter if the French lads ask them all out. They're only here a short while and anyway, they'll all be focused on proving they're not naff at studies, won't they?



[alt_draco](#) at 2011-09-12 02:45:07

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Perks, one of the best in the year? Ah, I've never really looked at her at all that way, mate. ~~Not sure anyone else has~~ But she's dead clever, at least.

Capper's got a point. None of us at Hogwarts want to look like idiots by comparison, either.



[alt_zacharias](#) at 2011-09-12 02:49:45

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well, that's just it, isn't it? You can't look seriously because she's just a halfblood. So're Brocklehurst and Fawcett and they're much--er, more mature than Perks.

(I mean, have you seen the way Fawcett's robes are fitting her this year? Hopkins said this afternoon that he reckons her foster family haven't bothered replacing them and they're just unusually *tight*.)



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 03:10:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Or maybe they've noticed her face is as plain as parchment and they're just trying to help her along as best they can.

It's a laugh to look and admire (or not), but I don't really have my sights set on anyone in particular ~~that you've mention~~. You?



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-12 03:17:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Me? Oh, not really, I guess. Sue's all right, but she's a mate, you know?

Now, fifth-year girls, they're really fit.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:16:05](#)

(no subject)

I heard Derwent saying that they've been forbidden to use that brassicrose stuff this year, that's what's making the food better.

I wish I spoke any French at all, though. It's the sort of thing Mum and Dad never really thought would come in useful.

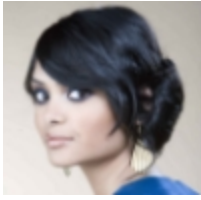


[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:23:27](#)

(no subject)

I thought that brassicrose was supposed to be weirdly tasty and addictive, once you'd had enough of it. Though maybe that's only if you grew up eating pretty poorly by comparison.

I don't see many people all that concerned about learning Bulgarian - but then, where would they learn it? I can't think of a single person I've met who speaks it. I reckon they'd have to buy a book.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:26:35](#)

(no subject)

Well, Bulgarian just doesn't seem to be all that glamorous, either.

Anyway, I heard that the students from Durmstrang aren't all Bulgarian, so you'd have to learn German, Hungarian, Russian and even maybe Polish to really be sure you could talk to them all. I think it's much more sensible to wait to make someone's acquaintance and then learn a little of whatever they speak at home.

But French is French!



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:36:02](#)

(no subject)

What language do they all speak when they're together at school, you reckon? That must be hard to manage.

French is nice. Mother certainly loves it. Father too, really. I think France itself has a lot to do with it.

*Tout y parlerait
À l'âme en secret
Sa douce langue natale.*



[alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-09-12 01:45:01](#)

(no subject)

Doesn't matter - they'll be speaking English here, won't they?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:46:14](#)

(no subject)

Maybe. But even so, they have an entirely different attitude towards people who can speak French.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:49:27](#)
(no subject)

The French? Or the Bulgarians?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:52:13](#)
(no subject)

The French. I couldn't tell you much about Bulgarians beyond quidditch.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:56:35](#)
(no subject)

It's the shopping, Mum says. Nothing like Paris for fashion. Or food, I guess.

Do you think if someone came to your French tea parties but doesn't already know any, we'd learn?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 02:01:48](#)
(no subject)

I think so, if they were clever enough to start with.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-12 01:28:35](#)
(no subject)

And yes, Brassicrose is supposed to make things taste sort of sweet and more people are saying now that it's addictive too (which is why they're not supposed to use it) but it's not anything like real decent food.

I dunno. Derwent could have been wrong, too.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 01:36:54](#)

(no subject)

Whatever the reason, the food's a whole lot nicer, so either way it's good, yeah? So long as no one eats to much of it.



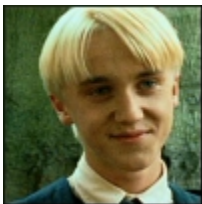
[alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-09-12 03:08:20](#)

(no subject)

We were both glad to get your owl, dearest, and to hear that while you're busy, you've settled back in to school well, as ever.

You'll be pleased to know your Father has surprised his Healers with his remarkable rate of recovery. The treatments Healer Fletcher authorised have done wonders to get him back to his normal schedule. Of course, I still prefer him to take care not to speak too loudly or too long, just for the next week or two, but he's fully back to himself and in next to no time at all.

I'm glad you're keeping at your languages, as well. You do realise your Auntie Amanda is still quite willing to converse as much as you like? She continues to be such a help, and all while preparing her own household for the rest of the year.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-12 03:14:32](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad to hear it, Mother, though of course I'd expect nothing less of him.

I didn't want to bother Aunt Amanda, but if she really doesn't mind then I should take advantage of it while she's here in England.

2011-09-11 22:41:00

Private Message to Lavender Brown and Parvati



alt_padma

Listen, starting next Sunday, Greengrass and I are going to get all the girls together for exercising - the sorts of calisthenics we've been doing from CCF.

I dunno if your Gryffindor boys are looking as self-satisfied as ours in Ravenclaw but it seems Zach's 'invitation' this afternoon was for a boys' club.

Well, we can't let them have all the fun, right?

So don't tell anyone - even Finnigan - what it is we're getting up to while they play Snap and pretend to be grown men. But let's find a spot and make sure we're all well fit when those French boys get here!



alt_lavender at **2011-09-13 03:15:59**
(no subject)

That'll show them--I'm in!

2011-09-12 18:13:00

Order Only - Unbreakable Vow

Well, it took me rather some time to confirm that it would be all right -



Miss Granger swore never to willingly betray the Order to its enemies; never to reveal the Order's secrets to a non-Order member without express permission from the head of the Order (that is, me); and never to willingly take any action which might lead an enemy to discover the Order.

alt_mcgonagall

The 'rather some time' was because I was unsure whether I might make a blanket statement, or whether I would have to personally authorise each 'secret,' that is each communication; but I with some study of previous Vows, I believe the magic has enough responsiveness to understand that when I say 'Miss Granger, I hereby permit Sirius Black to determine what you may or may not say regarding the Order's secrets to your friends at Hogwarts,' I do mean it.

Sirius, you realise that this is quite the burden on you -- you shall be held accountable for whatever answers you allow Miss Granger to ferry on to her friends. But with the Triwizard Tournament it is quite impossible for me to supervise every moment -- and in any case I should show trust in you and Miss Granger both.



alt_sirius at **2011-09-13 13:03:40**

(no subject)

Listen, I'm just happy they're asking the questions. We can always discuss what the most appropriate answer ought to be.



alt_frank at **2011-09-13 14:52:46**

(no subject)

good to know that it's safe.

I also think it's important that hermione do this

because she wants to, and not because she's feeling like she's obligated.

if they're your friends, hermione, they'd understand if you told them you didn't want to.

just don't want you to feel like you've got to do it, just because you can. if that makes sense.



alt_hermione at **2011-09-16 00:35:13**

(no subject)

Okay.

I'm going to ask my friends now.

2011-09-12 18:43:00

Private Message to Macmillan and Smith

Good show. It was loads of fun last night.

That's a nift set of Snap cards, yeah?

My robes kind of reek of that cigar, though, today. I thought it'd've faded overnight, but they're still pretty musty now.



alt_ron



alt_zacharias at **2011-09-13 01:16:46**

(no subject)

It's amazing what you can owl order, innit? You knew some dead wizard tricks with those cards, too.

Bobolis taught us a charm for the smell, and all. I'll show you next Creatures lesson.



alt_ron at **2011-09-13 02:19:34**

(no subject)

Well, what are brothers for, right?

(I know you'll think it was the twins, probably, but it was Charlie. I guess they get up to loads of funny stuff with cards up at the dragon preserve, especially in the winter when it goes dark so early!)

Yeah, that spell would be nift to know. Not sure I want to try cigars again much, but you never know when you might need to get foul smelling stuff out without sending stuff down to the elves. Do people set off stink charms in your common room at all? Seems like every other week we have some sort of prank or payback going on here.

(Now, that usually does have the twins mixed up in it somehow!)

2011-09-13 10:25:00

Order Only: Letter from Charlie

I had passed along our question to Charlie concerning how difficult it would be to get dragon heartstring. It is difficult. Of course dragon heartstring is needed for wands, and dragons live for a long, long time. When one dies and a heart is harvested, it is a big event.



alt_molly

Our one hope, Charlie thinks, would be if we could get lucky on those rare occasions that a dragon manages to hide a clutch of eggs somewhere in one of the caves along the coast AND one of the eggs hatched is a runt who later dies, as they sometimes do within a day or two of hatching. Generally, the dam will quickly push carcass outside the nest, and then there might be a chance to retrieve it when she goes hunting. Of course, a runt's heart is much smaller, but it could still provide enough heartstring for a good number of wands. The dragons do try to hide their eggs--it's instinctive--but usually the dragon reserve handlers manage to locate the nests before the hatching. So that's another level of complication: we would need a situation where Charlie can locate the nest, but keep it a secret from the other dragon handlers.

He doesn't quite come out and say it, but I think it's an unspoken understanding in his letter between the lines: we would need to think very hard about whether we would be willing to kill one of the dragon hatchlings to get the heart, again, while the dam is away hunting. Specifically, if we can ask Charlie to do it. If he were caught, of course the repercussions would be terrible. There's no need for me to tell you that the very idea would revolt him; it's antithetical to everything he's doing as a handler, to safeguard the dragons. It would also be quite a practical complication for him to hide and dispose of the hatchling's body after he's harvested the heart, without anyone else in the reserve being the wiser.

I think he very much hopes that we'll not put him in that position. Maybe because we'll find an easier (and less dangerous) source for unicorn hairs.



[alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-09-13 19:32:21](#)
(no subject)

There's another consideration, too. I wonder whether killing the dragon will have an effect, and not a good one, on the quality of the heartstring. Magic, as we all know well, is hugely affected by intent. I do not think that starting with a wand core that is obtained by murder--if you can call deliberately causing the death of a dragon, especially a very young dragon, a murder--would be an auspicious start to the future of that wand. It might then be only fit for performing dark magic. Which would be hardly what we want, especially if we're talking about wands for children.



[alt_bill](#) at [2011-09-13 19:34:34](#)
(no subject)

I don't know much about dark arts, but that strikes me as a very good point. Do any of the rest of you who might have studied them more have an opinion?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-13 19:34:46](#)
(no subject)

I was thinking much the same, Kingsley.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-13 19:42:08](#)
(no subject)

Those are very significant concerns, indeed.

I believe we ought to exhaust all other avenues before asking a dragon handler to kill a hatchling.

We can at least experiment with other possible cores.

Meanwhile, Pomona and I have been discussing ways of obtaining unicorn hair. We plan a 'collecting' jaunt into the forest this weekend, and we rather hope to find some caught in brambles or snagged in a tree. Neither of us fancies being eaten or dismembered, so we shall

take all due precautions and keep our wits about us.

If that fails, there are one or two medicinal applications for unicorn hair. Unfortunately, they are not the sort that are commonly necessary in a school--well, except for the ancient chastity poultice (so called), but I can't imagine telling Brutka or Grubbly-Plank, either one, that I require help obtaining a key ingredient for that! Pomona's been scouring experimental herbology resources, hoping to find something sufficiently plausible that she might lobby for help obtaining some.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-13 20:33:49](#)
(no subject)

I read somewhere that previous generations of Ollivanders used to use all sorts of cores, even cores that were brought in by the client for the purpose of making a wand. But they never did work as well as the dragons or the unicorns. Or the phoenixes.

Maybe we should ask Melisandra what she thinks the best other cores would be, besides the unicorn hair.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-13 22:16:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, yes, that's also my understanding. But then, and not to put too fine a point on it, when one artisan family holds a near monopoly on the manufacture of something like wands, they develop their own notions about the craft and promote those notions and techniques as though they are absolute rules of magic. The fact that other cores 'do not work well' may be less fact than myth encouraged by the Ollivanders to elevate the perceived rarity of their product.

I'll be most interested to hear Melisandra's thoughts on the matter. If she's open to exploring possibilities, who knows what she might discover.



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-14 01:07:40](#)
(no subject)

I can think of several locations where you will find what you're looking for, however, they're all in or around centaur territory, so you'd best prepared to make sure that the hair you collect is actually from a unicorn.

Also, centaurs don't care for forest foragers.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-14 01:51:28](#)
(no subject)

Truer words were never spoken.

I doubt our business would meet with the centaurs' approval, and I cannot claim to be on good footing with them. Not that I've had much truck with them ever, mind you, but what I have seen of them has left me wary in the extreme. (Which surprises you not at all, I'm sure.)



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-14 02:42:52](#)
(no subject)

It would be a good idea to seek out the colony and state your business. Bane is the leader, and he's not particularly good-natured. Neither is he violent. Tell him you're seeking medicinal and potion ingredients, but I'd not mention wands.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-14 02:49:16](#)
(no subject)

Are we likely to encounter them if we keep to the nearer side of the forest? I hadn't thought we would seek them out.

But you have a deal more experience of the forest than either Pomona or I do, and I welcome your advice on this matter.



[alt_macnair](#) at [2011-09-14 03:14:50](#)
(no subject)

Unicorns are more likely to travel deep in the forest, near the colony's territory. Better you seek the centaurs out than they stumble upon you.

There's a rock and stone formation located about 2 kilometres Northwest of the castle that centaurs can often be found near. It's located in a clearing, a circular pattern, you should know it when you see it.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-14 13:48:32](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Walden.

How does one properly hail a centaur? Or is there a formal greeting?

2011-09-13 12:46:00

Owl Post

In this morning's owl post I received my schedule for *Purest Sparkle* photo shoots along with a list of dates and times that a person will come and fetch me as well as return me by. I do hope the dates don't overlap with any Triwizard events. But if they do, fashion first!



alt_ginny

There also was a nice note to remind me that I may be called upon at any time for an issue, and that I should make sure to keep up with my studies as I won't have much time to focus on other things during shoot weekends and to keep up with a prescribed skin care regimen, which was included. Blotches and discolourations are not to be tolerated. There was also a reminder about the no improper activity clause in my contract, especially now that I am back at school. I don't think I have need to worry about that. But I will mind my p's and q's.

Honoria, do you remember what I asked you a few weeks ago? We will talk tonight before lights out.

Classes have started off on a good note. Charms and Potions are still at the top of my favourite lessons. DA is proving to be very interesting. That's all I can say on that at the moment. There is a lot more work this year, but with all the excitement about the tournament, no one minds. Even with all the extra work, I don't think I will have trouble keeping up with it all. It's already shaping up to be a brilliant year. I know I am looking forward to everything that is going to happen.



alt_luna at 2011-09-14 03:23:44

(no subject)

You haven't had any spots or anything anyway, have you? You always have the nicest skin.

My mum always said that bathing the face in the first dew of the morning was the best thing for spots. Especially the morning after the full moon. I thought of that this morning after seeing the moon last night.



alt_ginny at **2011-09-15 01:51:57**
(no subject)

Thanks Luna! You always know what to say. No I haven't had any spots, I just don't have time to get them.

2011-09-13 21:14:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black



alt_nymphadora

Sirius. Thank you for holding things together on the home front this morning.

Don't look cross-eyed at me when you read this. You know I can't just ask you how it went with Remus able to hear everything we say.

Was it manageable at all, having to listen for Bea while you were seeing to him as well?

This is the most awkward part of my going back. I can hardly ask off for every full moon.

If it's not going to work for all of us, I think we might best decide that now--while I can still say it's harder than I'd thought to leave my baby and really going back was all a big mistake on my part.



alt_sirius at 2011-09-14 03:05:59
(no subject)

You're a witch grown, Dora, you can have a correspondence separate from your husband. No argument from me.

Bea's fine. He was fine, too. Remember I had a few years of looking after him during the full moon and just after. If anything, the Wolfsbane makes it that much easier as he's usually in good enough nick that he can get himself up to bed. Even with us around, sometimes the wolf would run itself ragged by sunrise. And without us ... I remember one time, before we'd managed to transform, when the wolf just about broke its own foreleg trying to get out of the Shack. Moony woke up with a dislocated shoulder. Of course, Poppy set him right that same day, but he was days favouring that arm.

Trust me, compared to that? He's a kitten nowadays. We'll be fine. It's more use your going back to work than sitting here stuffing old candle stubs into empty wine bottles.



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-14 12:30:50](#)
(no subject)

Don't be a tit. I'm not worried he'll be jealous. It's only that he'd be no help at all with this conversation; it would only annoy him.

The question was about whether you mind managing them both on the mornings I have to bugger off during a moon. I know they'll both be all right--as long as I'm not leaving the werewolf to mind the sprog.

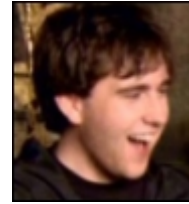
But since you're not objecting, I'll carry on.

2011-09-13 21:49:00

I never knew

that Transfiguration could be so wonderful.

I even like writing the essays now.



alt_neville

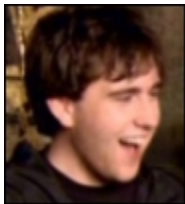


alt_ron at **2011-09-14 02:56:00**

(no subject)

Well. I wouldn't go that far!

But, yeah. I know what you mean.

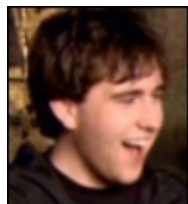


alt_neville at **2011-09-14 03:15:09**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

It makes such a difference to be taking a class when you're not terrified of the teacher.

Maybe I'll even earn some points for Gryffindor in that class this year.



alt_neville at **2011-09-14 12:15:34**

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Herbology's still my favourite, though.

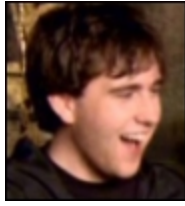


alt_ron at **2011-09-14 13:53:10**

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Agree with you about that. Funny how much brain space it frees up when you don't have to worry the teacher's about to murder you.

Don't take this the wrong way, Nev, but I'm not laying wagers on that.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-14 14:33:09](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

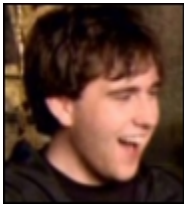
Heh. Well, I won't be losing points every class now. So we'll still come out ahead.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-14 02:58:37](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I hadn't even thought of that. Who's teaching it now?



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-14 03:00:14](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Professor Brutka has switched to teaching Transfiguration. There's a new teacher, Professor Grubbly Plank, who has taken over Care of Magical Creatures.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-14 03:03:10](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Really!?

