

Writing the History of Harry Potter:

The Rise  Fall of

Lord Voldemort

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In Memoriam

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Every nightmare has a beginning. The rise of the future Lord Voldemort, aka Tom Marvolo Riddle Jr., is no different, and his story begins in a town called Little Hangleton. Merope Gaunt, Voldemort's mother, was the daughter of the town tramp, Marvolo Gaunt, but few realized that the Gaunt family were the last descendants of the great wizard and co-founder of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Salazar Slytherin.¹ The family was of pure-blood heritage and as such should have been members of the wizarding elite, but due to centuries of overspending, the family fortune was squandered leaving the Gaunt family destitute and in poor rapport with the wizarding community. Their pure-blood station also imbued them with a very strong prejudice towards Muggles and Muggle-borns.

Merope seemed to lack this inborn prejudice towards Muggles and those of diluted blood. The absence of her family's deep-seated prejudice in Merope allowed her to develop feelings for one of the Muggle boys in town, the son of Thomas and Mary Riddle, Tom. According to the memories of an official of the Ministry of Magic, Bob Ogden, Merope was caught watching the young Tom Riddle through the window of their shack much to the displeasure of her father and brother, Morfin.² After an incident with Ogden and several other Ministry officials, Morfin and Marvolo were sentenced to spend time in Azkaban. Conclusions drawn by Albus Dumbledore indicate that this reprieve from her abusive family allowed Merope to flourish in her previously underutilized magical abilities. Capitalizing on these abilities Merope decided to act on her feelings for Tom Riddle.³

It is unknown exactly how Merope ensnared the affections of Tom, but it has been assumed by some that she either used the Imperius Curse⁴ or, more likely, the Amortentia Potion as a means to convince him to elope with her to London.⁵ Within the short span of time that Merope and Tom were together, they married and Merope became pregnant. Prior to the birth of the child in the winter of 1926, Merope stopped controlling Tom, and upon coming to his senses, Tom left her and their unborn child.⁶

Tom's abandonment left Merope heartbroken, destitute, heavily pregnant, and alone in 1920's London. For some reason, Merope refused to use magic to improve her circumstances; Dumbledore has speculated that she was too emotionally distraught from Tom's abandonment to perform magic. This left her and their unborn child in dire straits prompting Merope to seek

¹ Bob Ogden's memory, viewed through the Pensieve by Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. ↗ B.6, p.210.

² Ibid. ↗ B.6, p.210.

³ Interview with portrait of Albus Dumbledore (2098). ↗ B.6, p.213.

⁴ Ibid. ↗ B.4, p.212-213, 217. ↗ The Imperius Curse is one of the three illegal spells known as the Unforgivable Curses. It is used to force another witch or wizard to do the caster's bidding. It is hard to determine who has been forced to act under the Imperius Curse and who has been acting under their own free will. This illegal spell can be fought by the person whom it has been used on, but it requires great strength of character and few can fight it. The Ministry considers the use of any of the Unforgivable Curses as a heinous crime, earning the caster a life sentence in Azkaban.

⁵ Ibid. ↗ B.6, p.185-186. ↗ The Amortentia Potion is the most powerful of love potions. Its mother-of-pearl luster and the smoky spirals that rise from its surface distinguish it from other potions. It smells different to every person based on what attracts them. The Amortentia Potion does not create real love; rather, it produces a powerful infatuation or obsession.

⁶ Ibid. ↗ B.6, p.214.

out a buyer for the only thing of value she had left: an heirloom locket that had belonged to Salazar Slytherin himself. Merope was unaware of this fact and parted with the locket for far less than its actual worth to Caractacus Burke, co-owner of Borgin and Burkes.⁷



The next time that Merope appears in the records is at Wool's Orphanage in London. Merope gave birth at the orphanage on December 31, 1926 and died shortly thereafter. Before her passing, Merope requested that the child be named Tom Riddle for his father and Marvolo for her father; she also stated that she hoped that the child would take after his father.⁸ The young Tom Marvolo Riddle Jr. was raised in Wool's Orphanage from the time he was born till he was admitted to Hogwarts.

Tom's time at the orphanage was marked by some unusual events. Mrs. Cole, the matron of the orphanage, claimed that Tom hardly cried as a child.⁹ There were also strange occurrences that happened around him that startled the other children; these can be recognized as the first appearances of Tom's budding magical skills.¹⁰ The first magical figure that it is certain Tom met was Albus Dumbledore, the future Headmaster of Hogwarts, who was tasked with delivering Tom's letter of admittance to the school upon his eleventh birthday. Dumbledore was known to have expressed his surprise at how well-developed the young Tom's magical abilities were. They were not the random emotional outbursts of magic to which young wizards are prone, but magic performed with intent which is unusual for a wizard of such a young age.

Dumbledore was resolved to keep an eye on Tom upon their arrival to Hogwarts, due to his lack of friends and relations, but also for his clear penchant for the indiscriminate use of magic, cruelty, and secrecy.¹¹ Dumbledore was fully unaware what the young Riddle would grow to become after his time at Hogwarts, seeing him more as a troubled youth who had endured a rough start in life. Tom was provided with some money from the fund at Hogwarts for those who are in need to procure his textbooks and supplies.¹² Tom was unwilling to accept Dumbledore's aid in reaching Diagon Alley and securing his supplies; as such, Dumbledore departed and Tom was left to his own devices.



Tom attended Hogwarts from 1938 to 1945 and was sorted into Slytherin House. Tom's behavior while at Hogwarts differed vastly from his behavior at the orphanage. It was the belief of Dumbledore in his later life that this was a ruse to attain the favor of the faculty and student body.¹³ These attempts to gain positive rapport were never turned on Dumbledore himself; he attributed this to his already having seen Tom's behavior at the orphanage and knowing that

⁷ Caractacus Burke's memory, viewed through the Pensieve by Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. *↗* B.6, p.261.

