

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

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

The Two Towers
- 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://www.tk421.net/lotr/film/>

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Scene 1
The Foundations of Stone

Beneath the Misty Mountains, Gandalf's voice is heard in the background.

GANDALF

You cannot pass!

FRODO

Gandalf!

GANDALF

I am the servant of the Secret Fire,
wielder of the Flame of Anor...
Go back in to the shadow. The dark fire
will not avail you! Flame of Udûn!
You - shall not - pass!

Gandalf and the Balrog face one another on the bridge of Khazad-dûm.
The bridge breaks, causing the Balrog to fall. Gandalf sighs, and turns around, but the whip of Balrog catches his ankle, and he is pulled down. He grabs onto the edge of the bridge, but cannot keep his grip. Boromir grabs Frodo to stop him from running back onto the bridge.

BOROMIR

No! No!

FRODO

Gandalf!

GANDALF

Fly you fools!

Gandalf loses his grip and falls.

FRODO

No!
Gandalf!

Gandalf falls after the Balrog and grabs Glamdring, his sword, on his way down.
Gandalf hacks at the Balrog, as they continue falling.
They fall into a spacious cavern and into water.
Frodo awakes with a start.

Scene 2
Elven Rope

SAM

What is it Mister Frodo?

FRODO

Nothing. Just a dream.

Frodo, followed by Sam, repel down a cliff.

SAM

Can you see the bottom?

FRODO

No! Don't look down, Sam! Just keep going!

A box falls from Sam's pocket.

SAM

Oh! Catch it! Grab it, Mister Frodo!

Frodo grabs the box, but slips and falls.

FRODO

I think I've found the bottom.

Sam reaches the bottom.

SAM

Bogs and rope, and goodness knows what.
It's not natural. None of it.

FRODO

What's in this?

SAM

Nothing. Just a bit of seasonin'. I
thought maybe if we was having a roast
chicken one night or somethin'.

FRODO

Roast chicken?

SAM

You never know.

FRODO

Sam! My dear Sam.

SAM

It's very special, that. It's the best
salt in all the Shire.

FRODO

It is special. It's a little bit of home.
We can't leave this for someone to follow us down.

Frodo examines the hanging rope.

SAM

Who's gonna follow us down here, Mister Frodo? It's a shame really. Lady Galadriel gave me that. Real Elvish Rope. Well, there's nothing for it. It's one of my knots. Won't come free in a hurry.

Sam tugs on the rope. The knot loosens and the rope falls around the Hobbits.

FRODO

Real Elvish rope?

Frodo and Sam are walking on rocky terrain. They stop to look into the distance.

SAM

Mordor. The one place in Middle-Earth we don't wanna see any closer. It's the one place we are trying to get to. It's just where we can't get.
Let's face it Mister Frodo. We're lost. I don't think Gandalf meant for us to come this way.

FRODO

He didn't mean for a lot of things to happen Sam. But they did.

Frodo sees the Eye of Sauron.
Frodo falls down, panting.

SAM

Mister Frodo? It's the Ring, isn't it?

FRODO

It's getting heavier.
What food have we got left?

He clutches the Ring, then takes a sip from his canteen.

SAM

Well, let me see.
Oh yes, lovely. Lembas bread. And look!
More Lembas bread.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I don't usually hold to foreign food,
but this elvish stuff, it's not bad.

Sam takes out a package from his backpack.
Sam breaks off a piece and tosses it to Frodo. They both
eat.

FRODO

Heh, nothing ever dampens you spirits,
does it Sam?

Sam looks up.

SAM

Those rain clouds might.
This looks strangely familiar.

The hobbits huddle in the night rain.
They continue walking through the rocky terrain.

FRODO

Because we've been here before. We're
going in circles.

SAM

Uh! What's that horrid stink? I wonder
if there's a nasty bog nearby. Can you
smell it?

FRODO

Yes, I can smell it.
We're not alone.

Frodo turns to look at Sam, giving him a meaningful look.

Scene 3
The Taming of Sméagol

The hobbits are sleeping. A figure climbs down from above them.

GOLLUM

You thieves! You thieves... You filthy
little thieves! Where is it? Where is
it? They stole it from us. My Precious.
Curse them! We hates them! It's ours it
is... and we wants it!

Gollum creeps closer.

Gollum reaches out his hand towards the hobbits. The hobbits jump up and grab Gollum's arms and pull him down. They struggle. Gollum gets loose and jumps on Frodo. They fall, and Gollum sees the Ring around Frodo's neck. He desperately tries to get it, but Sam grabs him. Gollum wriggles loose once more, and jumps on Frodo again. Sam gets a hold of him. Gollum bites him on the shoulder, and clasps his arms and legs around Sam. Frodo draws Sting and holds it to Gollum's throat.

FRODO

This is Sting. You've seen it before,
haven't you - Gollum!

