

Summer School (For The Romantically Challenged)

by Proulxes

Dear Severus, Following our recent conversation, I am writing to confirm that you have agreed to take part in our new Summer Extension Programme at school. Working as part of a team with school staff and visiting professors, you will be partly responsible for the delivery of 'Perfect Your Potion Making!' a challenging and inspiring course for adult learners....

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 of 6

Dear Severus, Following our recent conversation, I am writing to confirm that you have agreed to take part in our new Summer Extension Programme at school. Working as part of a team with school staff and visiting professors, you will be partly responsible for the delivery of 'Perfect Your Potion Making!' a challenging and inspiring course for adult learners....

A/N: A bit of fluff from the 2012/13 SSHG Exchange. Huge thanks to my alpha and beta team of beaweasley2 and Clairvoyant, who responded with good humour and sound advice, and who laughed in all the right places. Well, mostly....

Obligatory disclaimer: JK Rowling owns these characters, and I do not.

SUMMER SCHOOL (FOR THE ROMANTICALLY CHALLENGED)

Chapter 1

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 15th 2008

Dear Severus,

Following our recent conversation, I am writing to confirm that you have agreed to take part in our new Summer Extension Programme at school. Working as part of a team with school staff and visiting professors, you will be partly responsible for the delivery of 'Perfect Your Potion Making!' a challenging and inspiring course for adult learners.

You are expected to teach one two-hour session per day, from Monday to Friday. You will also be required to maintain your normal position in staff security rounds and accompany our guests to Hogsmeade at the discretion of the Headmistress.

As we discussed in our meeting today, you will provide *positive* and *supportive* feedback to your students as the course progresses.

Due to the level of interest in this course, you will be sharing your laboratory and teaching rooms with a second Potions professor during the Extension Programme, and you will be expected to liaise in a professional and courteous manner with whoever is appointed to this position at all times.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this exciting new initiative for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Yours sincerely,

Minerva McGonagall

The Dungeons,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 15th 2008

Dear Headmistress,

Further to your recent letter (which, incidentally, interrupted a particularly delicate experiment involving Billywig Stings and Exploding Knottree), I write to remind you, in no uncertain terms, that in our meeting I did **NOT** agree to take part in your bizarre educational experiment, and to assure you of my utter **non-cooperation** with this scheme.

Silence and a disdainful eyebrow does **not** signify acceptance.

Please also be aware that the Lower Laboratory will be out of bounds until the Billywig Stings have dissipated.

Yrs,

Professor S Snape

Master of Potions

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 16th 2008

Dear Severus,

Now listen here, young man. You agreed and that is the end of it. As far as the Ministry is concerned, Hogwarts needs to modernise. So, in keeping with other academic institutions in the wizarding and Muggle worlds, we *will* be offering a range of courses to adults who want to improve their skills and theoretical understanding of Potions.

If you would care to visit my office, we can view in my Pensieve the meeting in which you agreed to my terms.

What have you done to the Lower Laboratory? Argus is overstretched as it is, preparing the castle for our guests.

I will brook no argument from you, laddie. You owe me.

Yours firmly,

Minerva

The Dungeons

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 18th 2008

Dear Headmistress,

Seeing as you see fit to remind me once more of the life debt that I owe to you, I surmise that I have no other option than to ruin my summer holiday with this harebrained scheme.

Who is the (I shudder to say this) other "Potions professor" who will be joining me in this hellish waste of time? I will need to liaise with him or her over equipment and ingredients in a "suitably professional and courteous manner". If it is Prestwick from Beauxbatons, I will also need to reinforce the walls.

Yours in chains,

Professor S Snape

Master of Potions

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 19th 2008

Dear Severus,

I have wonderful news! Hermione Granger has agreed to work alongside you as the second Potions instructor on the Summer Extension Programme. I understand that you have not been in regular contact with her since she finished her apprenticeship here four years' ago. The Ministry has informed me that she can be contacted via International Floo Network at the Durmstrang Institute.

Hermione is the first Muggle-born witch to gain a professorship at Durmstrang now that Karkaroff's successor has retired and been replaced by a far more forward-thinking Headmaster.

It will be such a pleasure to see her again, and I am sure that you will be first in line to congratulate her on attaining her recent Potions mastership.

By the way, we are also very fortunate that the noted American Arithmancer and author Jerry Bloomberg will also be joining us for the Summer Extension Programme.

Sybill nearly fainted when I told her the news.

Minerva

PS. *Ten* cases of Boomslang skin? I hope that you are not using the Summer Extension Programme simply to overstock your potions supplies....

Durmstrang Institute of Wizardry

May 26th 2008

Dear Severus,

Thank you for your recent note and for granting me access to your equipment and facilities. I will endeavour not to "make too much of a mess" or "create havoc", as you so thoughtfully suggest.

According to Ministry guidelines, I am planning to follow the third module of the seventh year NEWT curriculum during the Extension Programme, and I have attached a detailed outline of lesson plans for your information. As you can see, I have suggested extension work for the more able and also a few 'Durmstrang twists' to keep the students on their toes! Do, please, let me know your thoughts on my proposals.

In the meantime, can you confirm that the extra ten bottles of Whinlatter Spores will be available for my use next Saturday when I arrive on site? They will need to be steeped properly before application on Monday.

I am due to arrive via Portkey on Saturday afternoon and would be able to spend some time preparing them before dinner, I imagine.

I am sure that we will be able to work together again, despite the unfortunate ending of our previous *arrangement*.

I am looking forward to seeing the progress you are making on your Lycanthropy cure, following your recent article in *Potions Master Monthly*.

Yours cordially,

Professor Hermione Granger

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 30th 2008

My Dear Hermione,

It was so lovely to hear from you after all these years! I was delighted to learn of your successful research at Cambridge and your recent appointment at Durmstrang. It is always a pleasure to hear of a former student's successes!

Of course you will be welcome here at Hogwarts *all* of your professors are looking forward to meeting you again.

I will leave it to Severus to confirm the final arrangements regarding group size and composition. There has been considerable interest in your course, and I know the students will enjoy working with two such distinguished potioners.

You will, please, let me know if I can be of assistance in any way. I am sure that Severus did not mean to come across as he appears to have done in your recent correspondence. He has been under some pressure recently to perfect his Lycanthropy cure, but there is never any excuse for rudeness.

In the meantime, I am expecting you at noon tomorrow; Hagrid will be at the gates to help you with your bags and equipment. I have made available a suite of rooms in Gryffindor Tower for your use, for old times' sake!

Yours sincerely,

Minerva

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

May 30th 2008

Severus,

What were you thinking, sending rude Floo messages to Hermione? I thought that you two had at least formed an understanding when she was apprenticed here! Might I remind you that whatever previous difficulties you may have faced between you two, there is no need to impugn her qualifications or experience. She passed your impossibly demanding Potions apprenticeship with flying colours, for heaven's sake!

And before you jump to the conclusion that Hermione has been speaking to me about this, please, be aware that Durmstrang keeps copies of all correspondence passed between occupants of the Institute and international contacts as a matter of course.

In short, Headmaster Boukalev ratted on you. I have had to endure a rant about manners from a man who still thinks that it is appropriate to call me "sweetheart" in Russian before kissing me soundly on both cheeks and enfolding me in a hug that would challenge Hagrid.

Please apologise to her and DO NOT let this happen again.

McGonagall

The Dungeons,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

June 7th 2008

Dear *Professor* Granger,

It appears that my previous communications with you have been misinterpreted. I supposed that I had made myself clear, but obviously you have not understood my correspondence correctly. It is not the prospect of working with you that I particularly abhor, but the idea of the 'Summer Extension Programme' in the first place.

Your lesson plans are acceptable. As are your suggestions for extension work if they will be required. I suspect you imagine a level of interest and ability that will not be

forthcoming from the "adult learners", as I appear to be compelled to call them by my esteemed Headmistress.

I have the Whinlatter Spores and assure you that I am well aware of the time it will take for them to release their matter.

I imagine, judging from Minerva's excitement at the dinner table last night, that you will be surrounded by well-wishers on your arrival (ever the fêted heroine, after all!). As you will no doubt wish to take tea and *catch up* with them, I have already begun their preparation in order to save you time when you arrive.

The Lycanthropy cure would be progressing much faster if I was not required to undertake the tutelage of *adult learners* this summer.

I will be in the Dungeons on Saturday. I trust that you recall the way to find them.

Cordially yours,

Professor S. Snape

Master of Potions

Dear Professor Snape

The Governors and Headmistress of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry request the pleasure of your company at

The Welcome Reception for the Inaugural Summer Extension Programme

in The Great Hall

on Saturday 19th July 2008 at 7.30pm

Dinner to follow Dress: Uniform or Dress Robes

R.S.V.P. The Headmistress,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

The Dungeons,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

June 12th 2008

Minerva,

What fresh hell is this?

SS

The Headmistress' Study

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

June 13th 2008

Dear Severus,

Thank you for your delightful reply to my invitation to the Welcome Reception for our inaugural Summer Extension Programme in July. I look forward to your (required) presence at the feast.

Minerva.

Durmstrang Institute of Wizardry

June 15th 2008

Dear Harry,

I'm coming back to the UK this summer.

More than that, I'm going to work at Hogwarts for four weeks with Severus.

I know I said I wouldn't ever go back, but Minerva asked for me specifically, and it also wouldn't hurt my career to be seen as proactive in response to a Ministry initiative.

By now, I imagine that you are halfway across the room grabbing for the Floo Powder, but *don't*. I know what I am doing. Honestly! I'm a grown up, and despite how unpleasant Severus is likely to be, I am determined to lay those ghosts to rest.

I would love to see you and Ginny again when I am in the UK and to see my lovely godsons, of course! Please let me know if you will be around in August and perhaps we can make an arrangement to get together.

With love,

Hermione

The Daily Prophet

Jerry "Boom Boom" Bloomberg to Teach at Hogwarts!

By Hettie Henwood, *your own correspondent*

Bloomberg, bestselling author of "Magical Maths" and "Arithmancy For Lonely Hearts" is one of the visiting professors at the inaugural Hogwarts' Summer School.

"We are all so pleased that Jerry will be joining us for our Summer Extension Programme," enthused Professor Minerva McGonagall, Headmistress of Hogwarts. "Professor Bloomberg has a breathtaking schedule of personal appearances and other writing commitments, and we are lucky to have him for a few weeks here in Scotland."

Any of you wishing to sign up now for Professor Bloomberg's classes will be disappointed, however, as they are already fully subscribed.

