

THE HOBBIT
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(Adapted by Jared McDaris)

SET: *The walls, from far SR to far SL, comprise a Map. The Map is subtly divided into five color schemes: the Shire, Rivendell (which features the Troll's Cave), the Misty Mountains, Mirkwood, and the Lonely Mountain (which features Lake Town). There is a large hand pointing to a small spot near the top of the Lonely Mountain.*

SCENE 1

GANDALF the Grey enters Center. As one might expect, the old magician wears all grey and carries a staff.

GANDALF

In a hole in the ground, there lived a Hobbit. Many ages ago, when this ancient planet was not quite so ancient, long before man recorded his history, there was the time of Middle Earth, when man shared his days, with Elves, Dwarves, wizards, Goblins, Dragons, and Hobbits. In the lands of Middle Earth, in an area known as the Shire, there was a village named Hobbiton. There, in a hole in the ground, lived a hobbit.

The Lighting highlights The Shire on the Map. BILBO Baggins, the hobbit, enters.

BILBO

Good morning.

GANDALF

(Looks away from the audience, noticing BILBO for the first time) What do you mean? Do you wish me a good morning, or do you mean that it is a good morning whether I want it or not; or that you feel good this morning; or that it is a morning to be good on?

BILBO

All of them at once, I suppose. Isn't it? A good morning?

GANDALF

Perhaps. I am looking for a burglar to share in an adventure I am arranging, but it's very difficult to find anyone.

BILBO

I should think so, in these parts. We hobbits have no use for adventures: they make you late for dinner. *(There is a long, uncomfortable silence as GANDALF stares at BILBO. The hobbit finally breaks the silence with:)* Good morning! We don't want any adventures here, thank you.

GANDALF

What a lot of things you use Good Morning for. Now you mean it to get rid of me, and that it won't be a Good Morning until I am gone.

BILBO

No! Not at all, my dear... I'm sorry, I don't know your name.

GANDALF

No, but I know yours, Bilbo Baggins. I am Gandalf, and Gandalf means me.

BILBO

Gandalf? The Wandering Wizard? The one who's sent so many respectable hobbits off on ridiculous adventures over the years? ... I beg your pardon—

GANDALF

Yes, including some of your own family, on your mother's side. The Tooks are all but famous for adventuring, here in the Shire.

BILBO

Yes, that's all well and good, but I am much more a Baggins than a Took, and much more interested in Tea. Would you like to stay for tea?

GANDALF

I thought you'd never ask.

GANDALF strikes the Staff on the ground, and great lights appear. Shortly, the Thirteen DWARVES emerge from various locations.

DWALIN

Dwalin, at your service.

BILBO

Bilbo Baggins, at yours... Won't you have some tea?

BALIN

Delighted to. Balin, at your service.

Each of the thirteen dwarves steps up, offers an introduction, then joins DWALIN and BALIN in distributing BILBO's plates and china.

KILI

Kili—

FILI

And Fili—

At your service!

KILI & FILI

Bilbo Baggins, at your service.

BILBO

Dori—

DORI

And Nori—

NORI

At your service!

DORI & NORI

Bilbo Baggins, at your—

BILBO

And Ori!

ORI

At your service!

DORI & NORI & ORI

Bilbo Baggins, at—

BILBO

Oin—

OIN

And Gloin—

GLOIN

At your service!

OIN & GLOIN

Bilbo Baggins—

BILBO

Bifur—

BIFUR

Bilbo—

BILBO

BOFUR

Bofur—

BILBO

Bil—

BOMBUR

And Bombur!

BILBO

B—

BIFUR & BOFUR & BOMBUR

At your service!

BILBO

AT YOUR SERVICE!!!

The DWARVES look up from the plates and cutlery to stare at BILBO. BILBO has just shouted into the face of THORIN Oakenshield, who is clearly not amused.

THORIN

I am Thorin Oakenshield. My grandfather was the King Under the Mountain.

BILBO

Bilbo Baggins, at your service.

THORIN

Are you?

THE TWELVE DWARVES

Is he?

GANDALF

Of couses.

BILBO

Please! Be careful with those plates!

THE TWELVE DWARVES

(Song)

Chip the glasses and crack the plates!

Blunt the knives and bend the forks!

That's what Bilbo Baggins hates –

Smash the bottles and burn the corks!

*Cut the cloth and tread on the fat!
Pour the milk on the pantry floor!
Leave the bones on the bedroom mat!
Splash the wine on every door!*

*Dump the crocks in a boiling bowl;
Pound them up with a thumping pole;
And when you've finished, if any are whole,
Send them down the hall to roll!*

*That's what Bilbo Baggins hates!
So, carefully! carefully with the plates!*

BILBO

What do these dwarves want?

GANDALF

They've come for tea, and for dinner, and for you, Burglar Baggins.

BILBO

For me?

BIFUR

There are thirteen of us, you see.

BOFUR

Very unlucky.

BOMBUR

But you'll make it fourteen.

BOFUR

Very lucky.

THORIN gathers everyone's attention and begins the great meeting.

THORIN

Gandalf, dwarves, and Burglar Baggins, we shall soon begin our long journey, from which some of us or perhaps all of us, may never return.