Well, that'll be a lot better for you, Neville.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-14 03:09:40](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

It's better for everyone. Brutka's ace at teaching Transfiguration. Of course, he was brilliant in

COMC, too.



[alt_luna](#) at [2011-09-14 03:05:34](#)

(no subject)

At first, I have to admit I was a little bit disappointed that Professor Brutka wasn't teaching Care of Magical Creatures this year. I mean, I had gotten to know him a little bit, since I'd been helping feed some of the animals, and I was SO looking forward to starting the class. But

Professor Grubbly Plank is very good, too. And we still get Professor Brutka as a teacher after all. You're right: Transfiguration class seems quite different now.

[2011-09-13 23:32:00](#)

Long Day

Muggleborn Labour Committee this morning. Is it my imagination or has that collection of industrious camp administrators grown even more tedious than ever? No end of excuses for the low productivity reports but very little in the way of solutions - at least, on *their* part. Daresay the Committee had a number of suggestions all of which would not only bring up the tallies but doubtless put a stop to any further disturbances.



[alt_lucius](#)

At least Hertfordshire and Sussex are not deterred; their numbers were better than any other three counties combined. Clearly the wizardfolk are not about to listen to nonsense concerning the Cup or the muggleborn 'influence' over the Dogstar. Rot. They are just as suitable as ever for their usual employ.

As for Dogstar, well, they may have a knack for recruiting fools but clearly no instinct at all for strategies that actually work. Thus far, MLE have uncovered every one of their grand schemes and caught more than a few of the 'masterminds' responsible. Anyone can see they need to recruit, actively, because they keep losing their misguided members to Our Lord's illustrious chosen.

Nonetheless, reminded the camps of their duty to keep their charges occupied and contributory - and reminded them, too, of the consequences of failure.

At the behest of the Healers I am still not meant to resume my regular routine on the duelling courses. So naturally, under no circumstances did I go. Utterly ridiculous restriction; one need not raise one's voice to aim hexes and otherwise I am fully recovered.

However, did take tea with Ari, which seems like the first time since mid-summer's that he and I were both available. He has been busy preparing for the Wizengamot Executive Session - understand from him that Hooper's case is to be arraigned this month in order to speed the trial - and now that Ptolemy has finished school, he is assisting his father in matters pertaining to the private practice. Spoke also about his hesitation to allow Ptolemy to betroth himself. Concur, though I do believe his motives show the caution of a reactionary rather than the

sagacity of the experienced. Cannot blame him, of course; merely could not resist pointing out that his son's prospects are vastly different, given the relative peace which we now enjoy compared to the tumult at the height of the war. Still, if they are truly committed, they will remain so at the end of a year's separation - and there's no rush, in any event, for either of them.

Social calendar remains, as ever, overflowing with choices, too many to possibly accept. Have asked whether Amanda might like to take on a role or two within a few of the circles, especially those societies which were particular favourites of Mother's. Do not intend she should sit idle in Mellerstain House for eight months with only her husband's visits to bring her cheer! She has consented but is relying on Narcissa (as do I!) for much of her knowledge of the set. Journals only reveal so much, of course, and it is excessively difficult to guess whether all the old associations still hold true. Confident Narcissa may help her navigate without a qualm.

Draco, Harry, Pansy, Hydra: Glad to hear you are all off to promising starts for the term. Do recall that your studies are only going to demand more attention as they progress in difficulty and that the time you fill now shall be much-needed next year when your O.W.L.s will require your diligence. You may think losing Quidditch a hardship but not, I trust, one that will upset you for long, not compared with the prospects ahead.



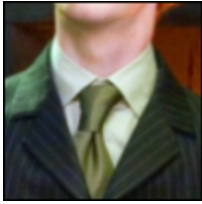
[alt_lucius](#) at 2011-09-14 04:43:38

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Weasley, a few notes prior to to-morrow and Thursday:

First, going to MLE for briefing on the Sirius Black reports so do cancel Ouroboros; will take the course in MLE's dungeon with Yaxley first-thing. Also need Myddleton's report on the security measures round the TriWizard Cup before Court. Check with Bagman's office before Pontner's.

Second, kindly reschedule Runcorn on 22nd to after three o'clock. Block off eleven through the two o'clock hour - no appointments.



alt_percy at 2011-09-14 14:28:31

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

I have the report for you, sir. So noted re: Runcorn, etcetera.

Yet another batch of invitations came in today, and I've sorted out the ones you might wish to consider (only about one out of nine, I would judge). They are on your desk.

2011-09-14 22:28:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Lonely



alt_terry

Sometimes I've felt I'm likely to go mad from the loneliness.

The gorgon's gone back to the school so it's just the git now. He ignored me while she was here, and he ignored me for another week after she left because he was wrapped up in doing his mad notes about his experimental subjects. Then he started paying attention to me again. It's been awful. Not like he's been hurting me or anything. If anything he's been in a good mood (I have no idea why). But he wants me no further than a few feet away from him, and he's starting to watch me when I sleep. Sometimes he'll wake me up in the middle of the night, order me to do something pointless (like to move a stack of books from one corner over to another corner) and then he'll tell me to go back to sleep again. Which is all but impossible because he's still staring at me.

I hate that. I can't try to sneak in any studying or work on the animagus thing when he's practically breathing down my neck all the time.

At Hogwarts at least there were other people around every day, going about their business so I could see how normal people live. But here I only catch occasional glimpses of other people, disappearing around the corner just out of sight. Everyone scatters whenever the git's coming.

There's another boy about my age. I think I mentioned him before. He's a muggle, I think. He's blond, and even skinnier than me, looks half-starved, really. He's the one they call 'Dudders.' Mad sort of name. He's noticed me, too, and from the look I see in his eye, I think he wants to talk to me and he's trying to work up the nerve to do it.

Maybe he's lonely, too.



alt_gredforge at **2011-09-15 15:38:50**
(no subject)

We're missing you, too, Professor.

We'd like to string Carrow up and use his vertebrae as wind chimes, personally. Until we can make that happy daydream a reality, is there anything we can send you that you're needing?

We haven't forgotten about you, trust us. We're never gonna stop trying to find a way to get you out of there.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-15 16:48:34](#)
(no subject)

It's starting to get colder. He hasn't given me shoes or boots so I'll probably need to wrap my feet with rags again.

I only know a crude warming charm. It's not very strong, but it does help. But I'm afraid to use it around him, in case he grabs me or touches me or something and then discovers I'm using it. There'd be hell to pay then. Same goes for my blanket at night. It's only a very thin covering, and a warming charm would be ace, but I have to sleep right beside his bed. What if he brushes against the blanket when he gets out of bed?

I need a better charm, one that will cool off instantly whenever he gets within, say, a foot of distance from me, so he can't detect it. Would that be a charm combined with a personal rune for him or something? Can you help?



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-15 17:10:02](#)
(no subject)

Hmm. Nice little problem you've set us, Professor.

We'll get on to researching it and get back to you.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-15 17:09:02](#)
(no subject)

That's hard, Terry.

Been thinking. You need ways to still feel connected, yeah? Maybe you'll think this is sort of a dumb idea, but have you ever learned how to play chess?



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-15 17:11:20](#)
(no subject)

No. I mean, I know how to play it, how the pieces move. But I've never exactly had a chance to play it myself. Why?



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-15 17:14:26](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's just that I know you can play it remotely. By owl post. Or over the journals, come to think of it. I read a book once where there was a prisoner who played chess through the muggle post with a pen friend. You just tell your opponent what the next move is by naming the pieces and the square you're moving it to, see?

I dunno, it was just a thought. I mean, it'd give you something to think about during the day.

I'm pants at chess myself, though.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-16 02:05:36](#)
(no subject)

I've been meaning to write about the Imperius curse and I haven't yet. Do you like reading about magic, when you're cold and alone? or would something else be better, like stories?

(I suppose there's also the option of 'magic, but something more cheering than the Cardinal Curses.')



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-16 02:26:34](#)
(no subject)

It would all be good, honest. I like learning about magic. Because, of course, I'm not supposed to.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-16 18:50:48](#)
(no subject)

And anything you can pass along that would help me understand the stuff he uses against me, well, it can't hurt, and it might really help.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-19 13:47:37](#)
(no subject)

We could play chess if you wanted. But I dunno. If you don't have a board and haven't really played before, just writing moves into the journals probably wouldn't make any sense to you.

We could tell jokes. That might be more fun.

Why was the broom late for lessons?

It stayed up too late and overswept.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 00:40:35](#)
(no subject)

Oh Terry!!!

Do you think there's anything I can do?

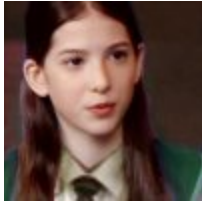
I mean I know there probably isn't, but anyhow I think you should talk to Dudders, I mean, he's just like you or me isn't he, only no magic, which means he has it even worse. I mean worse than me or most Muggleborns, not worse than you probably but - oh you know what I mean.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-16 18:51:52](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I do.

It's hard, because the git's been hovering so much. But I caught his eye yesterday and smiled back, and his eyes sort of lit up. I'll try to figure out a way to talk to him soon.



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-16 02:02:05**
(no subject)

There's a rune that protects from cold. But, it doesn't actually make you more COMFORTABLE, it just protects you from damage. We learned it last year, it's one of the runes that was very useful to ancient wizards but hardly anyone uses now because a warming charm makes you more comfortable.

Anyway, this rune would keep you from getting frostbite. (The books disagree on whether it would keep you from getting hypothermia. It definitely doesn't work on someone who's going into shock after an injury, I looked that up after my mediwizardry course because I was curious.)

You could write it onto your body in the same invisible ink we use in the journals and it should work and Carrow won't see it. But it won't make you any more comfortable. A modified warming charm would be better, if Fred and George can figure that out.

2011-09-15 20:35:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good - My friend



alt_hermione

If you want to ask questions for my friend,

I mean like we talked about a while ago (well some of us anyway and all of you are smart so you can figure it out),

you can and you can ask me now and then I'll ask and tell you.



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-16 01:50:54**
(no subject)

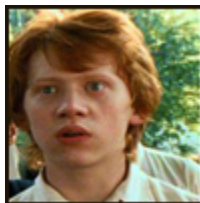
Is there a way through the wards?

Tell him I know someone who'd like to get out of the Protctorate, if she could.



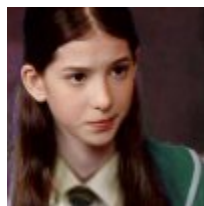
alt_hermione at **2011-09-16 13:12:27**
(no subject)

He says, he wasn't living in England before, but he was at the Cup.



alt_ron at **2011-09-19 14:55:38**
(no subject)

What kind of answer's that?



alt_sally_anne at **2011-09-19 15:31:52**
(no subject)

I'd say it's 'yes, there's a way through the wards' but without any information on HOW.

I mean, one of the possibilities was that he was actually in the Protectorate the whole time, and the chasing around in France was someone completely different, which is why

they thought he was dead but he really wasn't. So it's not completely useless.

Hermione, ask him this, I phrased it as carefully as I could.

How can a person get from the Protectorate to France without being given official passage through the wards?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-16 01:55:27](#)
(no subject)

Also --

On one hand he says 'don't go setting bombs' and on the other he says 'next time maybe you should point your wands the other way.' It's not like you can't hurt people with wands, and it wasn't just the Lord Protector in the Protector's Box. Pansy and I were there. And Harry and Draco and Hydra. And Justin. And you, Hermione, part of the time (though not at the end). What does he actually think people ought to be doing? Ordinary people, I mean. Like me (when I'm a grownup). What does he think the people in Dogstar ought to be doing?



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 01:58:40](#)
(no subject)

I asked. Both of them I mean. No answer yet.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 13:13:04](#)
(no subject)

Okay, I'm going to copy it out.

'I admonished the mob for taking out their frustration on helpless victims, rather than fighting for a change in regime. The question of what ordinary people should do, ongoing, however, is thorny. It depends largely on one's means. Simply being kind to the muggleborns around one is a start. Refusing to believe it when the Ministry tells you ... well, that I'm dead, for example, or when they try to blame muggles for something that Death Eaters have likely done themselves, that's another important thing. Keeping faith in true friends. Someone

your age isn't likely to have the ability to do much more, but, in general, finding ways to make the world a little less prejudiced or unfair, that's perhaps the best we can ask for now.

As for the DogStar, well. That's harder to answer. Let's say for now that I don't condone their methods and I do wish they'd stop implementing plots that cause a lot of collateral damage. I'd rather see them using their resources to save muggles and muggleborns, than just trying to assassinate as many powerful wizards as they think they can get.'



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-16 14:17:49](#)
(no subject)

Simply being kind to the muggleborns around one is a start.

I saw this

~~this made me~~

Hermione, tell him that your friends are.

He's right. Hermione and I could have been killed a couple times over in the past few years if it hadn't been for you lot. But more than that, friends make us feel like it's worth it to keep hanging on. Hoping that maybe better days are coming.

Speaking for just me (but I'll bet Hermione will agree), I'm ever so grateful.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-16 02:37:32](#)
(no subject)

I had the question that I figure he can't answer. Or you can't. Because I wonder how he knows my parents, and if he ever has been in contact with them since they sent him that birth announcement for my brother, and if they ARE in the wand smuggling group, I reckon you can't say it. Because of the unbreakable vow.

I mean, all the stuff we wonder about the most, he probably can't tell us, right? Who's with him, what is he doing, how does he trade information with the people he's working with, that sort of stuff. The stuff that the aurors are probably dying to know.

Well, here's a question maybe he can answer:

What keeps him going?



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 13:24:06](#)
(no subject)

I asked.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-18 13:29:28](#)
(no subject)

He says, tea, biscuits, mutton, and 'knowing that no matter what people say about me, I'm not alone.'

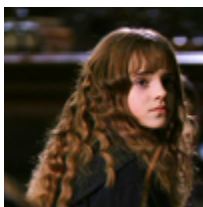


[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-16 02:42:04](#)
(no subject)

I asked what happened to the muggleborns who disappeared at the World Quidditch Cup. They didn't die, did they?

I also asked how people could help him. Except probably not me, because I'm stuck in this stupid castle with the git. But people in general.

And I wanted you to pass on that it makes me really happy to see Grim Truths again.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 13:24:35](#)
(no subject)

I did and I asked, and I also asked all the other things from other people too, so now we wait, I suppose, to hear back more.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-16 15:14:10](#)
(no subject)

Is he always so ...vague?

That's a question for you, not him.

I mean, I know he has to be careful with what he says, but is he like that all the time, because I imagine that could get very very frustrating.

and thanks.

for giving everyone a chance to ask.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-16 15:15:49](#)

(no subject)

Are you going to ask him anything?

I mean, now would be the chance to, wouldn't it?



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-18 13:30:32](#)

(no subject)

He says that you have to be careful how you phrase things, because -- well just because you have to. He says he doesn't know what happened to all of them, but he supposes some escaped and some didn't, just like you'd think. And he said thank you about the Grim Truths.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-16 02:51:40](#)

(no subject)

What made him change his mind about Muggles? And Muggle born witches and wizards?

Because I have a pretty good idea he didn't start out thinking that way.

Not with parents like his.

That's what I'd like to know.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-18 13:31:04](#)
(no subject)

I have to copy this one out --

'What made me change my mind? Getting to know some muggleborns. It's easy to hate or fear a group of people when you don't know anything about them first-hand. Once you get to know a few individuals, they come to colour your perception of the whole. When I realised that the idea of muggleborns being less skilled or less entitled to magic was rubbish, the fact that it was my 'birthright' ceased to matter so much. That they were my friends became more important than whether they had pure magical blood. As for muggles, well. They may not have magic but they've got some cool inventions of their own. Films and music and transport and such. They're quite creative--possibly more than wizards, even. That's a radical notion, I know, but I think it's ridiculous to ignore their capabilities or their contributions just because they can't use a wand.

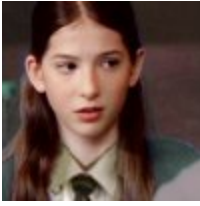
And about our professions. Well. Let's just say it'd be much harder to do what we do if we all lived in hiding. Though hiding in plain sight is, I suppose, a form of hiding, as well.'



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-16 02:56:28](#)
(no subject)

We looked back at what we wrote earlier, and what it all boiled down to was that we had a hunch about some of the people he's working with, but we don't want to come right out and say it probably any more than he does. Mutual plausible deniability is probably everyone's friend. But do pass on our heartiest congratulations to him for being the number one Protectorate Prankster. We recognise and deeply honour a kindred spirit.

If you want to turn that into a question to ask him, Hermione, you can ask him, are all of his lot out and out outlaws? Or are there some that are, we dunno, *incognito*? Holding down steady jobs, raising snotty-nosed urchins, and doing stuff secretly on the side?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-17 00:17:11](#)
(no subject)

Does he have any questions he wants to ask us?



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-19 15:07:27](#)
(no subject)

Look. I dunno about all this. I mean, I have questions and all, but the answers aren't very

well

I dunno, I thought at first he was taking the mickey, using big words in some and then telling Nev he likes mutton

I mean

But he sort of answered Pansy, so

Ask him what it's like other places. Whether it's better or worse for wizards, I mean. What's it like to have to keep it a secret you're a wizard? And what's it like to live in a place where Muggles aren't slaves, but live all around, and control laws and things that wizards have to fit in with even if wizards have their own laws, too?

Cause here they tell us Muggles were dangerous when they were in charge of everything, and we were forced to live in secret because they'd've killed us if they'd found out. And, well. Is that wrong? Because, y'know, we did have to live in secret, and why was that if not because it was dangerous? And so, is it so wrong to say it's better for us now? And how can we make it better for everyone if they'd really kill us if they could?

Cause now, they say if Muggles ever got control again, they'd kill us first thing. Which seems about right, actually. I mean, after the way wizards've treated them.

So what does he say about that?

[2011-09-15 21:54:00](#)

Bon soir, mes amis!

I hope everyone's year is off to a good start, so far.

Our lessons are certainly keeping us busy. Everyone here is trying to guess who'll be able to come to England for the Tri-Wizard Tournament. They've told us that we have to sit some exams next week and inspectors from the French Ministry are coming to observe some of our lessons. Then we'll be told who's been selected. They're taking it all jolly seriously, I must say.

