

>>>>>>>>>> TEMPLATE ONLY <<<<<<<<<<<<

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

The Return of the King  
- Extended Edition -

Original Screenplay by  
Fran Walsh &  
Philippa Boyens &  
Peter Jackson

Based on the novels by J.R.R. Tolkien  
[https://github.com/martamusikmaschine/lotr\\_script](https://github.com/martamusikmaschine/lotr_script)  
<https://www.tk421.net/lotr/film/>

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**Scene 1**  
**The Finding of the Ring**

A worm wriggles in someone's hand. A smiling face looks on. Two Riverfolk sit in a small boat, fishing. One of the fishing poles jerks down.

DÉAGOL

Sméagol! I've got one! I've got a fish,  
Sméag!

SMÉAGOL

Go on! Go on, pull it up!  
Déagol?

The fish pulls Déagol out of the boat and into the water. Sméagol looks down but only sees Déagol's hat, floating in the river. Déagol is pulled through the water by the fish. Déagol loses grip on the pole as the fish escapes. He sees a ring and scoops it out of the riverbed.

Déagol returns to land. He pauses, then looks at the ring in his hand. Sméagol approaches.

SMÉAGOL (CONT'D)

Déagol! Déagol!  
Give us that, Déagol, my love.

They both stare raptly at the ring.  
Déagol closes his hand over the ring.

DÉAGOL

Why?

SMÉAGOL

Because it's my birthday, and I wants  
it.

RING

Ash nazg durbatulûk, ash nazg gimbatul,  
ash nazg thrakatulûk agh burzum-ishi  
krimpatul!

They fight, playfully at first, but then with vigor. Sméagol kills Déagol by strangling him. While holding him down, Sméagol appears momentarily disturbed with what he is doing. Sméagol takes the Ring and smiles.

SMÉAGOL

My Precious!

Sméagol puts on the ring and disappears.

**Scene 2**  
**Journey to the Cross-roads**

Sméagol is shown, later at night, looking quite ragged.

GOLLUM (V.O.)

They cursed us. Murderer, murderer they  
called us. They cursed us and drove us  
away!

SMÉAGOL

Gollum! Gollum! Gollum!

GOLLUM (V.O.)

And we wept, Precious. We wept to be so  
alone. Fish, and we only wish, so juicy  
sweet. And we forgot the taste of bread,  
the sound of trees, the softness of the  
wind.  
We even forgot our own name. My  
Precious.

Sméagol, now transformed into Gollum, crawls into a mountain  
cave.

At the exit to the Osgiliath sewer, we see a sleeping Sam  
and a dazed Frodo.  
Frodo takes a peek at the Ring, kept on a chain around his  
neck.  
Frodo puts the Ring away as he hears someone approaching.  
Gollum peeks down at them.

GOLLUM

Wake up! Wake up! Wake up, sleepies! We  
must go, yes. We must go at once.

Sam awakes, and looks at a weary Frodo.

SAM

Haven't you had any sleep, Mister Frodo?  
I've gone an' had too much. Must be  
getting late.

Frodo shakes his head.

FRODO

No. It isn't. It isn't midday yet. The  
days are growing darker.

Mount Doom shakes the surrounding landscape.

GOLLUM

Come on! Must go, no time!

SAM

Not before Mister Frodo's had something  
to eat.

GOLLUM

No time to lose, silly!

Sam opens a pack and hands Frodo some bread.

SAM

Here.

FRODO

What about you?

SAM

(acting)

Oh no, I'm not hungry. Leastwise not for  
Lembas bread.

FRODO

Sam.

SAM

All right, we don't have that much left.  
We have to be careful, or we're goin' to  
run out. You go ahead and eat that,  
Mister Frodo. I've rationed it.  
There should be enough.

Frodo eats.

FRODO

For what?

SAM

The journey home.

Frodo looks amused at Sam's optimism.

GOLLUM

Come, hobbitises! Very close now. Very  
close to Mordor. No safe places here.  
Hurry!

The hobbits follow Gollum into Mordor.

### Scene 3 The Road to Isengard

A small group of riders move through the forest: Éomer, Théoden, Gandalf, Legolas, Aragorn, and Gimli. They look around warily, as the low sounds of lumbering trees are heard around them.

The end of the forest, followed by Isengard, comes into view. Hobbit laughter is heard.

Merry and Pippin sit on top of the Isengard storeroom, feasting.

MERRY

It's good. Definitely from the Shire.  
Longbottom Leaf, eh?

The hobbits nod and grin.

PIPPIN

I feel like I'm back at the Green  
Dragon...

MERRY

Hmm, Green Dragon.

PIPPIN

A mug of ale in my hand, putting my feet  
up on a settle after a hard day's work.

MERRY

Only, you've never done a hard day's  
work.  
Welcome, my Lords... to Isengard!

The riders appear, and approach the crumbled gates encircling Isengard.

The Hobbits spot the riders.

Aragorn grins.

GIMLI

You young rascals! A merry chase you've  
led us on, and now we find you feasting  
and... and smoking!

PIPPIN

(slightly inebriated and  
touched by the leaf)  
We are sitting on the field of victory,  
enjoying a few well-earned comforts. The  
salted pork is particularly good.

GIMLI

Salted pork?

Gimli smiles.

GANDALF  
(impatiently)  
Hobbits.

MERRY  
We're under orders from Treebeard, who's  
taken over management of Isengard.

**Scene 4**  
**The Voice of Saruman**

The group approaches Orthanc, the tower of Isengard.

TREEBEARD

Young master Gandalf, I'm glad you've come. Wood and water, stock and stone I can master, but there's a Wizard to manage here, locked in his tower.

The group looks around, uncomfortable.

ARAGORN

Show yourself.

GANDALF

Be careful; even in defeat Saruman is dangerous.

GIMLI

Then let's just have his head and be done with it.

GANDALF

No, we need him alive. We need him to talk.

A voice calls out from above, and Saruman comes into view, standing on the top of the tower.

SARUMAN

You have fought many wars and slain many men Théoden king, and made peace afterwards.  
Can we not take council together, as we once did, my old friend? Can we not have peace, you and I?

THÉODEN

We shall have peace.  
We shall have peace... when you answer for the burning of the westfold, and the children that lie dead there. We shall have peace, when the lives of the soldiers, whose bodies were hewn even as they lay dead against the gates of the Hornburg, are avenged! When you hang from a gibbet for the sport of your own crows... we shall have peace.

Théoden responds softly at first, but quickly becomes more assured.

SARUMAN

Gibbets and crows? Dotard!  
What do you want Gandalf Greyhame? Let  
me guess: the key of Orthanc, or perhaps  
the key of Barad-dûr itself, along with  
the crowns of the seven kings and the  
rods of the five wizards!

GANDALF

Your treachery has already cost many  
lives. Thousands more are now at risk,  
but you could save them Saruman. You  
were deep in the enemy's council.

Realizing he has something to bargain with, Saruman grins.

SARUMAN

So you have come here for information. I  
have some for you.  
Something festers in the heart of  
Middle-Earth. Something that you have  
failed to see. But the Great Eye has  
seen it. Even now he presses his  
advantage. His attack will come soon.  
You're all going to die.  
But you know this don't you, Gandalf.  
You cannot think that this Ranger will  
ever sit upon the throne of Gondor. This  
exile, crept from the shadows, will  
never be crowned king.  
Gandalf does not hesitate to sacrifice  
those closest to him, those he professes  
to love. Tell me... what words of  
comfort did you give the halfling before  
you sent him to his doom?  
The path that you have set him on can  
only lead to death.

From his robes, Saruman whips out a glowing Palantír, and  
stares at it raptly.  
Gandalf moves Shadowfax forward.  
Saruman sneers at Aragorn.  
Gandalf sighs.

GIMLI

I've heard enough.

GIMLI (CONT'D)

(to Legolas)

Shoot him. Stick an arrow in his gob.

Legolas reaches for his quiver but is stopped.



GANDALF

No.  
Come down Saruman, and your live will be spared.

SARUMAN

Save your pity and your mercy; I have no use for it!

Saruman shoots a fireball from his staff. The flames engulf Gandalf and Shadowfax.  
The flames die out, revealing an unscathed Gandalf, to Saruman's surprise.

GANDALF

Saruman, your staff is broken.

Saruman's staff shatters in his hand.  
From behind Saruman, a hunched figure approaches: Gríma Wormtongue.

THÉODEN

Gríma, you need not follow him. You were not always as you are now. You were once a man of Rohan! Come down.

Gríma bows to Théoden.

SARUMAN

A man of Rohan? What is the house of Rohan but a thatched barn where brigands drink in the reek and rats roll on the floor with the dogs? Victory at helms deep does not belong to you, Théoden, horsemaster! You are a lesser son of greater sires.

THÉODEN

Gríma, come down. Be free of him.

SARUMAN

Free? He will never be free.

GRÍMA

No.

SARUMAN

Get down, cur!

Saruman slaps Gríma and sends him falling down.

GANDALF

Saruman, you were deep in the enemy's council. Tell us what you know.

Gríma draws a dagger.

SARUMAN

You withdraw your guard, and I will tell  
you where your doom will be decided.  
I will not be held prisoner here.

Gríma lunges towards Saruman.  
Gríma stabs Saruman in the back, twice.  
Legolas shoots and hits Gríma, who falls down, dead.  
Saruman falls off the tower and is impaled by the spoke of a  
large wheel.

GANDALF

Send word to all our allies, and to  
every corner of Middle-Earth that still  
stands free. The enemy moves against us.  
We need to know where he will strike.

The wheel turns, sliding Saruman's body under the water. The  
Palantír drops into the shallows.  
Treebeard returns to the scene.

TREEBEARD

The filth of Saruman is washing away.  
Trees will come back to live here. Young  
trees, wild trees.

Pippin sees a glowing orb in the water. He dismounts  
Aragorn's horse for a closer look.

ARAGORN

Pippin!

Pippin picks up the orb. It is one of the Palantír.

TREEBEARD

Bless my bark!

GANDALF

Peregrin Took, I'll take that, my lad.  
Quickly now!

Pippin reluctantly hands Gandalf the orb. Gandalf covers it  
up, and with a sidelong glance at Pippin, turns away.  
The group rides for Edoras.

**Scene 5**  
**Return to Edoras**

At Edoras, in the Golden Hall of Meduseld, Éowyn brings Théoden a cup. Théoden raises it and prepares to address a quiet crowd. Aragorn leads the men in standing.

THÉODEN

Tonight we remember those who gave their  
blood to defend this country. Hail the  
victorious dead!

CROWD

Hail!

Aragorn hesitates, then drinks from his mug.  
The Rohirrim party in the great hall. Éomer instructs a  
group, including Gimli and Legolas.

ÉOMER

No pauses, no spills.

Legolas and Gimli are handed mugs of ale.

GIMLI

And no regurgitation.

LEGOLAS

So it's a drinking game?

GIMLI

Aye, Last one standing wins.

Gimli laughs.

ROHAN MEN

What'll we drink to? Let's drink to  
victory! To victory!

Legolas takes a small sip from his drink. Gimli chugs his  
drink.

Éowyn approaches Aragorn.

ÉOWYN

Westu, Aragorn, hál.

[Be-thou Aragorn well.]

Aragorn takes a goblet from Éowyn, who watches him, smiling.  
Aragorn returns the cup and walks away.  
Théoden joins Éowyn, watching Aragorn.

THÉODEN

I am happy for you. He is an honorable man.

ÉOWYN

You are both honorable men.

THÉODEN

It was not Théoden of Rohan who led our people to victory.

THÉODEN (CONT'D)

(shrugs)

Ah, don't listen to me. You are young and tonight is for you.

Gimli and Legolas continue their drinking contest. Gimli grabs for another drink.

GIMLI

Here, here. It's the dwarves that go swimming with little hairy women.

Legolas examines his fingers, looking worried.

LEGOLAS

I feel something. A slight tingling in my fingers. I think it's affecting me.

GIMLI

What did I say? He cant hold his liquor!

Gimli passes out, Legolas looks smug.

LEGOLAS

Game over.

Merry and Pippin dance on a tabletop to the amusement of onlookers.

MERRY AND PIPPIN

(singing)

Oh, you can search far and wide  
You can drink the whole town dry  
But you'll never find a beer so brown  
As the one we drink in our home town.  
You can keep your fancy ales.  
You can drink em by the flagon  
But the only brew for the brave and  
true...

MERRY

Pippin!

MERRY AND PIPPIN

... But the only brew for the brave and  
true  
Comes from the Green Dragon!

The hobbits chugs their drinks.

PIPPIN

I win!

Aragorn talks quietly with Gandalf.

ARAGORN

No news of Frodo?

GANDALF

No word. Nothing.

ARAGORN

We have time. Every day Frodo moves  
closer to Mordor.

GANDALF

Do we know that?

ARAGORN

What does your heart tell you?

GANDALF

That Frodo is alive. Yes. Yes, he is  
alive.

Frodo, Sam, and Gollum sleep.

**Scene 6**  
**Gollum's Villainy**

GOLLUM

Too risky, Too risky. Thieves! They  
stole It from us. Kill them, kill them,  
kill them both!  
Shhh! Quiet! Mustn't wake them! Mustn't  
ruin it now!

Gollum wakes up with a scream. He creeps down to a pool of  
water.

SMÉAGOL

But they knows! They knows! They  
suspects us!

Sméagol and Gollum, the latter shown in a pool's reflection,  
converse.

GOLLUM

What's it saying, my precious, my love?  
Is Sméagol losing his nerve?

SMÉAGOL

No! Not! Never! Sméagol hates nasty  
hobbitises! Sméagol wants to see them...  
dead!

GOLLUM

And we will. Sméagol did it once. He can  
do it again.

A flashback of Sméagol killing for the ring is shown.

SMÉAGOL

It's ours! Ours! We must get the  
Precious! We must get It back!

GOLLUM

Patience! Patience, my love. First we  
must lead them to her.

SMÉAGOL

We lead them to the winding stairs.

GOLLUM

Yes, the stairs. And then?

SMÉAGOL

Up, up, up, up the stairs we go. And  
then we come to the tunnel.

GOLLUM

And when they go in, there's no coming out. She's always hungry. She always needs to feed. She must eat. All she gets is filthy orcses.

SMÉAGOL

And they doesn't taste very nice, does they, precious?

Sam awakes, but does not move.

GOLLUM

No, not very nice at all, my love. She hungers for sweeter meats. Hobbit meat. And when she throws away the bones and empty clothes, then we will find It!

SMÉAGOL

And take it for me!

GOLLUM

(scoldingly)  
For us.

SMÉAGOL

(afraid)  
Yes, we meant, we meant for us.