"We had a huge level of interest in Professor Bloomberg's course, 'Fifty Steamy Numbers: How Arithmancy Can Find Your Soul Mate'," confirmed Professor McGonagall. "'Boom Boom' has promised us fireworks I just hope that he doesn't mean that literally," she joked.

As one of those lucky enough to have secured a place on his course this summer, this reporter is fanning her face at the prospect...

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 of 6

In which Severus Snape is driven to distraction....

Chapter 2

HARRY POTTER!

What in Merlin's name were you **thinking**?!

How **dare** you ride over here like some sort of protective relative to make sure that Snape is not bullying me, "like he did before"?

You **ruined** a perfectly civilised welcome feast by your aggressive and boorish behaviour. Merlin only knows what Severus is thinking right now! If he hadn't stormed out when he did, there would have been blood everywhere, and not just from Neville's nervous nosebleed.

If I find that you have spoken to Severus **AT ALL** about me, or attempt at any point to interfere, I will make sure that my godsons

will never have another sibling.

EVER.

The Sunday Prophet

20 July 2008

The Boy Who Lived Goes Back to School!

Harry Potter Returns to Hogwarts!

By Hattie Henwood, *your own correspondent*

Harry Potter, world famous vanquisher of The Dark Lord in the last Wizarding War, has signed up for the Ministry of Magic's first Summer School at Hogwarts. Potter was a surprise guests at last night's Welcoming Feast (See page 2 for further details).

Mr Potter, who plays Seeker for the Tutshill Tornadoes took 'time out' to explain to this reporter why he felt the need to go back to school during the Quidditch off-season.

"I have always been interested in Potions and wanted to improve my skills in this fascinating area of study," Potter explained to this correspondent. When asked if this decision would affect his preparations for the next season, Potter smiled confidently. "I have been asked by Professor McGonagall to run some Flying classes for the students while I am here, so I will be able to maintain my edge in the air." But then the Boy Who Lived sobered. "You know," he began earnestly, "some things are more important than Quidditch, like friendship and protecting those you love."

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Sunday 20th July 2008

Dear Professor Snape,

I want to apologise for Harry turning up out of the blue last night. I know what a shock it must have been for you to meet him again after so long, and I am sorry that he seems to have taken it upon himself to act like some sort of overbearing Hippogriff.

I honestly had no idea that he was joining the course this summer.

I hope that he has been and apologised to you in person by now and that he still has all of his limbs intact.

If it is acceptable to you, I will come down later to decant the Whinlatter Spores for our classes tomorrow morning....

Perhaps I will see you later at the Three Broomsticks? Jerry has suggested that we all go out this evening to get to know each other a little before the Summer School begins.

With best wishes,

Hermione

The Dungeons

20 July 2008

Dear *Professor Granger*,

The spores are in my Potions classroom. Decant away at your pleasure. I am going out.

Snape

Potter is still, as you put it, 'intact'.

Malfoy Manor

Sunday, 20 July 2008

My Dear Severus,

I was as surprised and gratified as you probably were to read in *The Sunday Prophet* that *our beloved saviour* has indeed returned to school.

I can only imagine the deep joy and anticipation that you must be experiencing at the thought of Potter in your classroom again. I have taken the liberty of enclosing with this letter a small phial of Calming Draught to tide you over until the large cauldron that you are no doubt preparing as you read this letter is ready to consume.

And Bloomberg, too! How utterly *delightful* for you, Severus you must be thrilled by the prospect of teaching alongside him.

I would be pleased to offer a shoulder to cry on, a sympathetic ear, or even access to the more, shall we say *restricted* elements of Malfoy Manor's library in order to further soothe your fractured nerves...?

Narcissa sends her best wishes, as ever.

Yours in brotherhood,

Lucius

P.S. On an unrelated subject (perhaps)... How is Granger settling back in to your chambers?

The Dungeons

Sunday, 20 July 2008

Lucius,

She is not *in* my chambers. She never was.

Please give my regards to Narcissa.

SS

Thank you for the potion. I find that Firewhisky has the same effect. Bastard.

The Greenhouses,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Monday, 21 July 2008

Dear Hermione,

Wasn't last night *fun*?!! I had no idea that Jerry would be so witty! You never quite know with famous people. So often the public persona does not match the reality remember Gilderoy? NO... on reflection, you probably don't....

And Jerry's so *attractive*, too! "Boom Boom!" All that black leather and those boots... not to mention the 'cool' glasses and well cut robes! I'm *far* too old for him of course... but I thought that he paid *you* a great deal of attention, lucky girl! What did he say? "Nobody... uh... knows what's in another's heart.... But... love will always find a way. It's not written in the stars... it's written in the math." And those eyes mmmmmmm! He does *know* what makes a witch tick, doesn't he?

Where was I? Oh, yes! I have your ingredient list for the course that you and Severus are teaching, and I was wondering if you could use more mandrakes? Neville and I are particularly proud of how well they have come along this year, and they will need harvesting soon.

Please let me know and I'll send Neville over. It might be better if Severus was not about when he comes to see you, as Severus tends to set off Neville's nervous stomach, poor thing.

Pomona

Gryffindor Tower

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Dear Severus,

Have you thought about using a **Quick-Quote's Quill** for dictating your research findings?

One of my students had one today in my class, and I thought of you. I used one myself during my Masters in Cambridge. I found it very helpful for those times when one has to stir with both hands at once, while monitoring the development of concurrent potions.

Best wishes,

Hermione

The Dungeons

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Granger,

Have you never heard of *retentive memory*? I assure you that I have no need of such an implement. Kindly keep your attention focused on whatever else you are doing

and leave my private research to me.

Snape

Flourish and Blotts

- The bookshop for the discerning witch and wizard

Diagon Alley, London

Date: 23 July 2008

To: Professor Severus Snape

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Scotland

UK

Item Description: 1 Quick-Quotes Quill (deluxe version)

Special Delivery Instructions: Immediate Delivery through unmarked owl post.

Total: 14 Sickles (payment received via Gringotts transfer)

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Friday, 25th July 2008

Dear Hermione,

I know Harry has been a prat, but *please* would you let him off the hook? He is nearly impossible to live with at the moment. He feels horrible for embarrassing you and has taken to writing long notes to explain why he was justified in confronting Professor Snape (because he loves you like a brother), then *incendio*-ing them and starting again. It's like he's fifteen again.

He claims to be enjoying Snape's lessons, even though his motives for signing up for the course were questionable, and he has missed Scotland and Hogwarts in particular, but he's miserable knowing that you are so angry with him.

Anyway, I wondered if you fancied a break from the Dungeons? I was thinking of taking the boys to the park in Hogsmeade after lunch today. You can meet us down there after lessons finish this afternoon, and we can thoroughly exhaust them, then go and get a cup of tea at Madam Puddifoot's. I promise to make her cancel the flying cherubs, and you can give me all the gossip about "Boom Boom" Bloomberg!

Your friend,

Ginny

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday, 25 July 2008

Dear Ginny

Thanks for your note. I'd love to come with you and the boys to the park this afternoon. Meet you at the bandstand at 4.30 pm?

I am sorry that you are being dragged into this business, Ginny, but you should have seen how Harry behaved at the feast. The Prophet didn't catch anything of it, thank Merlin, but even so.... Honestly, Gin, I've never been more embarrassed! He marched right up to Severus, and practically challenged him to a wizard duel if he upset me again in the labs.

I wasn't close enough to hear exactly what Severus said back to Harry, but I saw Severus' face go white and his hair start to crackle.

It would probably have gone pretty badly for Harry if Minerva hadn't whisked him off to meet Professor Bloomberg.

Afterwards I tried to talk to Severus, but he took one look at me and stormed off like an angry cat, nearly pushing Neville into the charmed ice sculpture on the side table as he went. He's still not speaking to me properly, even after five day's teaching in adjoining rooms.

You know I'll forgive Harry eventually, but at the moment I am having rather too much fun watching him try so hard in Snape's class. I can see him sometimes through the connecting door to the laboratory with his hand in the air, asking and answering Severus' questions. Harry Potter, "Know-It-All" I never thought I'd see the day!

Severus is still treating him as if he has been congealed from Bubotuber pus of course, but he has accepted Harry's apology and relative peace reigns in the Dungeons.

"Boom Boom"?! Is that what everyone calls him? How funny! Why? Anyway, we all had a lovely time at the Three Broomsticks last Sunday. Professor Bloomberg has got really lovely eyes when he takes his spectacles off, and a habit of looking right at you as if he can see into your soul...

Got to go, Gin. Severus is standing in the doorway, *harrumphing*. He obviously wants something....

See you later,

Hermione xxx

QUICK-QUOTES QUILL

THE QUICKER WAY TO QUOTE!

Simply remove your new Quick-Quotes Quill from its box and hold it gently upright, with the nib resting lightly on the parchment.

The magical gyroscope will then be perfectly aligned, and you will be able to activate your new Quick-Quotes Quill immediately by speaking.

To maximize the performance of your Quick-Quotes Quill, speak clearly and ensure good diction.

Please note! Your new Quick-Quotes Quill will write down *all* the words that it 'hears', and some sounds too! You may need to practice carefully before you achieve maximum performance from this product.

QUICK-QUOTES QUILL

THE QUICKER WAY TO QUOTE!

.... Is this bloody thing working?

Oh... Ahhh... Right.

Ahem. Harrumph! Ahem.

Notes from batch twenty-four of the Anti-Mutatio Potion...*erm*... Saturday, 26th July 2008.

I have succeeded in isolating the determinant factors for the lycanthropy transformation. I am experimenting with varying a technique adopted by Muggle scientists in the creation of a cure for the lycanthropic transformation. Muggles call this technique immunisation - the principle being that the subject is introduced to a small dosage of the contaminant material to encourage the development of natural antibodies within the subject's body. As a wizard suffering from lycanthropy has already been infected with the relevant genetic triggers to activate a regular mutation in relation to the lunar cycle, however, I will need to develop a method which not only stimulates an auto-immune response to the mutation imperative, but one that also blocks the pathways of the neurotransmitters that activate the metamorphosis in the first place.

I am utilising the help of this Quick Quotes Quill to enable me to record my findings as the potion mutates and in order to enable me to maintain the concurrent stirring techniques I have developed, which requires me to use both arms simultaneously ... thank you very much Miss Know-It-All-bloody-Gryffindor. Of course I don't need a brewing assistant... I have done very well for more than thirty years, and I am perfectly able to keep my attention on...

Harrumph! Ahem.

The tincture of knotweed has proved surprisingly volatile in conjunction with other ingredients, particularly the Billywig stings... no, no, no, no, NO! Ahhhh saved it! Excellent! Adding the black snakeroot... now. Potion is frothing and the temperature has risen by six... seven... nine... twelve... degrees...