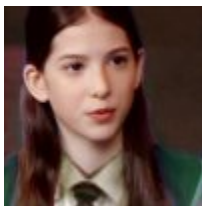


[alt_justin](#)

But I say, we did find out that P Froissart is going to be the chaperon for the journey. Draco, I daresay you already knew that, what? Of course it makes perfect sense, doesn't it, that he'd be the one to go. Of course, I hope I'm selected now, in particular, because he's one of our best professors (not that any of our professors are especially bad!). But he's also one of the kindest--I mean, about my being English, that is. We're to have another Professor filling in for his subject, naturally, but it shan't be the same, whomever it is.

Here as there, we're fairly certain that few of us in the middle years have much chance at being named Champion. That's why P Froissart told us it's more about the interactions among the three schools than the competition itself. I jolly well hope he means it! Otherwise it might be a very boring year, once everyone goes.

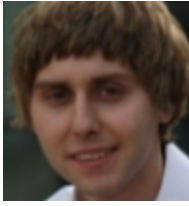
Oh, and I saw that you're holding a French club of sorts, if I've got that right. Good show! Draco's right; it does rather make a difference. But I also wanted to offer, that if anyone would like to ask questions about Beauxbatons, I'd be happy to answer them before the group arrives.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-16 02:27:37](#)
(no subject)

Does 'bon soir' mean 'hello'?

What subject does Professor Froissart teach?



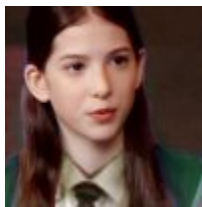
[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-16 02:56:17](#)

(no subject)

Oh, rather, yes--sorry. It's hullo, but only in the evening. 'Good evening,' I suppose, but that sounds much more formal in English, what?

P Froissart is our Charms professor, I should have said.

How are you? Any progress toward a career as a Healer? I well hope you've not had to practise too much!



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-19 15:44:58](#)

(no subject)

My year is going pretty well so far. I like the new Transfiguration teacher. I haven't had any more opportunities to use my mediwizardry skills which is JUST FINE. There's going to be a first aid class open to everyone sometime this year, I think, at one of the YPL meetings.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-16 02:55:06](#)

(no subject)

I hope that means that you get to come back!



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-16 03:33:34](#)

(no subject)

I hope so, too, but that depends on the examiners, I expect!

How have you been?



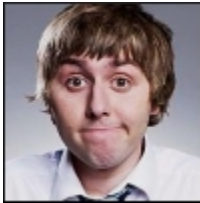
[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-16 03:54:21](#)
(no subject)

I've really enjoyed starting up the term again. And of course, the Triwizard news was so incredibly exciting! I mean, Quidditch is all well and good, but this is so different. And it will be ever so much fun to have people from different schools coming.



[alt_luna](#) at [2011-09-16 03:12:02](#)
(no subject)

It would be quite nice to meet you, if you get to come. How many will be coming from Beauxbatons?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-16 03:45:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh, hullo, Luna. How are you?

They've told us that there are 25 spots, most of which are for the upper years. Hang on a tick, the notice is right here.

Well, it doesn't say precisely, just that preference will be given to students who are more likely to be picked as Champion. That would mean the ones in their *lycées* classes - well, the *série avancées de magie*. Which I suppose, from what Sally-Anne said, is rather like what you call your NEWTs.

Anyway, it means that there's bally well few spots left for us in 4th and 3rd years!

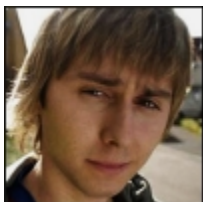


[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-17 01:58:36](#)
(no subject)

I've gone to Draco's club, but I don't know but three words of French, so I don't know if I'm learning anything.

For some reason, I keep hearing a lot of people practise saying *êtes-vous seule* - I think I have that right (my quill has a translation charm on it), but I'm not sure what it means.

From,
Hydra



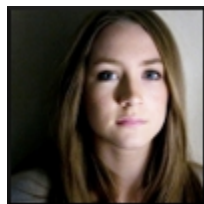
[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-18 23:47:23](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Hydra. It does rather take time to learn when one's just listening, doesn't it? Perhaps he's got a primer or something you could borrow? It's much easier if one can at least become familiar with basic verbs and things.

I say, though, I think whomever you're hearing practise that particular phrase is, well, perhaps a bit hopeful, what? Though I've heard some similar talk on this end, as well. It means--well, literally it means 'Are you alone?' but that's not what they're really asking, if you follow me.

Tell you what: If Draco hasn't his primer with him to lend you, perhaps there's one in the library? Or if not, then maybe you could send for one from home. I'm certain your family would be happy to help; they're quite generous from what I've seen.

-Justin

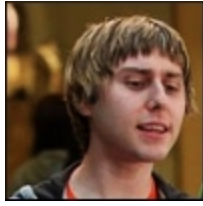


[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-19 00:02:12](#)
(no subject)

Well I could ask my aunt, but she's very busy and it's been a bad time so I don't want to trouble her if I can help it. So yes, I might ask Draco, but it's possible if he has any books he's leant them out already.

I don't understand why anyone would want to know if another person was alone. That seems strange.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-19 00:08:45](#)
(no subject)

No, I hadn't thought of troubling your aunt and uncle. They're both generous to a fault, I think, but it's true they're ever so busy. ~~What about your own parents~~ I'm awfully sorry, I should have thought about Draco lending his books out already. I expect that's probably true of anything in the library, as well, what?

And as I said, it's not that they're really literally asking if someone's alone. They're asking...whether the person has any escort, or company. As an overture to chatting, one might say. Does that make more sense?

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-19 00:30:26](#)
(no subject)

Well, my cousin Remy (his real name is Jeremy, but there are already a lot of Jeremys at this school) sent away for a book on German because he is more interested in that than in French. But maybe I could convince him to use his pocket money to send away for a French book, too.

Oh. *Oh*. But...

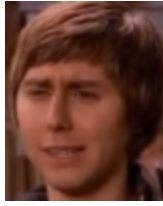
Well, nevermind.

From,
Hydra



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-19 00:42:33](#)
(no subject)

Don't be silly, Hydra. Mother would be thrilled if you wrote her for help about anything, even French. Don't you know that by now?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-19 00:44:24](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Draco, I haven't put my foot in it, have I? Only I wondered about your cousin's own parents. Shouldn't they be able to give her something as simple as a book?

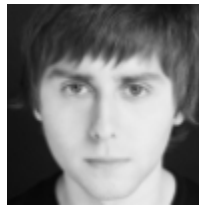


[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-19 00:59:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Oh no, don't worry about it.

Her Father would give her a French book, if she asked for it, but she probably won't do. She doesn't really ask for much or even speak up for herself. Which is why she won't write to my own Mother unless I push her to.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-20 02:07:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Oh, I say.

I suppose with her mother

Do you think if I sent her something, anyone would be offended? Only I've got my old grammar and I don't need it. It's only getting it across that might be a problem, what?



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-20 03:38:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I don't think anyone would notice. Auntie Bella doesn't seem to like it when my Mother buys Hydra horses and gowns and things, or sweets, Merlin forbid, but a book shouldn't matter.

We've sent packages to my Aunt Amanda in France all the time, you just have to go through the proper channels. Your Professor Froissart probably knows the procedure from your end. The package would be searched in the custom houses at

Dover or somewhere like that, so it'll take a bit longer than regular Owl post, but it'll come across eventually.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-20 03:51:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well, as I should think it's unlikely I'd ever buy your cousin a horse (or a gown, come to that), perhaps it wouldn't be too forward?

And as my P Froissart happens to be your uncle, and all, I should hope if there's a problem he'll be able to put me right, what?

Yes, I'll ask him. We've Charms tomorrow, anyway. Perhaps he can speed it along, then, as well.

Cheers, Draco, thanks very much.

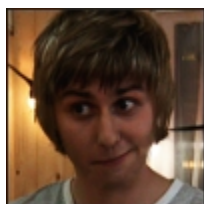


[alt_draco at 2011-09-20 04:02:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

He might technically be my Uncle, but you've spent loads more time with him than I ever have. And he doesn't know Aunt Bellatrix or Hydra well at all, really, so you're definitely better off asking me about that.

But no, I don't think anyone should think it forward at all, really.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-20 01:59:31](#)

(no subject)

I think it's jolly good your cousin looking after German. I've only got a few words, myself, but Jean-Pierre (my roommate) and I have been looking into it now. Of course, some of the others here have the attitude that German is too vulgar to be worth anything. But I think you'd do well to learn.

Oh, and it feels more natural to you than French because English is a Germanic language. That means that originally it

sounded even more like German than it does now. Rather interesting, what?

-Justin



[alt_harry](#) at [2011-09-18 13:33:38](#)
(no subject)

Well I wanted to do French. But Father said no I have to keep on with Parseltongue.

So sorry for not going to the club. Father would be angry.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-18 23:51:14](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Harry. You've no need to apologise to me, what, I'm happy to speak English with you!

But I thought Parseltongue was--was an inherited skill? I mean, obviously, you must have inherited it, but I thought people either could or couldn't speak it? ~~And talking to snakes~~ Or perhaps I've misunderstood and your father wants you to simply practise more? Anyway, I don't blame you, mate, for following his orders advice. I shouldn't half want him angry with me!

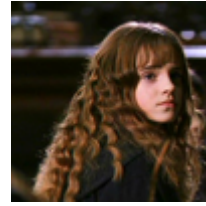
The rest of the comments to this post have been redacted because they were made in the 'future' and contain spoilers for future of the game. Please see the front page of hpalternity.com: there's a list of when each of those comments was made and a link to just that comment, so you can read them in context of when they were made in realtime. Or, if you don't care about spoilers, you can download the unredacted versions of the PDFs.

2011-09-15 21:56:00

ORDER ONLY - Questions

The first questions are:

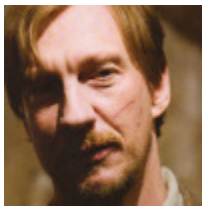
Is there a way through the wards? Because my friend knows someone who would like to get out.



alt_hermione

Also, on the one hand you say 'don't go setting bombs' and 'next time point your wands the other way.' But you can hurt people with wands and bombs hurt a lot of people. So what should ordinary people be doing and what should the Dogstar be doing?

Anyway I paraphrased the last one so I hope it's right. And those are the first two, and I could answer the first one but I'm not going to, I'll say whatever you want me to say.



alt_lupin at **2011-09-16 02:32:28**
(no subject)

Well, I trust Sirius can handle that second one. Should be easy enough.

That first one, though. I sympathise with anyone who'd like to get out of the Protectorate, but can we risk that information getting out?



alt_sirius at **2011-09-16 02:51:33**
(no subject)

Doors swing both ways. They ought to be able to work out that much.

Besides, that's not what Hermione's friend really wants to know. But that's the question she asked.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-16 02:49:45](#)
(no subject)

1. Tell your friend: 'I wasn't living in England before, but I was at the Cup.'

2. I admonished the mob for taking out their frustration on helpless victims, rather than fighting for a change in regime. The question of what ordinary people should do, ongoing, however, is thorny. It depends largely on one's means. Simply being kind to the muggleborns around one is a start. Refusing to believe it when the Ministry tells you ... well, that I'm dead, for example, or when they try to blame muggles for something that Death Eaters have likely done themselves, that's another important thing. Keeping faith in true friends. Someone your age isn't likely to have the ability to do much more, but, in general, finding ways to make the world a little less prejudiced or unfair, that's perhaps the best we can ask for now.

As for the DogStar, well. That's harder to answer. Let's say for now that I don't condone their methods and I do wish they'd stop implementing plots that cause a lot of collateral damage. I'd rather see them using their resources to save muggles and muggleborns, than just trying to assassinate as many powerful wizards as they think they can get.



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-16 13:24:01](#)
(no subject)

Okay, here are some more.

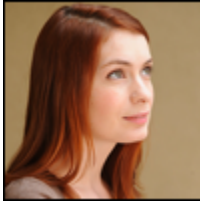
Neville wanted to ask if his parents were in the wand smuggling group, but he knew I couldn't answer, so he asked 'What keeps him going?'

Someone else wanted to know what happened to the Muggleborns at the Quidditch Cup, and how people can help you, and to tell you that the Grim Truths make him happy.

And someone else wanted to know what made you change your mind about Muggles and Muggleborns.

And someone wanted to ask about the group but also knew they couldn't so they asked if everyone in the Order (only they didn't say

the Order) were outlaws or if some of them held down jobs and things.



[alt_alice](#) at [2011-09-16 13:59:20](#)

(no subject)

I'd imagine he probably suspects as much.

Frank and I have thought for a while that our Neville might be one of the people helping you at Hogwarts.

But it is ever so nice to know for sure. Thank you, Hermione.

I'll have you know he's never breathed a word about it to Frank or me.

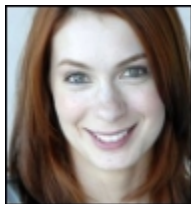


[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-16 14:33:53](#)

(no subject)

Right - which means we can guess, probably in less than three, who some of the others are.

But if they can get by without telling tales, I reckon so can we do.



[alt_alice](#) at [2011-09-16 15:08:33](#)

(no subject)

Very true, love.

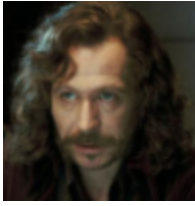


[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-16 15:27:20](#)

(no subject)

Speaking of, though, how are the young people we just added to your number?

And Wil? I've been thinking about him, especially. Must be all the time around Bea.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-16 14:13:07](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what keeps Neville going. Sorry. Couldn't resist. Right. What keeps me going? Er...tea, mostly, these days. The occasional biscuit. Lovely bit of mutton now and then. And knowing that no matter what people say about me, I'm not alone.

I'm guessing that your friend means to ask what happened to the Muggleborns *who went missing* after the Cup? I think we're going to have to establish some ground rules, here, Hermione. I don't want to be an utter pillock or give them loads of clever answers, but on the other hand, I'm going to have to limit myself to answering exactly the questions they ask. Tell them to think carefully about how they want to phrase things, all right?

Well, then. I don't know what happened to all of the muggleborns. I expect some of them took advantage of the chaos and managed to escape. Others weren't so lucky. And some had the chance to leave but didn't, for reasons of their own.

And thank him, please, about the Grim Truths. I wish they weren't necessary.

Next. What made me change my mind? Getting to know some muggleborns. It's easy to hate or fear a group of people when you don't know anything about them first-hand. Once you get to know a few individuals, they come to colour your perception of the whole. When I realised that the idea of muggleborns being less skilled or less entitled to magic was rubbish, the fact that it was my 'birthright' ceased to matter so much. That they were my friends became more important than whether they had pure magical blood. As for muggles, well. They may not have magic but they've got some cool inventions of their own. Films and music and transport and such. They're quite creative--possibly more than wizards, even. That's a radical notion, I know, but I think it's ridiculous to ignore their capabilities or their contributions just because they can't use a wand.

And about our professions. Well. Let's just say it'd be much harder to do what we do if we all lived in hiding. Though hiding in plain sight is, I suppose, a form of hiding, as well.

What's next? Remember--from here out, choose your words wisely or you might not get the answer you want.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-16 19:55:39](#)

(no subject)

Of course, the difficulty with changing hearts through friendships these days is that the Protectorate has done a rather thorough job of driving wedges between people based on blood status. Imagine if our muggleborn friends from school had been slaves to other classmates. Or to the likes of Amycus Carrow.

Though at least a few students apparently overcame that. Neville and, hmm. Yes, I can make some guesses. Some of them are rather unsettling.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-16 20:27:55](#)

(no subject)

Right, Moony, but the whole point here is that these are obviously some students who have already decided to put those beliefs aside - at least some of them - and from what we already know, they treat our Hermione and Terry for that matter decently. So I reckon they're halfway, at least, to chucking out the whole lot of the Ministry's rubbishy propaganda.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-18 21:38:45](#)

(no subject)

Yes.

I rather imagine that question was not so much 'how do I free my mind from the prejudices I still hold' so much as 'how do I bring other friends around to my point of view,' however.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-19 00:02:44](#)
(no subject)

Mm, that may have been the intent behind the question but it wasn't the question that was asked.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-19 04:03:05](#)
(no subject)

No. But if you have any good advice for swaying the pigheaded, there's no harm in offering it here.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-19 15:17:52](#)
(no subject)

Oi, is this their agony session or yours?



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-18 13:32:45](#)
(no subject)

All right.

You still haven't answered about whether the Order are outlaws.

Someone asked if there are any questions you want to ask them.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-18 21:03:42](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I have done, Hermione. The question was about whether the Order are outlaws or have jobs. I answered about our jobs.

Questions I want to ask them? I'm not sure they could answer or that we ought to know if they did tell us.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-18 21:37:07](#)
(no subject)

What I want to know if whether they truly treat you as an equal, Hermione. Not merely that they're kind -- there are people capable of being thoroughly gracious toward those they consider their inferiors, provided that those inferiors never demand to be treated as anything else.

It can be difficult to tell, sometimes, whether you are being treated kindly, or justly.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-18 21:41:15](#)
(no subject)

It's worth considering whether we have any messages we'd like Sirius to pass along, as well. Beyond the obvious, like 'Don't get caught.'



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-09-19 16:02:26](#)
(no subject)

'Don't get caught.'

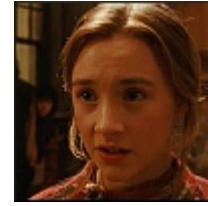
Quite.

I'm not sure I think it's a good idea to give these children any help in imagining that there are numbers of us and that we share quick means of communication with Sirius (and Miss Granger). Even if that cat is out of the bag to an extent, I should not like to give them more information than we have already.

I've a shrewd notion some of them guess rather more than is good for them as it is.

[2011-09-18 18:01:00](#)

François, Deutsch



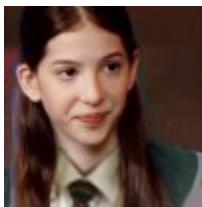
[alt_hydra](#)

I went to Draco's French speaking club today and I don't think I've learnt very much yet, except for *Oui, s'il vous plaît* and *Non, merci*. But Draco says you don't have to speak all that much to make a good impression. I hope that's right. I also found out that almost everyone at Durmstrang speaks German, even if they're not from Germany, so Remy sent away for a book on that and we've been looking over it together a little bit. So far I've memorised *Hallo*, *Guten morgen*, and *Guten tag*.

For some reason Deutsch seems much more familiar than French.

