

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire Book Review by Sarina

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, the fourth installment in J.K. Rowling's series, begins with Harry experiencing a vivid dream about Lord Voldemort and his servant Wormtail plotting against him. He awakens with his scar hurting, a sign of Voldemort's growing power.

The story then shifts to Harry joining the Weasley family and Hermione at the Quidditch World Cup. After an exciting match between Bulgaria and Ireland, Death Eaters (Voldemort's followers) attack the campsite, causing panic and chaos. The Dark Mark, Voldemort's symbol, is cast into the sky, intensifying fears of the Dark Lord's return.

Upon returning to Hogwarts for his fourth year, Harry and his classmates learn that the school will host the Triwizard Tournament, a dangerous magical competition between three wizarding schools: Hogwarts, Beauxbatons, and Durmstrang. The tournament is restricted to students aged 17 and above, with one champion selected from each school by the Goblet of Fire.

On Halloween, the Goblet selects the champions: Fleur Delacour from Beauxbatons, Viktor Krum from Durmstrang, and Cedric Diggory from Hogwarts. Unexpectedly, the Goblet produces a fourth name - Harry Potter. Despite being underage and not having entered himself, Harry is forced to compete, causing tension with his best friend Ron, who becomes jealous of Harry's constant spotlight.

The first task of the tournament involves retrieving a golden egg from a dragon. Harry succeeds by using his flying skills on his Firebolt broomstick, tying for first place with Viktor Krum. This achievement helps reconcile his friendship with Ron.

As the second task approaches, Harry struggles to decipher the clue hidden in the golden egg. With help from Cedric and Moaning Myrtle, he discovers that the task will take place underwater in the Black Lake. Dobby the house-elf provides Harry with gillyweed, allowing him to breathe underwater. The challenge involves rescuing a person each champion cares about from the lake's depths. Harry saves Ron and Fleur's sister, earning high marks despite finishing last.

Throughout the year, Harry faces additional challenges. Rita Skeeter, a sensationalist reporter, publishes damaging articles about Harry, Hagrid, and Hermione. The arrival of ex-Auror Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody as the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher adds intrigue to the school year. Harry also grapples with his growing feelings for Cho Chang and attends the Yule Ball, a formal dance held as part of the tournament festivities. (I also have collected the LEGO Minifigures for all of these characters.)

As the final task nears, Harry and Viktor Krum encounter Barty Crouch Sr., a Ministry official, behaving erratically on the Hogwarts grounds. Before they can alert Dumbledore, Crouch disappears. The third and final task of the Triwizard Tournament involves navigating a complex maze filled with magical obstacles. Harry and Cedric reach the Triwizard Cup simultaneously and agree to grasp it together, sharing the victory. However, the cup turns out to be a Portkey, transporting them to a graveyard.

In the graveyard, they encounter Wormtail and a weakened Voldemort. Cedric is immediately killed, and Harry is tied to a tombstone. Wormtail performs a dark ritual

using Harry's blood, Voldemort's father's bone, and his own hand to restore Voldemort to full power.

Voldemort summons his Death Eaters and challenges Harry to a duel. When their wands connect, a rare Priori Incantatem effect occurs, causing echoes of Voldemort's past victims, including Harry's parents, to emerge from his wand. These apparitions provide Harry with cover to escape, taking Cedric's body back to Hogwarts.

Upon their return, chaos ensues. It's revealed that the Alastor Moody teaching at Hogwarts all year was actually Barty Crouch Jr., a Death Eater, using Polyjuice Potion. He had been responsible for entering Harry's name in the Goblet of Fire and ensuring his victory in the tournament, all to deliver Harry to Voldemort.

Dumbledore exposes Crouch Jr.'s deception, but Minister for Magic Cornelius Fudge refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned. The wizarding world remains divided on the truth of Voldemort's resurrection.

Dumbledore addresses the school about Cedric's death and Voldemort's return, calling for unity in the face of the coming darkness. Harry, processing the traumatic events and the loss of Cedric, finds solace in the support of his friends and the knowledge that he must prepare for the challenges ahead.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire was very engaging to read, to say the least. I rate it an 8/10!