⁸ Albus Dumbledore's memory, viewed in the Pensieve by Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. *↗* B.6, p.266.

⁹ *Ibid.* *↗* B.6, p.267.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* *↗* B.6, p.267-268.

¹¹ Interview with Dumbledore. *↗* B.6, p.276.

¹² Dumbledore's memory. *↗* B.6, p.274.

¹³ Interview with Dumbledore. *↗* B.6, p.361.

there was more to him than met the eye. Tom's leeriness of Dumbledore persisted throughout his Hogwarts years and well into his later life. It is said by some that Dumbledore was the only wizard that Tom, and later Lord Voldemort, feared.

While at Hogwarts, Tom began to search for evidence of his parents. He eventually discovered that he was descended from Salazar Slytherin through his mother's line. Being the Heir of Slytherin, Tom was able to open the fabled Chamber of Secrets, which he did while in his sixth year at Hogwarts.¹⁴ While the Chamber was opened, a Muggle-born student, Myrtle Warren, was found dead in the first floor girls' bathroom at Hogwarts. It can be assumed that Myrtle was killed by the creature placed in the Chamber by Slytherin; this would make her Tom's first official kill.

During his time at Hogwarts, Riddle was known to have become close with Professor Horace Slughorn, who prized Tom as a powerful and model student. Though the exact date is unknown, Tom was admitted to the Slug Club by Slughorn sometime prior to the opening of the Chamber. Per Slughorn's memories, Tom inquired about the nature of Horcruxes and their creation prior to beginning his final year at Hogwarts.¹⁵ Slughorn later went to great effort to hide this memory from Dumbledore out of shame, but its revealing eventually led to the defeat of Lord Voldemort.

In the summer before Tom's seventh year, his estranged father and grandparents were murdered in their home in Little Hangleton. It is unknown for certain if the Riddle family was murdered by Tom himself, but it can be assumed that he had a hand in it. There were reports about a pale, dark-haired, teenage boy milling about in the area, which is a match to Tom's appearance at the time.¹⁶ The reports on the state of the Riddle's bodies also showed that they did not die by any obvious cause or medical ailment, implying that they met their deaths by way of the Killing Curse.¹⁷ It has also been theorized by Dumbledore that the murders were pinned on Tom's maternal uncle and known Muggle-hater, Morfin, by the teen.¹⁸ Morfin was also known to have raved about his father, Marvolo's, ring going missing. It is entirely possible that Tom murdered his Muggle family using Morfin's wand and departed with Marvolo's ring.

Little is known specifically of Tom's seventh year, but it is recorded that he was a Slytherin Prefect and Head Boy. Tom was also awarded a trophy for Special Services to the School during his sixth year for unknown reasons, adding to a distinguished schooling career.¹⁹



¹⁴ Ibid. ∠ B.6, p.362.

¹⁵ Horace Slughorn's memory (altered and unaltered), viewed in the Pensieve by Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. ∠ B.6, p.370-371, 496-499. ∠ A Horcrux is a Dark magical object that is created by splitting one's soul and placing the piece of soul into an object for safe keeping. It is believed by some that the use of Horcruxes can make an individual immortal. It is deemed very unnatural by the wizarding community to create Horcruxes and it is widely known as a taboo subject.

¹⁶ Frank Bryce's Report to Great Hangleton Police Station (Summer 1944). ∠ B.4, p.3.

¹⁷ The Greater Hangleton Coroner's Report on the Riddle Murder (Summer 1944) ∠ B.4, p.4, 215-217. ∠ It should be noted that while the Muggle doctors could offer no explanations for the death of the Riddle family, the wizarding community recognizes it as the work of the Killing Curse. This illegal spell is one of the three Unforgivable Curses under strict Ministry regulation and punishment. See note 4.

¹⁸ Interview with Dumbledore. ∠ B.6, p.367.

¹⁹ T.M. Riddle's Shield for Special Services to the School. ∠ B.2, p.231.

Following Riddle's graduation from Hogwarts, he applied for a position at the school as the Defense Against the Dark Arts instructor; he was turned away due to his age and inexperience.²⁰ This forced Tom to seek employment elsewhere, and it has been established that he found employment at Borgin and Burkes. While in this position, Tom worked as a collector for the shop; he would seek out items of rare magical import and acquire them from their owner often for far less than their actual worth. He was very good at this job.²¹ Tom is known to have done extensive business with Hepzibah Smith, a descendent of Helga Hufflepuff. Through the house-elf, Hokey's, memories, Tom visited Hepzibah often and was made privy to some of her greatest treasures. These treasures include Helga Hufflepuff's golden cup and Salazar Slytherin's locket, which was sold to Borgin and Burkes by none other than Tom's mother, Merope.²² Shortly after Tom's visit to Hepzibah, she was found dead in her home, supposedly poisoned by her aged house-elf who slipped something in her drink by mistake. It is likely that Tom, coveting Hepzibah's treasure, orchestrated her murder by forcing Hokey to put something in her mistress's drink, altering her memory after the fact. One of the more convincing pieces of evidence to support this conclusion is Tom's quick disappearance after Hepzibah's death as well as his resignation of his post at Borgin and Burkes along with the disappearance of Hepzibah's most prized possessions.²³



Shortly after leaving his post at Borgin and Burkes, Tom resurfaced to once again put himself up for the Defense Against the Dark Arts position at Hogwarts. He was yet again denied, and since then, no one has held the position for more than a year. It was largely believed by the wizarding community that the position was jinxed, which it is entirely likely that it was. Tom then disappeared for nearly a decade. Upon his return, Tom had officially adopted the title of Lord Voldemort and began a reign of terror that lasted for eleven years. Voldemort was known to use Inferi, corpses that were reanimated using Dark magic, to augment the strength of his forces, which included Death Eaters and Dark creatures.²⁴ The Death Eaters focused on attacking Muggles and Muggle-borns while also attempting to place loyal agents in positions of power within the Ministry. Voldemort and his forces were almost successful at toppling the British wizarding government. The defection of some of Voldemort's high-ranking Death Eaters contributed to his first fall from power and the end of the First Wizarding War.