Now stabilising and levelling off....

Adjusting the flame.

The potion has reached another critical stage....

Summoning the pulverised pangolin scales. Gently introducing them on the surface of the liquid... Don't disturb the surface tension... there... attaboy! Gods, you're good. Smug bastard.

[*unreportable noise ??Snort??*]

Reducing cauldron flame to gentle simmer. The potion is behaving as I postulated.... The consistency is good, the colour a pale green. Timer set for eleven minutes.

Now that the base of the potion is virtually prepared, we turn to the activation ingredients.

This quill really is an excellent idea I should thank Granger in the morning.

No, don't be a dunderhead. You'll never live it down. Best to keep it quiet. Bloody woman. Bloody inconvenient, annoying woman. What has she done with that absurd mane of hair recently? Always frizzy in the laboratories before, but now it looks...

Ahem! Harrumph.

Potion. Ingredients. Check timer. Nine minutes remaining. Come on, old man. Get those shrivelfigs peeled. Check on the condition of the leptocephali. Yesss... good....

If we accept that the metamorphic transitions of creatures such as atlantic salmon, the eel, the global variants of frog, the tengu of Japan, the kumiho of Korea, or the various species of lepidoptera, are brought on by hormonal changes, then the Anti-Mutatio Potion should replicate the normal levels of hormone in the subject's body and be flexible so that when the expected change in hormonal activity occurs, prompted by the lunar rise, the body can manufacture sufficient levels of hormone to counter the effects of the trigger mechanism, stabilise and therefore prevent transformation....

Why should I go to the bloody pub with that bloody American Arithmancer tosser? Bloody Minerva. Bloody Ministry and their extension courses.

"Boom Boom". What self-respecting adult wizard allows himself to be called "Boom Boom"?!

"Boom Boom"... I wonder why...?

Seven minutes. What does Granger see in him anyway? With his stupid hair, and his stupid shoes, and his... "I gotta tell ya something, let me do your numbers..." schtick. How many witches fall for that line? Sybill can barely stay vertical at High Table. Pomona looks like she's about to have an aneurism every time he talks to her. Pathetic. Granger is far too sensible to fall for....

Six minutes. Focus, Snape. Focus. You've never got this far before. The incantation to release the hormone level from the eel larvae, and then illuminate the active hormones, is...

Eximare Endocrina! Revelio!

.... That seemed to go well. The leptocephali have changed form and the hormones have become visible within the resultant matter... Now to add them to the potion base.... Nearly there, nearly there....

Increased volatility is immediately observed in the potion, a chain reaction is clearly in progress within the...**OH BUGGER!**

PROTEGO!!!

[*unreportable noise ??Explosion??*]

A/N: I've checked and I still don't own them. Beawesley2, Clairvoyant and nagandsev are fabulous, though and that makes up for it....

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 of 6

In which Severus plots....

Chapter 3

The Greenhouses

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Monday 28th July 2008

Dear Hermione,

I thought that you'd like to know that we are harvesting fluxweed later tonight. Severus needs to have another bushell after the Incident-Which-Must-not-Be-Referred-to-in-the-Potions-Laboratory on Saturday afternoon. Just as well it's full moon!

Would you like some? I know it's not on your syllabus, but I thought I'd double check.

Severus looked as if he was going to explode when Jerry offered to "do his numbers" for him last night in the pub! Ha! Ha! I know he was embarrassed by our teasing, but really! There is no excuse for such rudeness.

Severus can be withdrawn and difficult, but he's not been this bad since the months after you left six years ago.

When you went to the loo, I did tell him that sitting in the corner of the alcove, brooding like Kashchey the Deathless, or some other gloomy fellow, was only going to get him more attention than if he joined in the conversation! Needless to say, he glowered and stayed where he was.

It looks like you and Jerry are getting on famously, my dear! Is there anything you want to share with Aunt Pomona...? He certainly is interested in getting to know you better, by all accounts! Aren't his hands expressive, the way he moves them about like that? Are all Americans so... 'huggy'...?

Do you think we'll get to meet the Syracuse Sirens when they come to play in Harry's charity match in three weeks' time? It was a wonderful surprise when Minerva announced that we were hosting the match, wasn't it? And for such a worthy cause! I haven't seen dear Viktor and Ronald for such a long time. So typical of Harry to do something so supportive for those badly affected by the war....

Anyway Neville is calling me. He needs a hand cleaning out the Venomous Tentacula cage this morning.

Pomona

Saturday 16th August 2008

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry proudly presents...

In aid of the tenth anniversary of the Ministry of Magic's War Orphans Appeal...

The Syracuse Sirens Winners of the Americas' Quidditch Cup

Versus

The rest of the world!

See the stars!

Viktor Krum ... Harry Potter ... Ronald Weasley ... Keiko Takahash ... Marcus Flint

Petrova Porskoff ... Sherrilyn (Sheri) Rodgers ... Shabray Jones

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Wednesday 30th July 2008

Dear Harry,

Okay, okay! Stop sending apology notes! I forgive you, you silly idiot!!

Of course you can come over for tea tomorrow; it will be good to talk again, just the two of us.

Ginny explained how that overprotective big brother complex of yours had kicked in again and that you were very sorry for embarrassing me in front of the whole school.

Too bloody right! But friends are supposed to look out for each other, and after what happened with Severus in 2002... well... I suppose I can understand your reaction.

Anyway.... I was surprised that you didn't come to the pub on Sunday you could have spoken with Jerry again. He really is amazing, you know! He is researching mystical rhythms and celestial charting! Did you know that each star sign has an Arithmetical equation that describes it, and through the calculation of that equation and the other factors that determine a specific personality allied to the chakras and celestial maps one can predict who one's perfect mate actually is?!! *Even if you never meet them?* Heady stuff indeed!!

As you know, normally I consider Divination to be complete claptrap, but recently I have been trying to open my inner eye to the possibilities of the universe, and with Jerry's help, I think I can see an interesting equation developing....

I can't wait to tell you all about it tomorrow! Bring cake; I have tea.

Hxx

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Thursday 31st July 2008

Dear Hermione,

Are you all right? I got a letter from you yesterday, and you seemed a little bit... unusual in it.

I'll see you later on for tea, about four-ish if that's okay I've got Quidditch practice at five pm with the team. We're getting ready for the Syracuse Sirens next weekend, and I'll need to go through few drills if we are to have a hope of beating them. Ron will never let me live it down if we lose!

Your friend,

Harry

Ravenclaw Tower

Hogwarts

Wednesday 30th July 2008

Dear Sev,

Can I call you Sev? Minerva said you'd "love it if I did", but in a rather weird voice, and I wasn't sure if that was irony or not....

I've been trying to speak with you for the last few days about Hermione.

I know it's a bit "forward" of me (as you Brits would say!), but I wanted to ask her out on a date, and I wasn't sure how to go about it so she'd agree. After you left the bar on Monday night, Pomona suggested that you and Hermione had had a bit of a thing when Hermione had worked here before.... I don't want to trample on your territory, buddy, but given that you and she didn't work out, I figure that you might be prepared to give a guy some tips on where you went wrong so I can avoid making the same dumb-ass mistakes as you did! Heh! Heh! Only kidding, pal!

Every time I get close to Hermione, she pulls away from me and starts yammering on about potions and formulae. It's cute that she's obviously so intimidated by me, and I know that normally I only date witches with IQs of less than my shoe size (*Boom! Boom!*), but for some reason I feel drawn to her.... After all, it's about time that I settled down and found myself a little woman who can compliment me on a more, shall we say, intellectual level.

I tried to ask her out in the bar last Sunday night you remember, right? just before you left to get back to your experiment, but she was so shy she turned me down.

Do you have any suggestions?

Jerry

P.S.: Are you coming to the Quidditch match two weeks from Saturday? I'm sure it'll be quite a show!

Improve your Quidditch!

Train with Harry Potter, Hogwarts' own international Quidditch star!

Sign up for the session below:

Kera Tijerina

Stephen Klingler

Aurore Skidmore

Tawny Merrit

Cecille Maresca

Yaeko Manzano

Windy Perkins

Jarrod Gilstrap

Melia Boettger

Loyce Denniston

Jannie Jarman

Sharice Augsburg

Vada Vanzant

Sherie Stoffel

Verline Venzon

Nannette Noell

Valentine Sowards

Lavenia Lemelle

Wanda Wotring

Norris Naab

Jerry Bloomberg

Severus Snape

The Dungeons

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Thursday 31st July 2008

Dear Professor Bloomberg,

Thank you for your thoughtful and *subtle* note. I have many suggestions for winning Ms Granger's affections, such as:

Do not try to speak with her about her work. She will try to engage you in discussion, but this is mere nerves on her part, and she would be far more intrigued by you if you were to talk exclusively instead about your own work and your own opinions about other people.

Do not compliment her on her looks or clothing. Hermione considers this rude and distracting.

On any 'date', **do not try to touch her at all.** Hermione is almost pathologically opposed to human (or non-human) contact and will, in particular, not welcome any accidental *brushing* against her body below the sternum. Below-the-waist brushing may be fatal. Ms Granger is an expert in non-verbal spell casting.

Never open any doors for her, hold her cloak, or offer her your arm(see 'touching' note above). Hermione considers such actions to be thoroughly old fashioned and offensive to her feminist sensibilities.

Do not offer to pay her part of the bill for any meal or activity you may engage in (ditto as above).

Please do keep me informed of any progress you may make in your suit for Ms Granger so I may be of further help should the need arise.

Your friend,

'Sev'

Gryffindor Tower

Friday 1st August 2008

Dear Ginny,

I have a date! With Jerry! He asked me out to dinner on Saturday evening.

I am so excited!

It was rather odd, actually. He is usually quite... solicitous... if you know what I mean... passing the condiments or glasses of pumpkin juice at the table, asking me how my day was progressing, really listening to me talk about my work.... But today, after we had eaten, he simply stood up beside me (all stiff and formal), and asked me if I wanted to have dinner with him on Saturday night? He had his hands behind his back and practically barked the question.

He must have been nervous, poor love!

Of course I said "yes" to him, but then, rather than smiling back, his face twisted up into a sort of grimace, and he nodded and virtually ran away from me.

Strange! But I don't care Jerry is the first wizard to ask me out in ages, and he's handsome and thoughtful and sensitive and... sexy!!

But I don't have a thing to wear I need your Transformation skills and fashion sense. Meet me in my chambers after lunch on Saturday; I have already arranged for Harry to look after the boys.