GOLLUM

Gollum! Gollum! The Precious will be ours once the hobbitses are dead.

Gollum drops a pebble in the pool. As the ripples clear, Sam appears from behind Gollum.

SAM

You treacherous little thief!

Sam hits Gollum.

GOLLUM

Argh! No! Master!

Frodo, now awake, steps between the two.

FRODO

No, Sam! Leave him alone!

SAM

I heard it from his own mouth! He means to murder us!

GOLLUM

Never! Sméagol wouldn't hurt a fly! He's  
a hobbit, fat hobbit who hates Sméagol  
and who makes up nasty lies!

Gollum hides behind Frodo, who protects him.

SAM

You miserable little maggot! I'll stave  
your head in!

FRODO

Sam!

SAM

Called me a liar! You're a liar!

GOLLUM

Ah!

FRODO

We scare him off, we're lost!

SAM

I don't care! I can't do it, Mister  
Frodo! I won't wait around for him to  
kill us!

FRODO

I'm not sending him away!

SAM

You don't see it, do you? He's a  
villain.

FRODO

We can't do this by ourselves, Sam. Not  
without a guide. I need you on my side.

SAM

I am on your side, Mister Frodo.

FRODO

I know, Sam. I know. Trust me. Come,  
Sméagol.

Gollum, hand in hand with Frodo, grins back at Sam.



**Scene 7**  
**Éowyn's Dream**

Night comes to Edoras. In a communal sleeping room, Gimli snores and Pippin tosses, looking worried. Aragorn leaves, carrying his pipe. He pauses to stoke a fire near a sleeping Éowyn. As Éowyn stirs, Aragorn covers her feet and shoulders with a blanket.

ÉOWYN

What time is it?

ARAGORN

Not yet dawn.

Éowyn grabbs his hand.

ÉOWYN

I dreamed I saw a great wave, climbing  
over green lands and above the hills. I  
stood upon the brink. It was upptterly  
dark in the abyss before my feet.  
A light shone behind me but I could not  
turn. I could only stand there, waiting.

ARAGORN

Night changes many thoguhts. Sleep,  
Éowyn.  
Sleep... while you can.

**Scene 8**  
**The Palantír**

Aragorn exits the Golden Hall and approaches Legolas.  
They look toward Mordor.

LEGOLAS  
The stars are veiled. Something stirs in  
the East. A sleepless malice. The Eye of  
the enemy is moving.

Indoors, Pippin wakes up and approaches a sleeping Gandalf.

MERRY  
What are you doing? Pippin! Pippin?  
Pippin! Are you mad?

Gandalf is asleep, although his eyes are open. Pippin waves  
a hand over Gandalf's face to make sure.  
Pippin takes the Palantír from Gandalf, replacing the space  
in Gandalf's hands with a chamberpot.

PIPPIN  
I just want to look at it! Just one more  
time.

MERRY  
Put it back!  
Pippin. No! Pippin!

Pippin unwraps the stone.  
Pippin becomes affixed to the now glowing stone. Outside,  
Legolas turns to Aragorn.

LEGOLAS  
He is here!

SAURON  
(to Pippin)  
I see you!

MERRY  
Pippin! Help! Gandalf Help him! Someone  
help him!  
Pippin!

Aragorn and Legolas enter. Everyone awakes. Pippin, stuck to  
the burning orb, writhes in pain.  
Aragorn takes the Palantír and falls to his knees.  
The Palantír falls from Aragorn's hands and rolls across the  
floor. Gandalf throws a cloth over it.

GANDALF  
Fool of a Took!  
Look at me.

Gandalf tends to a terrified Pippin.

PIPPIN  
Gandalf! Forgive me!

Pippin looks away.

GANDALF  
Look at me. What did you see?

PIPPIN  
A tree... there was a white tree in a  
courtyard of stone... it was dead. The  
city was burning.

The courtyard of Minas Tirith is shown.

GANDALF  
Minas Tirith? Is that what you saw?

PIPPIN  
I saw... I saw Him! I could hear His  
voice in my head!

GANDALF  
And what did you tell Him? Speak!

PIPPIN  
He asked me my name. I didn't answer.  
He hurt me!

GANDALF  
What did you tell Him about Frodo and  
the Ring?

Gandalf talks to Théoden in the Golden Hall. Aragorn,  
Legolas, Gimli, Merry, and Pippin are also present.

GANDALF (CONT'D)  
There was no lie in Pippin's eyes. A  
fool... but an honest fool he remains.  
He told Sauron nothing of Frodo and the  
Ring.  
We've been strangely fortunate. Pippin  
saw in the Palantír a glimpse of the  
enemy's plan. Sauron moves to strike the  
city of Minas Tirith.  
His defeat at Helm's Deep showed our  
enemy one thing: he knows the heir of  
Elendil has come forth. Men are not as  
(MORE)

GANDALF (CONT'D)

weak as he supposed; there is courage still, strength enough perhaps to challenge him. Sauron fears this. He will not risk the peoples of Middle-Earth uniting under one banner. He will raze Minas Tirith to the ground before he sees a King return to the throne of men. If the Beacons of Gondor are lit, Rohan must be ready for war.

THÉODEN

Tell me... why should we ride to the aid of those who did not come to ours? What do we owe Gondor?

ARAGORN

I will go.

GANDALF

No!

ARAGORN

They must be warned!

GANDALF

They will be. You must come to Minas Tirith by another road. Follow the river and look to the black ships. Understand this: things are now in motion that cannot be undone. I ride for Minas Tirith. And I won't be going alone.

Gandalf looks at the hobbits.

Outside, Gandalf, followed by the two hobbits, swiftly makes his way to the stables of Edoras.

GANDALF (CONT'D)

Of all the inquisitive hobbits, Peregrin Took, you are the worst! Hurry! Hurry!

PIPPIN

Where are we going?

MERRY

Why did you look? Why do you always have to look!

PIPPIN

I don't know. I can't help it!

MERRY

You never can.

PIPPIN

I'm sorry, all right! I won't do it again.

MERRY

Don't you understand? The enemy thinks you have the Ring! He's going to be looking for you, Pip. They have to get you out of here.

PIPPIN

And y-you're coming with me?  
Merry?

Merry walks away.

MERRY

Come on!

Inside the stables, Gandalf lifts Pippin up on Shadowfax's back.

PIPPIN

How far is Minas Tirith?

GANDALF

Three day's ride, as the Nazgûl flies.  
And we better hope we don't have one of those on our tail.

MERRY

(handing Pippin a pouch)  
Here. Something for the road.

PIPPIN

Last of the Longbottom Leaf?

MERRY

I know you've run out. You smoke too much, Pip.

PIPPIN

But we'll see each other soon, won't we?

MERRY

(glances at Gandalf)  
I don't know. I don't know what's going to happen.

Merry starts to cry.

PIPPIN

Merry!

GANDALF

Run, Shadowfax. Show us the meaning of haste.

PIPPIN

Merry!

Shadowfax gallops out of the stables.  
Merry runs after them. He climbs up to a watchtower. Aragorn follows Merry.

ARAGORN

Merry!

From the tower, Merry watches Shadowfax run towards Gondor. Aragorn joins him.

MERRY

He's always followed me. Everywhere I went, since before we were were tweens. I would get him into the worst sort of trouble. But I was always there to get him out. And now he's gone. Just like Frodo, and Sam.

Aragorn puts his hand on Merry's shoullder.

ARAGORN

One thing I've learned about hobbits: they are most hardy folk.

MERRY

Foolhardy maybe. He's a Took.

They laugh.

**Scene 9**  
**Arwen's Vision**

Arwen, along with a group of elves, rides her horse down a wooded path.

ELROND (V.O.)

Take her by the safest road. A ship lays  
anchored in the Grey Havens. It waits to  
carry her across the Sea... The last  
journey of Arwen Undómiel.  
There is nothing for you here, only  
death.

Arwen sees a small boy in a white shirt, running past the elves.

A vision of a gray-haired Aragorn appears. He runs to the boy. Aragorn takes him in his arms and spins him around, laughing.

The boy stares at Arwen, somberly. The boy is shown wearing Arwen's Evenstar pendant.

Arwen sheds a tear.

Arwen, who has stopped, is approached by one of the elves.

ELF

Lady Arwen, we cannot delay.  
My lady!

Arwen turns Asfaloth around and rides to Rivendell.

**Scene 10**  
**The Reforging of Narsil**

At Rivendell, Arwen approaches her father.

ARWEN  
Tell me what you have seen!

ELROND  
Arwen!

ARWEN  
You have the gift of foresight, what did you see?

ELROND  
I looked into your future and I saw death.

ARWEN  
But there was also life. You saw there was a child. You saw my son.

Elrond turns away.

ELROND  
But that future is almost gone.

ARWEN  
But it is not lost!

ELROND  
Nothing is certain.

Arwen kneels before Elrond.

ARWEN  
Some things are certain! If I leave him now, I will regret it forever.  
It is time.

Arwen examines the shards of Narsil.

ARWEN (V.O.)  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken  
a light from the shadows shall spring  
renewed shall be Blade that was broken  
The crownless again shall be King.

Later, Arwen speaks to Elrond.

ARWEN  
Reforge this Sword... Ada.  
[father]



Arwen drops a book. Elrond kneels before Arwen and feels her hands.

ELROND

Your hands are cold. The life of the  
Eldar is leaving you.

ARWEN

This was my choice. Adar, whether by  
your will or not, there is no ship now  
that can bear me hence.

Two elves work at a forge, repairing the shards, as Elrond  
looks on.

**Scene 11**  
**Minas Tirith**

Gandalf and Pippin ride Shadowfax out of a forest and across a plain.

GANDALF

We have just passed into the realm of  
Gondor!  
Minas Tirith, City of Kings.  
Make way!

Shadowfax crests a hill and a large city appears, built into a mountain of white rock.  
They ride through the city, up to the top.  
They dismount on the top level and walk across a courtyard.  
Pippin sees a tree.

PIPPIN

It's the tree, Gandalf. Gandalf!

GANDALF

Yes, the White Tree of Gondor, the tree  
of the King. Lord Denethor however is  
not the king. He is a steward only. A  
caretaker of the throne.  
Listen carefully: Lord Denethor is  
Boromir's father. To give him news of  
his beloved son's death would be most  
unwise.  
And do not mention about Frodo or the  
Ring.  
And say nothing of Aragorn either.  
In fact, it's better if you don't speak  
at all, Peregrin Took.

Gandalf prepares to enter the throne room of Gondor, but  
hesitates.  
Gandalf again turns to enter, but stops and glances down at  
Pippin.

Gandalf slowly approaches Denethor, who sits on the  
Stewards' Throne, his face lowered.  
Denethor holds the broken Horn of Gondor in his hands.

GANDALF (CONT'D)

Hail, Denethor, son of Ecthelion, Lord  
and Steward of Gondor. I come with  
tidings in this dark hour... and with  
counsel.

Denethor looks up, handling the broken horn.

DENETHOR

Perhaps you've come to explain this.  
Perhaps you've come to tell me why my  
son is dead.

A flashback to the battle of Amon Hen is shown, when Boromir was killed by Uruk-hai.

Pippin walks in front of Gandalf to face Denethor.

PIPPIN

Boromir died to save us, my kinsmen and  
me. He fell defending us from many foes.

GANDALF

Pippin!

Pippin kneels.

PIPPIN

I offer you my service, such as it is,  
in payment of this debt.

DENETHOR

This is my first command to you: how did  
you escape and my son did not? So mighty  
a man as he was.

PIPPIN

The mightiest man may be slain by one  
arrow, and Boromir was pierced by many.

GANDALF

Get up!  
My lord, there will be a time to grieve  
for Boromir, but it is not now. War is  
coming. The enemy is on your doorstep!  
As Steward, you're charged with the  
defense of this city. Where are Gondor's  
armies?  
You still have friends. You're not alone  
in this fight. Send word to Théoden of  
Rohan. Light the beacons.

Gandalf knocks the hobbit aside with his staff.

DENETHOR

You think you are wise, Mithrandir, yet  
for all your subtleties you have not  
wisdom. Do you think the eyes of the  
White Towers are blind? I have seen more  
than you know.  
With your left hand you would use me as  
a shield against Mordor. And, with your  
right, you seek to supplant me!

(MORE)

DENETHOR (CONT'D)

I know who rides with Théoden of Rohan.  
Oh, yes. Words have reached my ears of  
this Aragorn, son of Arathorn, and I  
tell you now: I will not bow to this  
Ranger from the north. Last of a ragged  
house long bereft of Lordship!

GANDALF

Authority is not given to you to deny  
the return of the King, Steward!

Denethor rises.

DENETHOR

The whole rule of Gondor is mine! And no  
other's!

GANDALF

(to Pippin)

Come!

Gandalf and Pippin walk out of the throne room.

**Scene 12**  
**The Decline of Gondor**

GANDALF

All has turned to vain ambition!  
He would even use his grief as a cloak.  
A thousand years this city has stood.  
Now, at the whim of a madman it will  
fall. The White Tree, the tree of the  
king, will never bloom again.

The door creaks open to reveal the courtyard, its tree, and  
in the distance, Mordor.

PIPPIN

Why are they still guarding it?

GANDALF

They guard it because they have hope. A  
faint and fading hope that one day it  
will flower. A King will come,  
and this city will be as it once was,  
before it fell into decay.  
The old wisdom bourned out of the west  
was forsaken. Kings made tombs more  
splendid than the houses of the living,  
and counted the old names of their  
descent dearer than the names of their  
sons.  
Childless lords sat in aged halls musing  
on herladry, or in high cold towers  
asking questions of the stars.  
And so the people of Gondor fell into  
run. The line of kings failed. The white  
tree withered. The rule of Gondor was  
given over to lesser men.

Pippin looks into Mordor.

PIPPIN

Mordor.

GANDALF

Yes, there it lies. This city has dwelt  
ever in the sight of its shadow.

PIPPIN

A storm is coming.

GANDALF

This is not the weather of the world.  
This is the device of Sauron's  
making. A broil of fumes he sends ahead  
of his host. The Orcs of Mordor have no  
(MORE)

GANDALF (CONT'D)

love of daylight. So he covers the face of the sun to ease their passage along the road to war. When the shadow of Mordor reaches this city, it will begin.

PIPPIN

Well... Minas Tirith. Very impressive. So where are we off to next?

GANDALF

Oh it's too late for that, Peregrin. There's no leaving this city. Help must come to us.

**Scene 13**  
**Cross-roads of the Fallen King**

Gollum leads Sam and Frodo through the wilderness to a crossroads.

SAM  
It must be getting near teatime.  
Leastways, it would be in decent places  
where there is still teatime.

GOLLUM  
We're not in decent places.