GOLLUM

Yes.

FRODO

Release him, or I'll cut your throat!

Gollum slowly loosens his grip on Sam and lets out a wail.

It is light again. Gollum has been tied at the neck with Sam's rope and is dragged along.

GOLLUM

It burns! It burns us! It freezes! Nasty
elves twisted it. Take it off us!

SAM

Quiet you!
It's hopeless! Every orc in Mordor is
gonna hear this racket! Let's just tie
him up and leave him!

GOLLUM

No! That would kill us, kill us!

SAM

It's nothing more than you deserve!

Frodo looks at Gollum.

FRODO

Maybe he does deserve to die. But now that I see him, I do pity him.

GOLLUM

We'll be nice to them, if they'll be nice to us. Take it off us. We swears to do what you wants. We swears!

FRODO

There's no promise you can make that I can trust.

Gollum kneels in front of Frodo and begs him.

GOLLUM

We swears to serve the Master of the Precious. We will swear on - on the Precious! Gollum... Gollum...

FRODO

The Ring is treacherous. It will hold you to your word.

GOLLUM

Yes... on the Precious... on the Precious.

SAM

I don't believe you! Get down! Get down!

Gollum, scared, tries to get away, but Sam jerks the rope and Gollum crashes to the ground.

FRODO

Sam!

SAM

He's trying to trick us! We let him go, he'll throttle us in our sleep!

Frodo approaches Gollum, who is panting and holding his throat.

FRODO

You know the way to Mordor?

GOLLUM

Yes.

FRODO

You've been there before?

GOLLUM

Yes.

Frodo takes the rope off Gollum's neck, and Gollum seems surprised.

FRODO

You will lead us to the Black Gate.

Gollum rushes off and the hobbits follow him.

Gollum talks to himself.

GOLLUM

To the Gate, to the Gate! To the Gate,
the masters says. Yes!
No! We won't go back. Not there. Not to
him. They can't make us. Gollum! Gollum!
But we swore to serve the master of the
precious!
No. Ashes and dust and thirst there is,
and pits, pits, pits. And Orcses,
thousands of Orcses. And always the
Great Eye watching, watching.

Gollum looks at the hobbits and screams.
Gollum disappears.

SAM

Hey! Come back now! Come back! There!
What did I tell you? He's run off, the
old villain. So much for his promises.

Gollum reappears.

GOLLUM

This way Hobbitises! Follow me!

Scene 4
The Uruk-hai

The Uruk-hai are marching, carrying Merry and Pippin on their backs.

PIPPIN
Merry! Merry!

Orcs emerge.

GRISHNAKH
You're late. Our master grows impatient.
He wants the Shire-rats now.

MAUHÚR
I don't take orders from Orc-maggots.
Saruman will have his prize. We will
deliver them.

PIPPIN
Merry! Merry! Wake up! My friend is
sick! He needs water. Please!

MAUHÚR
Sick is he? Give him some medicine,
boys!

Uruks growl, then one pours a sticky red liquid into Merry's mouth.
Merry chokes.

PIPPIN
Stop it!

MAUHÚR
Can't take his draught!

PIPPIN
Leave him alone!

MAUHÚR
Why? You want some? Huh? Then keep your
mouth shut.

PIPPIN
Merry.

MERRY
Hello, Pip.

PIPPIN
You're hurt.

MERRY

I'm fine. It was just an act.

PIPPIN

An act?

MERRY

See? I fooled you too. Don't worry about me, Pippin.

One of the big orcs sniffs the air.

MAUHÚR

What is it? What do you smell?

UGLÚK

Man-flesh.

PIPPIN

Aragorn!

MAUHÚR

They've picked up our trail! Let's go!

The Uruk-hai continue marching. Pippin tears his elven brooch off his cloak with his teeth, and drops it onto the ground.

Scene 5
The Three Hunters

Aragorn is lying down with his ear pressed to the ground.

ARAGORN
Their pace has quickened. They must have
caught our scent. Hurry!

Aragorn runs off, followed by Legolas and Gimli.

LEGOLAS
Come on, Gimli!

GIMLI
Three day's and night's pursuit... no
food, no rest, and no sign of our quarry
but what bare rock can tell.

The three of them run across plains.
The companions enter the valley where the Uruk-hai stopped.
Aragorn bends down to pick up Pippin's brooch.

ARAGORN
Not idly do the leaves of Lorien fall.

Legolas stops and turns to Aragorn.

LEGOLAS
They may yet be alive.

ARAGORN
Less than a day ahead of us, come!

Gimli stumbles and rolls to the ground.

LEGOLAS
Come Gimli! We are gaining on them.

GIMLI
I'm wasted on cross-country. We dwarves
are natural sprinters. Very dangerous
over short distances.

The three of them come over a hill and pause, gazing across
the plains.