And I was curious because Teddy Nott was reading a book on parseltongue when he was in the commonroom. He let me look at it. It was extremely confusing, though, because it doesn't have words or even an alphabet, it's really just noises more than anything. The person who wrote the book said that for a long time it was thought that the parseltongue was hereditary and couldn't be learned, only imitated. But he also said that it's an intuitive language and if someone can properly visualise themselves as a serpent, they can penetrate the mysteries of the tongue. Then he listed different exercises for visualising yourself as a serpent, such as moving along on your belly, and sleeping in dark corners while coiled in on yourself, and eating dead mice.

So, I don't think I will be trying out parseltongue. Not now, anyway.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-19 15:42:57](#)

Private message to Hydra

Everything I try to say in French comes out sounding completely wrong. And nothing sounds like it looks on the page, like 'non' you say the first 'n' but not the second one and with *s'il vous plaît* you don't say the l, the s, or the t. I don't understand why French uses those letters if they don't want people to SAY them? Why not spell them *si vu plai*, if that's how you say them?

German seems a little more sensible.

I like snakes but I'd never try to learn parseltongue. It doesn't sound like snakes have anything all that interesting to say.



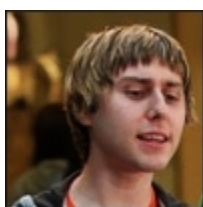
[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-20 03:21:28

Re: Private message to Hydra

English is a Germanic language, I was told, which is why it comes more naturally.

I think it depends on if it's an ordinary snake living in the jungle or a snake that's been bred to be a wizard or witch familiar, but in either case I don't know if I'm very interested in snakes. I know that's a bad thing for a Slytherin to say, though.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at 2011-09-20 03:11:27

(no subject)

I said over in my own book, but I do think it's jolly clever to pay attention to German as well as French. I'll tell you one I know: *Wie geht?* It's the same as *Ça va?* in French and they both mean, literally, 'How goes?' which is a very informal way of saying 'How are you?'

So, I might say: *Guten Abend, Fräulein. Wie geht es?* and you could say *Sehr gut!*. *Et voilà, votre conversation premier en l'Allemande* (your first conversation in German)!

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-20 03:29:15

(no subject)

Yes, I just saw that. We don't really say "How goes?" so much in England. Most people say "Alright?" You probably know that, though.

Oh, I learned *Fräulein* and *gut* today, so I suppose I'm getting somewhere, but still further along with German than French, it seems. Only I have Charms and Defense to work on tonight so I should concentrate on that until it's time to go to bed. Our

Professor Raz said it's good to learn a few words of French and German but we'll be more impressive to the visitors if we're clever and sharp. I suppose he has a point, doesn't he?

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at 2011-09-20 03:53:50

(no subject)

No, I didn't mean that one actually says 'How goes?' in English. (Although I think Americans do, what?) But that is what it means, in strict translation. In practice it's simply a rather familiar form of address, I suppose. The sort of thing one says to a mate, if you follow me. One would never speak to a professor that way.

And yes, I say, P Froissart's telling us much the same, that we'd be going to give everyone a good impression of our homeland and what our education can do and all that. Personally I think it's mainly to keep us all concentrating on our studies!

(Speaking of which, those examiners I mentioned showed up this morning at breakfast. They were in one of our lessons today, as well. One of them looks like she's about a hundred years old, if you can imagine! They're well intimidating. It's hard enough to transfigure a button or a mouse without that sort of pressure, rather.)

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-20 04:18:40

(no subject)

I don't really know much about Americans, but you might be right.

They can't make it all about socialising and fun, even with the Triwizard Tournament, or else it wouldn't really be school. But I do think they want most people to have a brilliant time or at least a very good time, because some of the older parts of the castle seem brighter and cleaner than before, though maybe that's just because we have a new groundskeeper. And Draco was right about the food being nicer than usual. Even I

think it's nicer and I don't even like most food.

I would feel intimidated, too. But then I don't like to transfigure animals.

From,
Hydra

2011-09-19 10:33:00

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



Happy birthday, Hermione.

If you get a chance today, look in the hidden spot near the fireplace in the common room. Terry's gift is wrapped. My gift isn't, and it won't be obvious what it is because I didn't want to leave a note explaining in case anyone else found it -- it's a charmed bookmarker. You stick it in the back of a book you're reading, and it remembers where you were, so if you close the book, it'll open right back up to where you were but only if YOU open the book, it doesn't work for anyone else (unless they take the bookmark out and put it back in, because then it will remember their spot, instead). It's very hard for anyone else to find the bookmark, too. Anyway, I thought you might find it useful.

alt_sally_anne



alt_ron at 2011-09-19 15:58:46

(no subject)

Oh. Hey, Hermione.

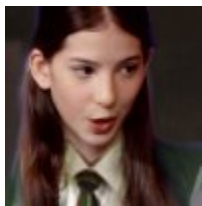
I didn't know it was your birthday today, but many happy returns and all.



alt_neville at 2011-09-19 16:01:13

(no subject)

Same here. Happy birthday!



alt_sally_anne at 2011-09-19 16:06:07

(no subject)

You know that pocket calender we're all supposed to have to write down our homework assignments? They print the incantation for a birthday reminder charm inside the front cover.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-19 16:10:02](#)
(no subject)

Show off.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-19 17:12:00](#)
(no subject)

I would have remembered it anyway. Thanks for passing along what I sent, Sally-Anne.

2011-09-19 15:19:00

Order Only: Dora's Birthday

Frank, Alice, Molly and Arthur: Glad you could make it last night. I think we took Dora by surprise, anyway. (She's home from work but having a kip with the sprog.)



alt_sirius

And Molly, thanks in particular for baking the cake. Big enough for leftovers; that's the best part. Having a little sliver of a slice now, in fact, while Remus is out in the shop.

Happy birthday again, Dora, and to our Hermione, I understand. Moony reminded me and we've sent something off from Laszlo's to you. I don't expect Harry will notice mind if you get a parcel addressed to him.

Any more questions from your anonymous friends?



alt_nymphadora at **2011-09-20 02:03:24**
(no subject)

Yes, thank you all. I had no idea anything was planned, and then to see you all there!

Hermione, I hadn't realised our birthdays are so close together. Many happy returns.

Sirius, it worries me a bit that you managed this surprise without tipping your hand at all--you, too, Remus Lupin: should I wonder what other mischief the two (or three) of you might be getting up to while my back's turned?

The cake is so lovely, Molly. I had seconds again tonight. Did you put some sort of replenishing charm on it? Because there's enough for tomorrow's tea, as well!

And Alice, I'm thinking still about what we discussed. Thank you.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-20 02:16:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, you ought to realise that this birthday only makes you *slightly* less younger than me and your husband. We've had a long time to practise being sneaky before you came along. And yes, if I'm understanding you, Bea certainly helped.



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-20 02:23:43](#)
(no subject)

I thought as much about Bea. She looked positively smug this afternoon when I told her all about the wonderful fun we had after her bedtime last evening.

Thank you. I can't say when I've had as nice a birthday.



[alt_alice](#) at [2011-09-20 02:26:00](#)
(no subject)

You're welcome, dear heart.



[alt_molly](#) at [2011-09-20 12:08:01](#)
(no subject)

I'm so glad you liked the cake. I've never had to use a replenishing charm with that recipe...I've found that it's such a filling cake that it always lasts a little longer than you expect. Happy birthday again!

2011-09-19 23:41:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good -- birthday!



alt_hermione

Sally Anne, the bookmark is so thoughtful. It will be ever so helpful since I use Harry's books and I hate to bookmark them -- what if someone asks him about the things 'he's' reading? and he never reads.

And Terry, thank you also -- is that an aster on it?? What do you call that anyway? In any case it works perfectly, how did you know that that would be good for my hair? Only I can't wear it too much, it's too nice for a Mudblood. I'll have to ask someone to charm it to be hidden, but I think I might rather just keep it to look at.

Who gave me the chocs?? Only they're Snodgrass's, which is far too nice for almost any of you, isn't it, or was it you Pansy? I don't mean that in a mean way but well you know what I mean.

And to top it all off tonight when we came back from supper Harry asked if I would come to this little room, and I said yes, because he isn't allowed in my cupboard of course he said, and he had asked the house-elves to make me and him each a petit-four (although if there are only two of them why are they petit-fours??) and had a candle and sang Happy Birthday.

Anyhow I know there are many messages to send but just for now, it's a very happy birthday!



alt_ron at 2011-09-20 12:01:02
(no subject)

Sounds like it was a good day then.

Are the chocs as good as all that? I mean, I've heard of Snodgrass chocolates and all, but only about how they make them to look like brooms and snitches and other stuff like flowers and toadstools and pumpkins and all. And Brown was talking about them once, but it was about how they sell them in gold boxes and then wrap them in material that's got real gold threads in. I think that's probably nonsense. But what matters is what they taste like,

yeah? So how were they?

Oh. And good on Harry, getting you a cake. Well, petit-fours (didn't know that's how you spelled those--is that French, d'you reckon? seems like everyone's mad to learn French now). Anywiz, if the elves made them, maybe they're learning how to make French food now, too? What do people eat over there? Or at Durmstrang? I heard Mum say they eat loads of fish in France and cabbage in Bulgaria, which, y'know, I hope the elves won't be learning new ways to cook cabbage.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-20 13:46:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes, an aster, the birth flower for September. (The same as on the little box I whittled for you earlier.)

I hope you can get someone to charm it for you. Maybe Fred and George can do it?



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-20 13:46:33](#)
(no subject)

Sure, we can do that. What is it you made for her, professor?



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-20 13:46:51](#)
(no subject)

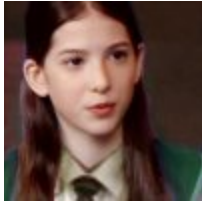
It's a sort of barrette for holding her hair back. Thought it might be useful if she's ever brewing potions. Or just for every day. It's curved, and it's held in place with a stick you insert through holes on the ends.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-20 12:05:23](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Did you ask him my question yet?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-20 15:04:16](#)
(no subject)

Pansy doesn't usually get Snodgrass's -- she prefers dark chocolate to milk chocolate and Snodgrass's are a bit too sweet for her. (Not that she'll refuse them if someone's offering, but it's rare anyone does!)

Daphne had some back at the beginning of term but she'd eaten them within a day... oh, and Hydra always has some. Nearly always. They're her favourites. She has this box like Draco's tea chest to keep them in so no one nicks them.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-20 15:10:47](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it wasn't mine.

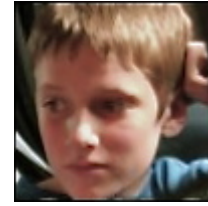
Hydra is always squirreling away sweets and things, and her dad usually gives her some when he sends

her owls.

I'm glad you had a good birthday, Hermione.

2011-09-20 13:40:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Ghosts



alt_terry

There are ghosts here. Which isn't surprising, if you think about it, because this castle was a place where there were executions for many years. And there were prisoners who served out their prison terms and then died here and then their bodies were buried in what's now the grounds of Lucy Tower.

However, the git made a new ghost last week. He's killed enough people you'd think there'd be a bunch of ghosts following him around, but this is the first time I can ever remember it happening.

The other ghosts, the ones already haunting the grounds here, are mostly small and weak. Very few of them have much of a shape or form; they're mostly only flickering weak grey light. Maybe because that's because most of them were very weak when they died. Guess they didn't traditionally take very good care of the prisoners here at Lincoln Castle over the centuries--lots of them were practically starved--so they don't make strong ghosts when they're dead. They've never really bothered me at all.

But this new one was a strong man when he died. He had a family, he told me, and he was so worried about them. He fought real hard every time the git took him out, and finally the git just got disgusted and opened his veins with a curse and let him bleed to death. And all the while he was dying, the man kept telling the git that'd he would haunt him forever. First roaring it, and then whispering it as his blood ran out over the stones. Made my blood run stark cold.

Then he was gone. And the corpse-and-rubbish boy--that's Dudders--came and mopped up the blood and took his body away to bury it. But his ghost came back the next night. Gave the git a terrible turn when he came through a wall, right over his bed, believe me. The git threw a boot at him, but it went right through. And it dawned on him that the ghost is here to stay. It's all I can do to keep from smiling when the ghost starts jeering at him. The git's furious about it, but what can he do? He's already killed him. But the ghost won't go away.

One of the ghosts at Hogwarts once told me that people become ghosts if they can't let go of life. Can't move on to, well, whatever comes after death. I reckon it was his fury at the git that made him stick around.

He tells me his name was Donaghan Tremlett (he told me how it was spelled because he wanted to know if I could get word to his family somehow. Only he doesn't have any idea where they are now.)



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-20 20:15:12](#)
(no subject)

Was he a muggleborn or a muggle?

I hope he makes sure Carrow never gets another good night's sleep as long as he lives.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-20 21:57:23](#)
(no subject)

He was a muggleborn.

Well, I wouldn't object to him interrupting the git's sleep, except remember, I sleep in the same room.

I wonder though...maybe there's a way he can haunt the git but not me.

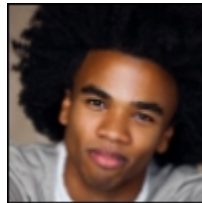
I think I'll speak to him. I've seen him once or twice when the git's busy elsewhere.

It'd be nice to have an ally. Even if the ally is a ghost.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-20 21:59:22](#)
(no subject)

You know, that's actually not a bad idea, Professor. If you can get the ghost on your side, if you can convince him that you hate the git, too, maybe he can be a help.



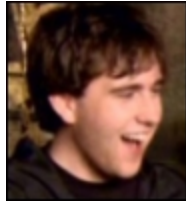
[alt_lee](#) at [2011-09-20 21:59:44](#)
(no subject)

Help him how?



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-20 22:00:11](#)
(no subject)

Well...maybe he can warn you if you're practising and the git's heading your way, for example.



[alt_neville](#) at [2011-09-20 22:02:31](#)
(no subject)

Or maybe he can watch for Pig for you. And maybe help with distracting Carrow if you need him to make a delivery.

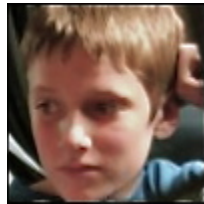


[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-20 22:03:40](#)
(no subject)

Ghosts aren't always super reliable though. And they can be really forgetful.

I wouldn't trust him entirely.

Least not right away.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-20 22:05:41](#)
(no subject)

I know what you mean. I saw that with the Hogwarts ghosts.

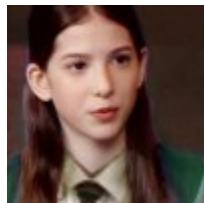
This ghost, though...he's a really new ghost. And he's sort of obsessed. With the git.

I think it's gonna be kind of interesting for awhile.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-20 22:03:41](#)
(no subject)

That reminds us. We think we may have a solution for that problem you set for us, a way to turn off your warming charm if Carrow gets near you. We'll send the instructions with Pig, the next time he visits.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-21 15:30:37](#)
(no subject)

That sounds like a useful spell totally aside from making Terry more comfortable. It's an invisible alert spell that will let him know when Carrow's getting closer.

Can it be keyed to anyone? I mean, can you tell the rest of us how to do it? Because there are times I'd like to know if it's Pansy, Millicent, or Daphne coming up the stairs to the dormitory.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-23 20:12:52](#)
(no subject)

We have the instructions, and we'll give them to you at supper, if you'd like to try it.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-24 19:48:33](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, I tried it out today and it worked perfectly.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-22 15:22:49](#)
(no subject)

Okay. Look. I've been thinking about this, and I could ask my Dad if he could get a message to this Mr Tremlett's family somehow.

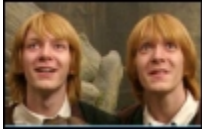
I mean, he works overseeing the camp operations, and I think he has some connections he could maybe work with. I'm not sure, though, because this isn't the sort of thing the Ministry would really care about and actually the idea of telling his family that Carrow did something horrible to that man is probably something that could get Dad in trouble with his bosses if they found out.

I got to see some stuff the day I went to visit his office, and, well, let's just say I could tell that most of those people don't feel the same way about things as I know Dad does. Only Dad can't let them know he thinks they're wrong or they'd sack him quick as anything.

But I think that Dad would want to help if he could, and I think he'd probably try to get the message to them if there's a way to do it and not have anyone in his office know he did it, see?

So. If you think it's okay for me to tell Dad that I talked to you (I'd tell him it was by owl, obviously) and you told me about this Mr Tremlett,

then we could see if he'd help. I don't think he'd be cross about me asking, anywiz.



[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-09-23 01:15:59](#)
(no subject)

Good idea, Ron. Yeah, we bet he would help.



[alt_terry](#) at [2011-09-23 01:23:47](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, okay. I'll ask the ghost if there's anything else he wants to pass along.

It'll be hard news for them to hear. Can't say I wouldn't blame him if he doesn't want to do it. But it would set Mr Tremlett a bit more at rest.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-23 02:05:54](#)
(no subject)

Well. We don't want him to stop haunting Carrow, though, do we? Tell him he should keep that up anywiz.

2011-09-20 16:08:00

Notice to First-Years (and anyone else who needs reminding)



alt_penelope

In response to multiple requests, we shall hold a special meeting of first-years with your fifth-year Prefects in the third classroom on the Charms corridor after supper tonight.

First-years who continue to experience homesickness or other symptoms of trouble adjusting to Hogwarts are reminded that Madam Pomfrey is available to help. I've spoken with her and she is expecting a couple of you; you know who you are.

Please remember that the library closes promptly at nine o'clock on nights preceding lessons. Only NEWT-level students with permission from their Head of House are permitted to stay later. You also need a note from a teacher to obtain any book in the Restricted Section. Any first-year caught trying to gain access to the Restricted Section without permission shall receive detention.

You are also reminded that the Forest is strictly Forbidden and that it is highly advised you give the Whomping Willow a wide berth as you pass by the greenhouses. Remember to allow yourself extra time getting to your lessons if you still can't remember which staircases are inaccessible between class times.

Would the following first-year students plan to stay behind after tonight's meeting: Baddock, Drumgoole, Featherstone, Fellsworthy, Jugson, Mackrell, Spinx, Strangeweale, Symmons and Whitby.

And finally, would this next group of first-years please report to the Great Hall at five o'clock tomorrow: Ackerly, Bones, Cauldwell, Chadwick, Jacobson, Kelpington, Lynch, Nubbins-Crumberhatch and Rittenhouse.