Regulus Arcturus Black betrayed Voldemort when he realized what the Dark Lord was actually aiming to do with his Horcruxes and after hearing of his foul treatment of Regulus' loyal house-elf, Kreacher. Regulus stole one of Voldemort's Horcruxes--the locket---with the intention to destroy it; unfortunately, he did not see this task completed before his untimely death.²⁵

The second to betray Voldemort's confidence was Severus Snape, who after delivering Sybil Trelawney's prophecy about the child who would defeat Voldemort, realized that his

²⁰ Interview with Dumbledore. ↗ B.6, p.431.

²¹ Ibid. ↗ B.6, p.432-433.

²² Hokey's memory, viewed in the Pensieve by Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. ↗ B.6, p.435-438.

²³ Interview with Dumbledore. ↗ B.6, p.439.

²⁴ Ministry Leaflet on Inferi. ↗ B.6, p.62.

²⁵ Interview with Kreacher. ↗ B.7, p.196.

childhood love, Lily Potter née Evans, was put in danger due to his actions.²⁶ Snape turned double-agent for the Order of the Phoenix in order to protect Lily and her family.²⁷ Snape's efforts to protect Lily ended up being in vain as Voldemort attacked the Potters in Godric's Hollow, killing Lily and her husband, James Potter.

Voldemort's choice to attack the Potter's was the decision that ended up leading to his first fall from power. Lily's death pulled on an ancient form of magic that protected her infant son, Harry. Voldemort attempted to kill Harry with the Killing Curse, but the curse rebounded due to the protection offered by Lily's love. The curse destroyed Voldemort's physical body and left him a shade with his soul safely housed in his Horcruxes. Voldemort would not become tangible again for nearly a decade after the event.



After the murder of his parents, the orphaned Harry was left in the care of his only living relatives: his maternal aunt, Petunia, and her husband, Vernon.²⁸ Harry lived with his aunt and uncle till he received his Hogwarts letter on his eleventh birthday. Harry started his schooling on September 1st, 1991. On July 31, there was a break-in at Gringotts Bank, thought to have been the work of Dark wizards. Nothing was taken because the vault in question was emptied earlier that day.²⁹

In the 1996 tell-all interview with Rita Skeeter, "Harry Speaks Out at Last", Harry recounts every time he has faced Lord Voldemort, including his first year at Hogwarts. When Harry meets Lord Voldemort, the Dark Lord was not his own being yet; he was attached to the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher Professor Quirrell. Voldemort was after the Sorcerer's Stone created by Nicolas Flamel, and after the fight between Harry and Voldemort, the Stone was destroyed by Albus Dumbledore.³⁰

Things were very quiet over the next couple years; there is nothing documented about Lord Voldemort in Wizarding or Muggle news. In these years, Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger were all sorted into Gryffindor House and became friends in their first year. This is how they became the Golden Trio.³¹

In 1992, the Trio's second year and Ginny Weasley's first year, the Weasleys, Harry, and Hermione had a run in with Lucius Malfoy while out shopping for school books. Malfoy gave an unknowing Ginny Tom Riddle's Diary, which turned out to be a Horcrux. As the year got underway, Ginny began writing in the journal and sharing her innermost thoughts. Soon, the memory of Tom Riddle that was housed in the diary possessed Ginny and had her do his bidding. The most significant task that Tom forced Ginny to perform was the opening of the Chamber of Secrets to release a basilisk that lived there.³² The entrance to the chamber was in

²⁶ Dumbledore's memory. *↪* B.5, p.841.

²⁷ Severus Snape's memory, viewed in the Pensieve by Harry Potter. *↪* B.7, p.678.

²⁸ Hogwarts Letters sent to Harry Potter at the Cupboard Under the Stairs, 4 Privet Drive. *↪* B.1, Ch.3.

²⁹ "Gringotts Break-in Latest," *Daily Prophet* (September 6, 1991). *↪* B.1, p.141-142.

³⁰ Rita Skeeter, "Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last: The Truth about He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named and the Night I Saw Him Return," *Daily Prophet* (March 1996). *↪* B.5, p.579.

³¹ Interview with the Sorting Hat (2098). *↪* B.1, Ch.7,

³² The Basilisk, also known as the King of Serpents, is a giant, green serpent that can reach up to fifty feet in length. Its venom is toxic with only a single known cure: phoenix tears. The Basilisk's eyesight is

the girls' lavatory that the ghost Moaning Myrtle inhabited.³³ This was the same Myrtle Warren that was killed when the basilisk was at large when the Chamber was first opened 50 years prior. Once the Chamber was opened for the second time, Ginny fell unconscious as Tom used her life force to attain physical form once again. With the help of his friends, Harry discovered that the Chamber was being opened and the basilisk was the creature attacking people within the castle. He found the Chamber, and when he entered, he discovered Ginny lying at the end of a dark path. When he reached Ginny, Harry noticed Tom Riddle leaning against a pillar. Soon, Harry found out that Tom Riddle was, in fact, Lord Voldemort. Harry fought and defeated the basilisk with the Sword of Gryffindor. When the basilisk was dead, Harry used one of its fangs to stab the diary, thereby defeating the memory that was young Tom Riddle.³⁴