Now I might get to find out why he likes to be called "Boom Boom"(!)

Yours in excitement,

Hermione

Malfoy Manor

Friday 1st August 2008

Dear Severus,

I do so enjoy all of this cloak-and-wand manoeuvring! Who is it that you want me to follow? When? And why? I am intrigued... and rather surprised. After all, don't *you* have the reputation as the undercover agent? I fear that I will be a poor substitute for your great skills, dear boy.

I await your further instructions via Floo Call....

Your partner in surveillance,

L

P.S.: Narcissa sends her best wishes. She also asked after the Granger girl, but I have told her that *that* ship Disappeared years ago. Nevertheless, she still wishes to be remembered to you *and* Hermione. My darling wife remains as sentimental as ever....

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Friday 1st August 2008

Dear Hermione,

Erm.... Why has Snape signed up for my Quidditch session...? Should I be worried...?

Harry

The Dungeons

Saturday 2nd August 2008

Dear Lucius,

To reiterate, further to our Floo Call, you are not to interfere in the interaction between the couple, although you may use your imagination to ensure that the 'date' does not go well.

I expect a full report on your return.

SS

P.S.: Remember, Lucius: no *detectable* curses....

QUICK-QUOTES QUILL

THE QUICKER WAY TO QUOTE!

Ahem...

Hrrrrmm. Harrumph.

Saturday 2nd August 2008

Progress is continuing on the Anti-Mutatio Potion with some pleasing results. I am now working on batches twenty-seven to thirty-two, following the unfortunate results of batches twenty-five and twenty-six. I am focussing on counteracting the fast reaction rate between the potion base and the activated mutation hormones, and I have prepared six variants of the completed potion base with slightly deviating levels of active ingredients in each in order to measure the different reaction rate. As this could prove quite dangerous, I have taken the necessary precautions to prevent damage to the laboratory and equipment ... and the resultant mockery from my insufferable colleagues....

Graphorn armour in place.... Containment spells in operation.

I wonder where he's taking her...? Damn Lucius and his smug grin. Bastard. Why did I ask him to follow them? Bloody Bloomberg. "Can I call you 'Sev'?" Bloody cheek! Should have hexed him back across the Atlantic. Further.

I could not do it. She'd see through a Disillusionment Charm straight away... too much time under that cloak of Potter's.

She knows I'm here working.

So work, damn you!

Ahem.

Batch twenty-seven... Adding the leptocephali hormones....

Reaction rate is rapid and escalating... Unstable reaction developing....

That bloody American has arms like the Giant Squid...

... Neutralising the compound. *Evanesco!*

On to batch twenty-eight... Adding the leptocephali hormones....

Monitoring the reaction rate.... Reaction rate slower than twenty-seven... Interesting colour change... The potion looks like it is turning alkaline.... Colour now a deep orange. Reaction rate is beginning to increase. Amber... rather like Hermione's lovely...

Focus, you dunderhead! Keep the reaction under control... No! No, no, no, no, no... Dammit!

Next batch. Twenty-nine. Same process... Reaction rate... umm... non-existent, apparently.

Nothing.

Hmmm. Leaving it to one side under stasis in case there is a delayed response.

Moving on... Introducing batch thirty to the hormones....

Nothing. Bollocks. Bollocks, bollocks, bollocks, bugging bollocks.

I wonder where he took her.... Theatre? A film, perhaps...? No then they'd be sitting in the dark together.

I really hope he took her to some idiotic sporting fixture.... She hates sports.

Perhaps he just took her to dinner. To some beautiful, intimate, quiet restaurant. Perhaps they are sitting in a booth... talking... perhaps he is listening to her explain her work, her eyes shining with the excitement of new discovery, her face flushed as she chatters on and on...

Oh, get a bloody grip, you idiot. Watch the potion check the reaction rate.

The rate is fine, colour change as for twenty-eight. Bloody *Jerry*. I hope that Lucius does his job properly. I will not see her exploited by Professor I-want-a-little-woman-who-can-compliment-me-intellectually.

Shit thirty's reaction rate is going off the scale...

EVANESCO!

[*unreportable noise ??Panting??*]

Malfoy Manor

Sunday morning early

Severus,

In haste things did not *go quite* as we had planned Miss Granger may be in touch quite soon....

Chin up!

Lucius

P.S.: Perhaps some pre-emptive healing salves may be in order....

A/N: Despite my best efforts, JKR continues to decline my kind offer to relinquish her ownership of these characters. I am drowning my sorrows in the brilliance of beaweasley2 and Clairvoyant.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 of 6

In which Slytherin plotting fails....

Chapter 4

[Torn scrap of parchment]

What the hell are you playing at, Snape? Lucius-Bloody-Sodding-Malfoy? You sent *Lucius-Bloody-Sodding-Malfoy* to spy on me and hex Jerry?

What on earth possessed you to do it?

Perhaps you'd care to explain your bizarre actions to me in writing, as you are unwilling to speak to me in person (nice Wards, by the way; I see that you've strengthened them since the last time I was here).

On second thoughts, there is no possible explanation that a normal, sane person could offer. I have tried to be mature about our... situation. I have tried to give you the benefit of the doubt, as always.

Do. Not. Speak. To. Me.

H. Granger

Glebe Cottage

Hogsmeade

3rd August 2008

Dear H,

Okay details! I want details! How did the date go? What was 'Boom Boom' like up close and *personal*?

I can't get out to meet you. Al has got an upset tummy, and when he throws up, the vomit turns fluorescent green and moves about the room. Don't come over it could be contagious!

Harry is out practicing for his next Quidditch training session with the Summer School. He claims that he's very nervous about being a teacher and needs the practice.... It's sweet really. Lots of people have signed up for the training, staff and students alike! Did you know that Professor Snape is joining the group this week? He used to referee Quidditch when we were at school, didn't he? I don't suppose he had much time for flying about when we were younger. Too busy being gloomy and tortured in the dungeons.

Are you coming down to the session? Please say that you will Harry could do with the support, and I can't go down there because of the creeping vomit menace....

Harry says that Snape is quite different in lessons now. He is still the acerbic b*****d he always was, but he does explain things more carefully and seems to have more time for his students than before. Maybe age has mellowed him...?!

Anyway, enough about Harry...details! Did you get home last night?!!

Gin

Griffindor Tower

Hogwarts

3rd August

Dear Gin,

Sorry to hear about vomiting godson. Please find, attached to the owl that has delivered this letter, a little herbal potion that I developed a while ago for settling the stomach. It's perfectly safe for Al to take. Three drops in water, then repeat every time he throws up. Not sure whether it will work on *mobile* stomach contents, but nothing ventured...try sprinkling it over the roaming sick, and see what happens. Good luck.

Will tell you about the date when I have calmed down about it. Suffice it to say that:

a) I got home safely, although unaccompanied.

- b) Jerry is recovering from an unpleasant magical reaction to holding hands and attempting to kiss me.
- c) It is possible to cast a Hominus Revelio, Petrificus Totalus and a defoliating charm simultaneously when totally furious.
- d) Severus Snape is an unconscionable bastard.

Of course I will go and support Harry. Jerry has signed up to take his Quidditch training course this week, and I'm really looking forward to seeing him in action. Harry, too, of course.

Much love,

H.

The Dungeons

Monday 4th August 2008

Dear Professor Granger,

Further to your recent near-hysterical attempts to enter my rooms this morning.

I have no idea what you are raving about in the letter that you spelled to my door.

If Lucius Malfoy wishes to spend his evenings watching you cavort around with your new I shudder to use the word 'boyfriend', then it is of no interest to me. I suggest that you are developing an irrational paranoia. Have you considered hormone replacement therapy?

SS

Griffindor Tower

4th August

Nice try, Snape.

Your note was in his pocket.

HG

The Dungeons

Hogwarts

4th August

Lucius

Why in all the **festerig Hells of Satan and his little minions**, did you put the letter that I sent to you in your **pocket**?

SS

(By the way, that dry scraping noise you can hear is the shade of Salazar Slytherin turning over in his grave, as one of the sons of his House is revealed to be a blithering incompetent.)

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Lesson plan: to be completed by all professors

Activity: Quidditch

Professor: H. Potter

Date: 4th August 2008

Learning objectives: Reintroduction to Quidditch, top tips for success!

Lesson Activities:

- Broom awareness (bristles and shaft, footrests and how to mount)
- Warm up (should take about 5 minutes if everyone can mount a broom properly!)
- Introduction to basic drills:
- Over- and under-arm Quaffle control
- Quaffle passing without the panic
- Bludger dodging
- Goalie confidence - some tips and tricks
- Snitch awareness
- Quick-response snitch capture
- Scratch Game

Lesson evaluation:

Pretty pleased with most of the session. The group was focused on task throughout the drills and practice exercises and seemed to be enjoying themselves. Everything went according to my lesson plan until the scratch game during which, unfortunately, Professor Snape became distracted by a Bludger (struck by Professor Bloomberg) while attempting to execute the Wronski Feint and collided with the opposing team's goal post, the sidewall of the upper stands, and the ground. Proper first aid was applied at the scene, and then he was removed to the Hospital Wing for further treatment.

Signed: Harry Potter

Dear Severus,

GET WELL SOON!

I am sorry that you have been injured. Trying to execute the Wronski Feint while travelling upside down is never a good idea, even for the fittest seeker. What were you thinking of? If I didn't know you better, I would have said that you were showing off...! We're none of us getting any younger. Please do not endanger yourself again...good Potions masters are hard to come by!

Your concerned friend,

Minerva

GET WELL SOON!

From your Summer School Potions Class, 2008

You rock, Professor!

Get well soon, Professor Snape!

I hope your leg feels better soon, Prof!

Potions won't be the same without you!

Quidditch is bad for your health!

Hope you feel better soon, sir!

Nice Feint. Shame about the landing! (Only kidding, Prof!)

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Dear Severus,

I hope that you are feeling better. I blame myself for your accident, of course. If I had only made it clearer what manoeuvres I was expecting you to practice.... After so much time away from the game, it wasn't safe for you to try to execute such a difficult... Oh, well...I'm sure you know all that and you are sitting in the Hospital Wing, reading my letter and thinking 'what an idiot'. So I'll just end by saying how much I sincerely apologise for your injuries and I do understand what you are going through as Poppy helps you to mend your leg and hip.

GET WELL SOON!

Earnestly yours,

Harry Potter

Malfoy Manor

My dear fellow,

I heard about your unfortunate sporting injury. Really, Severus, haven't you grown out of such childish displays? Don't think I have any sympathy for you; that bloody woman hexed my hair out.