Frodo stops walking. Sam turns back to him.

SAM  
Mister Frodo? What is it?

FRODO  
It's just a feeling. I don't think I'll  
be coming back.

SAM  
Yes you will, of course you will. That's  
just morbid thinking.  
We're going there and back again, just  
like Mister Bilbo. You'll see.

They approach a statue. It has been vandalized by Orcs. Its head has been replaced by a metal-plated stone.

FRODO  
I think these lands were once part of  
the kingdom of Gondor. Long ago, when  
there was a king.

The sun peaks through the clouds. The hobbits spot the statue's original head, lying on the ground. As the sun strikes it they see that flowers have grown around its crown.

SAM  
Mister Frodo, look. The king has got a  
crown again.

The clouds cover the sun again, darkening the area.

GOLLUM  
Come on, Hobbits! Mustn't stop now. This  
way.

**Scene 14**  
**"The Deep Breath Before the Plunge"**

At night, Gandalf is standing out on a balcony, struggling with his pipe and looking towards Mordor. Pippin gets up and inspects the armor and sword he has been given.

PIPPIN

So I imagine this is just a ceremonial position.  
I mean, they don't actually expect me to do any fighting... do they?

GANDALF

You're in the service of the Steward now; you're going to have to do as you're told, Peregrin Took. Ridiculous Hobbit. 'Guard of the Citadel.'  
Thank you.

Gandalf chokes again on his pipe. Pippin fills a cup of water for Gandalf. Gandalf continues coughing as Pippin hands him the cup.

PIPPIN

There's no more stars. Is it time?

GANDALF

Yes.

Pippin walks to the railing of the balcony and leans against it.

PIPPIN

It's so quiet.

GANDALF

It's the deep breath before the plunge.

PIPPIN

I don't want to be in a battle, but waiting on the edge of one I can't escape is even worse! Is there any hope, Gandalf? For Frodo and Sam?

GANDALF

There never was much hope. Just a fool's hope.  
Our enemy is ready, his full strength gathers. Not only orcs, but men as well, legions of Haradrim from the South, mercenaries from the coast... all will answer Mordor's call.



Lumbering Mumakil - war Oliphants - and gliding corsairs are shown as Gandalf speaks.  
A short pudgy pirate directs the sailors. He bears a peculiar resemblance to the belching oaf of Bree and a spearman who defended Helm's Deep...

PIRATE

Come on!

GANDALF

This will be the end of Gondor as we know it. Here the hammer stroke will fall the hardest. If the river is taken, if the garrison at Osgiliath falls, the last defense of this city will be gone.

PIPPIN

But we have the White Wizard... that's got to count for something. Gandalf?

In Minas Morgul, the Witch-king of Angmar is dressed dressed for battle.

GANDALF

Sauron has yet to reveal his deadliest servant. The one who would lead Mordor's armies in war. The one they say no living man can kill: the Witch-King of Angmar.  
You've met him before. He stabbed Frodo on Weathertop.  
He is the lord of the Nazgûl, the greatest of the nine. Minas Morgul is his lair.

A flashback of this incident is shown.

**Scene 15**  
**Minas Morgul**

Sam, Frodo, and Gollum approach Minas Morgul.

GOLLUM

The Dead City... very nasty place...  
full of... enemies.  
Quick! Quick! They will see! They will  
see! Come away! Come away!  
Look! We have found it, the way into  
Mordor. The Secret Stairs! Climb!

Gollum leads them to the side of the road.  
Gollum points out a long, steep staircase, set into the  
rock.  
Frodo wanders towards the dead city, past a pair of  
gargoyles.

SAM

No! Mister Frodo!

GOLLUM

Not that way! What's it doing?

SAM

No!

FRODO

They're calling me.  
I can feel his blade.

As Sam and Gollum pull Frodo to the stairs, the middle of  
the city erupts with a bright blue-green light.  
The sight is visible to the inhabitants of Minas Tirith.  
Gandalf consoles Pippin.  
An army of orcs exits the Dead City.  
The Witch-King emerges, mounted on a flying beast.  
Frodo sees the Witch-King, and grabs his shoulder in pain.  
An orc army leaves Minas Morgul.

GANDALF

We come to it at last, the great battle  
of our time.

GOLLUM

Hurry, hobbits! We climb! We must climb!

GANDALF

The board is set. The pieces are moving.

**Scene 16**  
**Sam's Warning**

Gollum continues leading the hobbits.

GOLLUM

Up, up, up the stairs we go. And then  
it's into the tunnel.

SAM

Hey, what's in this tunnel?  
You listen to me and you listen good and  
proper.  
Anything happens to him, you have me to  
answer to.  
One stiff something's not right, one  
hair stands up on the back of my head,  
it's over. No more slinker. No more  
stinker. You're gone. Got it?  
I'm watching you.

Sam grabs Gollum.

Gollum grins at him.

Sam continues climbing while Gollum looks pensive.

FRODO

What was that about?

SAM

Nothing, just clearing something up.

The hobbits continue climbing. Gollum grins up at Sam and  
follows.

**Scene 17**  
**Pippin's Task**

It is morning. Gandalf walks Pippin towards the top of Minas Tirith.

GANDALF

Peregrin Took, my lad, there is a task  
now to be done. Another opportunity for  
one of the Shire-folk to prove their  
great worth.  
You must not fail me.

**Scene 18**  
**Osgiliath Invaded**

Faramir surveys his soldiers at Osgiliath.

MADRIL

It's been very quiet across the river.  
The Orcs are lying low. The garrison may  
have moved out. We've sent scouts to  
Cair Andros. If the Orcs attack from the  
north, we'll have some warning.

Boats filled with armed orcs row towards Osgiliath. One of  
their oars makes a muffled splash.  
A bulky orc with a deformed face commands the sailors.

GOTHMOG

(softly)

Quiet!

SOLDIER

We need ten more.

From an upper wall, a Gondorian soldier sees them approach.

GOTHMOG

Kill him!

An Orc shoots an arrow, which pierces the soldier's armor.  
The soldier falls down to the ground, dead, but within sight  
of Faramir.

FARAMIR

They're not coming from the north.  
To the river! Quick, quick! Come on!

Faramir rallies his men for the attack.  
Men gather behind pillars at the riverbank.

GOTHMOG

Faster! Draw swords!

As the Orcs arrive on shore, Faramir's men attack.

SOLDIERS

Hold! Hold them!

Men and orcs battle.  
Orcs swarm into the city.

**Scene 19**  
**The Lighting of the Beacons**

Pippin climbs to the top of the beacon at Minas Tirith, evading the guards.  
He reaches for a lamp hanging over it. A rope snaps, spilling oil on the wood.  
Pippin tosses the lit lamp onto the wood, which quickly catches fire, to Pippin's surprise. He climbs down.  
As Gandalf watches, the beacon burns, as soon does another one on a nearby mountainside.

SOLDIERS  
Hold! Hold them!

GANDALF  
Amon Dîn.

Guards on watch take notice.

GUARD  
The beacon! The beacon of Amon Dîn is  
lit!

Denethor looks out of a window and frowns.

GANDALF  
Hope is rekindled.

Signal beacons light in succession across several peaks.

**Scene 20**  
**Théoden's Decision**

At Edoras, Aragorn sees the last beacon lit, and runs into the Golden Hall.

ARAGORN

The Beacons of Minas Tirith! The Beacons  
are lit!  
Gondor calls for aid!

Théoden, in council with his men, pauses and takes stock of this news.

THÉODEN

And Rohan will answer.  
Muster the Rohirrim!  
Assemble the army at Dunharrow, as many  
men as can be found. You have two days.  
On the third, we ride for Gondor. And  
war.  
Gamling...

A soldier rings a alarm bell. Théoden exits Meduseld, speaking with Éomer.  
Éomer nods and turns. Théoden grabs his shoulder.  
Éomer nods and leaves.

GAMLING

Lord.

THÉODEN

Make haste across the Riddermark. Summon  
every able-bodied man to Dunharrow.

Gamling nods and departs. Théoden watches the Riders flow from Edoras.  
Aragorn and Éowyn exit the stables.

ARAGORN

You ride with us?

ÉOWYN

Just to the encampment. It's tradition  
for the women of the court to farewell  
the men.  
The men have found their captain, they  
will follow you into battle, even to  
death. You have given us hope.

Aragorn uncovers a sword, hidden in Éowyn's saddle.  
She covers it with a blanket.  
Merry, holding his sword, approaches Théoden.

MERRY

Excuse me. I have a sword. Please accept it.  
I offer you my service, Theoden King.

Merry kneels.  
Theoden helps Merry to his feet.

THEODEN

And gladly I accept it. You shall be Meriadoc, esquire of Rohan.

Merry grins and runs off.  
Legolas and Gimli prepare to depart.

GIMLI

Horsemen, hmph! I wish I could muster a legion of Dwarves, fully armed and filthy.

LEGOLAS

Your kinsmen may have no need to ride to war. I fear war already marches on their own lands.

Merry tries to get his stubborn pony to move; the pony ignores his kicks.  
Théoden takes one last look at his kingdom's banner.

THÉODEN (V.O.)

So it is before the walls of Minas Tirith, the doom of our time will be decided.

ÉOMER

Now is the hour, Riders of Rohan, oaths you have taken! Now, fulfill them all!  
To Lord and Land!

The Rohirrim ride to Dunharrow, with Merry on his galloping pony.



**Scene 21**  
**The Fall of Osgiliath**

At Osgiliath, orcs begin to swarm the men.  
 Faramir retreats to an alcove.

MADRIL

Faramir!  
 We can't hold them! The city is lost.

Archers shoot down a pack of orcs pursuing Faramir.

FARAMIR

Tell the men to break cover. We ride to  
 Minas Tirith.

Screeching Nazgûl fly overhead.

SOLDIER

Nazgûl! Take cover!

FARAMIR

Pull back! Pull back to Minas Tirith!  
 Retreat! Retreat!

Soldiers begin to evacuate. An orc knocks down Madril.  
 Men and horses run from the city. A Nazgûl shrieks.

SOLDIER

This way!

Orcs settle into Osgiliath. Madril lies on his back, wounded but alive.  
 Gothmog and other orcs stand over him. Gothmog takes a spear from another orc and stabs Madril, killing him.

GOTHMOG

The age of Men is over. The time of the  
 Orc has come.

The men ride and run for Minas Tirith. They are set upon by the flying Nazgûl.  
 The Nazgûl toss horses and men through the air, and crash into the riders.  
 Gandalf and Pippin, on Shadowfax, ride out to meet the retreating men.

GONDORIAN SOLDIER

It's the White Rider!

Shadowfax runs toward the retreating soldiers. Gandalf's staff sets off a bright, white light. The Nazgûl fly away. Shadowfax joins the others and heads back to Minas Tirith.

The gates of Minas Tirith open. Faramir's men and Shadowfax

scurry inside.

FARAMIR  
(despairingly)  
Mithrandir! They broke our defenses.  
They've taken the bridge and the West  
bank. Battalions of orcs are crossing  
the river.

IROLAS  
It is as Lord Denethor predicted! Long  
has he foreseen this doom!

GANDALF  
Foreseen and done nothing!  
Faramir? This is not the first halfling  
to have crossed your path?

Gandalf turns his horse towards Faramir, who stares at an  
embarrassed Pippin.

FARAMIR  
No.

PIPPIN  
You've seen Frodo and Sam!

GANDALF  
Where? When?

FARAMIR  
In Ithilien, not two days ago. Gandalf,  
they're taking the road to the Morgul  
Vale.

GANDALF  
And then the Pass of Cirith Ungol.

PIPPIN  
What does that mean? What's wrong?

GANDALF  
Faramir, tell me everything. Tell me all  
you know.

**Scene 22**  
**The Wizard's Pupil**

In the citadel, Faramir stands before his father.

DENETHOR

This is how you would serve your city?  
You would risk its utter ruin?

FARAMIR

I did what I judged to be right.

DENETHOR

What you judged to be right? You sent  
the Ring of Power into Mordor in the  
hands of a witless halfling.  
It should have been brought back to the  
Citadel to be kept safe. Hidden. Dark  
and deep in the vaults, not to be used.  
Unless at the uttermost... end of need.

FARAMIR

I would not use the Ring. Not if Minas  
Tirith were falling in ruin and I alone  
could save her.

DENETHOR

Ever you desire to appear lordly and  
gracious as a king of old. Boromir would  
have remembered his father's need. He  
would have brought me a kingly gift.

FARAMIR

Boromir would not have brought the Ring.  
He would have stretched out his hand to  
this thing and taken it. He would've  
fallen.

Denethor angrily jumps to his feet.

DENETHOR

You know nothing of this matter!

FARAMIR

He would have kept it for his own! And  
when he returned, you would not have  
known your son.

DENETHOR

Boromir was loyal to me! Not some  
wizard's pupil!

Denethor cries and falls. Faramir approaches him.

FARAMIR

Father?

Denethor looks over Faramir's shoulder and smiles.

DENETHOR

My son!

Leave me!

An image of Boromir appears behind Faramir.  
Boromir smiles and then the image fades. Denethor is left  
looking at Faramir. His mood shifts back to anger.  
Faramir hesitates, and departs from the hall.

**Scene 23**  
**The Stairs of Cirith Ungol**

Gollum, Frodo, and Sam climb up the secret stair. Gollum reaches a ledge and looks down at a struggling Frodo.

GOLLUM

Careful, master! Very far to fall! Very dangerous on the stairs. Come, master! Come to Sméagol!

Gollum sees the One Ring around Frodo's neck. He reaches for Frodo.

SAM

Mister Frodo!  
Get back, you! Don't touch him!

Sam draws his sword.  
Gollum pulls Frodo up onto the ledge.

GOLLUM

Why does he hates poor Sméagol? What has Sméagol ever done to him?  
Master, Master carries a heavy burden. Sméagol knows. Heavy, heavy burden. Fat one cannot know. Let Sméagol look after Master.

Gollum takes Frodo aside while Sam climbs onto the ledge.

GOLLUM (CONT'D)

(whispering)

He wants It. He needs It, Sméagol sees it in his eyes!  
Very soon he will ask you for It! You will see! The fat one will take it from you!

**Scene 24**  
**"Courage Is the Best Defense"**

The Witch-King of Angmar lauds over the Orcs at Osgiliath.

WITCH-KING  
Send forth all legions. Do not stop the  
attack until the city is taken. Slay  
them all.

GOTHMOG  
What of the wizard?

WITCH-KING  
I will break him.

At the walls of Minas Tirith, Gandalf and the soldiers look  
towards Osgiliath.

SOLDIER #1  
Where are Théoden's riders?

SOLDIER #2  
Will Rohan's army come? Mithrandir?