Thank you.



[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-20 21:13:06](#)

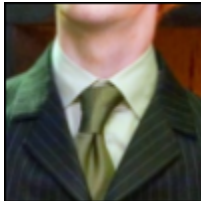
Private Message to Percy Weasley

I don't think I can remember any incoming class as difficult as this lot. Even without Dementors!

Was bullying a huge issue last year? I really don't recall apart from one or two particular cases.

There seems to be a ring of them, this year. All somewhat connected, as well. Here I thought having relatively few halfbloods would make it easier! Apparently it just makes them easier to single out.

Everything all right on your end?



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-21 16:14:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

Homesickness is always a problem. Bullying, too, but believe me, things will settle down after the first few weeks. It's just that everyone has to establish their pecking order at the beginning of the school year.

Everything's all right, but I'm still almost too busy to breathe. Mr Malfoy's back at work, but although he tries to hide it, he still hasn't entirely recovered. It takes an enormous amount of tact, I've found, to try lighten his burden without letting on to *him* that I'm doing so.

He did give me a 'well done, Weasley,' yesterday when he left for the day. So that's something.



[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-09-21 17:28:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

No, I know there are always a couple of instances where one or two new students gets picked on by some older ones. This year, though, it's a bit different.

There are all these cousins. Irish. Branches of the same family so different surnames. They've singled out the few halfbloods coming in this year and--well, let's just say it's not at all pretty. I reckon you'd be familiar with the recent decision that *all* of Ireland's

purebloods will come to Hogwarts, going forward. They were already on the list but the Cup scare ended any argument. That's what Avery said, anyway. I don't suppose you'd be able to confirm or deny it--and no, I'm not asking you to do, don't worry.

Well, anyway, the point is that all these firsties came in knowing the right end of the wand to use. And they're not at all afraid to use it! On Monday, Cauldwell turned up in the Hospital Wing with a particularly vicious case of horn tongue. To make matters worse, he told Diggory later that it had been cast on him before the first lesson and he'd wanted to wait until lunch to get it fixed, for fear of losing points for missing class!

Of course, Diggory told him that was rubbish and that if he'd only shown Professor Slughorn, he would have sent him up sooner--or even reversed it himself!--but you know boys. He was too embarrassed to go to a teacher, especially when half the class might have seen. So instead he struggled through Potions and half of Herbology before the fact that he wasn't talking occurred to anyone. Naturally, Professor Sprout sent him right away, as by that time it needed more intervention.

Just the fact that the hex hadn't worn off in over an hour ought to tell you. These ickle firsties are experienced casters. Joy.

Well, we held a meeting last night with the ones we know are part of the ring, told them that we're all on to them, and made sure they all know that any more instances of this sort will be strictly punished. We'll meet the victims this evening; I figure all we need to do with them is tell them it's been handled but that if anyone does bother them, they ought to find a Prefect immediately.

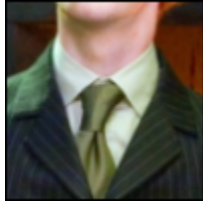
I'm glad we found out sooner rather than later, though. If this had come up after the other schools' delegations arrived I feel positive I'd've died of shame.

Poor Mr Malfoy--don't tell him I said that! but it must have been one powerful curse if it's taken that long to heal completely. I mean, last year when he duelled Professor Carrow (or didn't duel her, of course, I know we're not supposed to admit to that), he was up and about in no time. Well. So we were told. I wonder if maybe he took longer than anyone knew then, too?

But he's pleased with your work? That's great, Perce, really marvellous.

Has.... Is your mum still a bit shirty about the hours you're putting in? I know you said she'd been really upset over the summer, your spending all that time at the office. And then after the Cup, of course, though surely she's come to see why? I just wish she were a little less short-sighted about it all.

What does your dad say, when she gets like that?



[alt_percy](#) at 2011-09-22 02:19:39

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

Ouch on all the stuff with your first years. That does sound more serious than the usual. Well, I must say I think it sounds as though you handled it all quite right.

~~I hope at least you will be spared homicidal professors this year.~~

Sorry. Shouldn't joke about it. That was very poor humour.

About mum...it's a Weasley thing, I suppose, so I'm used to it. I mean, she's always chuntered on about the hours that Father's had to put in at the office. (And I must admit it, he is devoted to doing a good job. Why couldn't he show that type of devotion in a worthwhile career, something that doesn't involve the ilk he has to deal with? Mudbloods and so on.)

Father's always had rather a knack at calming her down when she gets a bit knaggy. Comes from being married so long, I suppose.



[alt_penelope](#) at 2011-09-22 02:52:29

Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

I shouldn't be too sure, if that's what I think you crossed out. We've still got one Carrow, even if she's a bit more balanced than her brother. But no, I don't really think we'll have another case of a professor gone mad. I hope!

I think...some people were born to do unpleasant jobs. The jobs no one else wants to do. And I think perhaps your dad's one of those. I can see why she gets worried about him working so hard

when there's no future in it--I mean, no real hope of promotion or anyone taking notice--but I'd've reckoned she'd realise how important a position you're in by now.

And I don't mean to slag her, or anything. I know she's your mum and I know she's proud of you, really. It just seems to me that your job is stressful enough without having to take any guff at home. (And I don't like the idea of anyone doubting your judgement. Even your mum.)

2011-09-21 22:23:00

ORDER ONLY - more questions

I was a little busy but there are more questions.



alt_hermione

First, How can a person get from the Protectorate to France without being given official passage through the wards?

And people want you to know that my friends, all of them I mean, are nice to Muggleborns, which is true.

And then there was a long thing which was: Is it better or worse elsewhere for wizards? Like what it is like to keep secret you're a wizard and Muggles are all around? Will Muggles really kill wizards? Because, this person says, he couldn't blame Muggles if they wanted to kill wizards after all this. Or that's what he meant anyway.



alt_sirius at 2011-09-22 03:23:48

(no subject)

Right. I hoped no one would ask that straight out. (Don't write that.) In fact, before I answer: This is the same person who has someone who wants to get out?

I can't give a straight answer unless we know whether the person is someone we ought to help. Would the disappearance be noticed? Why do they want to leave? (Don't write that, either. But what is your understanding of the situation - if telling us doesn't violate your compact with your friends.) Meanwhile, write this:

1. I daresay there are many people who would escape if they thought they could. There are a few ways out but they're dangerous and difficult. Think about how the wards are placed, and *where* they are placed. If you know that, then that'll be a clue to what someone has to do to get through them. Unfortunately, I can't really say more on this subject without a great deal of personal risk. But if your 'friend' has a serious need to leave - that is, if he or she needs asylum of some kind - then I recommend sending an owl with details about the situation. I can't promise anything, mind.

2. Well, honestly, the answer is 'Yes.' It's better and it's worse. On the whole I think it's better. We have the ability to take advantage of anything Muggles have contributed in return for only observing a

few reasonable restrictions. It can be inconvenient now and then but generally it's not cumbersome. And it can be tempting to break those restrictions, particularly as a practical joke. Although, it must be said, that's the sort of thing that made Muggles fear us in the first place. They fear what they don't understand and wizards haven't done a good job - or any kind of job - of explaining magic to non-magical people. Most, though, wouldn't really have killed us, not in this day and age, I don't think. Centuries ago, yes, of course. But in the twentieth century? No, I don't think so. The only drawback to telling them - and in my opinion, the best reason for not telling them - is that invariably they'll want their magical acquaintances to do things for them. They see it as a short-cut or a way to get ahead. And they don't understand the limitations on that sort of thing.

As for what they'd do if we suddenly did reverse everything, well. I could understand if they wanted to kill a few of us, too. I hope that we'd be able to convince them to bring the guiltiest to trial so that they could be held accountable in a more just process. Have you heard of the Holocaust - does the Ministry allow any discussion of World War II? Even wizards were involved in that, especially when England was being bombed from the air. It's been over fifty years, but Muggles are still occasionally catching men who were involved in running the labour camps and the execution chambers, and putting them to trial. But when they do catch them, they examine the evidence before deciding what to do about it.

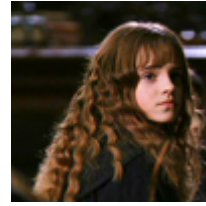


[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-22 13:27:15](#)
(no subject)

The friend, I don't know -- I'm not sure who she's they're referring to. I asked. It could be alot of people.

2011-09-21 22:28:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good -- more answers



alt_hermione

FIRST of all, he says, 'And about our professions. Well. Let's just say it'd be much harder to do what we do if we all lived in hiding. Though hiding in plain sight is, I suppose, a form of hiding, as well.'

I missed it when he said it at first. Sorry.

And people wanted to know 'whether they truly treat you as an equal, Hermione.' But I didn't know what to say. 'Yes,' I suppose. Terry, I mean -- it seems like you ought to have a say in what we say too.



alt_hermione at **2011-09-22 13:25:56**

(no subject)

And he sent some more answers too.

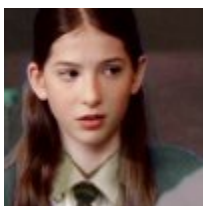
To Sally-Anne he said, 'There are a few ways out but they're dangerous and difficult. Think about how the wards are placed, and where they are placed. If you know that, then that'll be a clue to what someone has to do to get through them.' But he can't say more because it's too risky, but he says if your 'friend' needs to get out because they really need asylum, I should send an owl with details. And he wanted to know all about it, but I don't know who you meant, really.

And to Ron, he said a lot of things and I think I'd better copy them out:

'It's better and it's worse. On the whole I think it's better. We have the ability to take advantage of anything Muggles have contributed in return for only observing a few reasonable restrictions. It can be inconvenient now and then but generally it's not cumbersome. And it can be tempting to break those restrictions, particularly as a practical joke. Although, it must be said, that's the sort of thing that made Muggles fear us in the first place. They fear what they don't understand and wizards haven't done a good job - or any kind of job - of explaining magic to non-magical people. Most, though, wouldn't really have killed us, not in this day and age, I don't think. Centuries

ago, yes, of course. But in the twentieth century? No, I don't think so. The only drawback to telling them - and in my opinion, the best reason for not telling them - is that invariably they'll want their magical acquaintances to do things for them. They see it as a shortcut or a way to get ahead. And they don't understand the limitations on that sort of thing.

As for what they'd do if we suddenly did reverse everything, well. I could understand if they wanted to kill a few of us, too. I hope that we'd be able to convince them to bring the guiltiest to trial so that they could be held accountable in a more just process. Have you heard of the Holocaust - does the Ministry allow any discussion of World War II? Even wizards were involved in that, especially when England was being bombed from the air. It's been over fifty years, but Muggles are still occasionally catching men who were involved in running the labour camps and the execution chambers, and putting them to trial. But when they do catch them, they examine the evidence before deciding what to do about it.'



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-09-24 19:47:19](#)
(no subject)

I meant my mum.

I suppose I could write to him, but

I'm not sure if she'd go. Probably no one would notice, but if anyone did it's possible I'd get in trouble. My father would know, for sure, and if he disappeared that would be noticed in a month or two.

I just wish she could live somewhere that she could still own a wand. Even if she couldn't, though, if she could live somewhere that muggles aren't in camps, she could pretend she was a muggle woman and get a job and a house of her own and not have to depend on my father for everything.



[alt_ron](#) at [2011-09-24 20:30:15](#)
(no subject)

Well obviously we heard about World War Two in Muggle Studies and some other places, but what they tell us is that it was one of the big wars where Muggles showed how terrible they are and tried to kill not just Muggles in other countries but all kinds of people they

decided they didn't like, including wizards and travellers.

Mum and Dad talked about the German muggles in World War Two one time when they were telling us about how some people are prejudiced and think that people who do things differently or come from someplace different are dirty or bad or defective, and then they decide not just to live differently themselves, but decide that they'd be better off if those other kinds of people were dead or sent away.

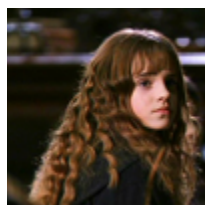
I mean, really, they were talking about how wizards put muggles into camps, weren't they? But not straight out. What they told us about instead was how Germans put some people in prison because they had a different religion and then they killed loads of those people because the Germans muggles got to believing that it's bad to be different and thought those people shouldn't be allowed to own stuff or live with everybody else or even live at all. But they did it to other kinds of people, too. Travellers and wizards, like I said. And also homosexual blokes--y'know, blokes who like blokes. So Mum and Dad were trying to say that once you start deciding that it's bad to be different, then you start seeing more things you think are bad kinds of different.

But, um. What Mr Black's saying is that not all Muggles are like that, I guess. Just like not all wizards think that muggles and muggleborns should be in camps or have to be slaves.

Only. It seems like there aren't many of us who think that. So I wonder if there really are very many Muggles who don't think we should be in camps or put to death.

I mean, Hermione. If things changed today, and Muggles got out of the camps and took over again, what do you think they should do to us?

Cause it's not like we can go back to living in secret, can we?



[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-09-26 14:46:53](#)

(no subject)

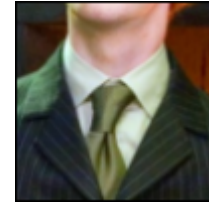
I thought about this a long time and

I don't know.

[2011-09-22 14:43:00](#)

Private message to Mr Lucius Malfoy

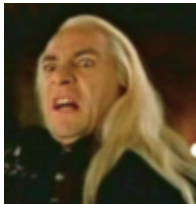
Mrs Malfoy has asked me to inform you that she is accepting a supper party invitation for Friday next, and says to assure you that the two of you needn't arrive too early or stay too long.



[alt_percy](#)

She noted that Mr Reginald Branstone is expected to be there.

At her request, then, I have added it to your calendar.

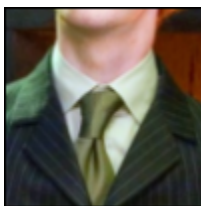


[alt_lucius](#) at [2011-09-22 20:12:04](#)
(no subject)

What invitation is this? If it's something we've already rejected then in all likelihood there was a reason for declining. Besides, we've already accepted dinner with the Yaxleys Friday next. Why wasn't that on the calendar in the first place?

By the way, Weasley, next time Runcorn wishes to air his suspicions regarding the camp administrator of Drifffield, shall insist that you take the meeting yourself. The exercise was nothing more than an entree to peddle his 'excellent opportunity' for development in Humberside. As if I give a damn about cattle in East Riding!

He's on his way down. Once he's gone, come and get these blasted ridiculous books of press clippings off my desk, as well. Find a shelf for them downstairs if you insist on maintaining them.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-22 20:31:54](#)
(no subject)

Yes, the invitation for the Yaxley has been accepted, but it is for Thursday night, sir. (I have the invitation here.)

I dare say very few care about cattle in East Riding. I am very sorry that the meeting with Mr Runcorn was so vexing.

The books will be shelved below the north window from now on. I

will simply include a précis of the weekly updates with your regular correspondence summaries, but the books will be there should you ever care to inspect them.

[2011-09-22 15:16:00](#)

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Mr Weasley,

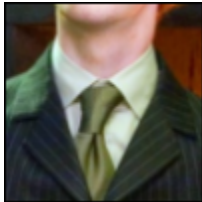
I wonder if you would be so kind as to consult my husband's calendar for Friday next. The Hawkinses have invited us to a small supper party and I seemed to recall another engagement but for some reason neither Mariposa nor I can find any note of it.



[alt_narcissa](#)

And if we are able to accept, would you mind terribly making sure he has nothing immediately prior? He does have a tendency to book himself right up until the last moment - particularly if it means avoiding Selma's idea of *apéritifs*.

Unless he's available to ask now? I do so hate to interrupt him, you know.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-22 19:34:09](#)

(no subject)

Mrs Malfoy:

Mr Malfoy is in a meeting at the moment. This one I am reluctant to interrupt, as it has already been rescheduled once or twice. ~~to accommodate~~. It started off rather later than expected, too, as Mr Malfoy returned to the office running a little behind his own schedule.

But upon checking his calendar, I do not see any conflicts with the date that you mention.

Do you...do you need me to inform him that you will be accepting the invitation?



[alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-09-22 19:43:43](#)

(no subject)

Oh, yes, do you mind terribly? That would be lovely. Tell him we needn't arrive too early or stay too long.

You might tell him that Reginald Branstone will be there, by all reports.

Thank you, Mr Weasley.

[2011-09-22 16:15:00](#)

Private Message to Dominic Selwyn and Percy Weasley



[alt_lucius](#)

Weasley why did you not tell me that Froissart had left a message about the Beauxbatons delegation?

Dominic, it seems we must revisit the question of that halfblood to whom you objected. Delacour. The young woman selected in her place, Mlle Dulonges, has suffered a rather grievous injury in her Potions lesson this morning and will be unable to travel for ... several months. Madame Maxime insists that her *protégé* be reconsidered from the list of alternates.

Don't believe we need discuss at the Board of Governors' meeting this after-noon but if you think it necessary Certain Peakes would oblige if you cared to make an issue of it. At this point, cannot imagine that her 'unfair advantage' (that *is* what you called it, if I recall) will afford her any more benefit than an over-abundance of invitations to the Yule Ball. Froissart reports her skills are adequate at best.

In any event, it is of no consequence to me at this juncture. Let the chit come and fail, and let that be a testament to the follies of miscegenation.



[alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-09-22 20:33:51](#)

(no subject)

Eh, so be it. It's clear Maxime is determined to foist the creature on us, one way or another.

Do you think the meeting will run long? I have a great deal to do yet today.

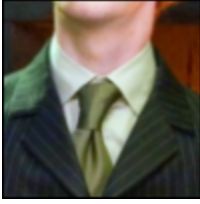


[alt_lucius](#) at [2011-09-22 21:38:43](#)

(no subject)

Perhaps she means the slattern to ensnare an English husband and thus dispel her own taint.

As for the meeting, let us hope not. Or if it does, Peakes had best have brought the Scotch - and not just for Minerva!



alt_percy at 2011-09-22 20:34:12

Private message to Mr Lucius Malfoy

I am sorry I failed to draw your attention specifically to the note in your box, sir.



alt_lucius at 2011-09-22 21:04:23

Re: Private message to Mr Lucius Malfoy

You are paid - well, I might add - to separate wheat from chaff. Precisely what is the point of a clerk who cannot discern the difference?

You might have said something as I arrived. Runcorn could have waited another five minutes; as it happens, he could have waited until Doomsday.

