

## 4. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

The story begins with Harry dreaming of Lord Voldemort, his servant Peter "Wormtail" Pettigrew, and another man plotting in a decrepit mansion. He is awoken by his scar hurting and soon travels with the Weasley family and Hermione to attend the Quidditch World Cup. The event is a spectacular display of magic, but the celebration is shattered when a group of Death Eaters—Voldemort's followers—attack the campsite, terrorizing the crowd and conjuring the Dark Mark, Voldemort's skull-and-serpent symbol, into the sky.

Back at Hogwarts, Dumbledore announces that the school will host the Triwizard Tournament, a legendary and dangerous competition in which one student champion from each of the three largest European wizarding schools—Hogwarts, Beauxbatons Academy of Magic from France, and the Durmstrang Institute from Eastern Europe—will compete in three magical tasks. Due to the high risk, a magical artifact called the Goblet of Fire will select the champions, and an age line is drawn to prevent anyone under seventeen from entering.

The champions are selected: Fleur Delacour for Beauxbatons, the star Quidditch player Viktor Krum for Durmstrang, and the popular Hufflepuff student Cedric Diggory for Hogwarts. However, the Goblet then unexpectedly produces a fourth name: Harry Potter. Despite being underage and swearing he did not enter his name, Harry is contractually bound by the Goblet's magic to compete. This earns him the scorn of most of the school, including Ron, who believes Harry entered for glory and is jealous of the attention.

The new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher is Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody, a famous, grizzled ex-Auror with a magical eye. Moody takes an interest in Harry, offering him guidance for the tournament. The first task requires the champions to retrieve a golden egg from a nesting mother dragon. With a hint from Hagrid and Moody, Harry summons his Firebolt broom and outflies his dragon, successfully completing the task. Ron, seeing the true danger Harry is in, reconciles with him.

The golden egg contains a clue for the second task, which is to rescue something precious that has been taken from each champion and hidden in the Black Lake. Harry, with help from Neville Longbottom, uses Gillyweed to breathe underwater. He finds Ron, Hermione, Cedric's girlfriend Cho Chang, and Fleur's younger sister held in an enchanted sleep, guarded by Merpeople. After rescuing Ron, he heroically stays behind to ensure all the "hostages" are safe, even though it costs him first place.

A major social event, the Yule Ball, takes place before the second task. Harry struggles to find a date, eventually asking Parvati Patil, while Hermione surprises everyone by attending with Viktor Krum. The ball highlights the growing romantic tensions among the group.

Before the third and final task, Harry encounters a high-ranking Ministry of Magic official, Barty Crouch Sr., acting erratically and speaking of warnings for Dumbledore, before he disappears. The final task is to navigate a vast, magical maze filled with dangerous creatures and obstacles to reach the Triwizard Cup at its center. Inside the maze, Cedric and Harry, having helped each other, decide to take the Cup together in a show of inter-school unity.

However, the Cup has been turned into a Portkey. It transports both of them to a dark, desolate graveyard. From a cauldron, a horrifically restored Lord Voldemort emerges. Wormtail murders Cedric Diggory with a Killing Curse on Voldemort's command. He then uses Harry's blood, his father's bone, and his own flesh to perform a dark ritual that resurrects Voldemort, giving him a full, powerful body.

Voldemort summons his Death Eaters and proceeds to torture Harry, mocking him before forcing him into a duel to prove his superiority. When Voldemort casts the Killing Curse and Harry casts a Disarming Charm, the two spells connect in mid-air, creating a rare magical effect called Priori Incantatem. A golden beam of light links their wands, and the ghostly echoes of Voldemort's most recent victims, including Cedric and Harry's parents, emerge from his wand. The echoes protect Harry, allowing him to break the connection, grab Cedric's body, and use the Portkey-Cup to escape back to Hogwarts.

Harry arrives back on the Quidditch pitch, hysterical and grieving. As the crowd panics, Mad-Eye Moody pulls Harry away to his office. He reveals that he was the one who put Harry's name in the Goblet, guided him through the tournament, and turned the Cup into a Portkey. He is about to kill Harry when Dumbledore, McGonagall, and Snape burst in. They force Moody to drink Veritaserum (a truth potion), and he transforms back into his true form: Barty Crouch Jr., a supposedly deceased Death Eater. The real Mad-Eye Moody is found imprisoned in a magical trunk. Crouch Jr. confesses that his plan was to deliver Harry to Voldemort.

Despite Harry's testimony, the Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge, refuses to accept that Voldemort has returned. He orders a Dementor to perform the Kiss on Crouch Jr., silencing the only other witness. Dumbledore, knowing the truth, begins to reactivate his old anti-Voldemort organization, the Order of the Phoenix. The school year ends not with celebration, but with a memorial for Cedric Diggory and the somber realization that dark and difficult times lie ahead.