ARAGORN
Rohan. Home of the horse-lords.
There's something strange at work here.
Some evil gives speed to these
creatures, sets its will against us.
Legolas! What do your elf eyes see?

Legolas scans the landscape before him.

LEGOLAS

The Uruks turn Northeast. They are
taking the hobbits to Isengard!

ARAGORN

Saruman.

Scene 6
The Burnings of the Westfold

The scene changes to Isengard.
Saruman is standing in his chamber, his palm over the Palantír.

SARUMAN

The world is changing.
Who now has the strength to stand
against the armies of Isengard and
Mordor.
To stand against the might of Sauron and
Saruman, and the union of the Two
Towers.
Together, My Lord Sauron, we shall rule
this Middle-Earth.

View changes to the tower of Barad-dûr, showing orcs
matching across a bridge.
On top of the tower of Barad-dûr sits the Eye of Sauron.
Orcs are working in the caverns of Isengard.

SARUMAN (V.O.)

The old world will burn in the fires of
industry. Forests will fall. A new order
will rise. We will drive the machinery
of war with the sword and the spear and
the iron fist of the orcs.

SARUMAN

We have only to remove those who oppose
us.
I want them armed and ready to march
within two weeks!

Saruman surveys the pits of Isengard.

ORC

But my Lord, there are too many! They
cannot all be armed in time, we don't
have the means.

SARUMAN

Build a dam, block the stream, work the
furnaces night and day.

ORC

We don't have enough fuel to feed the
fires.

SARUMAN

The Forest of Fangorn lies on our
doorstep. Burn it.

ORC

Yes!

Saruman's holds an audience in his chamber.

DUNLENDING

We will fight for you.

SARUMAN

Swear it.

Dunlending cuts his hand with a large knife. Blood drips out of his fist.

DUNLENDING

We will die for Saruman.

Saruman is standing in the middle of a group of Wildmen, who are holding torches and weapons.

SARUMAN

The horsemen took your lands. They drove your people into the hills to scratch the living off rocks. Take back the lands they stole from you. Burn every village!

The group murmurs in agreement.
The crowd roars with approval.

SARUMAN (V.O.)

It will begin in Rohan. Too long have these peasants stood against you. But no more.

The Wildmen and orcs attack a village.
A woman calls out to her children.

MOTHER

Èothan, Èothan! You take your sister.
You'll go faster with just two.

She puts a little girl onto the horse in front of her brother.

FREDA

But Papa says Èothan must not ride Garold. She's too big for him!

MOTHER

Listen to me! You must ride to Edoras and raise the alarm. Do you understand me?!

ÈOTHAN

Yes mama!

FREDA

(crying)

I don't want to leave! I don't wanna go!

MOTHER

Listen to me. I will find you there.

Quickly!

Go child!

She looks as her children ride away.
The army sets fire to the village. Èothan and Freda look
back from a distance.

SARUMAN (V.O.)

Rohan, my lord, is ready to fall.

Scene 7
Massacre at the Fords of Isen

On the banks of the Isen river, bodies of men and horses lie in the rain. Men on horseback approach.

ÈOMER
Théodred. Find the king's son!

RIDER #1
Mordor will pay for this.

ÈOMER
These Orcs are not from Mordor.

Èomer kicks over a dead Orc, revealing a white handprint on its armor.

RIDER #2
My Lord Èomer. Over here!

Èomer rushes to Theodred and turns him over.

EOMER
He's alive!

Scene 8
The Banishment of Éomer

The group of horsemen ride across the plain. Éomer carries a wounded Théodred in front of him.
A woman runs up the stairs to the Golden Hall of Meduseld and enters a chamber where Éomer has taken Théodred.
She kneels in front of the bed.

ÉOWYN

Théodred!
Your son is badly wounded my lord.

Éomer gives his sister a meaningful look, and Éowyn draws back the covers and sees that Théodred's wound is fatal.
The two are with king Théoden, who is sitting motionless on his throne, looking aged beyond his years.

ÉOMER

He was ambushed by orcs. If we don't defend our country, Saruman will take it by force.

GRÍMA

That is a lie!
Saruman the White has ever been our friend and ally.

Gríma appears from the shadows and walks to the king.
Théoden mumbles feebly to Gríma, who leans closer to the King.

ÉOMER

Orcs are roaming freely across our lands. Unchecked, unchallenged, killing at will.
Orcs bearing the white hand of Saruman.

Éomer drops a helmet onto the ground. It has the white hand print on it.

GRÍMA

Why do you lay these troubles on an already troubled mind?
Can you not see? Your uncle is wearied by your malcontent, your warmongering.

ÉOMER

Warmongering?!
How long is it since Saruman bought you? What was the promised price, Gríma? When all the men are dead you would take a share of the treasure?
Too long have you watched my sister. Too long have you haunted her steps.