In 1993, a well-known follower of Voldemort, Sirius Black, escaped from Azkaban prison. It was said in a *Daily Prophet* article that Black was most likely carrying out the last wishes of Voldemort.³⁵ Sirius Black was one of the most well-known Death Eaters due to the controversy that arose from his very conviction. Black was condemned for the murder of Peter Pettigrew and twelve Muggle bystanders in 1981, after the tragic death of the Potters. He was sentenced without trial and incarcerated in Azkaban immediately. Years later, in 1993, Black escaped the famous prison, inciting a massive manhunt by both the wizarding world and the Muggles. The public was told that Black was armed and extremely dangerous, yet no killing spree occurred, and the escaped prisoner remained quiet.³⁶

In a muggle report, Frank Bryce went missing in August of 1994.³⁷ Bryce was also accused of the murder of the Riddle family, but when the Coroner's report comes back, there were no signs of foul play. The victims just seemed to have been scared to death.³⁸

About a year later was the Quidditch World Cup of 1994. After the game and celebrations were over, and some people had settled down, Dark wizards wreaked havoc. The Dark Mark, the sign of Lord Voldemort, appeared in the sky, and many wizards, waiting for news in the forest where they fled in the chaos, were told no one was hurt. However, there were also rumors that hours after the fact there were bodies being removed from the scene.³⁹



During Harry Potter's fourth year, the Triwizard Tournament was held for the first time in centuries, and Hogwarts was the host school. Ministry officials introduced a few new rules and

also extremely dangerous; looking at a reflection of its eyes will petrify, but making direct eye contact will cause instant death. ∫ Newt Scamander, *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them* (18A Diagon Alley, London: Obscurus Books, 2001), p.3. ∫ B.2, p.310.

³³ Interview with Myrtle Warren (2098). ∫ B.2, p.299

³⁴ Skeeter, "Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last." ∫ B.5, p.579.

³⁵ "Black Still at Large," *Daily Prophet* (August 6, 1993). ∫ B.3, p.37.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, B.3, p.37.

³⁷ Unnamed Muggle newspaper (August 1994). ∫ B.4, p.601.

³⁸ Muggle Coroner and Arrest reports from the Riddle murders. ∫ B.4, p.2-3.

³⁹ "Scenes of Terror at the Quidditch World Cup," *Daily Prophet* (August 23, 1994); "Dark Mark Ignites Unprecedented Wizard Panic," *Daily Prophet* (September 2, 1994). ∫ B.4, Ch.9.

guidelines in order to prevent any more deaths, including a rule stating that only a witch or wizard 17 years of age or older could enter the Tournament.⁴⁰ All the same, 14-year-old Harry Potter's name flew out of the Goblet of Fire in its infamously unique way of choosing champions. There was a lot of speculation over how Potter's name got into the Cup despite the new rules. Along with the age restriction, the appearance of Potter's name made him a fourth champion and the second Hogwarts representative.⁴¹ The general consensus was that he cheated and slipped it in, but it was later revealed in "Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last" that an undercover Death Eater was the one who entered Potter's name. Lord Voldemort planted the convicted Death Eater Bartemius Crouch Jr. to lure Harry Potter into the Triwizard Tournament, thus to the graveyard where Voldemort was returned to substantial form. The Dark Lord's agent assumed the disguise of the ex-Auror and Defense Against the Dark Arts Professor, Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody, to infiltrate Hogwarts. Crouch turned the Triwizard Cup into a Portkey in the Third Task, which took Harry and fellow Hogwarts Triwizard Champion Cedric Diggory, who had touched the Cup together, to the Little Hangleton graveyard, the burial place of Lord Voldemort's father. Diggory, as an unexpected visitor, was killed immediately by Peter Pettigrew, also known as Wormtail for his murine Animagus form, at the command of Voldemort.⁴²

As reported by Harry Potter, he was tied to Tom Riddle Sr.'s headstone where Wormtail cut him and used his blood to revive the Dark Lord. Voldemort was reborn from an old, Dark potion requiring the bone of his father, the blood of his enemy, and Pettigrew's own hand. Immediately after rising from the cauldron, He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named called to his Death Eaters via the Dark Mark on Wormtail's arm.⁴³ Voldemort told Harry about Merope Gaunt and Tom Riddle and how he killed Riddle while they waited for his "true family" to return.⁴⁴

When the Death Eaters did arrive, the Dark Lord expressed great anger and disappointment in them for not finding him and returning him to power sooner. In the interview with Rita Skeeter, Potter revealed the names he heard You-Know-Who call them, including Lucius Malfoy, whose son attended Hogwarts with Potter and was an influential member of wizarding society. Another name was Walden Macnair who worked as an Executioner for the Committee for the Disposal of Dangerous Creatures at the Ministry. You-Know-Who told his followers and his young nemesis where he had been since the fateful night of October 31st, 1981. He claimed he was incorporeal and inhabited the bodies of animals, mostly snakes, until Quirinus Quirrell crossed his path in 1991. Then in 1994, Peter Pettigrew returned to Voldemort, earning a place as a most faithful servant. With Wormtail's loyalty and aid,

⁴⁰ Ludo Bagman and Bartemius Crouch Senior, "The 1994-1995 Triwizard Tournament Rules and Guidelines," *Departments of International Magical Cooperation and Magical Games and Sports* (1993). ↵ B.4, p.187-188.

⁴¹ Rita Skeeter, Article about the Triwizard Champions, *Daily Prophet* (November 1994). ↵ B.4, p.303.

⁴² Skeeter, "Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last." ↵ B.4, p.634-691; B.5, p.579.