GANDALF  
Courage is the best defense that you  
have now.

**Scene 25**  
**Peregrin of the Tower Guard**

Pippin, in his Gondorian armour, sits outside of the Hall of Kings.

PIPPIN

What were you thinking, Peregrin Took?  
What service can a Hobbit offer such a  
great lord of Men?

FARAMIR

It was well done.  
A generous deed should not be checked  
with cold counsel. You are to join the  
tower guard.

Pippin stands up as Faramir approaches.

PIPPIN

I didn't think they would find any  
livery that would fit me.

FARAMIR

Once belonged to a young boy of the  
city. A very foolish one who wasted many  
hours slaying dragons instead of  
attending to his studies.

PIPPIN

This was yours?

FARAMIR

Yes, it was mine. My father had it made  
for me.

PIPPIN

Well... I'm taller than you were then.  
Though I'm not likely to grow anymore,  
except sideways.

They laugh together.

FARAMIR

Never fitted me either. Boromir was  
always the soldier. They were so alike,  
he and my father. Proud. Stubborn even.  
But strong.

PIPPIN

I think you have strength of a different  
kind. And one day your father will see  
it.

**Scene 26**  
**Allegiance to Denethor**

Inside Gondor's throne room, Pippin kneels before Denethor.  
Faramir observes.

PIPPIN

Here do I swear fealty and service to  
Gondor. In peace or war. In living or  
dying. Fr... from... from... from this  
hour henceforth, until my lord release  
me, or death... take me.

Denethor rises, smiling.

DENETHOR

And I shall not forget it. Nor fail to  
reward that which is given.  
Fealty with love. Valor with honor.

Denethor holds out his ringed hand to Pippin, who kisses it  
reluctantly.

DENETHOR (CONT'D)

(to Faramir)

Disloyalty with vengeance.

Denethor sits to eat.

DENETHOR (CONT'D)

I do not think we should so lightly  
abandon the outer defenses. Defenses  
that your brother long held intact.

FARAMIR

What would you have me do?

DENETHOR

I will not yield the river and Pelennor  
unfought. Osgiliath must be retaken.

FARAMIR

My lord, Osgiliath is overrun.

DENETHOR

Much must be risked in war. Is there a  
Captain here who still has the courage  
to do his lord's will?

FARAMIR

You wish now that our places had been  
exchanged. That I had died and Boromir  
had lived.



DENETHOR

Yes. I wish that.

FARAMIR

Since you are robbed of Boromir, I will  
do what I can in his stead.

If I should return, think better of me,  
father.

Faramir walks away. He turns back.

DENETHOR

That will depend on the manner of your  
return.

Faramir walks slowly away from his father.

**Scene 27**  
**The Parting of Sam and Frodo**

On a ledge on the secret stair, Sam, Frodo, and Gollum rest. Sam checks Gollum, who appears asleep. Sam falls asleep. Gollum opens his eyes, and makes for Sam's backpack. He takes out the Lembas, looking disgusted with it.

GOLLUM

Ugh!

Gollum scatters bread crumbs on Sam's cloak. He then throws the remainder of the food over the ledge. As Gollum turns away, Sam confronts him.

SAM

Where are you off to? Sneaking off are we?

GOLLUM

Sneaking? Sneaking! Fat hobbit is always so polite. Sméagol shows them secret ways that nobody else could find and they say sneak. Sneak? Very nice friend. Oh yes, my precious, very nice, very...

SAM

All right! All right! You just startled me, that's all. What are you doing?

GOLLUM

(grinning)  
Sneaking.

SAM

Fine. Have it you own way. I'm sorry to wake you, Mister Frodo. We have to be moving on.

Sam wakes Frodo.

FRODO

It's dark still.

SAM

It's always dark here.  
It's gone! The elven bread!

Sam checks his pack.

FRODO  
What? That's all we have left!

SAM  
(pointing to Gollum)  
He took it! He must have!

GOLLUM  
Sméagol? No, no, no poor Sméagol.  
Sméagol hates nasty Elf bread.

SAM  
You lying rat! What did you do with it!

FRODO  
He doesn't eat it. He can't have taken  
it!

GOLLUM  
(feigning surprise)  
Look, what's this?

Gollum wipes the Lembas crumbs off Sam.

GOLLUM (CONT'D)  
Crumbs on his jacketses. He took it. He  
took it!  
I've seen him. He is always stuffing his  
face when Master is not looking.

SAM  
That's a filthy lie! You stinking filth  
face!

Sam starts whacking Gollum.

FRODO  
Sam! Stop it! No, Sam!

SAM  
I'll kill him!

Frodo intervenes.

FRODO  
Sam! No!

Frodo collapses. Sam halts his attack and tends to an  
exhausted Frodo.

SAM  
Oh my! I'm sorry! I didn't mean it to go  
so far. I was just so, so angry. Here.  
You just... just rest a bit.

FRODO  
I'm all right.

SAM  
No, no you're not all right. You're exhausted. It's that Gollum. It's this place. It's that thing around your neck. I... could help a bit. I could carry it for a while...

Frodo gives Sam a worried look.

SAM (CONT'D)  
(his voice echoes in Frodo's head)  
carry it for a while... I could carry it... carry it... share the load... the load.

FRODO  
Get away!

SAM  
I don't want to keep it! I just want to help!

GOLLUM  
See? See! He wants it for himself.

SAM  
Shut up you! Go away! Get out of here!

FRODO  
No Sam. It's you. I'm sorry, Sam.

Sam cries.

SAM  
But, he's a liar! He's poisoned you against me!

FRODO  
You can't help me anymore.

SAM  
You don't mean that.

FRODO  
Go home.

Sam collapses, still crying.  
Frodo and Gollum continue up the stairs.

**Scene 28**  
**The Sacrifice of Faramir**

Faramir leads a group of cavalry slowly out of Minas Tirith. Citizens watch on, looking sad. Some throw flowers in the men's path.  
Gandalf pushes through the crowd.

GANDALF

Faramir, Faramir! Your father's will is turned to madness. Do not throw away your life so rashly.

FARAMIR

Where does my allegiance lie if not here?  
This is the city of the Men of Númenor.  
I will gladly give my life to defend her beauty, her memory, her wisdom.

Faramir continues on his way.

GANDALF

Your father loves you, Faramir. He will remember it before the end.

The cavalry forms a line and heads towards Osgiliath. At Osgiliath, orcs rise to meet the charge. Inside, Denethor eats. Pippin stands nearby.

DENETHOR

Can you sing, Master Hobbit?

PIPPIN

Well, yes. At least, well enough for my own people. But, we have no songs for great halls and... evil times.

DENETHOR

And why should your songs be unfit for my halls? Come, sing me a song.

As Pippin sings, Faramir's men gallop toward Osgiliath, and Denethor eats messily.

PIPPIN

(singing softly)

Home is behind, the world ahead  
and there are many paths to tread.  
Through shadow to the edge of night  
until the stars are all alight.  
Mist and shadow cloud and shade  
all shall fade, all shall fade.

As Pippin's song ends, orc archers appear from within

Osgiliath, and fire on Faramir's men.  
Pippin ends his song, holding back tears.  
Gandalf sits in an empty courtyard. A bell tolls.  
Trolls push siege towers across the river bridge at  
Osgiliath.

ORCS

March! March! March!

**Scene 29**  
**Marshalling at Dunharrow**

Théoden and Aragorn ride through the encampment at Dunharrow, surveying Rohan's army.

THÉODEN  
 Grimbold, how many?

GRIMBOLD  
 I bring five hundred men from the  
 Westfold, my Lord.

GAMLING  
 We have three hundred more from  
 Fenmarch.

THÉODEN  
 Where are the riders from Snowbourn?

GAMLING  
 None have come, my Lord.

From a small, high encampment, Théoden surveys his army.

THÉODEN  
 Six thousand spears. Less than half of  
 what I'd hoped for.

ARAGORN  
 Six thousand will not be enough to break  
 the lines of Mordor.

THÉODEN  
 More will come.

ARAGORN  
 Every hour lost hastens Gondor's defeat.  
 We have till dawn. Then we must ride.

Théoden nods. A horse rears.

LEGOLAS  
 The horses are restless, and the men are  
 quiet.

ÉOMER  
 They grow nervous in the shadow of the  
 mountain.

GIMLI  
 That road there , where does that lead?

LEGOLAS

It is the road to the Dimholt; the door  
under the the mountain.

ÉOMER

None who venture there ever return. That  
mountain is evil.

Aragorn looks down the path and sees a shadowy profile.

GIMLI

Aragorn, let's find some food.

At night, inside a tent, Éowyn helps Merry dress for battle.

ÉOWYN

There. A true esquire of Rohan.

MERRY

I'm ready!  
Sorry. It isn't all that dangerous. It's  
not even sharp.

Merry draws his sword. Éowyn leans back, startled but  
amused.

ÉOWYN

Well that's no good. You won't kill many  
orcs with a blunt blade. Come on! To the  
smithy, go!

Merry exits the tent, taking practice swings. Éowyn follows,  
laughing. Éomer and Gamling sit nearby, eating.

ÉOMER

You should not encourage him.

ÉOWYN

You should not doubt him.

ÉOMER

I do not doubt his heart, just the reach  
of his arm.

Gamling chuckles.

ÉOWYN

Why should Merry be left behind? He has  
as much cause go to war as you! Why can  
he not fight for those he loves?

Éomer stands to face his sister.



ÉOMER

You know as little of war as that  
Hobbit. When the fear takes him, and the  
blood and the screams and the horror of  
battle take hold, do you think he would  
stand and fight?  
He would flee, and he would be right to  
do so. War is the province of men,  
Éowyn.

**Scene 30**  
**Andúril - Flame of the West**

A cloaked rider approaches the upper encampment at Dunharrow.

Sleeping, Aragorn dreams of Arwen.

ARWEN (V.O.)

I choose a mortal life. I wish I could  
 have seen him, one last time.

The Evenstar pendant falls to the floor and shatters. Aragorn wakes with a shout, drawing his knife. A soldier stands in the tent doorway.

SOLDIER

Sir? King Théoden awaits you, my Lord.

Aragorn walks to the king's tent.

Aragorn enters Théoden's tent. Théoden stands next to a seated, cloaked figure.

THÉODEN

I take my leave.

Théoden exits. The cloaked figure stands and approaches Aragorn, lifting his hood.

ARAGORN

(bows)

My Lord, Elrond.

ELROND

I come on behalf of one whom I love.  
 Arwen is dying. She will not long  
 survive the evil that now spreads from  
 Mordor. The light of the Evenstar is  
 failing. As Sauron's power grows, her  
 strength wanes. Arwen's life is now tied  
 to the fate of the Ring. The shadow is  
 upon us, Aragorn. The end has come.

ARAGORN

It will not be our end but His.

ELROND

You ride to war but not to victory.  
 Sauron's armies march on Minas Tirith,  
 as you know, but in secret He sends  
 another force, which will attack from  
 the river. A fleet of Corsair ships  
 sails from the South. They'll be in the  
 city in two days.

(MORE)

ELROND (CONT'D)

You're outnumbered, Aragorn. You need more men.

Ships are shown gliding through the water, past burning buildings.

ARAGORN

There are none.

ELROND

There are those who... dwell in the mountain.

A flash is shown of a ghost.

ARAGORN

Murderers! Traitors! You would call upon them to fight? They believe in nothing! They answer to no one.

ELROND

They will answer to the King of Gondor! Andúril... Flame of the West. Forged from the shards of Narsil.

Elrond reveals a sword.

ARAGORN

Sauron will not have forgotten the Sword of Elendil. The blade that was broken shall return to Minas Tirith.

Aragorn draws the sword.

ELROND

The man who can wield the power of this sword can summon to him an army more deadly than any that walks this earth. Put aside the ranger. Become who you were born to be. Take the Dimholt road. Ónen i-Estel Edain.

[I gave hope to the Dúnedain.]

Aragorn looks uncertain.

ARAGORN

Ú-chebin Estel anim.

[I have kept no hope for myself.]

**Scene 31**  
**Aragorn Takes the Paths of the Dead**

Aragorn readies his horse to depart. Éowyn approaches.

ÉOWYN  
 Why are you doing this? The war lies to  
 the East. You cannot leave on the eve of  
 battle!

ÉOWYN (CONT'D)  
 (struggling for words)  
 You cannot abandon the men.

ARAGORN  
 Éowyn...

ÉOWYN  
 We need you here.

ARAGORN  
 Why have you come?

ÉOWYN  
 Do you not know?

ARAGORN  
 It is but a shadow and a thought that  
 you love. I cannot give you what you  
 seek.  
 I have you wished you joy since first I  
 saw you.

He touches her face then turns away.  
 Éowyn is shocked and saddened.  
 Aragorn approaches the Dimholt road alone.

GIMLI  
 Just where do you think you're off to?

ARAGORN  
 Not this time. This time you must stay,  
 Gimli.

Legolas appears with his horse.

LEGOLAS  
 Have you learned nothing of the  
 stubbornness of dwarves?

GIMLI  
 Might as well accept it. We're going  
 with you, laddie.

The three start off on the Dimholt road, as soldiers look

on.

SOLDIER #1  
What's happening?

SOLDIER #2  
Where's he going?

SOLDIER #3  
I don't understand.

SOLDIER #4  
Lord Aragorn!

The riders disappear into the darkness.

SOLDIER #5  
Why does he leave on the eve of battle?

GAMLING  
He leaves because there is no hope.

THÉODEN  
He leaves because he must.

GAMLING  
Too few have come. We cannot defeat the  
armies of Mordor.

THÉODEN  
No, we cannot.  
But we will meet them in battle  
nonetheless.

The men nod in agreement.

**Scene 32**  
**"No More Despair"**

At dawn, Éowyn is approached by her uncle.

THÉODEN

I have left instructions. The people are  
to follow your rule in my stead.  
Take up my seat in the Golden Hall. Long  
may you defend Edoras if the battle goes  
ill.

ÉOWYN

What other duty would you have me do, my  
lord?

THÉODEN

Duty? No. I would have you smile again.  
Not grieve for those whose time has  
come.  
You shall live to see these days  
renewed. No more despair.

**Scene 33**  
**Dwimorberg - The Haunted Mountain**

Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas ride along a barren mountain path.

GIMLI

What kind of army would linger in such a place?

LEGOLAS

One that is cursed.  
 Long ago the Men of the Mountain swore an oath to the last king of Gondor, to come to his aid, to fight. But when the time came, when Gondor's need was dire, they fled, vanishing into the darkness of the mountain. And so Isildur cursed them, never to rest, until they had fulfilled their pledge.  
 Who shall call them from the grey twilight? The forgotten people. The heir of him to whom the oath they swore. From the north shall he come. Need shall drive him. He shall pass the door to the Paths of the Dead.

