

Harry shook his head, keeping his eyes peeled.

The interaction that followed was one of the most bizarre moments of Harry's life, and that said a lot. Viktor was wide-eyed when Harry declared he was going to get Dumbledore. "Don't leave me here with him!" he yelled, gesturing to the babbling Mr Crouch. Harry grimaced.

"I don't really have a choice. I'll be right back!" He turned and sprinted towards the castle, only realising once he reached the stone gargoyle that he had no idea what the password was these days. "Open up, please!" he begged, nudging with his magic, hoping the castle would help him out. "It's important! I need to see Dumbledore!"

The hidden staircase revealed itself, but not because of anything Harry did. Snape stared at him from the stairwell, dark eyes incredulous. "Potter? What's the matter?" He pulled his wand, doing a discreet scan of Harry's magic, but Harry didn't have time to be thankful.

"I need Dumbledore. It's Mr Crouch," he blurted, watching Snape's eyebrows rise. "He's by the forest, I left him with Viktor — he's gone mad! Keeps talking about his son, and Voldemort, and says he needs to speak to Dumbledore, says he's done something terrible."

Snape's gaze sharpened, and he stepped out into the corridor. "By the forest, you say?" Harry nodded. "The headmaster is in his office. I will aid Mr Krum." With that, Snape disappeared, and Harry hurried up the stairs. Dumbledore was sat behind his desk, and he smiled cheerily at Harry's entrance.

"Mr Potter! What an unexpected pleasure. Is everything alright?"

"I need you to come with me," Harry urged. "It's Mr Crouch, he's by the forest. I think he's gone mad. He wants to speak with you."

Dumbledore rose to his feet immediately, his smile dropping. "Lead the way."

As Harry hurried back down to the Entrance Hall, he explained what had happened the best he could. Striding out into the darkened grounds, they both picked up the pace when they saw the glow of wandlight by the edge of the trees. Snape was there waiting, and at his feet was—"Viktor!" Harry's heart leapt to his throat, and Snape shook his head.

"Merely Stunned," he assured, his face sharp in the light from his wand. "No sign of Crouch, Headmaster. Should I go look for him?"

"No, stay here." Dumbledore murmured something, and a streak of silver — a Patronus — shot off towards Hagrid's hut. "Harry, tell me everything you can remember Mr Crouch saying."

"Shouldn't we go get Madam Pomfrey?" Harry asked, eyes still fixed on Viktor's unconscious form.

"No need." Dumbledore revived Viktor himself, and sent Hagrid to fetch Karkaroff. Moody appeared — how he knew something was going on, Harry didn't ask, but Dumbledore didn't