⁴³ *Ibid.* ↵ B.4, p.645, 709-710; B.5, p.579. ↵ The Dark Mark was a permanent, enchanted tattoo bestowed upon the Death Eaters by Lord Voldemort himself as initiation to his band of followers. The Mark acted as a conduit between the Dark Lord and the Death Eaters; Voldemort would use the Dark Mark to call meetings, or the Death Eaters would touch it to call their leader. The Dark Marks faded after Voldemort's initial downfall in 1981, but when he returned during the Triwizard Tournament, they became bold again.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.* ↵ B.4, p.638-646; B.5, p.579.

Voldemort actively worked towards regaining power, capturing and torturing Ministry witch Bertha Jorkins from whom he learned about the Triwizard Tournament to be held at Hogwarts.⁴⁵

After recounting his journey since his defeat at Godric's Hollow, Voldemort challenged Harry to a duel. When they simultaneously aimed spells at each other, their wands connected in a rarely-seen *Priori Incantatem* phenomenon due to their identical phoenix feather wand cores.⁴⁶ During the connection, Harry saw the last few people Voldemort's wand had killed: Cedric Diggory, the Muggle caretaker of the Riddle Mansion, Bertha Jorkins, and his own parents, Lily and James Potter. Potter claims the forms of the dead appeared as "shadows," and after extracting themselves from the wand, they began to patrol the inside of the bubble of light created by the locked wands. They even spoke to him and encouraged him to fight Voldemort. Diggory asked him to take his body back to his parents before Potter broke away and the "echoes" of the dead charged their murderer.⁴⁷

Potter used the Portkey to take him and Diggory's body back to Hogwarts, appearing outside the maze in front of a crowd of cheering spectators, clutching a dead body. The man everyone presumed to be Mad-Eye Moody led Potter away from the field under the pretense of taking him to a safer, quieter place. In reality, the disguised Death Eater wanted to interrogate Potter himself and, if possible, kill him for the Dark Lord. Crouch revealed everything he did to manipulate Harry in order to get him to the graveyard. Just before he could attack Harry, Dumbledore burst into the room and stunned Crouch. They found the real Alastor Moody in the bottom of a trunk where Crouch had kept him in order to harvest his hair for Polyjuice potion.⁴⁸ After being dosed with Veritaserum, a powerful truth potion, Crouch revealed that his father, the notable Ministry official Bartemius Crouch Sr., had smuggled him out of Azkaban with the use of Polyjuice potion and kept him confined at home. The chaos at the Quidditch World Cup provided the perfect opportunity of escape, and Crouch tried to slip away from his father and their house-elf Winky, but the fugitive was caught again. Once back at home, Lord Voldemort and Wormtail visited Crouch to rescue him from his father after learning about the Azkaban escapee from Bertha Jorkins. Thus, the plan of planting Crouch at Hogwarts in place of Moody was hatched. Crouch admitted to killing his father, transforming his body into a bone and burying him.⁴⁹

After hearing his confession, Dumbledore secured him for the Minister of Magic Cornelius Fudge to interrogate while he took Harry to the hospital wing. Fudge then allowed

⁴⁵ Ibid. ∠ B.4, p.647-657; B.5, p.579.

⁴⁶ Letter from Garrick Ollivander to Albus Dumbledore (1991). ∠ B.4, p.697; B.5, p.579. ∠ *Priori Incantatem*, or the Reverse Spell effect, is a rare phenomenon that occurs when two witches or wizards possess wands that share cores and use them against each other. Normally, a brother wand will not work properly against the other, but when they are made to do battle, one of them will force the other to regurgitate previous spells it has performed in reverse order. Two of the most famous brother wands in wizarding history are Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort's wands; they contained phoenix tail feather cores, given from Dumbledore's own phoenix, Fawkes.

⁴⁷ Skeeter, "Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last." ∠ B.4, p.658-669; B.5, p.579.

⁴⁸ Ibid. ∠ B.2, p.164-166, 225-226; B.5, p.579. ∠ Polyjuice potion is a complicated and advanced potion that turns one person into another. Once the potion is brewed, the drinker must add something from the person he or she wishes to turn into. Hair is the popular choice among Polyjuice users. The potion must be taken every hour to maintain its effect. Polyjuice potion should not be used to turn into anything other than human.

⁴⁹ Ibid. ∠ B.4, p.670-691; B.5, p.579.

Dementors, the guards of Azkaban, to Kiss Crouch before hearing his confession.⁵⁰ According to Potter, this was the beginning of the denial of Cornelius Fudge, which led to his downfall as Minister of Magic.⁵¹ Fudge claimed that Crouch was a “lunatic” and Harry was untrustworthy based on Rita Skeeter’s articles about him.⁵²

At the end of term a month later, instead of banners displaying the winning House’s colors, the Great Hall was adorned with black banners in remembrance of Cedric Diggory. Before the students left, Dumbledore publicly announced the return of Lord Voldemort, accusing him of Diggory’s death, and urged everyone to band together and prepare for a war.⁵³ This was seen by many as the beginning of the Second Wizarding War.



During the next year, the media and the Ministry denied Voldemort’s return, refusing to believe the accounts of Albus Dumbledore, a highly decorated and respected wizard, or the Boy Who Lived and created the delusion that the two were simply seeking power by spreading false rumors in an attempt to discredit them to the rest of the wizarding world.⁵⁴ This ultimately helped Lord Voldemort gather his followers without the eyes of the public trained on him. The Ministry unwittingly aided Voldemort in weakening Dumbledore and Potter, and public support of them dwindled.