2011-09-23 11:31:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan



alt_padma

I've been thinking that we could make History Club into more of a Charms and Duel Revising night, if we wanted to do, but that maybe we ought to wait until we know more about the Tournament and who the Hogwarts Champion will be. Does that make sense? Or should we keep on even though we haven't had much in the way of new people so far this year? I think more people are going to be interested in exchanging spellbooks than history books, though.

But. I wanted to ask you about something else, too. Not in the Great Hall, there're too many people about.

The thing is...I was in the library last night with Tamblyn, the Moons, Capper and some of the others, and I went to get a copy of the *Anthology of Eighteenth Century Charms* and I saw Cox, Samuels and Page. I hung back a bit, you know, so I wouldn't bump right into ~~Grant~~ them all. They were talking and sort of chuckling about various people this year, especially people getting all hopeful about the visiting students. Well, a little bit later, Sloper and Ken Towler joined them. And Sloper said--something about Hooper. Geoff Hooper, I mean, not either of his brothers. I don't know if you want to know what it was they said, though.

Well, it wasn't long before Johnson came along and told them all to shut it. But they were all sort of sniggering about it.

It's just--if it's not true, what they said, then Hooper ought to know they're saying it. And if it is true (and Towler would know, wouldn't he, or the Weasley twins, they're all in the same dormitory), then I think you ought to know. Because you spend so much time with him.

So. Do you want me to tell you? Or do you want to talk to him first and see what he says?



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 19:43:03](#)
(no subject)

I thought I'd ask Geoff but I decided it would be better to find out from you what they were saying.

Did it have something to do with his brother, his traitor brother?

Or was it something else?



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:15:34](#)
(no subject)

No, it wasn't about either of his brothers. It was definitely about him.

They said he's a *shirt-lifter*. I mean, I don't think it's true, right? Because he's mated about with you loads of times and he's never tried anything inappropriate.

Unless he *has* done?

See? I don't want them spreading rumours that aren't true, of course, but if it *is* true, then I wanted you to know so you'd be able to decide if you're--well, comfortable staying friends.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:19:14](#)
(no subject)

Not that it's wrong if he *is* a poufter, of course! I mean, Mum knows a fair few of them, like I told you before. It's just--well, I think you should be able to choose if you want to associate with a bloke who fancies other blokes. That's all.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:22:51](#)
(no subject)

If you knew he was a poufter would you still be willing to be around him? I mean given your mum knows so many.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:30:56](#)

(no subject)

Well, I don't really care one way or another. I mean, he's *not* a traitor, although I dunno, it's not particularly *patriotic*, is it, to pair off with another boy and not a girl, and not have babies and all. But I guess that's not something they can really control, either. Is it? I mean, they'd surely be normal if they could be, right?

But anyway, it doesn't matter to me, it's *you*, don't you see? Because if I had a gay mate that would be okay. I'm a girl. But a boy can't have a gay *mate*, can he? Without everyone sniggering and spreading rumours and saying that he's after you.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:33:37](#)

(no subject)

You're right, people will snigger and spread rumours. We should probably avoid each other for a while.

Geoff Hooper is gay, Padma, and so am I.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:38:18](#)

(no subject)

Really?! ~~Are you sure~~

Oh, I see.

Don't be cross. I said it's okay to have a friend who's, er, gay.

I just didn't know that it would be you.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:40:09](#)

(no subject)

I'm not cross. I figured if you said that it would probably be okay, in the end.

Geoff told a few people he thought he could

trust. Although maybe one of them is the one who spread it around about him? I don't know. Anyway he actually told me once he thought I could tell you.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:36:24](#)
(no subject)

And you're right it's not really something you can help.

I tried for two years to make myself fancy Lavender. I mean, not that she'd necessarily want to be my girlfriend, but there's nothing ABNORMAL about fancying a girl who doesn't fancy you back! And I can tell that she's pretty. Beautiful, even! And I like looking at her. But I don't want to snog her. At all.

I don't know what I'll do about babies. That's a good point. I just don't know.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:39:00](#)
(no subject)

Well, no, of course not. And Lav never has fancied you, not even a bit.

I guess it all makes sense now, in a way.

Huh.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:42:47](#)
(no subject)

I could tell Lav didn't fancy me. She likes older boys, tall, with some muscle, and I'm pretty certain she prefers them with blond hair. Draco would be perfect for her but he's stuck on

Parkinson.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:45:49](#)
(no subject)

I know, don't remind me. Ugh.

And I thought...well, that is, I've heard people wondering whether Parkinson and Perks are queer, too. But Draco won't hear a word about it. Says it's complete rubbish.

I guess this goes to show you can be very close to someone but not know even the most basic things about them.

(Not that I really think Parkinson and Perks are snogging each other. But you have to admit they certainly don't make it hard to think they could be!)



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:49:52](#)
(no subject)

I've wondered that about Parkinson and Perks, too!

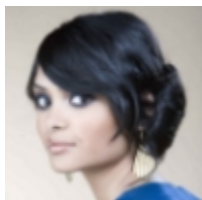
I don't know a lot about ~~girl-shirt lifters~~ lesbians. Perks is really secretive but that could just be because of her family.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:51:02](#)
(no subject)

I'm pretty sure Parkinson does like boys.

I don't know about Perks, though.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:41:16](#)
(no subject)

Only we're not telling my dad, okay? Because he doesn't approve of that sort of thing, even though that's silly.

Does.... Does Mr Rosier know? I mean, have you told anyone else?



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:45:09](#)
(no subject)

I sort of hinted about it to Mr Rosier.

He told me not to worry about it.

I think either he didn't understand what I was telling him, or he thinks it's a phase.

I'm certainly not telling your dad! You're almost the first person I've told. Other than Geoff.



[alt_padma](#) at [2011-09-24 20:48:08](#)
(no subject)

Well, don't worry, I shan't tell anyone else if you don't want me to do. Even Lav. Even Parvati.



[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 22:10:13](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.



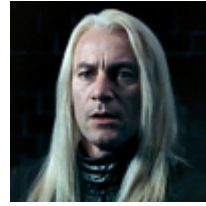
[alt_seamus](#) at [2011-09-24 20:23:12](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad they're not saying he's a traitor, like his brother. Because he's not.

2011-09-23 15:12:00

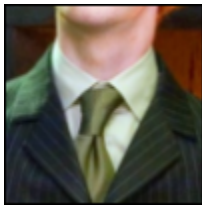
Private Message to Weasley

That parcel you left on my desk this morning. Have no use for it. Cannot return to Garrard's; perhaps you can think of a suitable destination. In any event, come and get rid of it - discreetly, if you please.



alt_lucius

Also have several letters to be copied out and addressed when you have a moment. And find the file on Branstone; if I am to suffer through a parade of Gallerinas such as Selma Hawkins is likely to invite, may as well attend to a matter or two of business.



alt_percy at 2011-09-23 19:29:42

(no subject)

About that parcel, sir. I heard from the sender; she actually flooded me this morning to inquire if I had given it to you yet.

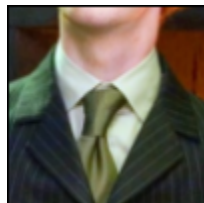
I have the distinct impression she regrets sending it back. I gather that emotions were...rather high.



alt_lucius at 2011-09-23 19:33:20

(no subject)

Mm. What of it, Weasley?



alt_percy at 2011-09-23 19:36:08

(no subject)

Well. If...if you have no wish to keep the contents, and she wants them back, perhaps that would be the easiest solution?

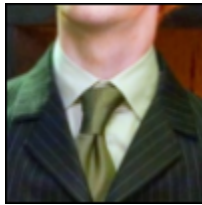


[alt_lucius](#) at [2011-09-23 19:44:58](#)
(no subject)

Easiest for you, you mean, Weasley?

No. She ought to have had more control over her impulses in the first place. In general, I should say.

Send the blasted gems to Gringott's and have them bury them in the vault. Just have done with it.



[alt_percy](#) at [2011-09-23 19:46:32](#)
(no subject)

Yes, sir. And I will have those letters and the file prepared for you within the hour.

2011-09-24 12:05:00

Ask Ol' Wil

Can't answer all yer letters, but keep 'em comin. I'll get to some of 'em as I can, and maybe yeh'll be one o the lucky ones, yeah?



alt_wagstaff

Here's one from Nelda in Truppe-over-Style.

Dear Wags,

My boyfriend won't propose. Says he's not ready. Mum says I should leave him, but I can't do. I love him. And I mean forever.

What would you do if you were me?

It's like this, Nelda, luv: if I were you, I'd've had a better business plan than gettin some bloke to push'n'shove me. But if yer really set on 'im, then you might think about a Hobblin Hex. Then tell him, it'll hold til you give the ol' finite one way or t'other. That oughta help him feel ready, see?

2011-09-25 13:28:00

Attention: Hogwarts Students

While it is true that the Healing Arts are capable of reattaching severed digits (provided that the sufferer brings all of the pieces promptly for reattachment), it would, on the whole, be far better to avoid such injury altogether.



alt_poppy

To that end, I urge you all to take extreme care if choosing to participate in the current 'fast friends forever' fad. If applied with even a fraction too much vigour, the charm meant to tighten the knotted-thread ring around a finger will cinch without ceasing. The result is dismaying and creates rather a lot of mess.

Judging from my admittance records for the past four days, I infer that the charm in question requires at least third-year skill for safe application.



alt_penelope at 2011-09-26 00:45:58

Private Message to Madam Pomfrey

Thanks, Madam P. We've been trying to warn them but sometimes it works better coming from someone they see as an unquestioned authority.

Robins and Dunstan particularly asked whether there's any intervention we could enact in the short-term, in case someone comes to one of the Prefects before going straight up to the Hospital Wing.



alt_poppy at 2011-09-26 01:35:34

Re: Private Message to Madam Pomfrey

Thank you for asking, Miss Clearwater. Most astute.

I shouldn't think that every Prefect would have mastered a Stasis charm, but it would be helpful if a Prefect were on the spot, as it were, with a child who had miscast this ring tightening spell, if he or she might cast *Petrificus Totalis* on the digit (whether partially or wholly severed).

In the instance of its not having been yet wholly detached, that spell

would halt the process and preserve some part of the finger's connective tissue. And in cases where the amputation is complete, it would preserve the parts from further injury or deterioration, though it is still imperative that the injured child be brought as quickly as possible to the hospital wing for re-attachment.



[alt_penelope](#) at 2011-09-26 02:15:02

Re: Private Message to Madam Pomfrey

Well, the 5th-year Prefects certainly don't know Stasis yet but it shouldn't be beyond 1st-level NEWT students. I can show them at our next meeting, as well.

As far as getting them to you, naturally, it's our priority in a case such as this. Frankly, I'm surprised they're still trying based on watching their classmates' results!

2011-09-25 13:47:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black



alt_nymphadora

Remus, by the time Bea and I have finished napping, I may forget again, so I'll just tell you this now, shall I?

Last evening I put a small parcel away on the shelf below the cash box in the shop. Beth asked if we could keep it until the person it's meant for can stop in and ask for it. So that's what it is, in case you see it and wonder. And that's where it is, if someone asks you for a left parcel. I meant to tell you last night, but it was so busy. And then it slipped my mind.

Adding Sirius here, too, in case the both of us are forgetful and need reminding what I've done with the thing.



alt_sirius at 2011-09-25 23:05:29
(no subject)

Who's supposed to come get it? Did she give you any idea how long we're supposed to hold the thing?

And why couldn't she simply send it by owl, then?



alt_nymphadora at 2011-09-25 23:27:15
(no subject)

I don't actually know who is coming to get it, except that it's a woman and she's a muggleborn servant. Beth said her employers wouldn't approve of her receiving post there, and this is a safe, neutral place for it to rest until she can retrieve it.

I was really pleased she asked. It's exactly the way we've hoped people would see us, isn't it?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-26 00:36:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah, only ... we don't know a lot about her, do we?

Did she say what's in this package?



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-26 01:42:07](#)
(no subject)

Said it was a potion. Something medicinal. For female troubles. Or maybe I only thought that's what she meant.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-26 01:34:04](#)
(no subject)

That's lovely, assuming Beth's telling the truth, and this isn't some sort of set-up.

Have you looked in the parcel?



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-26 01:41:10](#)
(no subject)

Of course I haven't looked in the parcel.

Do you really suspect Beth? She's seemed perfectly all right to me. (I know Madam P told you we should be cautious and that she could be MLE, but really? I don't get that sense of her at all, do you?)



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-26 01:45:11](#)
(no subject)

I like Beth.

I guess I'm hesitant to trust her on that account. She's a lovely woman but she spends quite a lot of her time listening. Which could mean nothing except that she's willing to lend an ear to the troubled. Or it could mean she's a spy -- a really good spy.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-26 02:05:44](#)

(no subject)

She certainly doesn't seem like the MLE type, no - but on the other hand, she's familiar enough with Quinn Quirke, and he's near the top of the Ministry's list of donors.

Like Remus says, she could just be a very good listener. But it's suspicious in itself that in all the weeks she's been coming, no one really seems to know as much about her as she knows about the rest of the customers.

Whatever she is, she's effective. That other bloke - well, he gets people talking about themselves, that's for sure. But he seems more like a *Daily Prophet* reporter, always asking questions. Beth just ... chats. But she doesn't reveal anything about herself. And when anyone *does* ask her something even vaguely personal, she gives an enigmatic answer. (Rather like my brother used to do, in fact.)

Then again. She's cheery enough. And she's always pleased to see Padfoot, though. And I don't get any sense from her (as Padfoot) that she's being deceitful with people. Just ... cautious.



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-26 02:45:24](#)

(no subject)

Well. For that matter, we're deceitful and cautious. But we mean well.

I say Beth's a friend.

Her heart's in the right place, wanting to help muggleborns.

That's all I need to know.

2011-09-26 10:47:00

Order Only - the future

One of my friends just asked me a question, and I didn't know the answer and now it's bothering me --



alt_hermione

What do we think Muggles should do, I mean, when things change, if they ever do?

Because I don't know, I mean I don't know what I'd want to do, I don't think it's fair to take things out on wizards who maybe didn't have a choice, people who basically are good but who weren't strong enough to be members of the Order or something like that, only how does one know? And what about -- I mean what if people say they were under the Imperius curse, or if they say that they were just doing what they were told to do, or if they say that people were threatening their children like some of the students, because I mean that's a real thing, it isn't fake.

And don't you think that the Muggles who wake up, I mean when the sleepers wake up, don't you think they're going to be angry, after they get over feeling like Rip Van Winkle? And don't you think that they're going to be angry with us too for not waking them sooner somehow, and then will we be able to stop them doing whatever they want because of how we won't be able to make them all forget magic again, and also if we tried to stop them we'd be just as bad as anyone else?

I don't know. I never thought of it before, because it didn't seem like it was possible that things would be any different ever, and also it just seemed like maybe they could just change, I don't know, I don't know what it was like before but I suppose it was childish but I thought things could just snap back. But I know they can't.



alt_bill at 2011-09-26 15:10:31

(no subject)

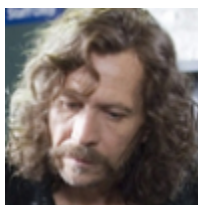
No, they can't, and you're wise beyond your years to know that, Hermione.

It's tempting to believe and hope that if we could only get rid of the LP, why then things will be...I don't know. Better. Closer to the way they should be, before our world went so

desperately out of kilter. And they would, of course. But the task then will be just beginning.

It will take a top to bottom reorganisation of our entire society. We can't go back to the Great Britain we used to have. What that new society will look like, I don't know. But we'll need a new way to govern ourselves, and we'll need to be able to meet people's needs for food, shelter, and work, without resorting to abuse and slavery. And we'll need a method to restore justice, so we don't descend into an orgy of retribution that will tear our society apart. Which could be worse than anything we've seen so far.

Sorry, no easy answers here. You're right, however, that we should think about these things.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-26 15:41:27](#)
(no subject)

Bill said it before I could. There are no easy answers, kiddo, and ever since the wards went up, Muggles all over the world have known, to one degree or another, about the existence of wizards.

Every country is handling it differently, of course. In America, the wizards have organised their own political party; we know that France has been slowly but surely buying in to the Protectorate's point of view, though they're restricting Muggleborn through legislation and not as much through violent overthrow. I've heard that China is persecuting wizards but as a result, most of them have got out of the country to places with greater acceptance.

Sabola, that chap who helps supply the sugar and cinnamon and other spices through Laszlo, he's a Muggle. He doesn't care about wizards so much as sees them as a new market.

Everyone is going to have a different reaction. When the wards first went up around Britain and Ireland, there was more than a little panic all over the world. They thought it was a disaster of some kind; then they thought it was an unprovoked attack; eventually someone suggested civil unrest; and finally, some time later, there was a story about a violent coup perpetrated by so-called wizards. It took a while for the nations of the world to decide how to treat that news. Some people still don't believe it, I should mention.

If we could change everything tomorrow, well. The simple truth is that we wouldn't want to change *everything* right away. We'd need to go about it thoughtfully and carefully, making sure that we could absorb the awakened sleepers and explain what happened. It'd be lovely if we could reunite them as families though I'm not altogether hopeful that will be possible. We'll need to restore much of what was taken, to the extent that we can do, which will mean some wizards who've benefitted over the years will have to give up fancy mansions or other purloined possessions. They won't be happy about it but it wasn't theirs in the first place, was it? But even at that, some things won't ever be recovered.

There is never any going back. Only figuring out a way forward.

[2011-09-26 14:58:00](#)

Order Only

Stop peppering me with owls. I'll use the ridiculous journal. ~~Feathers in my tea~~



[alt_severus](#)

Mr McGivern, we may stop looking for the location component in the potion. It's not there. Gratifying to know that I was correct in thinking that Carrow is too much of an imbecile to incorporate that quality into a blood-binding spell. Given the assumed runic component of the writing he used, we may then suppose that that which would keep Mr Boot within Carrow's radius is runic in nature as well. The 'steel' quill reinforces my theory - Carrow was likely using iron, and the iron stylus was a favourite tool for those using blood-based runic magic. If it's a rune that's binding Mr Boot to Carrow's location, it's a simple matter of finding it and destroying it properly. The blood rune is another matter entirely.