GET WELL SOON!

I hope your recovery is long and painful.

Lucius

GET WELL SOON!

I guess that makes us even,*Buddy*

Boom Boom

The Hospital Wing

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Tuesday 5th August 2008

Dear Professor Granger,

As I am somewhat indisposed for the moment, would it be imposing too much on your *kind and generous nature* to ask you to teach my class for the next two days? I am sure that someone with your *undoubted capacity for sympathy and understanding* cannot stand by and watch the students suffer in my absence.

Poppy has confirmed that my resistance to healing spells has lengthened the time of my convalescence by forty-eight hours. I should be back at my desk by Thursday.

Professor S Snape

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Tuesday 5th August

Dear Professor Snape,

Do not try to play the sympathy card. I am still very angry with you, you unbearable man.

Of course I will teach your classes while you are still injured...I had already volunteered to Minerva to do so.

Professor Granger

A/N Despite my best efforts at memory charms, I cannot persuade anybody that I own these characters. Beaweasley2, Clairvoyant and nagandsev continue to make up for my incompetence.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 of 6

In which Narcissa takes an interest in the situation....

Chapter 5

Malfoy Manor

Wednesday 6th August 2008

My dear Severus,

I trust that you will not be too upset that I have written to you concerning your recent behaviour.

You have done great services for my family, enabling us to survive the war, brewing the potions that helped Draco recover from his burns, speaking up for all of us before the Wizengamot, making that horrible vow to protect my boy in those dark days. In return, I helped to care for you in your convalescence here at the Manor and have always enjoyed our private conversations and previous... discrete confidences. But more than our mutual life debt to each other connects us, I have known you since you were little more than a child. I know that Lucius considers you his dearest friend, and so do I.

I am sure that you are eager to discover the reason for this rather extraordinary display of sentiment on my part?

Severus, I have a bald husband, and Hermione Granger is back at Hogwarts. Am I wrong in suspecting a connection between these two truths?

What is going on?

Narcissa

Hospital Wing

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Wednesday 6th August 2008

Dear Narcissa,

As Lucius has no doubt informed you, I find myself indisposed at the moment while I regrow two major bones and recover from a blow to the head. There is nothing wrong other than Lucius has forgotten all of his much vaunted skills at deception and Disillusionment.

Severus

Malfoy Manor

Wednesday 6th 2008

Severus,

If you think that your usual display of bitter insecurity and rudeness is going to have any effect on me, you must have forgotten which House I was proud to be sorted into.

Tell me what is going on.

I swear to keep this secret as well as I have kept your others.

Cissy

Hospital Wing

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Thursday 7th August 2008

Narcissa,

My apologies for taking so long to reply to your previous note... I have begun this letter many times.

Miss *Professor* Granger has indeed returned to Hogwarts and is teaching in this wretched Summer School of Minerva's. I... find myself drawn to her once more and am unsure of how to address the situation, as clearly she does not have any intention of allowing what... occurred before... to resurface.

Indeed, she has already succumbed to the advances of a visiting professor - a whithering, malign addlepate who has not a fraction of her intellect, but who appears to have employed pseudo-Arithmantic mumbo-jumbo and low cunning in order to attract whole flocks of idiotic women, including half of the teaching staff! Indeed, his charm is *suspiciously* baffling.

While I have been lying here in the Hospital Wing, hidden behind one of the sick-bay's screens, I have heard him flirting openly with Poppy's foolish young assistant, inviting her up to the Astronomy Tower to commune with the stars or some other nonsense. "Settle down with a little woman who can compliment my intellectual capacity", indeed! The wizard is a scoundrel.

I am convinced that he does not have *her* best and finest interests at heart.

I am... sorry... that Lucius was injured. I have enclosed a powder with this letter which, when applied topically, will ensure the return of his hair.

Severus

[Lucius, if you (or anyone else) are reading this, there is a peculiarly unpleasant curse embedded in the paper, which has just been activated. Narcissa knows the counter-curse. Good luck in explaining why you are going through her personal correspondence.]

Malfoy Manor

Thursday 7th August 2008

Oh, Severus.

I can well understand your delicate position.

Clearly, you cannot address the issue directly and must find a suitably subtle way of exposing your rival's peccadilloes without embarrassing the object of your intentions.... This calls for stealth and guile. I need some time to consider the best way forward.

In the meantime, do not do anything rash. Your allergy to healing potions will not serve you well in the event of a duel.

Cissy

P.S. Lucius would never read my private correspondence. You do not know much about marriage if you think there are no benefits in accepting each other's secrets and leaving well enough alone. It was a nice thought, though, darling!

HOGWARTS SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY

Minutes of The Staff Meeting held on Thursday 7th August 2008 in the Staff Common Room

The Headmistress wishes to acknowledge the excellent suggestion by Professor Granger that a Quick-Quotes Quill should henceforth record the minutes from these meetings, in order to better facilitate the recording of all opinions expressed in this gathering. Thank you, Hermione.

- My pleasure, Minerva. I'm just delighted to be able to help. I found using one of these quills really useful when I was writing up my Potions thesis a few years ago, and since then, I have always employed them in my private research....

- Yes, well, thank you again, Hermione. I'm sure it will save Filius from hand cramp in the future.

[*snorting noise*]

- I'm sorry, Professor Bloomberg, did you want to add anything to the record?

- Oh, no, no, Minerva! Just... um... clearing my throat.

- Very well. Now, everyone, to business.

- Professor Flitwick, do we have any Apologies?

- Yes, Professor McGonagall. Rubeus Hagrid is still on holiday in Armenia, Healer Pomfrey sends her apologies, due to her duties, and Professor Snape is still confined to the Hospital Wing...

[*door opens, clattering*]

-SEVERUS!

[*other unrecordable noises*]

- What are you doing here? Poppy told me that you should be in bed for another twenty-four hours!

- Don't be ridiculous, Minerva. I am perfectly well recovered.

- But your head injury...? Pomona suggested that you were quite badly concussed? Well, then. Well. Please take a seat... there is a spare one next to Hermione over there.

- ... Professor Granger.

- ... Professor Snape.

- Hi, Buddy! No hard feelings about that Bludger, right?

- Professor Bloomberg. What a pleasure.

- Ahem, yes. Well, if we could continue? Thank you. Are those all the Apologies received, Filius?

- Yes, Minerva.

- Very well then, to continue. I want to extend the warm hand of international wizarding friendship once again to our visiting Professors: Bloomberg, Hill, Albernathy, Whitlow, Green, and Granger who are attending this meeting to discuss the two main items on our agenda, the impending charity Quidditch match for the Ministry of Magic, and the evaluation of our first Summer Extension Programme.

Minutes and matters arising

- Following our discussion last month over Professor Hagrid's request to introduce Quintupeds and Flaming Goonspittles to the second year curriculum. I have heard back from the Ministry, and I am sorry to say that the Department for the Regulation of Magical Creatures have turned down Rubeus' request.

[*multiple quiet exhalations*]

[*unrecordable noise ??Thank Merlin??*]

- Professor Sprout, did you wish to add something? You need to speak up clearly, Pomona, or the Quill won't pick up your comments...?

- Oh... erm... No, Minerva: nothing to add! Thank you.

- Harrumph. Very well.

- Flooding in lower corridor that has all now been cleared up, has it not, Argus? We have put new drainage in place to protect this area and redirected the overflow from the kitchens... And have we installed the new system for safe air extraction in the Dungeons, in the light of recent...? Yes? Right. Thank you for that.

- Right. On to the key points of the agenda today...

Number one: Final arrangements for the international Quidditch charity match next Saturday, 16th August.

- Is everyone aware that the players will be arriving via Portkey a week tomorrow? We expect the Sirens at about four o'clock on Friday 15th after lessons have finished here. The other players are arriving separately. Septima? You are coordinating all of the arrival times? Yes? Good. Is there anything that we need to be aware of?

- No, Minerva. We've got it all in hand. Campsites have been allocated for spectators, some people have already arrived...

[*unrecordable low noise*]

...and I know that Rosmerta and Aberforth are fully booked...

[*unrecordable low noise*]

...but I am sure that everything will go very well as far as the crowd goes, Minerva...

[*unrecordable low noise*]

- Severus? Hermione? Speak up, please, for the minutes.

- Nothing to add, Minerva.... I was merely remarking on the lack of available accommodation for anyone who had a sudden need for privacy.

- Oh. Right, Severus. I'm not quite sure why that would be of any significance for this meeting, but....

- It is merely that were I wishing to meet anyone, 'out of hours' as it were... there are limited local possibilities for such an... outlet.

[*unrecordable noise*]

- Professor Bloomberg? You wish to add something?

- No? Right, well, thank you... I'm sure that you'll all agree that it is quite a feather in our cap to have been chosen to host such an event. We are expecting a significant number of international wizarding media to arrive, so we need to prepare for this. It puts me in mind of a few years ago when we hosted the Tri-Wizard Tournament! I know that one of our visiting professors was actually present at the time, but for the rest of us here present who have less experience of dealing with the press, please be aware of the following advice from the Ministry's Propaganda Department.

[*unrecordable noise*]

Filius, would you pass these sheets of parchment around...? Thank you. Please read these guidelines and follow them, everybody. If anyone has any questions about them, please do not hesitate to talk to me after the meeting...

[*unrecordable noise*]

- Severus? Do you wish to ask a question?

- Only to make an observation, Headmistress... That some of us will welcome the attentions of the world's media more than others....

- What are you getting at, pal?

- I am merely deferring, my dear Professor Bloomberg, to your, shall we say, enhanced experience with the Fourth Estate...

- *Thank you, Severus...* Professor Bloomberg... *if you'll allow me to continue, gentlemen...*? Thank you. Moving on to the second agenda item....

Number two: Summer Extension Course evaluation forms

- Filius, would you do the honours, please? Thank you. As you will see, the Ministry has asked that we fully evaluate the effectiveness of our teaching and learning, and they have asked that we do so in a collaborative fashion.

- Does that mean that we need to comment on each other's work, Minerva?

- Yes, Pomona. Most of you are delivering your classes in pairs, and you would be in a strong position to reflect on each other's work. You and Neville will be able to complete the forms together quite easily... Yes, Professor Bloomberg?

- Yeah, thanks, Minerva.... I was just wondering if we had to buddy up with the same subject; after all, there's a lot to be learned from each other's skills and talents. The cross-fertilization of... *ideas*...?

- Speaking of cross-fertilisation, Jerry... Wasn't that you I saw coming out of Greenhouse Number Five yesterday with that new Healer, Lanette Dilella...?