In an attempt to convince the wizarding world that the Dark Lord was truly back, Harry Potter gave an interview to Rita Skeeter that appeared in *The Quibbler* in March 1996. This was the first time he publicly spoke out about what happened during the Third Task of the Triwizard Tournament a year before. In this article, he reveals all the details of Lord Voldemort’s resurrection, and he names several influential people in wizarding society as Death Eaters. The interview differs greatly from Skeeter’s sensational reports, laden with vivid language and dramatic events, for the *Daily Prophet*. Potter agreed to talk with Skeeter despite her previous articles trashing his reputation and published the interview in the privately-printed *Quibbler* in order to skirt heavy Ministry censorship.⁵⁵

One of the most crucial forces behind the final defeat of Lord Voldemort and the protection of the wizarding public is the Order of the Phoenix. The Order was a group of witches and wizards founded by Albus Dumbledore to fight Lord Voldemort during the First Wizarding War.⁵⁶ After becoming inactive due to Harry’s defeat of Voldemort in 1981, they

⁵⁰ Ibid. ∫ B.3, p.83,187,247; B.5, p.579. ∫ Dementors are ominous, Dark creatures. They are recognizable by their decaying bodies and rattling breath. Dementors feed off of positive emotions such as happiness and hope. When a Dementor is near, the temperature of the area turns frigid, and any positive feelings are sucked from those who are nearby. Despite the fact that they cannot see Dementors, Muggles can feel when a Dementor is nearby by these criteria. When a Dementor pulls back its hood, it performs what is called a Dementor’s Kiss. The Dementor’s kiss sucks out the soul of its subject leaving them a soulless husk, the body dies shortly after the removal of the soul.

⁵¹ Ibid. ∫ B.4, p.692-710; B.5, p.579.

⁵² Rita Skeeter, “Harry Potter ‘Disturbed and Dangerous,’” *Daily Prophet* (June 1995). ∫ B.4, p.611

⁵³ Skeeter, “Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last.” ∫ B.4, p.720-724; B.5, p.579

⁵⁴ Interview with Dumbledore ∫ B.5, p.618.

⁵⁵ Skeeter, “Harry Potter Speaks Out at Last.” ∫ B.5, p.579.

⁵⁶ Original Order of the Phoenix Photograph (July 1981). ∫ B.5, p.67,173; B.4, p.590; 594-596. ∫ A photograph of the Order of the Phoenix was taken prior to Lord Voldemort’s initial defeat on Halloween

rebanded in 1995 to fight the second rise of the Dark Lord.⁵⁷ Evidence shows that they used Number Twelve Grimmauld Place, the ancestral home of the Black wizarding family, as headquarters during Harry Potter's fifth year.⁵⁸ Alas, the Order had to operate as discreetly as Voldemort and his Death Eaters due to the Ministry's vehement denial of the Dark Lord's return and its harsh treatment of anyone who showed support of Dumbledore and Potter.

Another force to be reckoned with was the illegally formed Dumbledore's Army. This group of underage witches and wizards was created in 1995, during Harry Potter's fifth year at Hogwarts. While Albus Dumbledore took credit for the creation of this band of teenaged wizards, handwriting analysis shows that Hermione Granger, Potter's best friend and part of the Golden Trio, wrote the roster that contains the signatures of all the members. This document shows the names of students from the Trio's own House, Gryffindor, as well as those of students in Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff. No Slytherin students were on the list.⁵⁹ The band of students met secretly during the school year in order to subvert Defense Against the Dark Arts professor Dolores Umbridge who had issued restrictions and decrees banning such gatherings of unauthorized activities.⁶⁰ Thus, the need for secrecy forced them to develop a covert way of communicating, which resulted in fake Galleons that would change to show the date and time of the meetings when the leaders changed their coins and grew hot in the owner's pocket when it was changed.⁶¹ The DA, as they are known, managed to evade detection for several months before Umbridge's attempts of drawing them out finally succeeded.⁶²

While the Order of the Phoenix and Dumbledore's Army were preparing for the Second Wizarding War, Lord Voldemort was gaining supporters and growing in power once more. In 1996, ten Death Eaters escaped the wizarding prison of Azkaban. Those that escaped included Bellatrix Lestrange, Antonin Dolohov, and Augustus Rookwood, some of Lord Voldemort's most ruthless followers. The Ministry did not want the public to know that the Dementors had switched their allegiances to the Dark Lord and the denial of Voldemort had been wrong,⁶³ so they blamed Sirius Black, citing his relation to cousin Bellatrix Lestrange.⁶⁴ Using Black as a scapegoat allowed Voldemort to get away with breaking out his followers.

The use of the Blacks' ancestral home as headquarters for the Order of the Phoenix throws the well-known fugitive Sirius Black into a new light as the image of ruthless, mass-murdering Death Eater clashes with the evidence of him supporting the Order and Harry Potter.

1981. The majority of the witches and wizards in the photograph were murdered or tortured by Death Eaters or Voldemort himself, such as Frank and Alice Longbottom, or Marlene McKinnon.

⁵⁷ Interview with Dumbledore. < B.5, p.67.

⁵⁸ The Noble and Most Ancient House of Black Tapestry. < B.5, p.111.

⁵⁹ Dumbledore's Army Roster (October 1995). < B.5, p.346.

⁶⁰ Dolores Umbridge, "Educational Decree Number Twenty-Four," *Ministry of Magic* (October 1995). < B.5, p.351-352.

⁶¹ Fake Dumbledore's Army Galleon (1995). < B.5, p.398.

⁶² Dumbledore's Army Roster. < B.5, p.609-623. < Evidence that a member betrayed the DA took the form of a jinx placed on the parchment of the Dumbledore's Army roster. This jinx caused pustules to appear across the traitor's face in the form of the word "Sneak." The jinx made any traitors easily identifiable.

⁶³ "He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named Returns," *Sunday Prophet* (1996). < B.5, p.845-846.

⁶⁴ "Mass Breakout from Azkaban: Ministry Fears Black is Rallying Point for Old Death Eaters," *Daily Prophet* (January 1996). < B.5, p. 543-544.