Black, I would like to put a stop to this nonsense about the animagus transformation once and for all. My research on the subject - to my *vast* surprise - reinforces your theory that assuming the animagus form does indeed interrupt the workings of a blood-binding spell. Before you allow this to get to your head, however, recall that time is of the essence, and you are asking a vast deal of a young man under distressive circumstances. Not everyone is as privileged as you were at that age.

Blood-based magic is usually performed once every few months on the subject for the purpose of reinforcement. The bond grows stronger with each new dose. Rather than place an optimistically tall order on the boy, I find it much more plausible to find a way to erase the runes ourselves. It would be an ordeal, but nearly anything is more conceivable than expecting a boy of his age and education to *master the animagus transformation*.

Lupin and Professor Sprout, I have need of more supplies, and am informed it is not yet "safe enough" to get them myself. I understand that you are the individuals to contact in such matters, and I expect my order to be executed swiftly and thoroughly.

- Calcite - if mercantile sources exhausted or dubious, locate at White Cliffs of Dover qty. 10oz.
- Adder skin qty. 5, preferably unbroken

- Ammonium chloride qty. 2oz.
- Fresh buckwheat qty. 3 bushels

Minerva, you have run out of green tea.



[alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-09-26 22:51:49](#)
(no subject)

I shall try to replenish you; in the meantime, best brush up on your transfiguration. I have been able to achieve an imitation based on raspberry-leaf tisane which is quite acceptable.



[alt_severus](#) at [2011-09-27 18:29:42](#)
(no subject)

My transfiguration does not need 'brushing up.'

But the tisane is, indeed, tolerable.



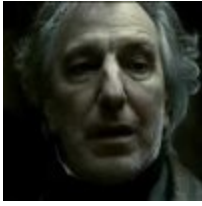
[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 14:03:19](#)
(no subject)

Well, I've some questions if no one else has.

What exactly do you mean by your research into the transformation's effect on blood magic?

As for Terry's learning it or not, that's not up to me. He was already working on it when I met him - and he's got the talent for it. I wouldn't have encouraged him if he hadn't had. It's just a question of time. (Privilege, incidentally, or lack thereof, has nothing to do with it. In future you can leave out any similar snide remarks about things you clearly don't understand.)

Exactly how do you suggest we remove runes when we can't get near the lad? And what do you mean, the blood rune's another matter?



[alt_severus](#) at [2011-09-27 18:20:14](#)
(no subject)

I find that it is usually the individual who raises their hand first who has the least helpful things to say.

My research methods are none of your concern, so long as they produce results. Unlike certain others, I do not require an oath to force me to print the truth. However, in the interest of transparency, Headmistress McGonagall volunteered willingly in her capacity as an animagus. Of my sampling population, I felt she would be the most reliable subject. As you can see, she has met with no harm. I also spent nearly a month prior to these experiments in academic research with volumes from the Headmistress's personal library as well as some on loan from the Hogwarts restricted section, but I have the sneaking suspicion that that's not what you were driving at.

Your assertions of Mr Boot's 'talent' are completely irrelevant. Talent means nothing without education and skill acquired over the course of years. As you so astutely pointed out, you are quite unable to be there to hand-hold him through the process, and he is running out of time. You clearly prefer to race the boy against the strengthening bonds Carrow is placing upon him. I prefer to act realistically, and find solutions which depend upon our actions rather than the 'talent' of an oppressed and undereducated adolescent.

The entire point of blood magic is permanence. There are dozens of factual accounts concerning failed attempts to remove or destroy this rune, and the rare accounts which detail a successful attempt are unreliable and implausible heresy. For instance, I am relatively confident that turning counter-clockwise thrice on Midsummer's Eve with a freshly-killed badger tied to one's head will not undo a blood rune. I may certainly test it in the interest of academic rigor, if you are willing to volunteer.

However, I have some optimism as to a theory from which we could all stand to benefit. I will be ready to present it in one month. I have my doubts as to whether Mr Boot will have mastered the transformation before then, though he may certainly try.

2011-09-26 18:11:00

Overseas

The firsties are so cute and amusing, and they don't even realise it.

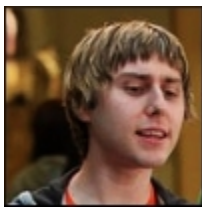


alt_hydra

Some of them were in the common room before supper talking about French Kissing, and they said that it's when you kiss someone on each cheek after having not seen them in a very long time. Cheek kissing is popular in France, and we do it here in England, too, but of course that's not what French Kissing is at all. So Remy told them that it's really snogging and they looked so embarrassed and also like they expected to be in trouble for talking about such a thing. I told them that if they felt confused they should talk to a prefect, because if Remy had kept talking about snogging then all their hair might've gone white.

The third year course work has been challenging so far. Transfiguration and Defense, especially. But both Runes and Dark Arts are covering material that I've already known for a while, so that helps. It's still a lot of reading, and I was almost thinking I should put learning German and French off to concentrate on homework, but then I received a fantastic book in the mail and thank you, Justin, for thinking to send it to me. It seems very thorough, and I especially like how you left your notes in the margins, they make it even more helpful. Thank you again! It should be terribly useful.

Does anyone know if Professor Grubbly-Plank minds speaking with students who aren't taking Care of Magical Creatures? ~~I wish I could~~ I tried to talk to Professor Brutka about changing Tevis' diet for the winter, and he ~~seemed grumpy~~ didn't say much but reminded me that he doesn't teach Creatures anymore. So maybe I should ask her, if she doesn't mind.



alt_justin at **2011-09-27 01:30:12**
(no subject)

Oh, it arrived, then? Jolly good! P Froissart thought it would go through without trouble. I'm quite glad you like it.

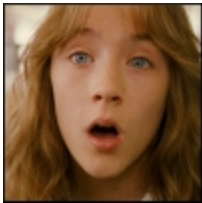
There's also a charm you can cast on it--'Traduire' (that's pronounced trah-DWEER with the funny French gargled 'R')--and it will switch

back and forth from French to English for you. Sorry it's a bit naff in that respect, what.

Sorry, but, I'm not sure *I* know what those firsties mean by 'French kissing.' Though if it's snogging--Oh, are they talking about a *patin*? Oh, I say. Well. Now they're not the only ones blushing!

Er... Why aren't you taking Creatures? And who's Tevis?

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-27 01:42:06
(no subject)

Trah-DWEER. I think I will have to practise that first. But thank you, I was trying different thinks with my wand to make it translate and hadn't yet sorted it out.

Well, they weren't talking about patin, or at least didn't mean to be. I suppose they heard one of the older kids talking about French ~~kis~~ things and got confused. That's all!

I've always wanted to study Runes and ~~Mummy~~ my parents think Dart Arts is important, which it is of course, so that doesn't leave time to take Creatures, too. And Tevis is my rabbit.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at 2011-09-27 01:51:04
(no subject)

No, I meant--oh, well, nevermind.

Just, if anyone from our lot asks if you want to *rouler un patin* or *rouler une pelle*, hex him. And then tell Draco.

I thought third-years could take three extra lessons?

How long have you had him? Your rabbit, I mean. I'm not allowed any pets at home. My mother thinks it would be bad for my health, do you see.

-Justin



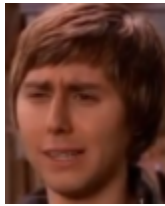
[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-27 01:59:07](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'll try to remember that, then.

Right, you can. But Arithmancy is my third. Not Creatures.

I've had Tevis since the end of my first year, ever since Tully died. Tully was my first rabbit. Why are rabbits bad for your health?

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 02:10:39](#)
(no subject)

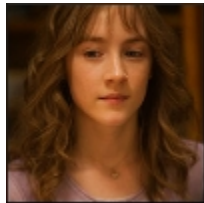
Do.

I say, Runes *and* Arithmancy! That's quite the intellectual slate, what?

We all did Creatures in our third year and we'll return to it again next. Right now we're taking Runes, as well, but we shan't get a crack at Arithmancy until sixth.

And it's not just rabbits, if you follow me. It's anything with fur. My mother thinks I have allergies (I don't, really). Yet she insisted I learn to ride, oddly enough.

-Justin



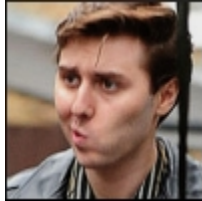
[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-27 02:17:21](#)
(no subject)

So everyone gets to take Creatures at Beauxbatons? That must be very nice.

Horses don't have fur? The ones I've seen always do, except for thestrals don't have much, anyway. I also

ride, you know. When I'm able to.

From,
Hydra



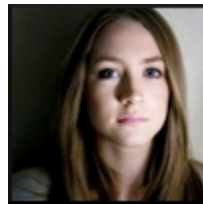
[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 02:32:27](#)
(no subject)

They do things a bit differently here, yes. We've got two years of each subject and then in our final year we may pick a concentration for our lycées classes.

Horses have hair, mostly, but that's the odd thing about it. Loads of people who have animal allergies have positively *horrid* allergies to horses, so one would think my mother should have kept me well away, if she thought I'd have a reaction. But I don't think it would have occurred to her that a gentleman not know how to ride. So there you have it, what?

Do you prefer horses or brooms, then?

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-27 02:41:09](#)
(no subject)

If you've never had any reactions I suppose you might not be allergic to any animals at all?

Oh, I like horses, and I always wanted one, but I only know how to ride because Aunt Narcissa bought me one. Mummy doesn't think riding a horse is nearly so important for a witch as being able to fly. So, I like brooms for that reason, their usefulness, but when I was younger I didn't like to fly because I didn't like to be high up in the air. But after a while I got used to it, and now I don't mind.

From,
Hydra



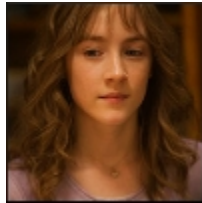
[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 02:54:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, yes, that's it exactly, well done! I don't think I really am allergic to anything at all. I made friends with a dog once and

But then, he wasn't in the house. And I might have been allergic when I was younger. I wasn't a particularly healthy sprog, you know.

I know just what you mean about flying. It does rather take getting used to, doesn't it? I was really rather awful at it my first time on a broom.

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-27 03:00:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh yes, dogs. I like them but a lot of them will eat rabbits, so I have to be careful. Cats will, too, but Tevis has a charm on his collar to keep the cats in the dormitory away.

You seem healthy now?

I wasn't any good at flying the first time, either. But I was fairly young, too. Five or six I think. I'm much better now, but I don't think I am interested in playing quidditch or anything. Plus, the Slytherin team is already so good I don't even know what they'd let me play.

From,
Hydra

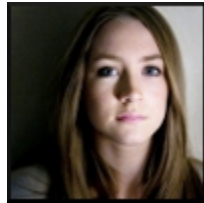


[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:10:56](#)
(no subject)

I'm quite healthy, thanks. But you know mothers--or, I say, I'm sorry. Perhaps you don't, what?

At least I don't have a worry about that--Quidditch, I mean. I've no interest in that sort of flying.

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-27 03:21:52
(no subject)

Oh yes, I know how Mothers are!

I should get back to all that reading I have to do. But thank you again for the French primer. I hope to be able to study it more this weekend.

From,
Hydra



[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-09-27 01:39:53
(no subject)

I can't believe there are first years who only just now figured out that *french kissing* is the same as snogging! Hm, I wonder if the ones in question come from Wales.



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-09-27 01:42:56
(no subject)

I don't know but I don't think so.

Isn't Teddy from Wales?

From,
Hydra



[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-09-27 01:44:35
(no subject)

Yes, he is, and now that all this interest in foreign languages is running rampant he's speaking in Welsh just to remind us that he's always been multi-lingual.

But it's *Welsh*, so his point isn't particularly valid.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-27 01:52:43](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Daphne!

How do you do?

Why, what does Welsh sound like? Is it very different to English?

-Justin



[alt_daphne at 2011-09-27 02:08:32](#)
(no subject)

I'm doing very well, Justin. Thank you ever so much for asking. I hope you are doing well yourself.

Welsh sounds very different from English. It's one of the Celtic languages, and sounds similar to Scottish or Irish. I understand that England used to have its own Celtic language called "British," and Welsh and Irish and the rest grew out of that. Then the Anglo-Saxons came and changed everything about and that's why modern day English doesn't sound Celtic at all.

Welsh sounds rather pretty, actually, but no one really wants to live in Wales. Nothing happens there, and the people are rather...backwards. Though Teddy is a happy exception to all of that ~~mostly~~.



[alt_justin at 2011-09-27 02:40:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, I knew that there were different languages, but I suppose I thought they were all quite similar, you know. The way Spanish, French and Italian are all quite similar as they've the same root in Latin. I've never heard anyone speak Welsh, though, isn't that odd?

I've heard that Wales has some lovely countryside, though. And Cornwall as well. They speak old Breton there, don't they? I say, I do hope I get to come back for a proper long visit. Do you suppose they'd allow the visitors to travel? Perhaps not.

It seems so strange to think that it's one country but so many different languages. I suppose that's rather like India, only not quite so many dialects, what?

I say, what electives are you taking, then, Daphne?

-Justin

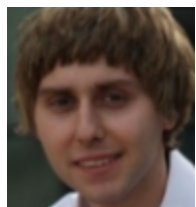


[alt_daphne](#) at [2011-09-27 02:50:05](#)
(no subject)

You'll get to hear Teddy speak it when you're here, no doubt.

The country is just as lovely in England, and Wales is even wetter than Scotland. I suppose I'm just a New Londoner at heart, though, and if I want a bit of country I can always wander the heath!

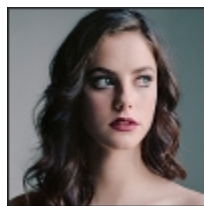
Me? I'm taking Dark Arts, Divination, and Creatures.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 02:58:33](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Divination's a lark, isn't it? It must be jolly nice to have it as a break for the Dark Arts lessons. We've just started Magical Theory, which somewhat touches on Dark Arts but Beauxbatons doesn't offer it as a subject all its own.

-Justin



[alt_daphne](#) at [2011-09-27 03:03:27](#)
(no subject)

I take Divination more as a study in performance than anything else. I don't think Professor Carpenter likes that particular

approach, however, so I do try my best to tap into the realms of prophecy.

Perhaps you'll get to see what a full-on Dark Arts class is like when you're here. It can be quite interesting, and teaches you, well, a lot about yourself. Yes.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:07:24](#)
(no subject)

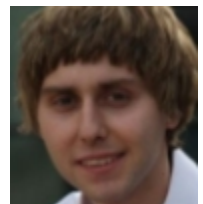
Well, yes, assuming I come. They still haven't told us for sure who gets to visit.

-Justin



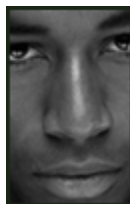
[alt_daphne](#) at [2011-09-27 03:08:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'm sure it will all work out for the best.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:11:20](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, let's hope!



[alt_blaise](#) at [2011-09-27 03:16:27](#)
(no subject)

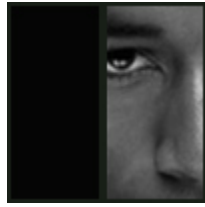
Say, Daphs. Do you have a minute or six? I'm a bit stuck on this Dark Arts problem and wonder if I'm just reading it wrong. I'm sure you could help me sort it.



[alt_daphne](#) at [2011-09-27 03:19:34](#)
(no subject)

If it's the same problem that I've been stuck on then I don't know how much help I'll be! But perhaps we can figure it out together.

Shall I come find you, then?



[alt_blaise](#) at **[2011-09-27 03:28:08](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, do.

I've got a dish of Enlighten Mints here, too, though they haven't helped yet.



[alt_draco](#) at **[2011-09-27 02:21:32](#)**
(no subject)

Professor Grubbly-Plank would help out any student who had a question about an animal, I reckon.

Nothing to worry about on that count. Too bad you couldn't take the class itself, though. Justin is right:

Runes, Arithmancy, and Dark Arts are more or less the most difficult combination there is. And with you loving animals so much...well, I can see why you didn't, but I bet you're wishing it could be otherwise.



[alt_hydra](#) at **[2011-09-27 02:54:27](#)**
(no subject)

I don't love every single animal there is, but I do like a lot of them. But, I don't know, perhaps Tevis would feel left out or jealous if I was taking Creatures with all those other animals.

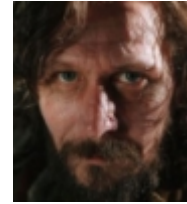
And thank you for telling me about Professor Grubbly-Plank.

From,
Hydra

2011-09-26 22:59:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus

Right, I know you and Allie want me to play nice with that git, but what in Mordred's name is he on about, 'some people weren't as privileged as you'? If he wants to call being practically locked in my room for that whole summer with nothing to do except work on the transformation *privileged*, then I suppose I was.



alt_sirius

I'll tell you one thing: I don't half like him underestimating our Terry like that.



alt_lupin at **2011-09-27 03:08:01**

(no subject)

Well, he's right that Terry hasn't had much chance for an education. But he overlooks the fact that it wasn't just you -- James and Peter mastered it, too.

Perhaps he's just bitter that HE never learned the trick of it. What do you suppose he'd transform into, if he did learn it?



alt_sirius at **2011-09-27 03:15:08**

(no subject)

Probably a crow. Or something dead useful like an eel.

Besides, Terry had a few lessons with me before he got taken away. He can do it, I'm sure. It'll just take time.

And something else: I don't like the way he talks to you, either. Ordering you about like Laszlo's exists only to get him his supplies.

... What sort of 'research' has he done to determine whether the Animagus transformation would work, anyway?



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:28:54](#)
(no subject)

An eel! Oh, excellent. He's slippery enough, at least.

He's not going to get a rise out of me by ordering me about. First of all, some of those are to make the wolfsbane. Which I am truly grateful for, especially with Bea in the house. Second -- it would only give him satisfaction if I snapped back.

As far as his research, maybe you could ask Minerva? She's surely got plenty of books about the theory and practise of the animagus transformation.

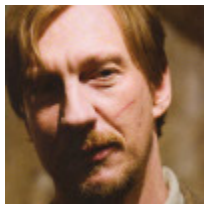


[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:37:53](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, slippery, slimy, disgusting and gives a shock to anyone who tries to touch him!

Does it occur to the pillock he could *ask* like a normal person? No, it does not.

Minerva's far too indulgent with him, you ask me. You don't think



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:38:33](#)
(no subject)

I REFUSE to think.

Don't give me nightmares, Padfoot!



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:40:27](#)
(no subject)

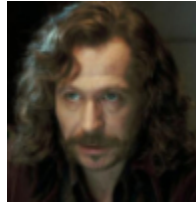
Not that, you idiot.