They approach the Dimholt door. It is adorned with skulls.

GIMLI

The very warmth of my blood seems stole away.

Legolas reads the hieroglyphs above the door.

LEGOLAS

'The way is shut. It was made by those who were dead, and the dead keep it. The way is shut.'

Wind and noise come out of the door. The horses rear and flee.

ARAGORN

Brego!

ARAGORN (CONT'D)

(turning back towards the  
entrance)

I do not fear death!

Aragorn enters the mountain.  
 Legolas soon follows, but Gimli hesitates.

GIMLI

Well this is something unheard of! An elf will go underground where a dwarf dare not! Ah, I'd never hear the end of it!

Gimli runs into the tunnel.



**Scene 34**  
**The Muster of Rohan**

Morning falls on Dunharrow. The Rohirrim prepare to depart.

THÉODEN

We must ride light and swift. It's a long road ahead. The men and beast must reach the end with a strength to fight. Little hobbits do not belong in war, Master Meriadoc.

Théoden looks down on Merry and his pony.

MERRY

All my friends have gone to battle. I will be ashamed to be left behind!

THÉODEN

It is a three day gallop to Minas Tirith and none of my riders can bear you as a burden.

MERRY

I want to fight!

THÉODEN

I will say no more.

Théoden rides away, leaving a disappointed Merry to stand and watch riders stream past him. One of the riders snatches Merry up onto his horse. The rider is Éowyn, disguised as a male Rohirrim.

ÉOWYN

Ride with me.

MERRY

My lady!

ÉOMER

Form up! Move out!

THÉODEN

Ride! Ride now for Gondor!

A column of riders flows out of the encampment.

**Scene 35**  
**The Paths of the Dead**

A large army of orcs walks towards Minas Tirith. Trolls beat drums as the orcs march, pushing large siege towers.

Aragorn's party moves inside the Paths of the Dead, past piles of skulls.

GIMLI

What is it? What do you see?

LEGOLAS

I see shapes of men and of horses.

GIMLI

Where?

LEGOLAS

Pale banners like shreds of cloud.  
 Spears rise like winter-thickets through  
 a shroud of mist. The dead are  
 following. They have been summoned.

GIMLI

The Dead? Summoned? I knew that. Very  
 good. Very good. Legolas!

Gimli runs to catch up. Shapes of arms are surround Legolas and Aragorn, who brush them aside. Gimli puffs at the ghosts around him.

ARAGORN

Do not look down.

Gimli stops at a snapping sound under his feet. He looks down and sees hundreds of skulls. Every step he takes lets a crackling out.

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli run into a great underground hall with a large doorway.

THE KING OF THE DEAD

Who enters my domain?

A ghost appears.

ARAGORN

One who will have your allegiance.

THE KING OF THE DEAD

The dead do not suffer the living to  
 pass.

ARAGORN

You will suffer me!

The King laughs. A dead city appears.  
Dead soldiers walk out of the city and encircle the living.

THE KING OF THE DEAD

The way is shut. It was made by those  
who are dead. And the dead keep it.  
The way is shut. Now you must die.

The King approaches Aragorn. Legolas shoots at King, but the  
arrow passes right through the ghost's head.

ARAGORN

I summon you to fulfill your oath.

THE KING OF THE DEAD

None but the King of Gondor may command  
me!  
That line was broken.

Aragorn draws the sword of the King.  
The ghost swings at Aragorn. Aragorn parries the blow with  
the Sword of Elendil, much to the ghost's surprise.

ARAGORN

It has been remade.  
Fight for us, and regain your honor.  
What say you?  
What say you?

Aragorn shoves back the ghost.  
Aragorn surveys the dead soldiers.

GIMLI

You waste your time, Aragorn! They had  
no honor in life, they have none now in  
death.

ARAGORN

I am Isildur's heir. Fight for me and I  
will hold your oaths fulfilled! What say  
you!

The King of the Dead smirks.

The Dead King laughs as his army begins to fade.

ARAGORN (CONT'D)

You have my word! Fight, and I will  
release you from this living death! What  
say you?

GIMLI  
Stand, you traitors!

The ground shakes. Skulls roll on the floor. Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli turn to the breaking doorway to see thousands of skulls flowing out of it.

ARAGORN  
Out!  
Legolas! Run!

They run, but are nearly swept away by the skulls. The party fights their way through the sea of skulls and escapes to the outdoors. Emerging from the doorway in the mountainside, Aragorn sees the black ships and the cities they have sacked. Aragorn falls to his knees in despair. Aragorn hears a sound behind him and turns around. The King of the Dead appears before the heir to the Gondorian throne.

THE KING OF THE DEAD  
We fight!

**Scene 36**  
**The Siege of Gondor**

As the orc army nears Minas Tirith, a horse drags a wounded Faramir to its gates.

SOLDIER  
Open the gates! Quick!

The horse walks through the open gates. Faramir's foot is caught in the stirrup. Arrows protrude from his armor. Gothmog rides a snarling warg through the orc army. Faramir is taken, on a litter, to the citadel's courtyard.

IROLAS  
Quick! Hurry!

Gothmog dismounts and stumbles, but shoves off help from another orc. Denethor runs out to Faramir. The soldiers set down the litter near the white tree.

DENETHOR  
Faramir? Say not that he has fallen.

IROLAS  
They were outnumbered. None survived.

Orcs approach the city. Gothmog sniffs contemptuously.

GOTHMOG  
Fear. The city is rank with it.  
Let us ease their pain. Release the  
prisoners!

An orc lieutenant with a skull impaled on top of his helmet relays the order.

SKULLY  
Catapults! Ha!

The orc catapults throw debris over the walls.

SOLDIER  
Shields up!

soldiers duck behind their shields as the heads of their fellow soldiers fall.

DENETHOR  
My sons are spent.  
My line has ended.

Denethor steps away from Faramir. Pippin approaches.

PIPPIN  
 (looking at Faramir)  
 He's alive!

DENETHOR  
 The house of Stewards has failed.

PIPPIN  
 He needs medicine my lord!

DENETHOR  
 My line has ended!

Denethor wanders to the edge of the courtyard. He looks down to see the orc army.

PIPPIN  
 My lord!

DENETHOR  
 Rohan has deserted us.  
 Théoden has betrayed me.  
 Abandon your posts! Flee! Flee for you  
 lives!

Orc catapults fling boulders at the city. People cry and run.  
 More boulders fall.  
 Gandalf smacks Denethor with his staff, knocking him out.

GANDALF  
 Prepare for battle.

Gandalf rides down to rally the soldiers.

GANDALF (CONT'D)  
 Pull them in! To the wall! Defend the  
 wall! Return to your posts!  
 Send these foul beasts into the abyss!

The soldiers return to their posts. Gandalf looks out at the opposing army.  
 Soldiers use trebuchets to launch large rocks at the orc army. The masonry squashes some of the orcs. The orcs around Gothmog shift fearfully.

GOTHMOG  
 (to the Orcs)  
 Stay where you are.

The catapults and trebuchets fire at each other.

SOLDIER #1

Watch out!

SOLDIER #2

Down to the lower level. Quick!

Pippin runs down into the city with his fellow guardsmen.  
A large rock arcs out from the city towards Gothmog. Nearby  
orcs scramble out of the way. Gothmog sidesteps the boulder  
as it falls.

A troll looks on with a confused stare.

Gothmog spits on the boulder.

The Nazgûl shriek and fly in over the city.

The Nazgûl begin to tear down the trebuchets.

GANDALF

Hold them back. Do not give in to fear!

Stay at your posts!

Don't aim for the towers. Aim for the  
trolls. Kill the trolls! Fight them  
back!

Peregrin Took! Go back to the citadel!

Now!

Trolls push the siege towers to the walls of Minas Tirith.

Pipplin loses his helmet.

Battering rams assault the main gates.

Pippin arrives at the walls, looking dazed. Gandalf sees  
him.

PIPPIN

(subdued)

They called us out to fight.

Orcs pour out of one of the siege towers. Gandalf fights  
them off.

GANDALF

This is no place for a hobbit!

Guard of the Citadel indeed! Now back up  
the hill! Quick! Quick!

An orc moves to strike Gandalf. Pippin stabs the orc,  
killing it.

Pippin stares at his bloodstained sword.

Orcs make several failed attempts to batter down the city  
gates. Gondorians rain arrows down on them.

GOTHMOG

What are you doing, you useless scum?

ORC CAPTAIN

The door won't give. It's too strong.

GOTHMOG

Get back there and smash it down.

ORC CAPTAIN

But nothing can breach it.

More Orcs fall at the gate.

GOTHMOG

Grond will breach it.

Bring up the wolf's head.

Orcs chant as a great battering ram is pulled and pushed towards the city gates.

ORCS

Grond! Grond! Grond! Grond! Grond!  
Grond!



**Scene 37**  
**The Corsairs of Umbar**

The corsairs of Umbar sail upriver. Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas stand alone on the shore watching them.

ARAGORN  
You may go no further. You will not  
enter Gondor.

CORSAIR  
Who are you to deny us passage?

ARAGORN  
Legolas, fire a warning shot past the  
bosun's ear.

Legolas prepares to fire.

GIMLI  
Mind your aim!

As he fires, Gimli nudges Legolas' bow, causing the arrow to hit a pirate square in the chest.

PETE THE PIRATE  
Ah!

Pete the Pirate dies.

GIMLI  
Oh!  
That's it. We warned you. Prepare to be  
boarded.

The sailors laugh at the threat.

CORSAIR  
Boarded, by you and whose army?

ARAGORN  
This army.

The King of the Dead appears and runs through Aragorn, leading his men in a charge to the ships. The sailors recoil and yell in terror.

**Scene 38**  
**Shelob's Lair**

Gollum and Frodo crest the stairs. Gollum motions Frodo to enter a tunnel.

GOLLUM  
There.

FRODO  
What is this place?

GOLLUM  
Master must go inside the tunnel.

FRODO  
Now that I'm here, I don't think I want to.

GOLLUM  
(impatiently)  
It's the only way! Go in or go back.

FRODO  
I cannot go back.  
What's that smell?

Frodo and Gollum enter the tunnel.

GOLLUM  
Orcses filth. Orcses come in here  
sometimes.  
Hurry!

Gollum scurries ahead.  
Frodo loses track of his guide.

FRODO  
Sméagol?

GOLLUM  
(off screen)  
Over here!

Frodo's hand lands in a web.

FRODO  
Ahh! It's sticky! What is it?

GOLLUM  
(off screen)  
You will see. Oh yes, you will see.

FRODO  
Sméagol? Sméagol? Sméagol!

Frodo is left alone.

FRODO (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
Sam.

Frodo steps on a skeleton, and sees other dead animals hanging, wrapped in webs. He begins to run.  
Sam, crying, jogs down the stair.  
He slips and falls down the final steps. On the ground, he looks up and sees the Lembas. He grabs the bread and crushes it angrily.  
Sam turns and looks up the stairs, then begins climbing.  
Frodo runs and falls into a clump of webs and bones.

FRODO (CONT'D)  
Ah! Ah!

GALADRIEL (V.O.)  
And you, Frodo Baggins, I give you the  
Light of Eärendil, our most beloved  
star. May it be a light for you in dark  
places, when all other lights go out.

Frodo fumbles in his pockets. He pulls out the phial of Galadriel.  
Frodo holds up the phial.

FRODO  
Aiya Eärendil Elenion Ancalima!  
[Hail Eärendil brightest of the Stars!]  
Ugh!

Frodo turns to see something large moving behind him. It is a giant spider.  
Frodo holds up the light to the spider, who is taken aback by its glow.  
Frodo runs, and is chased. Frodo holds off the spider with the phial.  
Frodo becomes tangled in a spiderweb. The web holds him spread-eagle off, the ground.  
Frodo looks back at the dead bodies ensnared in the webs.  
Gollum emerges from behind a rock, watching Frodo with glee.

GOLLUM  
Naughty little fly, why does it cry?  
Caught in a web! Soon you'll be eaten.

Shelob the spider approaches. Frodo cuts his way out of the web with his sword.

Gollum shrieks and runs. Frodo frees himself, but drops Sting.

He runs out of the lair by way of a hole too small for Shelob to enter and falls down, exhausted.

GOLLUM (CONT'D)

Got away, did it, precious! Not this time! Not this time!

Gollum pounces on Frodo. Frodo and Gollum fight. Gollum tries to take the Ring from Frodo.

FRODO

No!

Frodo, now enraged, starts to choke Gollum.

GOLLUM

It wasn't us! It wasn't us! Sméagol wouldn't hurt Master! We promised! You must believe us. It was the Precious! The Precious made us do it!

Frodo's anger dissipates. He stops choking Gollum. Frodo releases Gollum and stands, looking weary.

FRODO

I have to destroy It, Sméagol. I have to destroy It for both our sakes.

Gollum grows angry.

GOLLUM

No!  
Ah!

Gollum attacks Frodo. Frodo flips Gollum over and watches as he falls over a cliff.

Frodo stands, exhausted and alone.

FRODO

I'm so sorry, Sam. So sorry.

Frodo collapses. He appears in a lush green glen.

GALADRIEL (V.O.)

This task was appointed to you, Frodo of the Shire. If you do not find a way, no one will.

Galadriel pulls Frodo up to his feet.

Frodo rises and sets back on the path to Cirith Ungol.

**Scene 39**  
**Merry's Simple Courage**

The Rohirrim have stopped by a lake. Éomer rides in to report to the king.

ÉOMER

The scouts report Minas Tirith is surrounded. The lower level's in flames. Everywhere legions of the enemy advance.

THÉODEN

Time is against us.

ÉOWYN

Take heart Merry. It will soon be over.

MERRY

My lady, you are fair and brave and have much to live for, and many who love you. I know it is too late to turn aside. I know there is not much point now in hoping. If I were a knight of Rohan capable of great deeds... but I'm not. I'm a Hobbit. And I know I can't save Middle-Earth. I just want to help my friends. Frodo. Sam. Pippin. More than anything... I wish I could see them again.

Horns blow.

ÉOMER

Prepare to move out!

THEODEN

Make haste! We ride through the night.

Éowyn and Merry don their helmets.

ÉOWYN

To battle.

MERRY

To battle.

**Scene 40**  
**Grond - The Hammer of the Underworld**

Fighting continues at Minas Tirith. The battering ram Grond pulls up to the outer city gates. Trolls pull back the ram and let it slam into the gate.

ORCS  
Grond! Grond!

Orcs exchange volleys with archers above the gate. Gandalf, again mounted on Shadowfax, rallies the soldiers to the gate.