BILBO

What!?

BILBO steps back, trips over, and manages to damage a plate or two.

BOFUR

Very unlucky.

KILI

Some burglar.

FILI

This is your lucky fourteen?

GLOIN

What are your qualifications, burglar?

BILBO

I never said—

OIN

Enough. Gandalf says this hobbit is a burglar, and that's good enough for me.

BILBO

But what are we doing? What is the meaning of this adventure?

THORIN

Ah, we must inform our burglar.

DWALIN

We seek a treasure.

DORI

A treasure that is rightfully ours.

NORI

Far off in the East, past the Misty Mountains and the Forest of Mirkwood, lies the Lonely Mountain.

BALIN

Long ago, this mountain was ours.

THORIN

And was ruled by my grandfather: the King Under the Mountain.

The Lighting highlights both The Shire and The Lonely Mountain on the Map. A Song is sung, a Tale is told, and the Twelve Dwarves recreate the story as they relate it.

THE TWELVE DWARVES

*Far over the misty mountains cold
To dungeons deep and caverns old
We must away ere break of day
To seek the pale enchanted gold.*

ONE DWARF

*The dwarves of yore made mighty spells,
While hammers fell like ringing bells
In places deep, where dark things sleep,
In hollow halls beneath the fells.*

ANOTHER DWARF

*For ancient king and Elvish lord
There many a gloaming golden hoard
They shaped and wrought, and light they caught
To hide in gems on hilt of sword.*

ANOTHER DWARF

*On silver necklaces they strung
The flowering stars, on crowns they hung
The dragon-fire, in twisted wire
They meshed the light of moon and sun.*

THE TWELVE DWARVES

*Far over the misty mountains cold
To dungeons deep and caverns old
We must away, ere break of day,
To claim our long-forgotten gold.*

ANOTHER DWARF

*Goblets they carved there for themselves
And harps of gold; where no man delves
There lay they long, and many a song
Was sung unheard by men or elves.*

ANOTHER DWARF

*The pines were roaring on the height,
The winds were moaning in the night.
The fire was red, it flaming spread;
The trees like torches biased with light,*

ANOTHER DWARF

*The bells were ringing in the dale
And men looked up with faces pale;
The dragon's ire more fierce than fire
Laid low their towers and houses frail.*

ANOTHER DWARF

*The mountain smoked beneath the moon;
The dwarves, they heard the tramp of doom.
They fled their hall to dying –fall
Beneath his feet, beneath the moon.*

THE TWELVE DWARVES

*Far over the misty mountains grim
To dungeons deep and caverns dim
We must away, ere break of day,
To win our harps and gold from him!*

OIN

Curses to Smaug!

ALL THIRTEEN DWARVES

Curses to Smaug!

GLOIN

He stole our home and our gold!

ALL THIRTEEN DWARVES

Curses to Smaug!

ORI

And now, we mean to get it all back from him.

BILBO

A dragon!? You want me to burgle treasure from a dragon!?

THORIN

We leave in the morning. Here's your contract, Burglar Baggins. Let's turn in. ... Oh, and thank you for the tea.

The Lighting dims. The TWELVE DWARVES very quietly sing "Chip the glasses and crack the plates" out of sight.

BILBO

(Reads the contract) "Terms: cash on delivery, up to but not exceeding one-fourteenth of all profits (if any); all traveling expenses guaranteed in any event; funeral expenses if necessary." Funeral expenses!

GANDALF

(To the Audience) Bilbo was more than a little overwhelmed. But something about the talk of treasure and dragons had awoken the Tookish side of the family.

THORIN

*Far over the misty mountains cold
To dungeons deep and caverns old
We must away ere break of day
To seek the pale enchanted gold.*

GANDALF

Bilbo went to sleep with that in his ears, and it gave him very uncomfortable dreams. Dreams of adventure. It was long after the break of day when he woke up, to discover he'd overslept.

SCENE 2

The DWARVES all withdraw, and GANDALF exits into the Audience. BILBO rapidly gathers up some supplies, then hurries to the Map. Lighting fades from the Shire and highlights Rivendell (and the Troll's Cave). BILBO checks the Map, then rushes after the DWARVES.

BILBO

Sorry! Sorry! Sorry!

KILI

Quiet!

FILI

What was that?

BILBO

I said I'm sorry.

KILI

Quiet!

BALIN

Just in time, Burglar. We need your help.

BILBO

What?

DWALIN

Look.

Three TROLLS emerge: BERT, TOM, and WILLIAM. They are huge, misshapen, and hungry.

BILBO

Trolls? What do burglars have to do with trolls?

BIFUR

We could use some of their food.

BOFUR

Go on and burgle us some mutton.

BOMBUR

And be quicker than you were in getting here.

Muttering darkly, BILBO creeps toward the trolls.

BERT

Blast it, Tom! Nothing to eat but mutton.

TOM

Ah, Bert, how I long for a bit of man flesh.

BILBO

That's it, I'm leaving.

BILBO turns to go, but stumbles, making some noise.

WILLIAM

What was that?

WILLIAM spies and captures BILBO.

WILLIAM (continued)

What are ye?

BOFUR

Very unlucky.

THORIN

Quiet!