Blood magic. Animagi.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:41:45](#)
(no subject)

I'm not following what you're suggesting.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:44:47](#)
(no subject)

He's testing whether blood magic can be broken by transforming, Moony.

How would one go about doing that?



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:46:33](#)
(no subject)

He can't possibly be experimenting on Minerva. Does she spend any time at all at her house, once school is in session?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:48:08](#)
(no subject)

No idea.

Why don't you ask? I'm not giving him that satisfaction, either.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:47:03](#)
(no subject)

Or at least, if he is experimenting on Minerva, it's a joint venture, not subterfuge.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:53:17](#)
(no subject)

Hmph.

Don't be so sure.

Are you about done locking up? I've found a couple old chairs with some broken slats two streets over. Should do for the back but I don't want to bring them round until the place is empty.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:57:14](#)
(no subject)

Dora sent the last stragglers on their way a half hour ago. Now's fine.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:58:48](#)
(no subject)

Good. On my way, then - see you in ten minutes.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:41:15](#)
(no subject)

Besides, she'd never. It's me she's got a crush on, said so herself.

(Which is enough to give **me** nightmares, but better than the other!)



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:21:11](#)
(no subject)

And something else ... There's definitely something odd about Justin. I mean to say, he's trying awfully hard to come into a country that would throw him in the camps if they figured out his heritage. I'm fairly

confident in the family tree I put together for him and Laura but ... I sure hope he's clever enough to keep them guessing the truth.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:29:25](#)

(no subject)

Well, you know Justin quite a bit better than I do.

Why do you think he wants to come? Do you suppose they've twisted his arm at all, somehow?



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:33:47](#)

(no subject)

I've no idea. I imagine there's some coercion at work but to what end? The only thing I can figure is that our Ministry wants to make him speak loud and long about the advantages of the Protectorate - which, I reckon, is probably a good sign that they *haven't* detected anything dodgy about his cover story.

I suppose I don't blame him for playing along. He doesn't have to get quite so chummy with everyone, though.

Then again, he's possibly the most affable kid I've ever met - and that includes Peter when we first knew him.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:35:44](#)

(no subject)

He started school a bit late, didn't he? Do you know how he managed socially?

Perhaps he's so chummy because he's lonely.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:39:31](#)

(no subject)

He wrote me once or twice about some of the older boys who liked to give him a particularly hard time. English-born, posh, and Squibs for parents? Barely a step up from Muggleborn but it was the best I could do.

He's made a few friends since then, though.



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:42:16](#)
(no subject)

Probably just that he's too affable for his own good, then.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-27 03:46:35](#)
(no subject)

And that's exactly what worries me. He caught himself tonight. I was his dog for a while there.

Is it too selfish to hope that they leave him in France where he's safer?



[alt_lupin](#) at [2011-09-27 03:48:35](#)
(no subject)

No. It's not selfish.

2011-09-29 16:23:00

Order Only: Private message to Dora Tonks and Sirius Black



alt_lupin

Well, whatever it was, the parcel's been picked up. I didn't recognize the young woman who came in for it -- she's not one of our regulars. She certainly gave every indication of being someone's muggleborn servant out on errands. I tried to persuade her to stay for a moment for a cuppa in the back room, with the other muggleborns, but she shook her head and said she didn't have time.

She didn't look well. Too thin, too pale, and there was the remains of a bruise on her cheek. It's possible it was blood-replenishing potion for anaemia, from the look of her.



alt_nymphadora at **2011-09-29 15:38:07**
(no subject)

I'm glad we were able to help.

I hate it that we had to worry about agreeing to do something like this. It's a crime that simply being neighbourly seems risky these days.

I'm on my way home, by the way. Have the marketing, saw Mr Childs about the beer. Was there something else I said I'd do?



alt_lupin at **2011-09-29 15:41:56**
(no subject)

Nappies. You were going to pick up some of the next size up, to see if that keeps her from overflowing all the time.



alt_sirius at **2011-09-29 15:49:33**
(no subject)

And here you said you'd never write about that sort of thing.



[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-09-29 16:41:11](#)
(no subject)

Got them. Anyone want to help me unpack these things into the cupboards?

Also. Why don't we stock nappies? It would be so much more convenient, and it seems babies won't be going out of fashion any time soon.



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-29 16:02:04](#)
(no subject)

So, now, on a more sober note:

I can imagine MLE battering one of their own to make her look authentic but - well, it's a lot of trouble to go to to catch one alleged muggleborn-friendly shopkeep. In which case, I suppose perhaps Dora's right and this really is a sign that we're becoming a trusted resource for the district.

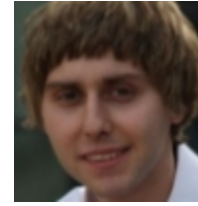
Still, probably best to keep an eye out for Ministry-types sniffing about.

2011-09-30 08:46:00

Je suis autorisé à venir!!

Hullo, everyone,

Wonderful news! They posted the lists this morning.



alt_justin

I get to come back to England!

It's going to be brilliant. My roommate's coming, too. I think he and Sally-Anne will get on as they've both got hyphenated names, what?

There will be 25 of us, but only a total of four from our year--Jean-Pierre and I and two girls: H el ene Didier and V eronique Fontaine. Of course, most of the students who were picked to come are well older. There are ten coming who are in their final year already and only three third-years. Sorry, Hydra, there aren't more your age, but I do think you'll get on jolly well with at least one or two of the third-years who are coming.

But then, they've told us that we'll actually be living nearer to Ravenclaw's dormitories, so perhaps you shan't see very much of them. I suppose it depends on lessons, what?

At any rate, I couldn't wait to tell everyone! I knew they'd be posting today so I got my journal out last night to get caught up. And to make sure I had it this morning so I could tell you whether I were coming or not. It looks like people are really very busy lately!

But soon I shall be there with you all. I cannot wait to see all my new friends again.

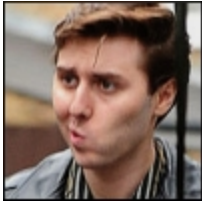
-Justin



alt_pansy at **2011-09-30 14:12:15**
(no subject)

That's brilliant, Justin! It'll be ever so much fun.

And your mum, she's letting you come?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 14:28:53](#)
(no subject)

She wouldn't have any

Hullo, Pansy!

How have you been keeping?

Yes, of course, she's letting me come. Why, should she not do?

-Justin



[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-09-30 15:36:29](#)
Order Only

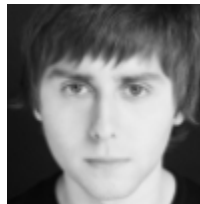
What did he cross out?

Circe. I know he's excited to come to the Tournament but ... I was hoping they'd leave him in France. Wishful thinking on my part. I suppose his value as a public relations tool means he'll keep getting pulled into things.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-30 17:03:28](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I only knew she was a bit anxious after what happened at the Quidditch thing. That's all. But I'm so glad you can come.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 17:12:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see, right. *That* kind of nervous.

I say, well, we are rather following the news here, but everyone knows that we'll be safe at Hogwarts so I don't think all that DogStar activity lately is really going to be much of a problem, do you?



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-30 20:46:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh! Of course not.



[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-09-30 17:04:48](#)
(no subject)

And I've been keeping well enough. Classes are a good deal harder this term than they were last, but I'm enjoying myself quite a bit more, especially with all the excitement about the Triwizard tournament and all the new people who will be coming.



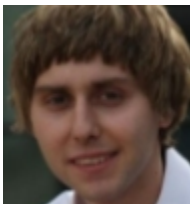
[alt_luna](#) at [2011-09-30 17:15:41](#)
(no subject)

That's quite wonderfully exciting! Will you take classes with us, too, or with your own professors?



[alt_luna](#) at [2011-09-30 17:16:48](#)
(no subject)

I suppose the students they are sending over must all speak English, if you're to take classes with us.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 21:00:42](#)
(no subject)

Hallo Luna, sorry I couldn't answer this before.

Yes, most of them speak English, though not all of them well.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 17:20:31](#)
(no subject)

Hallo, Luna! How are you?

I think we're to share lessons, at least that's what I've heard. So far as I know only P Froissart is going to accompany us and he couldn't possibly teach all our subjects all the time we're here. But I'm not sure whose lessons we'll take together. I mean, you've got them mostly split by House, isn't that right, what?

It's been rather an interesting day, I daresay, with everyone's reactions. There are a fair few people suddenly wanting to chat us up, the four of us, I mean, so we'll send them postcards and all when we're here. As if we'll have loads of time for that! But then of course some people are rather jealous, as well. That's to be expected, I suppose.

Still, it's jolly surprising, how people are taking it.



[alt_draco](#) at [2011-09-30 20:38:21](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, mate. We'll have a right laugh when you get here.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 20:58:38](#)
(no subject)

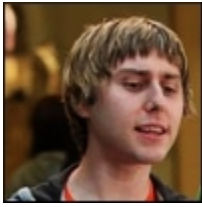
Cheers, Draco! I hope so.



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-30 20:44:05](#)
(no subject)

That's too bad for the students who won't be able to come, I hope that they don't feel too left out. Only I suppose some of them might have rather stayed behind anyway, since it's so ~~ean~~ different here.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-09-30 20:57:58](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Hydra,

How is that primer working for you?

Yes, I wish that more people could have come. It does seem jolly unfair that only four in my year were selected and only three in the year behind. I suppose I had an advantage in that I'm actually English--at least, that's what I think made them choose me. Not that I didn't want to come just as much as anyone else, of course! But I would have certainly understood if they'd chosen someone who didn't have that sort of--connection, as it were.

I've tried to explain that things in the Protectorate aren't all perfect, I mean to say, so many people don't eat particularly well and all, and there's groups like the DogStar who try to ruin everything, but of course, some people simply think that adds to the allure, if you follow me. As if being in danger were a good thing, what!

I'm just as happy to stay on the sidelines, thanks.

Did you go and see your Professor about Tevis?

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-09-30 22:28:34](#)
(no subject)

I've looked at the primer a little and should have more time this weekend. I think it's already helping, though.

Dogstar are nothing but traitors, and anyone who is both hard-working and loyal to the Protectorate should be eating well enough.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 02:18:36](#)
(no subject)

Well, naturally, they're traitors. That doesn't stop them all on its own, though. But I'm well sure your mother and her colleagues are doing everything possible to catch them all. I say, didn't mean to imply otherwise.

I've seen a few students saying the food's better this year; perhaps it's because you've been increasing agricultural labour, what? Oh, and of course, some of those trade restrictions were lifted, weren't they, so that must help as well, what?

-Justin

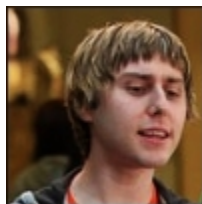


[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-01 02:58:27](#)
(no subject)

The food is better at school, yes, but I can't speak for elsewhere, because the food at home has always been nice, even if I don't like a lot of it.

I forgot to answer you about Professor Grubbly-Plank, but yes, I spoke with her and she advised me on what to add to Tevis' diet now that the weather is getting cooler.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 03:41:08](#)
(no subject)

Oh, jolly good about your pet. I hope I shall get to meet him.

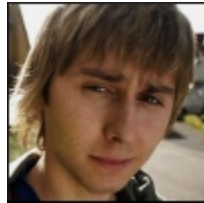
-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-01 04:03:40](#)
(no subject)

If you'd like, only I hope you don't have a reaction to his fur like you do with so many other creatures.

From,
Hydra



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:08:09](#)
(no subject)

I don't have allergies, silly! That's just my mother worrying.

It'll be fine.

-Justin



[alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-01 14:58:16](#)
(no subject)

I know that, I was having a laugh.

From,
Hydra



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 03:27:54](#)
(no subject)

Brilliant! I look forward to seeing you again.

I've heard it's more common in France for people to have a hyphenated name, is that true? Also I heard it's always boys but that can't be right because I read a book with a French character named Marie-Claire and surely that wouldn't be a boy's name.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:20:52](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, it's quite common for girls as well as boys. Marie and Jean are the most common names that get rather tacked on to another name, like Jean-Claude or Marie-Hélène, but there are others as well.

Oh, and Marie can be part of a boy's name, in point of fact. Only usually it's combined with something else that's rather clearly a boy's name. Such as, Marie-Albert or even Jean-Marie, what!

I say, do you know who else has a lot of hyphenated names? Americans. Well, in the American South, rather.

It's rather a problem, isn't it, because in France, half the girls already have a hyphen in their names, so if I ever married, they'd be Jeanne-Marie Finch-Fletchley or something, and that would just be too much to be going on with, what?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 04:39:29](#)
(no subject)

That would be quite a mouthful!

I had no idea Americans liked hyphenated names. In the southern part, at least. Do they hyphenate first names (like mine) or last names (like yours)?



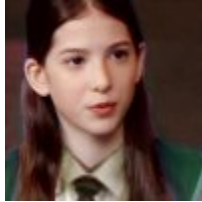
[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:44:55](#)
(no subject)

It really would be, wouldn't it!

Actually, nowadays, they hyphenate both. Mainly because a lot of ~~women~~ witches want to keep their maiden names but want to acknowledge their husband's family, if you follow me. So they'll sort of put them together with a hyphen and use both surnames.

But in the South it's mostly girls' first names that have hyphens. And they're nearly all something-or-other-Lee or -Jean. There are a few -Annes, though, I'm sure!

Are most witches in England traditional about taking their husband's names, do you know?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2011-10-01 04:50:32](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I can't think of any witches I know who are married who didn't take their husband's names.

2011-09-30 12:15:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Donaghan Tremlett again



alt_terry

Ron, or Fred and George, I managed to speak to the ghost again once when the git wasn't in the room. He said that since he was a muggleborn he was taken away from his family early, right around when he would have entered Hogwarts (if the Protectorate hadn't happened). But he had handfasted with a girl in the West Lindley camp a couple of years ago, and that's who he wanted to let know about his death. Her name was Pamela Deaton, but she's going by Pamela Tremlett now. Muggleborns aren't allowed to have children, of course, but they had taken in a couple of orphans from the epidemic, and so they had a three year old boy and a five year old girl, Mick and Anne.

Could you see if your Dad could get word to her somehow and let me know? It would certainly help him rest a bit easier. Well, when he's not tormenting the git anyhow.

It's hard, because I asked him if there was anything else he wanted us to pass on, and when he answered, I was ashamed that it had to go through us, something that should have been so private. But he said to tell her that he loved her, and he trusted her to raise the children right. And that we were to tell her that he didn't suffer.

Which is a total lie, that last bit. But don't let her know that.



alt_ron at **2011-10-01 14:32:51**

(no subject)

Oh. Uh. I went ahead and wrote my Dad and asked him if he could find Mr Tremlett's family. Maybe I shouldn't've done until I heard back from you.

I haven't heard anything from Dad, though, yet.

I'll send him another message today and tell him what the ghost told you.



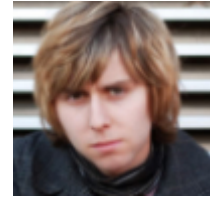
alt_terry at **2011-10-01 21:23:51**

(no subject)

Thanks, Ron.

2011-09-30 15:27:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne Perks and Draco Malfoy



alt_justin

Dear Draco and Sally-Anne,

I was wondering, do either of you know what happened to Sirius Black's remains? The ones you all went and saw on display?

Only because he hid in France for so long, do you see, and I thought if they were preserved somewhere P Froissart might take us to see.

I mean, I know everyone's talking about him really being alive, but that's a lie, of course, and the real one couldn't have had a proper burial, right, not after all he'd done?

I say, I realise it's frightfully morbid to ask about it but I'd be interested to know, at any rate.

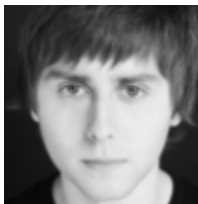
Sincerely,

Justin



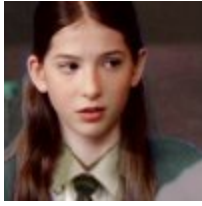
alt_draco at **2011-09-30 20:41:07**
(no subject)

I for one couldn't say, though I suppose the Lord Protector might've wanted to keep them. You know, for evidence. Except they.



alt_justin at **2011-10-01 02:40:26**
(no subject)

Oh, yes. Of course. I should have thought of that.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 03:24:19](#)
(no subject)

I have no idea what they did with them. If you're hoping to see them, you could ask and if they weren't scattered at sea or something I expect they'd grant you a viewing. If you're hoping to NOT see them then don't ask what became of them (because it might give them ideas).

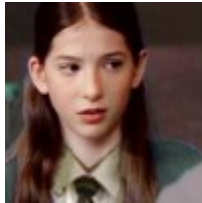


[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:24:03](#)
Private Message to Sally-Anne

It's not that I want to see them, particularly, or at least, not that I want to see them, if you follow me.

I just want to know. If he's dead. For certain, I mean.

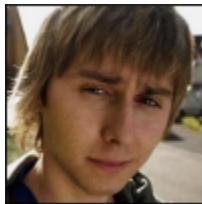
Because if he's not



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 04:36:28](#)
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, the newspaper ran a photo of someone who looked quite a bit like Sirius Black, seen near the attack during the World Cup. And of course there was that 'Grim Truth' essay posted from his diary.

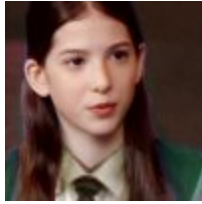
But Auror Lestrage is quite certain she killed him, and I can't imagine that she would ever be mistaken about such a thing.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:46:47](#)
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

~~Yes but~~

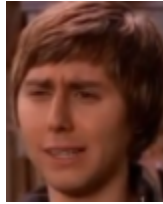
Yes, I'm sure she would never say such a thing by mistake. Quite right, too.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 04:52:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

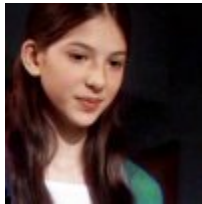
Why are you so concerned? Are you worried about running into ~~him~~ his ghost?



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 04:56:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

No, I'm not afraid of him. I'd rather not say exactly why, if you don't mind, but let's just say that I'm...curious. About who his imposter could be.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-01 04:58:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Oh, I see.

Perhaps we can talk more once you get here. I'm sure I can reassure you, because we are quite safe at Hogwarts.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-01 05:00:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I thought you might understand. Cheers.