Èomer grabs Gríma and pushes him against a pillar. Gríma's eyes flick to right, watching Èowyn as she walks by, who stops to stare back for a moment before departing. Èomer jerks Gríma again and clutches his hand around Gríma's jaw. Gríma's eyes look to the left and he relaxes, and Èomer is pulled off Gríma by guards.

GRÍMA

You see much, Èomer son of Èomund. Too much.
You are banished forthwith from the kingdom of Rohan, and all its domains, under pain of death.

EOMER

You have no authority here. Your orders mean nothing.

GRÍMA

This order does not come from me. It comes from the king.
He signed it this morning.

Gríma displays a order with a sunburst seal and a scrawled signature.
The guards take him.

ÈOMER

Argh!

Scene 9
On the Trail of the Uruk-hai

Uruk-hai and orcs, continue to march. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli run after them.

GIMLI

Keep breathing, that's the key! Breathe!
Hooh!

LEGOLAS

They run as if the very whips of their
masters were behind them.

Scene 10
Night Camp at Fangorn

The Uruk-hai and orcs stop at nightfall.

URUK
We ain't goin' no further 'till we've
had a breather!

UGLÚK
Get a fire going!

Pippin crawls towards Merry.

PIPPIN
Merry! Merry!

MERRY
I think we might have made a mistake,
leaving the Shire, Pippin.

As the orcs chop at the trees, low groans and rumbles come from the forest.

PIPPIN
What's making that noise?

MERRY
It's the trees.

PIPPIN
What?

MERRY
You remember the Old Forest? On the
borders of Buckland? Folks used to say
that there was something in the water
that made the trees grow tall, and come
alive.

PIPPIN
Alive?

MERRY
Trees that could whisper, talk to each
other. Even move.

URUK
I'm starving. We ain't had nothing but
maggoty bread for three stinking days!

SNAGA
Yeah! Why can't we have some meat?
What about them? They're fresh!

The orc rests his eyes on the hobbits.

UGLÚK

They are not for eating!

GRISHNÁK

What about their legs? They don't need those. Ooh! They look tasty!

UGLÚK

Get back, scum! The prisoners go to Saruman. Alive and unspoiled.

GRISHNAKH

Alive? Why alive? Do they give good sport?

UGLÚK

They have something. An Elvish weapon. The master wants it for the war.

PIPPIN

They think we have the Ring.

MERRY

Shhh! As soon as they find out we don't, we're dead.

SNAGA

Just a mouthful. A bit off the flank.

Uglúk cuts off Snaga's head.

UGLÚK

Looks like meat's back on the menu, boys!

The Uruk-hai pile on the dead orc.

MERRY

Pippin, let's go!

The hobbits try to crawl away, but Pippin is caught by Grishnák.

GRISHNÁK

Go on, call for help. Squeal! No one's gonna save you now!

A spear pierces the orc's back. Riders burst out and attack the orcs.

MERRY

Pippin!

The hobbits head towards the forest. Suddenly Pippin turns and looks up at a pair of thrashing hooves bearing down on him.

PIPPIN

Argh!

Scene 11
The Riders of Rohan

It is dawn. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli are running.

LEGOLAS
A red sun rises. Blood has been spilt
this night.

The sound of horses is heard.
The three hide. A large group of cavalry appear.
Aragorn comes out of hiding as they pass, Legolas and Gimli
behind him.

ARAGORN
Riders of Rohan! What news from the
Mark?

At a signal from Èomer, the riders make a quick turn and
head towards the three companions, encircling them. As they
stop, they point their spears at them.

ÈOMER
What business does an elf, a man and a
dwarf have in the Riddermark?
Speak quickly!

GIMLI
Give me your name, horsemaster, and I
shall give you mine.

Èomer gets off his horse. Aragorn puts a hand on Gimli's
shoulder.

ÈOMER
I would cut off your head - dwarf - if
it stood but a little higher from the
ground.

Legolas quickly aims an arrow at Èomer.

LEGOLAS
You would die before your stroke fell!

Aragorn pushes down Legolas' arm.

ARAGORN
I'm Aragorn, son of Arathorn.
This is Gimli, son of Glóin, and
Legolas, from the Woodland realm.
We are friends of Rohan and of Théoden,
your king.

ÈOMER

Théoden no longer recognizes friend from
foe.
Not even his own kin.
Saruman has poisoned the mind of the
king and claimed lordship over this
land. My company are those loyal to
Rohan. And for that, we are banished.
The White Wizard is cunning. He walks
here and there they say, as an old man,
hooded and cloaked.
And everywhere his spies slip past our
nets.

Èomer removes his helmet.
The spears are withdrawn.
Èomer gives Legolas a meaningful look.

ARAGORN

We are no spies. We track a band of
Uruk-hai westward across the plains.
They have taken two of our friends
captive.