- And I know there are a few witches here who have also benefited from your skills and talents, according to Hettie Henwood's latest reports in the *Prophet*!

- Sybill!

[*unrecordable noises ??ooooooooohhh??*]

- Boom Boom!

- Filius!

- Sorry, Minerva!

- You see, you silly woman? I told you that you couldn't trust him. He's obviously leading you on.

- Severus!

- What?

[*unrecordable noise *]

I don't know what you mean, Pomona! She asked me to take a look at the new strain of ginkgo that Nev Longbottom was developing in there! I have a side interest in healing herbs!

[*unrecordable noises*]

- Pomona! If Jerry says that he was just helping Lanette out, then that is exactly what he was doing!

- Oh, how can you be so naïve, you insufferable woman?

- How can you be so, so... It's absolutely none of your business, anyway, Severus!

- It IS my business! This... charlatan... is revealing his true nature; I don't know how he is doing it, but...

- Really?! But *what?!!* And you're a fine one to talk about revealing natures!

- Hermione, Honey! Don't get upset! Here, let me...?

[*unrecordable noise*]

- Let her go, you, you...

- Or what?

- SEVERUS!

[*unrecordable noise*]

- Put her down, you, you...

- Or what?

- SEVERUS

- **IF I MIGHT BE HEARD!**

[*unrecordable noise* ??Explosion??]

- Professor Snape! You are clearly overwrought from your injuries. Put your wand away and kindly report to Poppy Pomfrey for further treatment.

[*door slams*]

- Sorry, Minerva.

- Sorry.

- Sorry.

- Sorry.

- Are you alright, Hermione? What on Earth was all that about?

- Nothing, Minerva. Please let's get on with the meeting.

- ... Honey?

- I'm fine, Jerry. It was probably a mistake to come back here after all. Bloody man.

Ravenclaw Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Thursday 7th August 2008

Dearest Hermione,

You do believe me, don't you, honey? I would never cheat on you with anyone! Frankly, I think that Snape is a couple of aces short of a deck.... Seriously, can you believe that guy?? Crazy, crazy! Thanks for sticking up for me, I really felt your emotions aligning to mine powerful stuff!

Anyway... I'm going to be doing some stargazing up on the Astronomy Tower later tonight. I've been told the gargoyles up there are really knowledgeable about the movements of the stars.

Care to join me?

Your own,

Boom Boom

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Thursday 7th August

Dear Professor Snape,

Further to your disgraceful behaviour in the staff meeting, it now appears to be impossible for you to conduct a civil conversation with me; when you return to teaching next week, I suggest that we confine our interactions to the written word until the end of this project.

I have enclosed a pack of Weasley's Wizarding Wheezes Charmed Sticky Notes.

The password for them is "Dunderhead".

I wonder why.

Professor Granger

Headmistress Office

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday 15th August

Dear Severus,

I was pleased to hear from Poppy that you have been successfully discharged from her care this afternoon. I trust that there will not be a repeat of your unusual outburst in the staff meeting now that you are fully recovered. You have been under a lot of pressure, my boy; don't think that I do not understand.

You need to apologise to Professors Bloomberg and Granger sooner rather than later. I am not sure that she will forgive you this time. Once again, I must remind you of the need to maintain appropriate professional discourse between you two.

With best wishes,

Minerva

Malfoy Manor

Saturday 9th August

Dear Severus,

Thank you for your owl. It appears that your definition of "stealth and guile" is vastly different from mine.

No matter. I have an idea. Keep your mind on your work.

Lucius and I are both keen followers of Quidditch, as you know.

I will see you next Saturday before the match.

Cissy

P.S.: Lucius is now back to his former, magnificent self, and thank you for the hair tonic. Have you thought of selling it commercially?

Gryffindor Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Sunday 10th August

Dear Gin,

Can you talk? I could really do with some of your advice right now.

H

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Sunday 10th August

H,

Still coping with ill child although thanks to your potion, we no longer have issues with Al's more spectacular excretions...!

What's up?

Gin

Gryffindor Tower

Gin,

Where do I start?

Can I come through?

H

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

H,

Of course!

The boys are in bed. I have elf-made wine. Harry is out training. I am all ears...!

Gin

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Monday 11th August

Granger,

Your idiots appear to have wrecked the asphodel flowers.

Again.

If they are not capable of brewing the Draught of Living Death, then they should stick to something simple, like making tea.

Snape

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Monday 11th August

Snape,

Keep your focus on your students; I'll look after mine, thank you.

Granger

Glebe House

Hogsmeade

Monday 11th August 2008

Dear Hermione,

I am still reeling from our conversation last night (as well as the two bottles of wine that are now empty in our sink in the kitchen), and I wanted you to be sure to remember the advice I gave you at the time.

If there is something still left unsaid between you two, then you owe it to yourself and to him to try to say it.

I know that it did not work out last time, but you have to agree with me that the circumstances of what happened six years ago were not exactly normal for either of you. His behaviour over the past few days could indeed be that of an emotionally inexperienced suitor rather than a malicious stalker (let's hope, anyway or you should indeed "hex his bollocks off").

As for Jerry... you know what you're getting into with that one. Fun, fun, fun with "Boom Boom"... or... not.... Only you can choose.

I know that you are still angry with Severus, but you should try to look at this objectively. His idiotic actions might be disguising something else, something that you told me last night you would once have given everything to have.

Love you,

G

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Tuesday 12th August

Granger,

Where is my #3 paring knife?

I left it on the side table in the Lower Laboratory, and when I returned less than thirty minutes later, it was gone.

I need it.

Snape

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Tuesday 12th August

Snape,

I have not touched your knife.

Perhaps your memory and judgement is suspect.

It would not be the first time.

Granger

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Wednesday 13th August

S,

Thank you for your help with the accident this afternoon.

Your quick actions helped to salvage the potion and protect the students.

HG

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

I did very little.

You had the situation under control by the time I arrived.

Thank you, nonetheless.

S

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Thursday 14th August

Dear Professor Granger,

I am reaching a particularly interesting stage in the development of the Anti-Mutatio Potion.

You could join me later to witness the development of the base potion, if it would be of interest to you.

SS

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Thursday 14th August

Is that an apology?

HG

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Thursday 14th August

It is... an invitation.

SS

WWW

Charmed Sticky Notes

Thursday 14th August

S,

I am afraid that I am not able to join you, as I have a prior engagement.

... perhaps tomorrow?

H

The Astronomy Tower

Thursday 14th August 2008, late at night, under the stars....

Dearest Hermione,

As I sit here, gazing upwards at the stars, I am certain that I have never felt this same sense of connection with another human being before.

You have just left me, and my arms are empty. One stolen kiss is all I have to remind me of your tenderness; your scarf in my hands is a reminder of your warmth and the fires kindling in your eyes as I slowly unwound it from your neck before pressing my lips against you.

Thank you for doing me the honour of agreeing to accompany me to the Pro-Celebrity Quidditch match this Saturday. I am looking forward to sharing this wonderful event with you. The opportunity to watch something so uplifting as Quidditch... something that celebrates the freedom and indomitability of the human spirit... something so thrilling, so enervating, so *throbbing* with magical hope and potential... fills me with such anticipation. And yet these sensations will be nothing compared to the giddy delight of holding you next to me as we share the moment.

Afterwards, I thought that we could go to that wizarding hotel near Tintagel I was telling you about for an evening meal... and perhaps something more...?

With highest regards,

Your own *and none other's*

Boom Boom

The Dungeons

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday 15th August 2008

Dear Professor Granger,

Having witnessed, while on my rounds, your descent from the Astronomy Tower last night, followed thereafter by an equally..*glowing* Professor Bloomberg, I am writing to rescind my invitation to witness the next phase in the Anti-Mutatio potion's development.

I wish you well in your future career and in all other areas of your life, and I apologise if my actions in recent days have caused you any distress. You are clearly content to be with him, and there *this* should be left.

You deserve someone who will make you happy, and I am glad that you have found him.

Professor S. Snape

A/N: JK Rowling owns the Potterverse. Clairvoyant, nagandsev and beawesley2 are wonderful. 'Nuff said!

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 of 6

In which there is a hat, a cane, an explosion... and a happily ever after....

Chapter 6

Ravenclaw Tower

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday 15th August 2008

Heyyy, Sweet Stuff,

Fancy a second time to see if our chakra's really can align?

Boom Boom!

Jerry

Headmistress Office

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday 15th August

Severus,

Hermione has asked me if you intend to accompany the rest of the staff to the Celebrity Quidditch Match tomorrow?

Minerva

The Dungeons

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Friday 15th August

Dear Minerva,

Delightful as the prospect is of accompanying Doctor Granger and her American paramour to watch a game that recently had me committed to hospital and nursing two broken bones and a concussion, I will not be attending the Quidditch match this afternoon. The potion is at a critical stage in creation. I will be working alone in the Dungeons all afternoon.

SS

Friday 15th August

Harry,

Wotcher, mate!

See you Saturday.

Ron

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Orphans' Appeal Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

"Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the Ministry of Magic's Quidditch Spectacular in aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund, held at Hogwarts on 16th August 2008.

And what a fabulous game of Quidditch we have for you here! Two teams of stars coming together to help to raise Galleons for a worthy cause... and of course to answer the question: Can the Syracuse Sirens, a young team based in the newly emerging Quidditch nation of the United States, triumph against a scratch team of some of the most famous individual Quidditch players in the world? It's a thrilling prospect, ladies and gentlemen.

More than five thousand Quidditch fans have made the journey here to windy Scotland for the match, and there is quite an atmosphere here as we wait for the players to launch themselves into the arena...

And here they come, ladies and gentlemen... The Syracuse Sirens!

That's Shawna Hawyes, the Sirens' Seeker! Shawna graduated All-American from the Salem Academy before flying for Puddlemere United in the British League. Shawna returned to her home country to fly for the Sirens last year, and she's had a ball! With twenty-two successful catches this year, Shawna's performance has outstripped all other Chasers in the American League this season. Let's hear it for Shawna, everyone!

Next, we welcome the Siren's Beaters, John Blackhorse and Harrison Lapahie. Blackhorse and Lapahie have been partners for four years at the heart of the Siren's Defence! See how they are demonstrating their signature manoeuvre, The Crossfire! Watch out for those Bludgers, ladies and gentlemen they look feisty today!

Sherrilyn Rodgers and Tiago Montoya are next up... The Sirens' Chasers have had a wonderful season, scoring more than three hundred goals between them in the League this season. Rodgers lists her hobbies as fire breathing and tiddlywinks while Montoya is new to the team this year and favours quieter pursuits: Muggle crosswords and Mexican cooking. Rodgers and Montoya, everyone!