Including the reports of his crime, incarceration and subsequent escape, the Ministry tried to blame him for Death Eater activity in 1996, further elevating him to infamy.⁶⁵

On the other hand, he appears in a photo of the Order of the Phoenix prior to the first fall of Voldemort.⁶⁶ It was also common knowledge that he was close friends with James Potter, which is why his conviction as a Death Eater was so shocking. Likewise, the discovery that Wormtail did not in fact perish in 1981 and his loyalty to Lord Voldemort turns Black's story on its axis. There is perhaps enough evidence to prove Black's innocence, but based on the media's portrayal of the infamous fugitive and its treatment of Dumbledore and Potter, it is likely that the Ministry would not have been receptive to the proposal of exoneration at that time. Unfortunately, Sirius Black died before such a thing could be attempted, leaving the world to wonder at his true allegiance.⁶⁷



After working quietly ever since his return during the Triwizard Tournament, Voldemort and his followers boldly came out of hiding in the spring of 1996 during the Battle of the Department of Mysteries. As stated in the *Daily Prophet* article "Harry Potter: Chosen One?," a band of Death Eaters broke into the Department of Mysteries at the Ministry of Magic, presumably in order to steal a prophecy about Lord Voldemort and Harry Potter. Since a prophecy can only be taken by those whom it is about, they lured Harry Potter and five other members of Dumbledore's Army to retrieve it for them. The six teenage students included The Golden Trio, fellow Gryffindors Neville Longbottom and Ginny Weasley, and Ravenclaw Luna Lovegood. A battle ensued between the adult Death Eaters and the underage DA members for the prophecy. The fight was not limited to the "fabled" Hall of Prophecy, causing destruction to other rooms within the Department. Harry Potter and his friends held the Death Eaters off valiantly until members of the Order of the Phoenix, led by Albus Dumbledore, appeared to save the day.⁶⁸

Potter broke off from the main group to follow Bellatrix Lestrange after she killed Sirius Black, and Lord Voldemort appeared while Potter was facing her. Dumbledore had followed Potter and stopped You-Know-Who before he could harm Harry.⁶⁹ A mighty battle occurred between Voldemort and Dumbledore, rivaling Dumbledore's defeat of the Dark wizard Grindelwald and destroying the famous Fountain of Magical Brethren. During the fight, Ministry officials showed up to investigate the disturbances and that is when they saw definitive proof that the Dark Lord had indeed returned. Voldemort and Lestrange disappeared before they could be apprehended, but the other Death Eaters had been subdued by Dumbledore prior to his facing Voldemort. Among these were previously incarcerated Death Eaters who had escaped Azkaban months earlier and Lucius Malfoy.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Ibid. ↗ B.5, p. 543-544.

⁶⁶ Original Order Photograph. ↗ B.5, p.173.

⁶⁷ Interview with Dumbledore. ↗ B.5, p.805-806.

⁶⁸ "Harry Potter: The Chosen One?" *Daily Prophet* (Summer 1996). ↗ B.6, p.39.

⁶⁹ Interview with Dumbledore. ↗ B.5, p.809-813.

⁷⁰ "He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named Returns." ↗ B.5, p.845-846.



The now-infamous Battle of the Department of Mysteries was purportedly centered around a prophecy. The prophecy the Death Eaters were after was destroyed, but somehow the message it contained was still guessed by the general population, which was that Harry Potter is the Chosen One destined to bring down Lord Voldemort.⁷¹ The information in the prophecy was confirmed by a later account from Albus Dumbledore's memory of receiving it from Sybill Trelawney.⁷²

An attack on the Ministry and the return of Lord Voldemort scared the public. A person of action was needed, so Cornelius Fudge resigned his post and Rufus Scrimgeour was made Minister of Magic. He represented a new tone in the fight against Voldemort.⁷³ Scrimgeour took a more forceful approach, using Ministry resources to the fullest extent possible. The Ministry wanted to inform the public of the situation in a swift manner, so they distributed leaflets preaching vigilance, as well as giving the public information on Ineri to prepare them for the possibility of Voldemort using these Dark creatures as methods of warfare.⁷⁴

The Ministry of Magic also wanted to show the public that they were making progress in capturing Voldemort's followers and found what they were looking for in Stan Shunpike, who had been cursed to work with the Death Eaters.⁷⁵ Though Stan was the driver of the Knight Bus and not really the sort to become a Death Eater, the Ministry needed a scapegoat at the time to help reduce the panic in the wizarding community. The Ministry was not the only group trying to defeat Voldemort. Now that the Dark Lord's return was accepted by the wizarding world, the Order of the Phoenix was publicly working hard at this goal. What the Ministry and the Order didn't know was that there was a teenage boy learning the things they had been working towards for years. Per an account from Albus Dumbledore, Harry was not being taught amazing spells. Instead, he was learning secrets from Voldemort's past; where he grew up, and how he acted at school were both vital pieces of information, but the most important thing Harry learned was the source of Voldemort's seeming invulnerability: Horcruxes. Horcruxes are objects in which a person has put a section of their soul. This is extremely Dark magic that is looked down upon by most wizards, but the most controversial aspect of the process is that one must kill for each part of the soul removed, meaning Lord Voldemort had to kill many people to make his Horcruxes. Dumbledore was able to find one: the ring of Marvolo Gaunt, Voldemort's grandfather. The headmaster told Harry that he had already destroyed one other Horcrux when he stabbed Riddle's diary in 1993. Dumbledore also knew about two more: Hufflepuff's cup and Slytherin's locket. He showed Harry a memory of Hepzibah Smith from Hokey the house elf to show how he knew they were Horcruxes and how Voldemort most likely obtained these two items.⁷⁶ After this, the Dark Lord left Borgin and Burkes to continue his mission of making more Horcruxes.

⁷¹ "Harry Potter: The Chosen One?" *↗* B.6, p.39.