ÈOMER

The Uruks are destroyed. We slaughtered
them during the night.

GIMLI

But there were two hobbits, did you see
two hobbits with them?

ARAGORN

They would be small, only children to
your eyes.

ÈOMER

We left none alive.
We piled the carcasses and burned them.

Èomer points to smoke in the distance.

GIMLI

Dead?

ÈOMER

(nods)
I am sorry.

Legolas rests a hand on Gimli.
Èomer whistles.

ÈOMER (CONT'D)

Hasufel! Arod!

May these horses bear you to better
fortune than the former masters.

(nods)

ewell.

Look for your friends, but do not trust
the hope. It has forsaken these lands.

We ride north!

Two horses appear.

Èomer mounts his horse.

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli look on as the Riders depart.

Scene 12
The Fate of Merry and Pippin

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli ride towards the burning carcasses.
Gimli starts to go through pile and pulls out a charred belt.

GIMLI
It's one of their little belts.

Legolas bows his head and closes his eyes.

LEGOLAS
Hiro hyn hîdh ab wanath.

[May they find peace in death.]

Aragorn kicks at an orc helmet. He yells as if physically injured as he falls to his knees.

GIMLI
We failed them.

Aragorn looks to the side and tracks catch his attention.

ARAGORN
A Hobbit lay here, and the other.
They crawled.
Their hands were bound.
Their bonds were cut.
They ran over here... and were followed.

Pippin yells as he looks up at a pair of thrashing hooves bearing down on him. He rolls over, avoiding them.
Aragorn starts to follow the tracks, with Legolas and Gimli behind him.
Merry and Pippin crawl away from the battle.
Pippin rubs his bonds against an axe.
Aragorn holds up a broken rope.
The hobbits run away from the battle, dodging under a horse.
As they flee, Grishnák grabs Pippin by his belt.

MERRY
The belt! Run!

Pippin undoes his belt and the hobbits run off into the trees.

ARAGORN
The tracks lead away from the battle!
Into... Fangorn Forest.

The three look up into a very dense forest.

GIMLI

Fangorn! What madness drove them in
there?

Scene 13
Treebeard

The hobbits run in to the forest. They collapse onto the ground, panting.

PIPPIN

Did we lose him? I think we lost him.

Grishnák bursts through the branches.

GRISHNÁK

I'm gonna rip off your filthy little
heads! Come here!

MERRY

Trees! Climb a tree!
He's gone.

The hobbits climb. Merry looks around and then sighs in relief.

Merry is pulled by his legs and falls to the ground.
Grishnák leans over him. Merry tries to kick him off.

PIPPIN

Merry!
Argh!

Pippin looks down and as he turns his head, he sees a pair of gleaming yellow eyes blinking in the tree.
The tree then starts to move.
Pippin loses his grip and falls. The tree catches him before he hits the ground.

GRISHNÁK

Let's put a maggot hole in your belly.

The tree stomps and squashes the orc.

PIPPIN

Run Merry!

Merry tries to run away but is scooped by the tree.

TREE

Little orcs! Búrarum.

The tree starts to walk.

PIPPIN

It's talking Merry. The tree is talking.

TREE

Tree! I am no tree! I am an Ent.

MERRY

Treeherder! A shepherd of the forest.

PIPPIN

Don't talk to it Merry. Don't encourage it.

TREE

Treebeard some call me.

PIPPIN

And whose side are you on?

TREEBEARD

Side? I am on nobody's side. Because nobody is on my side, little orc. Nobody cares for the woods anymore.

MERRY

We are not orcs. We are Hobbits!

TREEBEARD

Hobbits? Never heard of a Hobbit before. Sounds like orc mischief to me. They come with fire, they come with axes. Biting, breaking, hacking, burning. Destroyers and usurpers. Curse them!

He strengthens his hold on the hobbits.

MERRY

No! You don't understand. We are Hobbits, halflings. Shirefolk!

TREEBEARD

Maybe you are, and maybe you aren't. The White Wizard will know.

PIPPIN

White Wizard?

MERRY

Saruman!

Treebeard drops them on the ground and the Hobbits look up at a White Wizard.

Scene 14
The Passage of the Marshes

Frodo and Sam follow Gollum through rocky terrain.

GOLLUM

See, see, we've led you out! Hurry
hobbitises, hurry. Very lucky we find
you.
Nice Hobbit.

Gollum jumps on a rock. Frodo walks past and Gollum cowers
as Sam nears.

Sam steps in to the swamp.

SAM

Whoa! It's a bog! He's led us into a
swamp!

GOLLUM

Swamp, yes yes. Come master. We will
take you on safe paths, through the
mist. Come Hobbits come! We move
quickly.
I found it. I did. The way through the
marshes. Orcs don't use it. Orcs don't
know it. They go round for miles and
miles. Come quickly. Soft and quick as
shadows we must be.