Aaaand finally! The Sirens' veteran keeper, Shabray Jones, ladies and gentlemen! Shabray has had a long and distinguished career around the world. She started her career in North America, playing the American game Quodpot for the Sweetwater All-Stars in Texas before switching to Quidditch and establishing an international reputation as a Keeper in the game. Shabray has played for a number of teams in Europe and America and is a regular member of the North American Quidditch Squad ladies and gentlemen, give it up for Shabray Jones!!!

The Syracuse Sirens!

And now... please welcome... flying together for the first time as a team... live, from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry... the Rest of the World!

Yes! Ladies and gentlemen, this team is made up from some of our biggest stars of the game. Please put your hands together for...

Petrova Porskoff! Porskoff plays Chaser for the Vratsa Vultures and the Russian Federation. World famous for the move that carries her name, Porskoff is renowned for her skill and agility on the broom. Watch her go, everybody! And beside her comes her partner this afternoon, Marcus Flint. Flint has left behind his bad boy reputation over the past ten years, establishing himself as the go-to Chaser for the Caerphilly Catapults, and has won the Dangerous Dai Commemorative Medal an astonishing six times during his time at the club. I wonder if we'll see the Porskoff Ploy today, ladies and gentlemen?!

Say hello, everyone, to the Rest of the World's goalkeeper, and one of our most beloved Quidditch stars, Rrrrrrrrronald Weasley!! Weasley plays for the Chudley Cannons, and for many people, he is the player responsible for the club's renaissance since the end of the war. Weasley has described himself on many occasions as a one-club player, and he has resisted all offers from other clubs to move from the Cannons. Ronald Weasley, everybody!

We have three more players to meet.... First up is Keiko Takahashi playing Beater. Keiko has an enviable reputation as Beater, following in the broomstick brushes of Gwenog Jones at the Holyhead Harpies and a regular fixture in the Japanese National Quidditch Team.

Playing Seeker, an international of more than twelve years' experience... This wizard has won everything Best Player, Most Valuable Player, the Queerditch Trophy, the Bulgarian National Championship and of course he is part of the Bulgarian team that has won the Quidditch World Cup three times, breaking the Irish domination of the competition! Currently Seeker for the Vratsa Vultures in his native Bulgaria... Viktor Krum, ladies and gentlemen!

That means... joining Keiko Takahashi as Beater and playing out of position in this charity match... the man who needs no introduction... world famous for his heroic actions off the Quidditch pitch, but a hugely successful Seeker for the Tutshill Tornadoes and the British International Team... Mister... HARRY POTTER!

Now the players are taking up their position and the referee, Rolanda Hooch, has the match-balls under control.... She blows her whistle and releases the Snitch and Bludgers, hurls the Quaffle high in the air, and ... we're OFF!

And Porskoff has the Quaffle, streaking away across the pitch with Flint in support; meanwhile, Potter and Takahashi have taken up positions flanking their chasers as they all head towards Shabray Jones in the Sirens' goal....

Ouch! A neat move by Blackhorse sends a Bludger whistling past Porskoff's shoulder, but she has passed the Quaffle to Flint and the attack goes on. Meanwhile, Krum seems to have spotted something off to his right, and he's streaking away, pursued by Hawyes, who is lying flat on her broom in that trademark position of hers, the Hawyes Hoover! Krum swerves in midair and comes to a halt, sending Hawyes overshooting past him, but the Snitch has gone!

GOAL for Marcus Flint. Taking advantage of Krum's drive, the Rest of the World's Chaser bamboozled Jones and scored an excellent goal. Ten points to the Rest of the World!

Hooch restarts the game, and immediately, the Quaffle is passed from Rodgers to Montoya and back again as the Bludgers continue to whistle past the play on the field. Potter and Takahashi are teaming up well Oh no! I spoke too soon! Takahashi sent a Bludger at Potter for him to deflect into the path of Montoya, but Potter missed the hit and the Bludger is outside his control. The Quaffle passes back to Rodgers and the Sirens close in on goal.

Excellent save from Weasley, holding onto his broom single-handed as he captures the Quaffle. He really is something, ladies and gentlemen, isn't he? Weasley flicks the ball in the air and smashes it up the field towards his waiting Chasers. And now Flint has the Quaffle and is pressing forward hard.

There is some shouting from the crowds as one of the Bludgers heads straight for the left stands, but Blackhorse comes across and anticipates the Bludger's direction. Blackhorse flicks the Bludger onwards towards Flint, and Flint is forced to take evasive action, and he's lost the Quaffle!

Rodgers has swept it up nice move, Sherri! For any children watching this, that's how to take a flying interception! She tucks the Quaffle under one arm and fends off a Bludger sent her way by Potter, who is clearly relishing this new defensive role.

What of the Snitch? Can you see it, anybody? Krum and Hawyes are circling the play about fifty feet above, and it's clear that that pesky little golden ball is being very elusive this afternoon. Hawyes has said that she is so excited to be playing on the same pitch as the legendary Bulgarian... Keep an eye on the action up above, everyone, as I return to the action down below...

Score!! Jones was caught napping again that time as Porskoff flies in for a middle hoop goal, and the Sirens are twenty-nil down already!

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

Right. Getting on with the Anti-Mutatio Potion.

[*unrecordable noise*]

Saturday 16th August 2008

The base potion has been proven in stasis over the past forty-eight hours, and I am now ready to begin the hormonal stimulus.

[*door opens*]

- What in all that's holy are you doing, Snape?

- I thought that that was pretty obvious, Lucius. I'm brewing. I have identified the key hormonal shift mechanism, and I'm attempting to replicate the impact of the lunar effect on the potion. The process requires me to maintain utter focus, so if you would kindly return to your Quidditch Spectacular...? I'm sure that your wife will be missing your sparkling wit.

- I don't mean what are you doing here! I mean, what are you doing *here* and not in the stands of that match outside with that bloody Muggle-born witch of yours?

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

... And captures it with a rolling turn. Extraordinary skills here from the young Chaser! Montoya really is an emerging talent! He passes the Quaffle on to Rodgers, and the Sirens reform again for an attack. It looks like Blackhorse and Lapahie are squaring up for yes! That's it, ladies and gentlemen! The Crossfire! What a spectacular move. The opposing Chasers are scattered, and Montoya is bearing down on goal...! Yes!! Weasley can't save that one and he's furious with his Beaters!

Hooch Summons the Quaffle, and the teams reform again for the restart aaah! The Sirens Captain Jones has called for a time-out. While we wait for the game to restart, I can draw our listeners' attention to some of our distinguished guests in the Main Stand here beside the commentary box.

A round of applause please for the British Minister for Magic, Kingsley Shacklebolt, and his North American Counterpart, the Secretary for Magical Affairs, Madam Leslie Diviner.

Also accompanying the Ministers are some of our heroes from the Wizarding War against the wizard-formally-known-as-Voldemort. Let's get the spotlights on some of our famous guests! Seamus Finnegan and Dean Thomas, ladies and gentlemen! And next to them, reporting on the match for *The Quibbler*, Miss Luna Lovegood! My, my, *what* an interesting hat she's wearing! And beyond her, is that... the final third of the Golden Trio herself Hermione Granger? And arm in arm with no other than Professor Jerry Bloomberg as well! What do we say, everybody? "Boom Boom!"

[*Boom Boom!*

This is such a good cause, ladies and gentlemen. We are so grateful that you have come here today to support our fundraising activities for the War Orphans Appeal Fund. Perhaps we can ask some of our distinguished guests for comments while we wait for the action to restart?

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

- Lucius....

- *Severus*. Cissy showed me your letter.

[*unrecordable noise* ??Expletive??]

- Don't be like that, old man. She shows me everything.

- She said that she'd keep my confidences...

- She said: "I swear to keep this secret as well as I have kept your others," and she has.

- ... Slytherin.

- *wife*, Severus....

[*unrecordable noise*]

- You need to resolve this matter. Following Granger around like a love-starved Crup and threatening her boyfriend will get you no further than you got with Lily.

- Get *out*, Lucius.

- Oh, put that away you're not going to hex me, you silly idiot. You have never been a coward, before. Why don't you tell me what happened six years ago? I might be able to help you, you know.

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

And the teams are both in the air again! Blackhorse and Lapahie are flying more closely together this time, and Rodgers and Montoya are also in formation. Clearly, the Sirens have changed their tactics here....

Has Hawyes seen something? The clouds are still quite low, but can we see the glint of something in the sky? She's off, and Krum is chasing her down. Look at her go! That's the kind of agility on the broom that has got her noticed by the international Quidditch media!

Meanwhile, Blackhorse is protecting Rodgers as she swerves around and passes the Quaffle to Montoya in a one-two, which results in... a... score!

Twenty twenty!

And the Snitch has disappeared again! This game is really shaping up!

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

- ...

- I'm not moving, Severus.

- Well. Then. *Ahem*. You can help me by passing that bundle of Whickwheat. Take your coat off. Put those gloves on.

- There you are. What are you doing?

- I told you. Brewing. I'm trying to develop a better preventative for lycanthropy.

- Really? That's spectacularly warmhearted of you.

- Lucius....

- Alright... alright. Coat off. Gloves on. I'm at your service.

[*unrecordable noise*]

- Now, about your little distraction.

- She is not a distraction... or *mine*, for that matter. Hold that.

- Why are you adding the asphodel?

- To counteract the effect of the wormwood. Shut up for a minute I have to keep a count of the stirs....

- Severus.

- Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen... what?

- *Granger*, Severus.

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

And that's another score for the Sirens! We're now at fortytwenty to the Sirens, and the American team is growing in confidence.

Potter and Takahashi are combining really well, but they are still finding it difficult to shape up against the well-practiced drills of the Siren's Chasers and Beaters.

Harry Potter has called a timeout, and the players sink slowly to the grass to take some well-deserved refreshment.

*

Madam Secretary Diviner, welcome to Britain! How are you finding the weather here?

- [*chuckle*] Weeeeell, I'm from Michigan originally, Lee, so I'm kinda used to all the rain and clouds!

- Even in summer, Madam Secretary?

- Uh, well, possibly not! But the players don't seem to mind, eh?

- Ha ha, no, indeed! Are you a big fan of Quidditch?

- Sure! I follow the international games as well as my hometown team, the Detroit Doomsparks.

- Aaahhh, so you're familiar with John Blackhorse, then? Didn't he play for the Doomsparks a few seasons back? A wonderful talent, wouldn't you say?