⁷² Dumbledore's memory. *↗* B.5, p.841-2.

⁷³ "Scrimgeour Succeeds Fudge," *Daily Prophet* (Summer 1996). *↗* B.6, p.40.

⁷⁴ Ineri Leaflets (1996). *↗* B.6, p.42.

⁷⁵ Arrest Reports of Stan Shunpike. *↗* B.6, p.221.

⁷⁶ Hokey's memory. *↗* B.6, p.443.

With Harry's help, Dumbledore wanted to find these Horcruxes and destroy them, but there was a problem. He had received a curse from Marvolo's ring that had been confined to his hand temporarily by Professor Snape, but in time, it would spread and kill him.⁷⁷ Dumbledore couldn't teach Harry the advanced magic it would require to destroy the Horcruxes in such a short period of time, so he focused on teaching Harry how to find them. Dumbledore also wanted to impress upon Harry that if he was going to defeat Voldemort, it would be by utilizing Voldemort's weakness for power, not combat because Voldemort's skill was much greater than Harry's.⁷⁸ Instead of being killed by the curse in his hand, Dumbledore was killed by Professor Snape on the night Harry and the headmaster went to retrieve the locket from where Voldemort had hidden it.⁷⁹ Dumbledore was confident Voldemort would view this as proof that Snape was indeed on the side of evil, obscuring Snape's true loyalties to Dumbledore and the Order.⁸⁰



The night of May 2, 1998 marks the Battle of Hogwarts, the largest and most devastating attack in wizarding history. Prior to the fight, Voldemort and his Death Eaters camped out in the Shrieking Shack.⁸¹ The Dark Lord announced to Hogwarts and all of Hogsmeade that he knew they were preparing for war and that they did not have to fight. Voldemort's demands were simple: "Give me Harry Potter, and none shall be harmed. . .and you will be rewarded. You have until midnight."⁸² At Hogwarts, all the students and teachers were present along with the Order of the Phoenix and the Golden Trio. Slytherins were the first and only house that attempted to give Harry over to Voldemort, but the remaining houses were quick to stand to Harry's aid. Thus, Slytherins were the first to be escorted out of Hogwarts followed by everyone under 17.

Those who remained were staff, Dumbledore's Army, the Order of the Phoenix, and of age students. While everyone split up to prepare for battle in different areas of the school, the Golden Trio hunted for one of the last few Horcruxes. The battle had begun, and the three were frantic in their search. Helena Ravenclaw, daughter of Rowena Ravenclaw and the ghost of Ravenclaw tower, eventually told Harry that after she stole the diadem from Rowena, she had given it Voldemort at one point.⁸³ The Trio found the Horcrux in the Room of Requirement⁸⁴ and was destroyed by Fiendfyre along with the room itself.⁸⁵

Shortly after, Voldemort made another announcement: "This time I shall enter the fray myself, Harry Potter, and I shall find you, and I shall punish every last man, woman, and child

⁷⁷ Snape's memory. < B.7, p.681.

⁷⁸ Interview with Dumbledore. < B.6, p.509.

⁷⁹ Ibid. < B.6, p. 555, 595.

⁸⁰ Ibid. < B.7, p.683.

⁸¹ The Shrieking Shack is an abandoned building in Hogsmeade, and it is believed to be the most haunted dwelling in Britain. < B.3, p.279; B.7, p.642.

⁸² Voldemort to Hogsmeade < B.7, p.610.

⁸³ The Lost Diadem of Ravenclaw, the only known relic once belonging to Rowena Ravenclaw. It is said to enhance the wisdom of the wearer. < B.7, p.584.

⁸⁴ The Room of Requirement, or the Come and Go room, is a magical room in Hogwarts that can only be discovered by someone in need; it is always equipped with whatever they need. < B.5, p. 686-687.

⁸⁵ Fiendfyre is cursed fire that can destroy any object and seek out any living target despite being non-sentient. <http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Fiendfyre> < B.7, p.631-35.

who has tried to conceal you from me. One hour.”⁸⁶ Harry discovered Voldemort’s hideout through a tunnel underneath the Whomping Willow.⁸⁷ He was determined to defeat Voldemort after discovering through Snape’s memory that he himself was also a Horcrux.⁸⁸ Harry let the Dark Lord defeat him, sacrificing himself for everyone fighting at Hogwarts. After Harry’s death, the “victorious” party went to Hogwarts to start a new regime where the only House would be Slytherin. Harry pretended to be dead as a grief-stricken Hagrid carried him back to the castle. In an act of bravery, Neville Longbottom defied Voldemort and drew the sword of Gryffindor from the Sorting Hat to kill Nagini, the last Horcrux.⁸⁹ Harry stopped pretending to be dead and dueled Voldemort. In the end, Lord Voldemort’s Killing Curse rebounded off Harry’s *Expelliarmus* disarming spell and was defeated, effectively ending his reign of terror.

Casualties: Tom Riddle/Voldemort, Bellatrix Lestrange, Nagini, Vincent Crabbe, Scabior, Giant(s), Snatcher(s), Pius Thicknesse, Fenrir Greyback, Severus Snape, Fred Weasley, Remus Lupin, Nymphadora Tonks, Colin Creevey, 50 others unidentified.⁹⁰

⁸⁶ Voldemort to Hogsmeade. ↗ B.7, p.660.

⁸⁷ The Whomping Willow is a violent species of magical trees. If threatened, it will defend itself by beating the offender with its branches. ↗ B.2, p.74-75; B.7, p. 650.

⁸⁸ Snape’s memory. ↗ B.7, p. 658.

⁸⁹ Nagini is Voldemort’s pet snake and Horcrux. ↗ B.7, p.731-733.

⁹⁰ Battle of Hogwarts, http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Battle_of_Hogwarts ↗ B.7, p.608-660.