Gollum looks back and gestures for the hobbits to follow
him.

Frodo, Sam, and Gollum have stopped to rest. Gollum eats a
large worm, causing Sam to lose his appetite.

SAM

I hate this place. It's too quiet.
There's been no sight nor sound of a
bird for two days.

GOLLUM

No, no birdses to eat. No crunchable
birdses. We are famished! Yes! Famished
we are, precious.

FRODO

Here.

Frodo throws Gollum a piece of his bread.

GOLLUM

What does it eats? Is it tasty?
Aggh! It tries to chokes us! We can't
eats Hobbit food! We must starve!

Gollum chokes on the Elven bread.

SAM

Well starve then, and good riddance!

GOLLUM

Oh! Cruel Hobbit! It does not care if we be hungry. It does not care if we should die. Not like Master. Master cares. Master knows.
Yes, precious. Once it takes hold of us it never lets go.

Gollum reaches towards Frodo.

FRODO

Don't touch me.

Little fires burn in the swamp. Sam sees faces under the water.

SAM

There are dead things! Dead faces in the water!

GOLLUM

All dead. All rotten. Elves and men and orcses. A great battle long ago. The Dead Marshes. Yes, yes! That is their name. This way. don't follow the lights.

Gollum turns to face the hobbits.
Sam's foot slips again into the water.

SAM

Ohh!

GOLLUM

Careful now! Or Hobbits go down to join the dead ones, and light little candles of their own.

Frodo is in half-trance and follows the lights, drawn to one of the faces. He stares at it intently. Suddenly its eyes open and Frodo falls into the water.

SAM

Frodo!

Under the surface, Frodo sees greenish, ghotsly faces, screaming and reaching for him. Frodo is then pulled ashore by Gollum. Frodo looks at Gollum in disbelief.

FRODO

Gollum?

GOLLUM

Don't follow the lights!

SAM

Frodo! are you all right?

Frodo lies panting, looking at Gollum.

Night has fallen. Sam is asleep, but Frodo is awake. He holds the Ring in the palm of his hand, staring at it and stroking it.

GOLLUM

So bright, so beautiful.
Our Precious.

Frodo hides the Ring and looks up to see Gollum stroking the center of his palm.

FRODO

What did you say?

GOLLUM

Master should be resting. Master needs
to keep up his strength.

Frodo moves over and crouches in front of Gollum.

FRODO

Who are you?

GOLLUM

Mustn't ask us, not its business.
Gollum... Gollum...

FRODO

Gandalf told me you were one of the
River Folk.

GOLLUM

Cold be heart and hand and bone. And
called be travelers far from home.

FRODO

He said your life was a sad story.

GOLLUM

They do not see what lies ahead when sun
has failed and moon is dead.

FRODO

You were not so different from a Hobbit
once were you? - Sméagol.

Gollum looks up slowly.

GOLLUM

What did you call me?

FRODO

That was your name once, wasn't it? A
long time ago.

GOLLUM

My - My name... Smé - Sméagol.

Gollum notices something overhead and screams.

SAM

Black Riders!

GOLLUM

Hide! Hide!

FRODO

Argh!

Argh!

Frodo feels a sharp pain in his shoulder. Images of the
Ringwraiths comes to him in flashes.

SAM

C'mon Frodo, C'mon!

GOLLUM

They will see us! They will see us!

Frodo clutches at the Ring on his chest. Sam drags him
across to hide beneath a bush.
The Nazgûl appears riding a flying beast.

SAM

I thought they were dead?!

GOLLUM

Dead? No, you cannot kill them. No.
Wraiths! Wraiths on wings!
They are calling for It. They are
calling for the Precious!

The Nazgûl lets out a loud scream.
The call of the Ring is very powerful and Frodo is taken
over by it and tries to put the Ring on.
Sam grabs hold of Frodo's hand just as he reaches for the
Ring and holds his hand.

SAM

It's all right.

The Nazgûl continues to circle, then flies away.

GOLLUM

Hurry Hobbits. The Black Gate is very close.

Scene 15
The White Rider

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli are in the Fangorn Forest. Gimli tastes some liquid on a leaf, then spits it out.

GIMLI

Orc blood!

ARAGORN

These are strange tracks.

GIMLI

The air is so close here.

LEGOLAS

This forest is old. Very old. Full of
memory... and anger .
The trees are speaking to each other.

Bass voices are heard from the trees. Gimli raises his axe.

ARAGORN

Gimli!

GIMLI

Huh?

ARAGORN

Lower your axe.

GIMLI

Oh!

LEGOLAS

They have feelings, my friend. The Elves
began it: waking up the trees, teaching
them to speak.

GIMLI

Talking trees. What do trees have to
talk about, hmm? Except the consistency
of squirrel droppings.

LEGOLAS

Aragorn, nad no ennas!

[Something is out there!]