GANDALF  
Back to the gate! Hurry!

**Scene 41**  
**The Tombs of the Stewards**

Above, Pippin looks down at the battle.  
Denethor marches across the citadel courtyard. He is followed by guards carrying Faramir's litter.

DENETHOR

I am steward of the House of Anárion.  
Thus have I walked. And thus now will I  
sleep.  
Gondor is lost. There is no hope for  
Men.  
Why do the fools fly? Better to die  
sooner than late. For die we must.  
No tomb for Denethor and Faramir. No  
long, slow sleep of death embalmed. We  
shall burn like the heathen kings of  
old!  
Bring wood and oil!

As Denethor passes, a flower on the White Tree is shown.  
The procession travels the Silent Street.  
Denethor throws open a door to the mausoleum.  
Denethor stops at a large raised platform.

**Scene 42**  
**Breaking the Gate of Gondor**

Grond pounds the city gates. Gandalf and a group of soldiers wait inside.

GANDALF

Steady! Steady!  
You are soldiers of Gondor! No matter  
what comes through that gate, you will  
stand your ground!  
Volley! Fire!

Grond breaks through the top of the gate. The soldiers murmur in despair.  
The gate breaks and crumbles. Heavily armed and armored trolls jog through the gates.  
A few trolls are brought down, but several soldiers are killed. The Gondorians are pushed back.



**Scene 43**  
**The Choices of Master Samwise**

Frodo comes within sight of the Tower of Cirith Ungol. Shelob silently crawls across the rocks overhead. Frodo turns around at the sign of falling rocks, but sees nothing. As he turns back towards the tower, Shelob stabs Frodo with her stinger. Frodo groans, froths at the mouth, and passes out. Shelob grabs the limp hobbit and wraps him into a cocoon. Sam approaches the great spider. He holds Sting in one hand and the Phial of Galadriel in the other.

SAM

Let him go, you filth!  
 Let him go! You will not touch him  
 again! Come on and finish it!  
 Ha! Back!  
 Mister Frodo!  
 Oh, no! Frodo! Mister Frodo! Wake up!  
 Don't leave me here alone! Don't go  
 where I can't follow. Wake up! You're  
 not asleep... dead!

Shelob hisses and attacks Sam. They fight over the rocky terrain. Sam loses the phial. The fight continues. Sam swipes at the spider, but loses his sword. Sam retrieves Sting and stabs Shelob with it. Shelob writhes in pain, possibly fatally struck. Sam picks up the Phial and uses it to drive Shelob back to her lair. After Shelob retreats, Sam runs to Frodo, still wrapped in the cocoon. Sam tears the spider web from Frodo's face. Frodo is pale and does not move or breathe. Sam holds Frodo and cries.

Sting begins to glow. Sam hears orcs approaching.

GORBAG

You get lost, scum!

Sam hides. A small group of orcs appear. One is a small orc - Gorbag - and another is a large Uruk-hai - Shagrat. They spot Frodo's body.

SHAGRAT

What's this? Looks like ol' Shelob's  
 been having a bit of fun.

GORBAG  
Killed another one, has she?

SHAGRAT  
No. This fellow ain't dead!

SAM  
(whispers)  
Not dead?

Shagrat pokes Frodo's cocoon.

SHAGRAT  
She jabs them with her stinger... and he  
goes as limp as a boned fish! Then she  
has her way with them. That's how she  
likes to feed. Fresh blood!  
Get him to the tower!

The orcs pick up Frodo. Sam watches.

SAM  
(to himself)  
Samwise, you fool!

GORBAG  
This scum will be awake in a couple of  
hours.

SHAGRAT  
Then he'll wish he'd never been born!

The orcs head back to the tower.

**Scene 44**  
**Denethor's Madness**

At Minas Tirith, Pippin enters the mausoleum of the Stewards.  
A pyre of wood is built around and on top of the stone platform. Faramir is placed on the platform. He moans softly.

DENETHOR  
The house of his spirit crumbles. He is  
burning. Already burning.

Pippin runs to the pyre.

PIPPIN  
He's not dead!  
He's not dead! No! No! He's not dead!

Pippin tugs on the bundles of wood.  
Denethor picks up Pippin by the collar and carries him away.

DENETHOR  
Hear now, Peregrin, son of Paladin: I  
release you from my service.  
Go now and die in what way seems best  
for you.

Denethor tosses Pippin out of the mausoleum.  
Denethor slams the mausoleum door shut.

DENETHOR (CONT'D)  
(to his men)  
Pour oil on the wood!

Pippin runs off.

PIPPIN  
Gandalf! Where is Gandalf?

**Scene 45**  
**The Witch King's Hour**

Gandalf leads the soldiers at the city gates.

GANDALF  
Retreat! The city is breached. Pull  
back! To the second level! Get the women  
and children out. Get them out! Retreat!

The soldiers retreat, suffering heavy casualties.  
Outside the gate, the orc general nods with satisfaction.

GOTHMOG  
Move into the city. Kill all in your  
path.

Orcs swarm into the city.

GANDALF  
Fight! Fight to the last man! Fight for  
your lives!

Inside the city, Pippin finds Gandalf.

PIPPIN  
Gandalf! Gandalf! Denethor has lost his  
mind!  
He's burning Faramir alive!

GANDALF  
Come!  
Go back to the abyss! Fall into the  
nothingness that awaits you and your  
master.

Gandalf pulls Pippin onto Shadowfax. They race up the city.  
Shadowfax rounds a corner to face the Witch-King, mounted on  
his fell beast. Gandalf holds up his staff in defense.

WITCH-KING  
Do you not know death when you see it,  
old man?  
This is my hour.

The Witch-King screams, and Pippin cries in terror.  
The Witch-King draws his sword, which lights on fire.  
Gandalf's staff shatters and he falls from his horse.  
The Witch-King approaches Gandalf. Pippin draws his sword.

PIPPIN  
Gandalf!

The fell beast roars, freezing Pippin in fear.  
Shadowfax rears at the beast, holding it at bay for a

moment.

The Witch-King taunts a defeated Gandalf.

WITCH-KING

You have failed. The world of Men will  
fall.

A chorus of horns is heard in the distance. The Witch-King  
turns and flies towards the new threat.

**Scene 46**  
**The Ride of the Rohirrim**

Gothmog and the orcs turn towards the sound of the horns. The Riders of Rohan appear across the fields. The army of Rohan stops to face the rear of the orc army. Éowyn speaks to her fellow rider, Merry.

ÉOWYN  
 Courage, Merry. Courage for our friends.

GOTHMOG  
 (to the Orcs)  
 Form ranks, you maggots! Form ranks!  
 Pikes in front, archers behind.

Théoden rides along the front lines of the Rohirrim.

THÉODEN  
 Éomer! Take your eored down the left side.

ÉOMER  
 Yes, my lord.

THÉODEN  
 Gamling, follow the King's banner down the center. Grimbold, take your company right, after you pass the wall. Forth, and fear no darkness!  
 Arise! Arise! Riders of Théoden! Spears shall be shaken, shields shall be splintered! A sword-day! A red day, ere the sun rises!

Orcs prepare for the ride of the Rohirrim.

ÉOWYN  
 (to Merry)  
 Whatever happens, stay with me. I will look after you.

Théoden rides up and down the lines, rattling his sword along the row of spears.

THÉODEN  
 Ride now, ride now, ride! Ride for ruin and the world's ending!  
 Death!

ROHIRRIM  
 Death!

THÉODEN  
Forð Eorlingas!

Rohirrim horns sound the charge.  
The Rohirrim begin to move out.  
Théoden leads the riders in a dash towards the orc  
battalions.

ROHIRRIM  
Death!

GORBAG  
Fire!

Orc archers shoot down some of the riders.

THÉODEN  
Death!

GORBAG  
Fire at will.

More orc archers fire, but the Rohirrim soon crash through  
the orc lines.  
Éomer's group plunges into the orc reserves.

**Scene 47**  
**The Pyre of Denethor**

Denethor pours oil over himself and a rousing Faramir.

DENETHOR  
Set a fire in our flesh!

Soldiers, with lit torches, approach Denethor.  
Gandalf bursts through the mausoleum door.

GANDALF  
Stay this madness!

The guards stop, but Denethor grabs a torch.

DENETHOR  
You may triumph in the field of battle  
for a day, but against the power that  
has risen in the east, there is no  
victory.  
No! You will not take my son from me!  
Faramir... my son. Ah!

Denethor tosses the torch on the pyre. As the fire lights,  
Gandalf takes up a spear and charges Denethor, knocking him  
off the pyre.  
Pippin leaps from Shadowfax onto the pyre and rolls Faramir  
down off it.  
A burning Denethor rises and attacks Pippin.  
Shadowfax knocks Denethor onto the burning pyre.  
Faramir opens his eyes and looks at his father.  
Engulfed in flames, Denethor runs out of the mausoleum.

GANDALF  
So passes Denethor, son of Ecthelion.

Denethor falls from the edge of Minas Tirith.



**Scene 48**  
**The Battle of the Pelennor Fields**

On Pelennor Fields, the Rohirrim are routing the orcs.

ÉOMER  
 Drive them back to the river!

THÉODEN  
 Make safe this city!  
 Reform the line! Reform the line! Sound  
 the charge!  
 Rohirrim! Charge!

As the Rohirrim drive away the Orcs, giant war Oliphaunts - Mûmakil - come into view.  
 Haradrim, mounted on the Mûmakil, blow horns.  
 The Mûmakil run past the retreating Orcs.  
 The King of Rohan does not hesitate.  
 Gamling blows his horn.  
 The Rohirrim run headlong into the Mûmakil, which dwarf them.  
 The Oliphaunts crush many Rohirrim, although some hit the beasts with arrows and spears.  
 Haradrim shoot arrows down at the Rohirrim.  
 Oliphaunts trample some of the Rohirrim.  
 Gamling rides under a Mûmakil, shooting arrows into it's belly.  
 Éomer twirls his spear and hurls it at one of the Haradrim captains.  
 The Oliphaunt staggers and falls into another Mûmakil.  
 Éowyn and Merry ride between the legs of the beasts.

ÉOWYN  
 (to Merry)  
 Take the reins. Pull it left! Left!

Éowyn slices open the legs of an Oliphaunt, felling it.

ÉOMER  
 Aim for the head!

GAMLING  
 Make for the oliphaunts!

One of the oliphaunts is riddled with spears.

THÉODEN  
 Bring it down! Bring it down! Bring it  
 down!

Éowyn throws a spear that lands in a oliphaunt's leg. The wounded beast falls and knocks Éowyn and Merry off their horse.  
 Éowyn scrambles out of the way to avoid being crushed. She

looks around frantically.

                    ÉOWYN  
Merry!

**Scene 49**  
**"A Far Green Country"**

Théoden fights off Orcs. Éowyn fights off several of them. Théoden looks at her with possible recognition. Merry emerges and is attacked. He fights off several Orcs, including one who picks him up. Éowyn exchanges blows with Gothmog.

Inside Minas Tirith, a troll hammers at a door blocking access to the next level of the city. Gandalf, Pippin, and a few remaining soldiers await the onslaught.

PIPPIN

I didn't think it would end this way.

GANDALF

End? No, the journey doesn't end here.  
Death is just another path. One that we  
all must take.  
The gray rain curtain of this world  
rolls back, and all turns to silver  
glass. And then you see it.

PIPPIN

What, Gandalf? See what?

GANDALF

White shores. And beyond, the far green  
country, under a swift sunrise.

PIPPIN

Well, that isn't so bad.

GANDALF

No. No, it isn't.

Gandalf and Pippin smile at each other, and prepare for the breach.

**Scene 50**  
**The Nazgûl and His Prey**

Back out on plains, Théoden gathers his remaining army.

THÉODEN

Rally to me! To me!

Théoden turns and sees a Nazgûl flying towards him. The beast grabs Théoden's horse in its teeth and throws Théoden across the ground. Éowyn watches on in horror. The Nazgûl's mount approaches a wounded Théoden, who is pinned under his slain horse.

WITCH-KING

(to the fellbeast)

Feast off his flesh.

Éowyn moves between the the beast and Théoden.

ÉOWYN

I will kill you if you touch him.

WITCH-KING

Do not come between the Nazgûl and his  
prey.

The fell beast bites at Éowyn. Éowyn dodges the attack and decapitates the monster. The Witch-King dismounts. At his full height, the Witch-King looms over Éowyn. The Witch-King attacks, eventually striking Éowyn's shield with his mace, shattering it. Éowyn cries out and falls. The Witch-King opens his arms, taunting his foe.

**Scene 51**  
**The Black Ships**

On the other side of the city, the fleet of black ships pulls up along the Anduin River.

SKULLY

Late, as usual! Pirate scum! There's work that needs doing. Come on, ya sea rats! Get out off your ships!

The ships appear empty. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli leap out of the ships and onto land, making for the orcs. Skully and the Orcs are amused at the small assault.

GIMLI

There are plenty for both of us! May the best dwarf win!

As they attack, the dead army appears behind them. The dead army overruns the Orcs.

**Scene 52**  
**Shieldmaiden of Rohan**

The Witch-King grabs Éowyn by the throat.

WITCH-KING

You fool! No man can slay the Lord of  
the Nazgûl! Die now!

Merry, crawling up from behind, stabs the wraith's knee with the dagger of the Noldorin given to him by Galadriel. Éowyn stands before the now vulnerable Witch-King and removes her helmet, revealing her true form: a shieldmaiden of Rohan.

ÉOWYN

I am no man!

Éowyn strikes down the Witch-King.  
The wraith crumbles into a heap.

**Scene 53**  
**Victory at Minas Tirith**

Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli fight alongside the ghosts against the orcs.

LEGOLAS  
 Fifteen, sixteen.  
 Seventeen.

GIMLI  
 Twenty-nine.

As Aragorn's party fight towards the city, a wounded Éowyn crawls away from a snarling Gothmog.

ÉOWYN  
 Merry!

Aragorn and Gimli approach Éowyn. Gothmog raises his mace to strike her.  
 Éowyn reaches for a sword, but it slips from her grasp.  
 Just before Gothmog strikes, Gimli and Aragorn cut him down.

ARAGORN  
 Legolas!

Legolas turns to see a Mûmakil running towards him.  
 He leaps on it, and climbs towards the the top, shooting off enemies as he goes.

LEGOLAS  
 Thirty-three, thirty-four.

Legolas cuts the saddle rope. The platform slides off the Mûmakil.  
 Legolas walks to the head of the creature and shoots into its skull.  
 As the slain beast falls, Legolas gracefully slides off its trunk. He lands softly on the ground, with a smirk, right in front of Gimli.

GIMLI  
 It still only counts as one!

ORC  
 Come on then, come on!

