

5. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

During a sweltering summer at the Dursleys', Harry feels isolated and angry, cut off from the wizarding world and haunted by the events of the Triwizard Tournament. His frustration boils over when he and his cousin Dudley are attacked by two Dementors in an underpass. Harry is forced to produce a Patronus to save them, an act of underage magic that prompts the Ministry of Magic to schedule a disciplinary hearing for his expulsion from Hogwarts.

Harry is rescued by a group of wizards, including the real Alastor Moody and Remus Lupin, who escort him to Number 12, Grimmauld Place, London—the ancestral home of the Black family and the secret headquarters of the Order of the Phoenix. This clandestine organization, originally founded by Dumbledore during Voldemort's first rise, has been reformed to fight him once again. Harry reunites with Sirius, Ron, and Hermione, but is furious to learn they have been kept in the dark about the Order's activities on Dumbledore's instruction. He learns that the Ministry of Magic, led by a paranoid Cornelius Fudge, is refusing to accept Voldemort's return and has launched a vicious smear campaign to discredit both Harry and Dumbledore as liars seeking to destabilize his government.

At his hearing, Harry is unexpectedly cleared of all charges thanks to Dumbledore's intervention. However, upon returning to Hogwarts, he finds the atmosphere has changed. The Ministry has installed one of its own on the faculty: Dolores Umbridge, the Senior Undersecretary to the Minister, as the new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. Dressed in pink and with a sickeningly sweet demeanor, Umbridge is a bureaucratic tyrant. Her Ministry-approved curriculum forbids the use of any practical magic, insisting instead on a purely theoretical approach, leaving the students defenseless against the very real threat of Voldemort.

As Umbridge's power at Hogwarts grows, she is appointed the first-ever "High Inquisitor," giving her the authority to evaluate, harass, and fire teachers. She dismisses the Divination professor, Sybill Trelawney, and clashes constantly with McGonagall. Her methods of discipline are sadistic; for his "lies" about Voldemort, she forces Harry to write lines with a Black Quill, a magical instrument that carves the words into the back of his hand using his own blood.

In response to Umbridge's takeover, Hermione suggests that Harry should teach practical defensive magic to students himself. With Ron's encouragement, they form a secret group called "Dumbledore's Army" (D.A.). They meet in the Room of Requirement, a hidden room that provides whatever the user needs, and Harry proves to be a gifted and patient teacher. He instructs his classmates in casting shields, disarming charms, and Patronuses. The group gives the students a sense of purpose and rebellion, and it is during these sessions that Harry shares his first kiss with Cho Chang.

Throughout the year, Harry suffers from disturbing, vivid dreams from Voldemort's point of view, a result of their magical connection. Dumbledore, fearing Voldemort will use this link to possess Harry, distances himself from the boy and orders Snape to teach him Occlumency, the magical art of shielding the mind. The lessons are a disaster. Snape's antagonistic teaching style and

Harry's resentment prevent any progress. During one session, Harry turns the tables and delves into Snape's mind, witnessing a humiliating memory of his father, James Potter, bullying a teenage Snape, which ends the lessons permanently.

The D.A. is eventually betrayed, and Umbridge discovers their group. To protect Harry and the other students, Dumbledore takes full responsibility for the unsanctioned organization. When Fudge arrives with Aurors to arrest him, Dumbledore spectacularly incapacitates them and escapes with his phoenix, Fawkes. With Dumbledore gone, Umbridge is appointed Headmistress, and her reign of terror over the school becomes absolute.

One night, Harry has a horrifyingly real vision of Voldemort torturing Sirius Black in the Department of Mysteries at the Ministry of Magic. Convinced it is real, Harry is desperate to save his godfather. Hermione, wary it could be a trap, tries to use the Floo Network in Umbridge's office to check if Sirius is safe at Grimmauld Place. They are caught, and Umbridge prepares to use the illegal Cruciatus Curse on Harry for information. Hermione cleverly saves him by inventing a story about a secret weapon for Dumbledore hidden in the Forbidden Forest. She lures Umbridge into the woods, where the professor is carried off by an enraged herd of centaurs whom she insulted.

Harry and his friends—Ron, Hermione, Ginny Weasley, Neville Longbottom, and Luna Lovegood—fly to London on Thestrals, skeletal winged horses visible only to those who have seen death. They arrive at the Department of Mysteries, a labyrinthine section of the Ministry that studies life, death, and time. They find a vast room filled with glowing glass orbs. One of them bears Harry's name. It is a prophecy.

As Harry takes the orb, they are ambushed by a group of Death Eaters, including Lucius Malfoy and the deranged Bellatrix Lestrange. It is revealed that the vision of Sirius was indeed a trap; Voldemort lured Harry there to retrieve the prophecy, as only the person about whom it is made can touch it. A desperate battle ensues between the six students and the twelve Death Eaters. The students fight bravely, using the spells Harry taught them, but they are outmatched. Just as they are about to be defeated, members of the Order of the Phoenix—including Sirius, Lupin, Moody, and Tonks—arrive and join the fight.

During the chaotic duel, Sirius is struck by a curse from his cousin, Bellatrix, and falls backward through a mysterious, veiled archway, disappearing forever. Devastated and enraged, Harry pursues Bellatrix. In the Ministry's main atrium, he is confronted by Lord Voldemort himself. Dumbledore arrives, and an epic duel between the two most powerful wizards of the age erupts, shattering the atrium. Realizing he cannot win, Voldemort possesses Harry, hoping Dumbledore will sacrifice the boy to kill him. However, the love and grief Harry feels for Sirius proves to be an agony Voldemort cannot endure, and he is forced out of Harry's body. Ministry officials, including Fudge, arrive just in time to see Voldemort before he disapparates, finally providing undeniable proof of his return.

Back at Hogwarts, a grieving Harry smashes Dumbledore's office in a fit of rage. Dumbledore finally explains everything: he reveals the contents of the prophecy, which states that "neither can live while the other survives." It foretells that the one with the power to vanquish the Dark Lord will be born at the end of July, and that this person will be Harry. He also explains that he has

been distant from Harry all year to protect him, fearing Voldemort would use their connection to get to Dumbledore. Harry leaves Hogwarts for the summer, now burdened with the terrible knowledge that he is destined to be the one to kill, or be killed by, Lord Voldemort.