- Yes, indeed. I wish all the players the best of luck in this game, which is, of course, for a very worthy cause!

- And Headmistress McGonagall.... You must be very proud to host this prestige event here at your school...?

- Oh, yes, Lee! Yes, indeed! We are very pleased to be able to welcome everyone here today!

- And I believe that you have been welcoming others here this summer as well at Hogwarts?

- Yes, Lee, thank you for mentioning it! Ahem. We have been delighted to welcome more than fifty adult learners here to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for our first ever Summer Extension Programme... And some distinguished old boys and girls have also joined our team of experienced teachers to deliver a range of courses....

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

- Just hold it steady there, Lucius, while I get the powdered Bicorn ready for adding to the mixture....

- Like this?

- Yes.

- What time is it?

- What?

- I make it nearly three o'clock?

- I suppose so. My watch is over there.

- Severus...?

[*unrecordable noise*]

- You're avoiding the question. I know that you were getting on very well with your apprentice, almost *revealingly* so... until that Halloween Dinner in 2002. Then, all of a sudden, you retreated back into that rigid, bleak carapace of yours and turned back into... well... *you*.... Something *clearly* happened, old man.

- [*whispered*] I cannot speak of it.

- Yes, you can. After all. Think of all that I have done. If redemption has been possible for me, why not you also?

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

- And here is our own Luna Lovegood! Luna, I must ask... What *is* that hat made from? It's magnificent!

- Thank you, Lee. It's mostly made from Splindipperer feathers.

- Splindipperers?

- Yes, it's a magical wading bird from Central Belize. Beautiful plumage, isn't it? It reminds me of racing greyhounds and plimpkins.

- Erm, yes.... So, you are here to cheer on your friends Ronald Weasley and Harry Potter, then?

- Actually, Lee, I'm not here for that at all really.

-... Really? Erm...

- No, I'm actually here because I need to offer some advice to another friend, now. I've been trying to find her all afternoon, but she doesn't seem to be around. May I borrow your microphone? I do remember how it works. I took over from you commentating here after you left school. Hello, everybody! Harry, would you mind not carrying on with your game until I've finished saying what I have to say? Thank you very much! I love your robes, by the way. I have always liked blue on you....

- Erm, Miss Lovegood? There are about thirty thousand people listening in to our live broadcast right now as well as the people in the stands....

- Yes, I know that, Lee. Excuse me for the interruption, everyone, but is Hermione Granger here?

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

- May I turn the radio on?

- What?

- Well, if you're not going to share whatever desperate secret you possess concerning the Granger menace, there's something on the radio that I would like to listen to. At three o'clock. The tip of my cane makes a surprisingly good receiver.

- Holy Merlin's tits, Lucius. What in all the bloody rings of Samhain are you on about now? This is a very delicate potion! It's exploded on me three times already! I must have total concentration if I'm not to blow up half the castle and both of us as well in the bargain! No, you may not have the bloody...

[*click*]

[*radio-tuning noise*]

"...is Hermione Granger here?"

...radio on. Hold on. What's that?

Transcript of Radio Commentary: Ministry of Magic: Tenth Anniversary Quidditch Spectacular in Aid of the War Widows and Orphans Fund. 16th August 2008. Commentator: Lee Jordan.

- Oh, hello, Hermione! I can see you waving from the other side of the stands! You look very well. Is that Professor Bloomberg with you there? Hello, Jerry! Remember me? Narcissa Malfoy wrote to me about you a few days ago because she remembered reading something about you in my newspaper. Hello, Mrs Malfoy. I thought I saw you on the other side of Professor Bloomberg! Oh, please don't go, Professor!

You see, everyone... Professor Bloomberg is the main subject of the South American edition of *The Quibbler* newspaper this month!

[*scattered applause, whooping ??Boom Boom??*]

Yes, yes! "Boom Boom"!

I think everyone should hear about why you are called "Boom Boom", Professor, don't you?

[*unrecordable noise* ??Scuffle??]

You see, Hermione, it occurred to me that everyone knew his nickname, but nobody ever asked why he had it. Then I started to do some research on compulsion charms. I needed to find ways to get closer to the Heliopaths I was pursuing in the Atacama Desert and I discovered that some charms can be activated by key words. It's a bit like Muggle hypnotists. Every time you hear or see the words "Boom Boom", connected to thoughts about Professor Bloomberg, a localised psychic field is formed, and the people directly around you are strongly influenced to do whatever you want. Quite clever, really, isn't it!

[*unrecordable noise*]

[*??bastard??]

[*Hermione? OW!*

[*booing*]

So, you see, Hermione, when Professor Snape told Mrs Malfoy about your new friendship with Professor Bloomberg, Mrs Malfoy thought that I should come over here to warn you about what I had found out about him.

Oh, I see that you are already taking steps to....

Well. That's all sorted out, then. Lovely! Everyone can get on with the game now, I suppose. Ooh, look! Isn't that the Golden Snitch over there by Viktor? Isn't it pretty?

Quick-Quotes Quills:

The Quicker Way to Quote!

"...Ooh, look! Isn't that the Golden Snitch over there by Viktor? Isn't it pretty?"

- So. So, she didn't mean... she couldn't help....

- Well, well! So, your instincts about that ridiculous American were correct, old boy. She was clearly under some sort of compulsion charm; otherwise, she wouldn't have been immune to your obvious personal magnetism and delightful character. By the way, should the potion be glowing like that?

- Glowing? Merlin, Lucius! GET DOWN! EV...

[*unrecordable noise*]

The Daily Prophet

Bizarre End to MOM Charity Quidditch Match!

"Boom Boom" Bloomberg Exposed as Serial Charmer!

The Malfoys Rehabilitated!

The Headmistress' Office

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Sunday 17th August 2008

My Dear Severus,

I am delighted that you are feeling better and that there is no lasting damage from that terrible explosion. Lucius Malfoy has already left for Wiltshire. He sends his best wishes, but there are a number of social engagements that he and his wife are now apparently obliged to attend, and his presence is required at his home.

Now that you are recovering the use of your faculties, thanks to Poppy's excellent care overnight, I am going to pop over to the Hospital Wing in order to knock some sense into that thick skull of yours! That potion is far too dangerous to be experimenting on even without the distraction of Lucius Malfoy AND a wizarding radio in the same room!

Professor Bloomberg was arrested shortly after Viktor caught the Snitch and your potion exploded. Two Aurors from the Misuse of Magical Spells Division came to take him in for questioning. I gather that there are a string of women across the world who had been affected by his reprehensible behaviour. It's a good job that we were all clear headed here at Hogwarts over the last few weeks, isn't it?

By the way, I have enclosed a further copy of your invitation to the Summer Extension Programme's Celebratory Ball this evening. Your response to the original must have gone astray somehow.... I am sure I do not need to remind you that attendance at such functions is compulsory for the full-time staff at Hogwarts. Hermione has her own invitation of course, but she seemed particularly keen, when I spoke with her last night, to be sure that you had yours so that you may reply. Did you know that she stayed up all night by your bedside? Poppy said that she was quite insistent on the matter.

I will see you later, laddie.

Take care of yourself,

Minerva

Dear Professor Snape

The Governors and Headmistress of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry request the pleasure of your company at

The Celebration Ball for the Inaugural Summer Extension Programme

in The Great Hall

on Sunday 17th August 2008 at 8.00pm

Dinner to follow Dress: Uniform or Dress Robes

Carriages at 2am

R.S.V.P. The Headmistress,

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Gryffindor Tower

Sunday morning

Severus

YOU INSUFFERABLE MAN! Of all the unbelievably dangerous, stupid, intractable, idiotic, unreasonable, impossible, obtuse, empty-headed, simple-minded, obdurate, and foolhardy things to do! Using a magical device in a Potions lab with volatile ingredients? **YOU ALWAYS** expounded on the dangers of magic of **ANY KIND** in or around a cauldron when brewing. **WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?**

Dunderhead.

Hermione

The Dungeons

Sunday 17th August 2008

Oh, give it a rest, woman. I've recovered completely and have plenty of time to analyse the problem with the potion, which led to the explosion and no, it was not because I had the radio on. I fully blame Lucius.

Yes, I think I have found the solution and should have a viable potion to test on Miss Brown within the week.

I'll expect you at seven.

SS

Gryffindor Tower

Severus

Only you would use your time recovering from multiple broken bones, a concussion and second-degree potion burns analysing the interaction of potion ingredients.

I'll see you at seven, but you have a lot of explaining to do, mister.

H

The Dungeons

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Sunday 17th August 2008

Dear Minerva,

Thank you for your kind invitation and your good wishes.

Expect *two* from the Dungeons this evening.

Yours sincerely,

S Snape

Daily Prophet

Monday 18th August 2008

Snape and Granger Announce Engagement at Hogwarts' Ball!

By Hettie Henwood

The wizarding world was surprised last night by the news that the war heroes Severus Snape and Hermione Granger have become betrothed.

The ball, held to celebrate the end of the Ministry of Magic's inaugural Summer Extension Programme, was in full swing when the guests were treated to a sudden spray of indoor fireworks, courtesy of Weasleys' Wizarding Wheezes, and the orchestra was stilled.

In the expectant silence, Professor Severus Snape, Order of Merlin (First Class), was seen to go down on one knee in front of Professor Hermione Granger, Order of Merlin (First Class), and to take her hands in his own before asking her to become his bride.

A flushed, but ecstatic, Professor Granger stammered an affirmative and was promptly swept into her paramour's arms in a breathtaking display of public affection that this correspondent had never thought to see from the usually taciturn and reclusive potioneer.

There was an immediate clamour of applause and shouted congratulations before this reporter surged forwards through the crowd to interview the happy couple.

Speaking to a hushed audience of guests and staff at the ball, Potions master Snape admitted that theirs had not been a conventional romance.

"I disliked her for years," he admitted candidly, "until I realised that I could not live without her."

His betrothed laughed gaily at her fiancé's words, saying, "He is clearly still suffering from concussion... and I love you too, darling," before dragging him away from this reporter and onto the dance floor, where they were swallowed up by a crowd of well wishers and friends.

finite incantatem

A/N: The Potterverse is owned by JK Rowling and not me - I make no profit whatsoever for noodling within it....

Beaweasley2, Clairvoyant and nagandsev are fabulous, and they more than make up for my loss. Thanks also go to the mods at the SSHG Exchange on Livejournal (where this story was first published), and to Wildmagelet - the author of the prompt which inspired this silly tale in the first place....

Update December 2013: the talented larkinh has translated this story into Czech! You can find it at: <http://hp.kizi.sk/Advent&idskup=31>