The dead army begins to swarm through and up the city, destroying the orcs.

**Scene 54**  
**The Passing of Théoden**

Elsewhere on the battlefield, Théoden lies under his dead horse.

Blood flows from his mouth. Éowyn crawls to his side. Théoden touches her gently.

THÉODEN

I know your face. Éowyn. My eyes darken.

ÉOWYN

No. No, I am going to save you.

THÉODEN

You already did. Éowyn, my body is broken. You have to let me go. I go to my fathers in whose mighty company I shall not now feel ashamed.  
Éowyn.

Théoden dies in Éowyn's arms.



**Scene 55**  
**Oaths Fulfilled**

All is quiet.  
The King of the Dead stands before Aragorn.

KING OF THE DEAD  
Release us.

GIMLI  
Bad idea.  
Very handy in a tight spot, these lads,  
despite the fact they're dead.

KING OF THE DEAD  
You gave us your word!

ARAGORN  
I hold your oath fulfilled. Go, be at  
peace.

The dead army dissipates into the wind.  
Gandalf bows to the new king.

**Scene 56**  
**The Houses of Healing**

Survivors survey the scene of the battle and tend to the wounded.

Pippin finds an Elvish cloak and brooch.

PIPPIN

Merry.

Éomer spots his wounded sister and runs towards her.

ÉOMER

No!

No!

Aragorn sees the two.

Later at night, Éowyn is treated at the Houses of Healing. Éomer looks on with worried glances as Aragorn treats the wound from the Witch-King's touch.

Éowyn awakes.

A melody plays as she regains her strength.

SONG

With a sigh you turn away  
 With a deepening heart  
 No more words to say  
 You will find that the world has changed  
 Forever.  
 And the trees are now  
 Turning from green to gold  
 And the sun is now fading  
 I wish I could hold you  
 Closer.

Éowyn rises from her bed. She sees Faramir, also wounded but healing, who smiles at her.

**Scene 57**  
**Pippin Looks After Merry**

In the night, at the side of a dead Mûmakil, Pippin finds an injured Merry.

PIPPIN  
Merry! Merry, it's me. It's Pippin.

MERRY  
I knew you'd find me.

PIPPIN  
Yes.

MERRY  
Are you going to leave me?

PIPPIN  
No, Merry. I'm going to look after you.

Pippin grabs a cloak and covers Merry with it.

## Scene 58

### The Tower of Cirith Ungol

At the top of the Tower of Cirith Ungol, Frodo awakes. His hands are bound with rope and his clothes have been taken.

Gorbag and Shagrat paw through a pile of the hobbit's belongings. Gorbag discovers the Mithril shirt.

SHAGRAT

Hands off that shiny shirt! That's mine!

GORBAG

It's going to the Great Eye! Along with everything else.

Frodo reaches for his chest, checking for the ring, which is missing.

SHAGRAT

I don't take orders from stinking Morgul rats!

Gorbag grabs a sword and points it at the Uruk.

GORBAG

You touch it and I'll stick this blade in your gut!

The two orcs wrestle. Gorbag is pushed down a ladder and lands in the middle of a pack of orcs. Shagrat looks down.

SHAGRAT

The scum tried to knife me! Kill 'em!

Shagrat's Uruks attack. One of the orcs is thrown down to the ground level, where Gorbag's troops sit. Fighting breaks out all over the tower as the orc factions attack each other.

Later, Sam enters the tower, passing some slain orcs. He climbs the stairs and sees the shadows of approaching orcs. Sam grunts and growls, frightening the orcs, who see a large shadow of the hobbit. As Sam appears, the orcs chuckle and set on the hobbit. Sam, wielding Sting, fights them off.

SAM

That's for Frodo! That one's for the Shire! And that's for my old Gaffer!

As Sam ascends the stairs, an Orc appears carrying the mithril shirt. He glances around and escapes. Sam runs up the tower. In the top room, Frodo struggles with his bonds. Snaga appears over him.

SNAGA

Stop your squirming, you dung hill rat!  
I'm gonna bleed you like a stuck pig!

Snaga moves to stab Frodo, but stops short as a glowing Sting appears poking through his chest. Sam appears from behind the orc.

SAM

Not if I stick you first.

Sting stops glowing. Snaga drops to the floor, dead.

FRODO

Sam!  
Oh Sam, I'm so sorry! Sorry for everything.

SAM

Let's get you out of here.

FRODO

It's too late. It's over. They've taken it! Sam! They took the Ring!

SAM

Begging your pardon, but they haven't.  
I thought I'd lost you... so I took it.  
Only for safekeeping.

Sam takes out the ring from his pocket, still on Frodo's chain necklace.

FRODO

Give it to me. Give me the ring, Sam.  
Sam! Give me the Ring.  
You must understand, the Ring is my burden. It will destroy you, Sam.

The ring begins to speak. Sam hesitates, looking confused. Sam holds out the ring to Frodo, who snatches it quickly. Frodo puts the necklace back on.

SAM

Come on, Mister Frodo. We best find you some clothes. You can't go walking to Mordor in naught but your skin.

Two small figures in orc armor walk awkwardly out of the tower. They reach a hill overlooking Mordor.

SAM (CONT'D)

We did it, Mister Frodo. We made it to Mordor.

Frodo looks at the many orc campfires standing between him and Mount Doom.

FRODO

There are so many of them. We'll never  
get through unseen!  
It's Him! The Eye!

From the top of the tower of Barad-dûr, the Eye of Sauron scans the landscape.  
Frodo stands transfixed.

SAM

We have to go in there, Mister Frodo.  
There's nothing for it. Well, let's make  
it down the hill for starters, shall we?

The two hobbits walk down into Mordor.

**Scene 59**  
**The Last Debate**

A council convenes in the throne room at Minas Tirith.

GANDALF

Frodo has passed beyond my sight.  
The darkness is deepening.

ARAGORN

If Sauron had the Ring we would know it.

GANDALF

It's only a matter of time.  
He has suffered a defeat, yes, but  
behind the walls of Mordor our enemy is  
regrouping.

Gimli sits on the steward's throne, puffing on a pipe.

GIMLI

Let him stay there. Let him rot! Why  
should we care?

GANDALF

Because ten thousand Orcs now stand  
between Frodo and Mount Doom.  
I've sent him to his death.

ARAGORN

No. There's still hope for Frodo. He  
needs time, and safe passage across the  
Plains of Gorgoroth.  
We can give him that.

GIMLI

How?

ARAGORN

Draw out Sauron's armies. Empty his  
lands. Then we gather our full strength  
and march on the Black Gate.

ÉOMER

We cannot achieve victory through  
strength of arms.

ARAGORN

Not for ourselves, but we can give Frodo  
his chance if we keep Sauron's Eye fixed  
upon us.  
Keep him blind to all else that moves.

LEGOLAS

A diversion.

GIMLI

Certainty of death. Small chance of  
success. What are we waiting for?

GANDALF

Sauron will suspect a trap. He will not  
take the bait.

ARAGORN

Oh, I think he will.



**Scene 60**  
**Aragorn Masters the Palantír**

Aragorn enters the citadel throne room and uncovers the Palantír. He flinches as the Eye blazes.  
He grasps the Palantír and holds it up, looking into it.

ARAGORN  
Long have you hunted me. Long have I  
eluded you. No more.  
Behold the sword of Elendil.

He holds up his sword to the Palantír.  
An image of Saruon in his armor appears, then a depiction of Arwen, dead.  
As Sauron laughs, Aragorn releases the Palantír. The Evenstar falls to the floor and shatters.

**Scene 61**  
**The Captain and the White Lady**

Aragorn leads an army from Minas Tirith. Gandalf, Legolas, Gimli, and Eomer ride with him. Pippin rides with Gandalf. Merry rides with Eomer.

The Host of the West marches forth from Minas Tirith. Gandalf, Legolas, Gimli, Pippin, and Merry accompany the Men.

Éowyn looks out from the Houses of Healing. Faramir walks to her side.

ÉOWYN

The city has fallen silent. There is no  
warmth left in the sun. It grows so  
cold.

FARAMIR

It's just the damp of the first spring  
rain.  
I do not believe this darkness will  
endure.

Éowyn turns to Faramir.  
They hold hands and smile.  
Éowyn rests her head on Faramir's shoulder.

**Scene 62**  
**In the Company of Orcs**

Within Mordor, an orc dispatches orders.

ORC

To the gate, you slugs! Move out! To the gate!

Frodo and Sam look over the plains of Gorgoroth. Orcs horns blow as the army moves from their path.

SAM

Look, the Orcs! They're moving off. You see, Mister Frodo, some luck at last.

Orcs march towards Frodo and Sam. The hobbits huddle behind a rock.

ORC CAPTAIN

Move it, you slugs!  
Come on! Faster! Come along you scum!  
I'll whip you down to the bone, you.  
Come on! What have I told you? Now move it!  
Get up! Come on, you slugs!  
You two are going straight to the front line! Now, move it! Go on! Fall in! Move it! Move it! Move it!  
To the Gates, you slugs! Now move it!  
Don't you know we're at war?

Orcs begin to pass by the hobbits.  
The Orc Captain spies the hobbits.  
The captain whips the hobbits.  
Frodo and Sam join the Orc column.  
The sea of orcs head toward the Black Gate.

Aragorn leads the army of men towards the Black Gate.

Frodo and Sam continue shuffline along with the Orc army.

ORC CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Company Halt! Inspection!

The soldiers stop, but Frodo has trouble standing.

FRODO

Sam, help me!

Frodo falls but Sam catches him.

SAM  
Mister Frodo!  
Stand up, Mister Frodo! Stand up!

A brutal-looking Orc sergeant with no nose looks around.

FRODO  
It's so heavy!

Sam sees the Ring's chain cutting into Frodo's neck.  
No Nose turns toward Sam.

SAM  
Oh no!  
What do I do? What do we do?

No Nose sees Sam and roars. He makes for the hobbits.

FRODO  
Hit me!

SAM  
What?

FRODO  
Hit me Sam! Start fighting!

Sam shoves Frodo away.

SAM  
Get off of me!  
Nobody pushes me, you filthy maggot!  
Get off of me!

Sam hits Frodo.  
The Orcs circle the hobbits, shoving each other while  
watching them fight. No Nose is stopped by the crowd.

ORC CAPTAIN  
Break it up! Break it up.

NO NOSE  
Oy! I'll have your guts if you don't  
shut this rabble down!

FRODO  
Go, Sam. Now!

Sam and Frodo sneak out of the Orc troop and into a tent. No  
Nose looks around for them, but gives up.

NO NOSE  
Argh. Move along scum!

ORC CAPTAIN

Back in the line! You maggots! Back into  
the line, you slugs!  
Dig it, you slugs! Move it!

Frodo and Sam escape.

**Scene 63**  
**The Land of Shadow**

Frodo and Sam walk slowly across Mordor in their Orc armor.  
Frodo falls and lays panting.

FRODO  
I can't... I can't manage the Ring, Sam.  
It's... it's... it's such a weight to  
carry. It... such a weight.

Sam points toward Mount Doom.

SAM  
We're going that way. Straight as we  
can. There's no point in carrying  
anything we're not sure to need.

The hobbits throw their Orc armor into a fissure. Sam throws  
down his pans.

Sam and Frodo are resting at night. Sam sees a glimmer of  
stars in the night sky.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Mister Frodo, look! There is light, and  
beauty up there, that no Shadow can  
touch.

Frodo, unconscious, doesn't respond.

Aragorn's company comes within sight of the Black Gate.

The hobbits have stopped to rest. Frodo tries to drink some  
water, but there is none left in his water bottle.  
Sam hands his canteen to Frodo.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Take mine, there's a few drops left.

Frodo empties the last supply of water.

FRODO  
There'll be none left for the return  
journey.

SAM  
I don't think there will be a return  
journey, Mister Frodo.

Aragorn's troops reach the Black Gate, unopposed.  
The hobbits stagger across the plains.  
The Eye of Sauron scans the area, looking towards the  
vicinity of the hobbits.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Frodo! Get down! Hide!  
Frodo!

As Frodo falls to the ground, hidden from view, the Eye searches their location.

**Scene 64**  
**The Mouth of Sauron**

Aragorn and his men stand at the Black Gate, which appears to be deserted.

PIPPIN  
Where are they?

Aragorn spurs his horse towards the gate. He is followed by Éomer, Gandalf, Legolas and Gimli.  
Frodo remains on the ground, lying still.  
Aragorn addresses the large gates.

ARAGORN  
Let the Lord of the Black Land come  
forth! Let justice be done upon him!

The gate creaks open.  
A single rider appears upon a dark horse.  
The only part of the rider appearing, besides a full helmet and armor, is a grotesque mouth.

MOUTH OF SAURON  
My master, Sauron the Great, bids you  
welcome. Is there any in this rout with  
the authority to treat with me?

GANDALF  
We do not come to treat with Sauron,  
faithless and accursed. Tell your master  
this: The armies of Mordor must disband.  
He is to depart these lands, never to  
return.

MOUTH OF SAURON  
Old Greybeard. I have a token I was  
bidden to show thee.

He holds up Frodo's Mithril shirt.

PIPPIN  
Frodo.  
Frodo!

The Mouth Of Sauron throws the Mithril shirt to Gandalf, who catches it.

GANDALF  
Silence.

MERRY  
No!



GANDALF

Silence!

MOUTH OF SAURON

The halfling was dear to thee, I see.  
Know that he suffered greatly at the  
hands of his host. Who would've thought  
one so small could endure so much pain?  
And he did, Gandalf. He did.  
And who is this? Isildur's heir? It  
takes more to make a king than a broken  
Elvish blade.

As the mouth laughs wickedly, Aragorn rides casually around  
to his side.

With a quick, hard, slice, Aragorn cuts the Mouth of  
Sauron's head with his sword.

GIMLI

I guess that concludes negotiations.

ARAGORN

I do not believe it. I will not.

**Scene 65**  
**The Black Gate Opens**

ARAGORN

Pull back! Pull back!

The Eye's gaze turns from Frodo.  
The Black Gate again creaks and sways open, revealing an  
army of marching orcs.  
Barad-dûr looms in the background, its Eye now staring at  
Aragorn.  
Aragorn's company returns to the awaiting army of men.

Back on the plains, Sam notices the Eye has turned away.

SAM

It's gone, Mister Frodo. The light's  
passed on, away towards the North.  
Something's drawn its gaze.

The hobbits stand up and continue on their way to Mount  
Doom.

Orcs pour out of the Black Gate. Aragorn addresses an  
unsettled army of men.