ARAGORN

Man cenich?

[What do you see?]

Legolas' eyes dart to his right.

LEGOLAS
The White Wizard approaches.

ARAGORN
Do not let him speak. He will put a
spell on us!
We must be quick.

Aragorn wraps his hand around the hilt of his sword, Gimli tightens his hold on his axe, and Legolas fingers his arrow. The three turn around to attack, but are blinded by a bright light emanating from the White Wizard.

GIMLI
Argh!

Gimli's axe and Legolas' arrow are deflected and Aragorn drops his sword as it becomes hot in his grasp.

WIZARD
(Saruman's voice)
You are tracking the footsteps of two
young Hobbits.

ARAGORN
Where are they?

WIZARD
They passed this way, the day before
yesterday. They met someone they did not
expect. Does that comfort you?

ARAGORN
Who are you? Show yourself!
It cannot be!

The light dims, revealing Gandalf, dressed in white. Legolas bows before Gandalf, Gimli following him.

LEGOLAS
Forgive me. I mistook you for Saruman.

GANDALF
I am Saruman. Or rather Saruman as he
should have been.

ARAGORN
You fell!

GANDALF
Through fire. And water.
From the lowest dungeon to the highest
peak, I fought him, the Balrog of
Morgoth.

(MORE)

GANDALF (CONT'D)

Until at last, I threw down my enemy and
smote his ruin upon the mountainside.
Darkness took me. And I strayed out of
thought and time.
Stars wheeled overhead, and every day
was as long as the life age of the
earth.
But it was not the end. I felt light in
me again.
I've been sent back until my task is
done.

Flashback: Gandalf is fighting with the Balrog.
Gandalf holds up Glamdring, a flash of lightning strikes it
and he thrusts the sword into the Balrog.
The Balrog falls from the peak, dead.
Gandalf collapses.
Gandalf's eye becomes a realm of stars, ending in a white
light.
Gandalf is now naked. His hair has turned white. He shudders
with a deep gasp as life returns to him.

ARAGORN

Gandalf!

GANDALF

Gandalf? Oh yes. That's what they used
to call me. Gandalf the Grey. That was
my name.

GIMLI

Gandalf!

GANDALF

I am Gandalf the White.
And I come back to you now, at the turn
of the tide.

They walk along the forest.

GANDALF

One stage of your journey is over,
another begins. War has come to Rohan.
We must ride to Edoras with all speed.

GIMLI

Edoras? That is no short distance!

ARAGORN

We hear of trouble in Rohan. It goes ill
with the king.

GANDALF

Yes, and it will not be easily cured.

GIMLI

Then we have run all this way for nothing? Are we to leave those poor hobbits here in this horrid, dark, dank tree-infested...

I mean charming, quite charming forest.

The trees rumble.

GANDALF

It was more than mere chance that brought Merry and Pippin to Fangorn. A great power has been sleeping here for many long years. The coming of Merry and Pippin will be like the falling of small stones that starts an avalanche in the mountains.

ARAGORN

In one thing you have not changed, dear friend.

GANDALF

Hmm?

ARAGORN

You still speak in riddles.

Aragorn and Gandalf laugh.

GANDALF

A thing is about to happen here that has not happened since the Elder Days. The Ents are going to wake up and find that they are strong.

GIMLI:

Strong? Oh, that's good.

GANDALF

So stop your fretting Master Dwarf. Merry and Pippin are quite safe. In fact, they are far safer than you are about to be.

GIMLI

This new Gandalf's more grumpy than the old one.

Outside the forest, Gandalf whistles piercingly. An answering neigh is heard and a white horse appears from the plain.

LEGOLAS

That is one of the Mearas, unless my
eyes are cheated by some spell.

The horse stops in front of Gandalf.

GANDALF

Shadowfax.

He's the lord of all horses, and has
been my friend through many dangers.

They ride across the plains.

Scene 16
The Songs of the Entwives

Treebeard walks through the forest, carrying Merry and Pippin.

TREEBEARD

Oh rowan mine I saw you shine upon a
summer's day.
Upon your head how golden-red the crown
you bore aloft.
Such a beautiful verse.

Merry yawns.

MERRY

Is it much further?

TREEBEARD

Bru-ra-hroom. Don't be hasty. You might
call it far perhaps. My home lies deep
in the forest near the roots of the
mountain. I told Gandalf I would keep
you safe and, safe is where I'll keep
you. I believe you will enjoy this next
one. It is one of my own compositions.
Right, ahem.
Beneath the roof of sleeping leaves and
the dreams of trees unfold
When woodland halls are green and cool,
and the wind is in the west
Come back to me. Come back to me, And
say my land is best.
Oh, oh. Sleep little Shirelings. Heed no
nightly noise. Sleep 'til morning light.
I have business in the forest. There are
many to call. Many that must come. The
shadow lies on Fangorn. The withering of
all woods is drawing near. The trees
have grown wild and dangerous. Anger
festers in their hearts. They will harm
you if they can. There are too few of us
now. Too few of us left to manage them.