ARAGORN

Hold your ground! Hold your ground.  
Sons of Gondor! Of Rohan! My brothers! I  
see in your eyes the same fear that  
would take the heart of me.  
A day may come when the courage of Men  
fails, when we forsake our friends, and  
break all bonds of fellowship, but it is  
not this day.  
An hour of wolves and shattered shields  
when the Age of Men comes crashing down,  
but it is not this day! This day we  
fight!  
By all that you hold dear on this good  
earth, I bid you stand, Men of the West!

The soldiers draw swords.

The hobbits start climbing Mount Doom.

The orc masses begin to encircle the army of men. Aragorn  
and his company have dismounted for some reason, and are not  
using bows.

The hobbits scale the slopes of Mount Doom.  
Frodo looks up at the fiery peak above. The hobbits fall to  
the ground.  
Frodo crawls a short distance and collapses.

Back at the Black Gate, the army prepares for battle. The Orcs greatly outnumber the men.

GIMLI

Never thought I'd die fighting side by side with an elf.

LEGOLAS

What about side by side with a friend?

GIMLI

Aye, I could do that.

**Scene 66****"I Can't Carry It for You... but I Can Carry You."**

On the Mountain of Fire, Sam crawls up to Frodo and takes him in his arms.

SAM

Do you remember the Shire, Mister Frodo?  
It'll be spring soon, and the Orchards  
will be in blossom.  
And the birds will be nesting in the  
hazel thicket and they'll be sowing the  
summer barley in the lower fields.  
And eating the first of the strawberries  
with cream. Do you remember the taste of  
strawberries?

Frodo opens his eyes and stares blindly at Sam.

FRODO

No, Sam, I can't recall the taste of  
food.  
Nor the sound of water. Or the touch of  
grass. I'm naked in the dark. There's  
nothing... no veil... between me and the  
wheel of fire! I can see him with my  
waking eyes!

SAM

Then let us be rid of it, once and for  
all! Come on, Mister Frodo. I can't  
carry it for you, but I can carry you!  
Come on!

Sam lifts Frodo over his back.  
Sam staggers up the mountainside, with Frodo on his  
shoulders.

**Scene 67**  
**The Last Move**

At the Black Gate, the Eye calls out.

SAURON  
Aragorn... Elessar...

Aragorn appears momentarily tempted by the voice.  
He turns back to address Gandalf.  
Gandalf, holding Frodo's shirt, looks questionably at  
Aragorn.

ARAGORN  
(serenely)  
For Frodo.

Waving his sword, Aragorn runs towards the orcs, yelling.  
Merry and Pippin run in after him, the rest of the army soon  
following.

**Scene 68**  
**Mount Doom**

Sam and Frodo approach the upper cone of the Orodruin. Sam spots a passage into the Chambers of Fire.

SAM

Look, Mister Frodo. A doorway! We're almost there.

Gollum appears from behind a rock above the hobbits.

GOLLUM

Clever Hobbits, to climb so high!  
Mustn't go that way! Mustn't hurt the precious!

Gollum pounces on Frodo and Sam.  
Frodo falls from Sam's back. Gollum lands on Frodo and begins to strangle him.

FRODO

You swore! You swore on the precious!  
Sméagol promised!

Gollum grins.

GOLLUM

Sméagol lied.

Sam throws a rock at Gollum's head, knocking him off Frodo.  
Sam jumps on Gollum and they wrestle on the ground.  
Nazgûl fly over the fighting at the Black Gate.  
Gollum bites Sam.  
Sam slices Gollum across the chest. As Gollum falls, Sam turns to look for Frodo.

SAM

Frodo!

Frodo, now re-energized, runs into the Cracks of Doom.

**Scene 69**  
**"The Eagles are Coming!"**

Back at the Black Gate, the Nazgûl descend. As Gandalf fights, a familiar moth flies in front of his face. Gandalf's face brightens. Bird cries are heard. Several Eagles appear and attack the Nazgûl.

PIPPIN  
Eagles! The Eagles are coming!

The Nazgûl beasts and the Eagles fight.

**Scene 70**  
**The Crack of Doom**

Sam enters the door into the mountainside.

SAM

Frodo!

Frodo stands at on a ledge above a sea of molten lava.

FRODO

I'm here, Sam.

SAM

Destroy it!

Go on. Now! Throw it in the fire!

What are you waiting for? Just let it  
go!

Frodo holds the Ring on its chain out above the lava.  
Frodo hesitates. The Ring begins to sing.  
Frodo stares at the Ring.  
Frodo pauses, then cups it in his hand. He turns to Sam.

FRODO

The Ring is mine!

Frodo snaps the Ring off of its chain.

SAM

No. No!

No!

Frodo puts on the Ring and disappears.

The Eye of Sauron quickly turns its gaze to Mount Doom.  
At the Black Gate, the surviving Nazgûl screech and fly  
towards the Ring.  
In the Cracks of Doom, Frodo's footprints form on the ground  
in front of Sam.  
Gollum appears over Sam's shoulder, and hits him with a  
rock. Sam drops to the ground.  
Gollum spots Frodo's footprints, and runs up to Frodo,  
jumping on the invisible hobbit. Frodo struggles with  
Gollum.  
Fighting continues at the Black Gate. Aragorn turns to look  
at a huge troll heading his way.  
Aragorn engages the troll.  
Sam awakes to see the struggle for the Ring.  
Gollum makes a biting action, and Frodo reappears, his  
finger bitten off. Gollum takes the ring from the severed  
finger.  
Aragorn is thrown to the ground. Legolas sees this and tries  
to make his way to Aragorn.  
Gollum, at last reunited with the Ring, leaps for joy.



## GOLLUM

Yes! Yes!  
Precious! Precious! Precious! Precious!

Aragorn and Legolas continue their struggle.  
Frodo gets up and starts to walk toward Gollum.  
Frodo lunges at Gollum. The two fight for the Ring.  
At the Black Gate, the troll stomps on the fallen Aragorn.  
Aragorn takes out his dagger and stabs the troll in the foot.  
Frodo and Gollum continue struggling. Together they tumble over the side of the ledge. Gollum falls toward the lava, smiling and cradling the Ring on his way down.  
Gollum hits the lava and burns up, leaving ashen remains that suspend the Ring just above the fire.  
Frodo hangs on to the side of the cliff. Sam rushes to his aid.

## SAM

Give me your hand!  
Take my hand!  
No! Don't you let go!  
Don't let go. Reach!

Sam tries to grab Frodo, but cannot reach him.  
The Ring's inscription appears.  
Frodo reaches for Sam, but his hand slips away.  
Frodo reaches and grabs Sam's hand.  
Sam pulls up Frodo.

**Scene 71**  
**Sauron Defeated**

The Ring melts into the lava, destroyed.  
The Eye cries out.  
Sauron's troops look back to Mordor, then flee.  
Left alone, Aragorn stands and with the others and looks on.  
The tower of Barad-Dûr slowly falls over.  
The Eye of Sauron disappears, letting lose a great  
shockwave.  
The army of the West cheers.  
The surrounding landscape crumbles.  
The Black Gate collapses as the ground caves in. Much of  
Sauron's army falls as well.

MERRY

Frodo! Frodo!

The men yell in victory.  
Mount Doom erupts in a large explosion.  
The eruption kills the remaining Nazgûl.  
Frodo and Sam run out of the exploding cracks. They find  
temporary refuge from the lava on outcropping of rock.

**Scene 72**  
**The End of All Things**

Frodo and Sam stand on a sinking rock set in the river of lava flowing from Mount Doom. Frodo lets out a sigh of relief.

FRODO  
It's gone. It's done.

SAM  
Yes, Mister Frodo. It's over now.

Lava flows around the hobbits.  
The hobbits fall down as the mountain shakes. Frodo smiles and closes his eyes.

FRODO  
I can see the Shire... the Brandywine  
River... Bag End... Gandalf's  
fireworks... the lights in the Party  
Tree.

SAM  
Rosie Cotton dancing. She had ribbons in  
her hair. If ever I was to marry  
someone, it would've been her.  
It would've been her.

Sam starts to cry.  
Frodo embraces him.

FRODO  
I'm glad to be with you, Samwise Gamgee,  
here at the end of all things.

Three Eagles appear in the sky over Mount Doom. One carries Gandalf.  
The birds scoop up the hobbits and carry them away.

**Scene 73**  
**The Fellowship Reunited**

Frodo wakes up in a soft bed.  
He sits up and sees Gandalf for the first time since Moria.  
Frodo smiles and laughs.

FRODO  
Gandalf?

Gandalf laughs.  
Merry and Pippin enter the room and run to Frodo.

MERRY  
Frodo!

Gimli enters, waving his arms.

FRODO  
Gimli!  
Aragorn.

Legolas follows, and then Aragorn.  
Sam enters last, exchanging a knowing look with Frodo.

**Scene 74**  
**The Return of the King**

Atop of Minas Tirith, a crowd fills the courtyard.  
 Gandalf places a crown on Aragorn's head.

GANDALF

Now come the days of the king. May they  
 be blessed.

Aragorn turns to address the crowd.

ARAGORN

This day does not belong to one man but  
 to all. Let us together rebuild this  
 world... that we may share in the days  
 of peace.

The crowd, which includes a healed Faramir and Éowyn,  
 applauds.

ARAGORN (CONT'D)

(singing)

Et Eärello Endoreнна utúlien. Sinome  
 maruvan ar Hildinyar tenn' Ambar-metta.

[Out of the Great Sea to Middle-Earth I  
 am come. In this place will I abide, and  
 my heirs, unto the ending of the world.]

The king is greeted by Faramir and Éowyn, King Éomer, and  
 then Legolas, who stands with a group of elves.  
 Legolas and Aragorn place their hands on each other's  
 shoulders.

ARAGORN (CONT'D)

Hannon le.

[Thank you.]

My friends! You bow to no one.

Legolas steps aside to reveal Elrond and Arwen.  
 As Aragorn stands amazed, Elrond motions Arwen towards him.  
 Aragorn grabs Arwen and kisses her.  
 At last the king comes to the four hobbits of the  
 fellowship, who bow to him awkwardly.  
 Aragorn, followed by everyone else present, bows before the  
 hobbits.

## Scene 75 Homeward Bound

A map of Middle-Earth is shown, focusing on Minas Tirith and then panning back on the Shire.

FRODO (V.O.)

And thus it was, the Fourth Age of Middle-Earth began, and the Fellowship of the Ring, though eternally bound by friendship and love, was ended. Thirteen months to the day, since Gandalf sent us on our long journey, we found ourselves looking upon a familiar site. We were home.

The four hobbits ride into Hobbiton. They ride past the grumpy old hobbit who was first seen when Gandalf rode in for Bilbo's birthday.

The old hobbit shakes his head at the four adventurers.

At the Green Dragon, the four hobbits sit down for a drink. A familiar-looking hobbit polishes a pumpkin. Frodo, Sam, Merry, and Pippin pause to look at each other, then raise their mugs.

Sam notices Rosie Cotton.

HOBBIT

Good night, Rosie.

ROSIE

Good night, lads.

Rosie gives Sam a smile. Sam takes a drink from his tankard, then stands up and walks deliberately towards her. The other hobbits watch on in amusement.

Sam and Rosie stand together on their wedding day. They kiss.

Rosie throws her bouquet, which is caught by Pippin. Pippin catches the eye of a hobbit woman next to him.

Frodo walks inside Bag End.

FRODO (V.O.)

How do you pick up the threads of an old life? How do you go on, when in your heart, you begin to understand, there is no going back? There are some things that time cannot mend. Some hurts that go too deep... that have taken hold.

Frodo sits at at Bilbo's desk, writing.

Frodo flips to the front of the Red Book. He adds a second

title to the front page.  
Sam enters Bag End. Frodo winces and grabs his shoulder.

SAM  
Mister Frodo? What is it?

FRODO  
It's been four years to the day since  
Weathertop, Sam. It's never really  
healed.

Sam reads from the title page of the book.

SAM  
'There and Back again, a Hobbit's Tale  
by Bilbo Baggins'... and 'The Lord of  
the Rings by Frodo Baggins.' You  
finished it!

Frodo closes the book.

FRODO  
Not quite. There's room for a little  
more.

**Scene 76**  
**The Grey Havens**

Gandalf's carriage pulls into Hobbiton.

FRODO (V.O.)  
Bilbo once told me, his part in this  
tale would end. That each of must come  
and go in the telling. Bilbo's story was  
now over. There would be no more  
journeys for him... save one.

Frodo and Bilbo sit together in the carriage.

BILBO  
Tell me again, lad, where are we going?

FRODO  
To the harbor, Uncle. The elves have  
accorded you a special honor. A place on  
the last ship to leave Middle-Earth.

BILBO  
Frodo, any chance of seeing that old  
Ring of mine again? Hmm? The one I gave  
you?

Frodo pauses.

FRODO  
I'm sorry, Uncle... I'm afraid I lost  
it.

BILBO  
Oh, pity. I should like to have held it,  
one last time.

Bilbo leans on Frodo and falls asleep. Frodo sits and  
thinks.

At the Grey Havens, the hobbits look out at the sea.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
Oh! Here is a sight that I have never  
seen before.

Elrond, Celeborn and Galadriel stand next to a docked ship.

GALADRIEL  
The power of the three rings is ended.  
The time has come for the Dominion of  
Men.



ELROND

I Aear can vên na mar.

[The sea calls us home.]

BILBO

I think I'm quite ready for another  
adventure!

Elrond helps Bilbo onto the ship.  
Galadriel smiles at Frodo and then also boards.  
Gandalf turns to the hobbits and leans on his staff.

GANDALF

Farewell... my brave hobbits. My work is  
now finished.  
Here at last, on the shores of the sea,  
comes the end of our Fellowship.  
I will not say, do not weep, for not all  
tears are an evil.  
It is time, Frodo.

The hobbits start to cry.  
Gandalf walks towards the ship, but stops and turns around.  
The other hobbits turn to give a confused look at Frodo.

SAM

What does he mean?

FRODO

We set out to save the Shire, Sam. And  
it has been saved. But not for me.

SAM

(crying)

You don't mean that! You can't leave!

Frodo hands Sam the Red Book.

FRODO

The last pages are for you, Sam.

Frodo embraces each hobbit in turn, also kissing Sam on the  
forehead.

With Gandalf, Frodo walks onto the ship.  
Frodo turns and give a last smile at his friends. Frodo  
finally appears at peace.  
The ship sails out of the Grey Havens.

Sam returns to his wife and children in Hobbiton.

FRODO (V.O.)

My dear Sam, you cannot always be torn  
in two. You will have to be one and  
(MORE)

FRODO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
whole for many years. You have so much  
to enjoy and to be, and to do. Your part  
in this story will go on.

SAM  
Well, I'm back.

Sam enters the house and closes the front door.