Merry and Pippin have fallen asleep.

Scene 17
The Heir of Númenor

Gandalf and Aragorn survey the night sky.

GANDALF

The veiling shadow that glowers in the East takes shape. Sauron will suffer no rival. From the summit of Barad-Dûr his Eye watches ceaselessly. But he is not so mighty yet that he is above fear. Doubt ever gnaws at him. The rumor has reached him: the heir of Númenor still lives. Sauron fears you, Aragorn. He fears what you may become. And so he'll strike hard and fast at the world of men.

He will use his puppet Saruman to destroy Rohan. War is coming. Rohan must defend itself and therein lies our first challenge, for Rohan is weak and ready to fall. The King's mind is enslaved. It's an old device of Saruman's. His hold over King Théoden is now very strong. Sauron and Saruman are tightening the noose.

But for all their cunning, we have one advantage. The Ring remains hidden, and that we should seek to destroy it has not yet entered their darkest dreams. And so the weapon of the enemy is moving towards Mordor in the hands of a hobbit. Each day brings it closer to the fires of Mount Doom. We must trust now in Frodo. Everything depends upon speed and the secrecy of his quest. Do not regret your decision to leave him. Frodo must finish this task alone.

ARAGORN

He is not alone. Sam went with him.

GANDALF

Did he? Did he indeed? Good. Yes, very good.

Scene 18
The Black Gate is Closed

Frodo and Sam have reach the Black Gate.

GOLLUM
 The Black Gate of Mordor!

SAM
 My old Gaffer would have a thing or two
 to say if he saw this.

GOLLUM
 Master says show him the way into
 Mordor, so good Sméagol does, master
 says so.

FRODO
 I did.

There are orcs patrolling at the Gate.

SAM
 That's it then. We cannot get past them.

An army of Easterling soldiers march to the Black Gate,
 yelling a call-and-response marching song.

EASTERLINGS
 Za dashu snaku Zigur, Durbgu nazgshu,
 Durbgu dashshu!

[Hail, Sauron, Lord of the Ring, Lord of
 the Earth!]

Gollum is terrified and covers his ears. A command is heard
 and an orc blows in to a horn.
 Two trolls pull the gate open.

SAM
 Look! The gate, it's opening!
 I can see a way down.

Sam moves closer to the edge and leans forward.
 The rock under him gives way and Sam falls.

FRODO
 Sam! No!

SAM
 Argh!

Frodo jumps down after Sam.

GOLLUM

Master!

Two Easterling soldiers see streams of dust coming down the cliff, and move away to investigate. Frodo reaches Sam, who is stuck in the scree. The Easterlings move closer. Frodo throws his elvish cloak over himself and Sam. The soldiers stand directly in front of the hobbits. The soldiers leave, and Frodo throws back the cloak and pulls Sam out.

FRODO

I do not ask you to come with me, Sam.

SAM

I know, Mister Frodo. I doubt even these Elvish cloaks will help us in there.

They prepare to make a run for the Gate.

FRODO

Now!

Gollum pulls them back.

GOLLUM

No! No! No Master! They'd catch you! They'd catch you. Don't take it to Him. He wants the Precious. Always he's looking for it. And the Precious is wanting to go back to him. But we mustn't let Him have it. No! There is another way. More secret, and dark way.

Frodo tries to make a run for it again, but Gollum pulls him back.

SAM

Why haven't you spoke of this before?!

GOLLUM

Because Master did not ask!

SAM

He's up to something.

FRODO

Are you saying that there is another way to Mordor?

GOLLUM

Yes. There's a path, and some stairs and
then a tunnel.

Gollum strokes Frodo's arm and buries his face in Frodo's
cloak.

FRODO

He's led us this far Sam.

SAM

Mister Frodo, no!

FRODO

He's been true to his word.

SAM

No!

FRODO

Lead the way Sméagol.
Good Sméagol always helps.

Sam stares at Frodo in disbelief.

Scene 19
Ent Draft

Merry awakes in a forest glade.
Pippin is drinking from a stone dish.

MERRY

Hello? Treebeard? Where has he gone?

PIPPIN

I had the loveliest dream last night.
There was this large barrel, full of
pipe-weed. And we smoked all of it. And
then you were sick. I'd give anything
for a whiff of Old Toby.

A groan is heard.

MERRY

Did you hear that? There it is again.
Something's not right here. Not right at
all.
You just said something... treeish.

Pippin gives a growling burp.

PIPPIN

No I didn't. I was just stretching.

Pippin stretches and two more groans come from him.

MERRY

You're taller.

PIPPIN

Who?

MERRY

You!

PIPPIN

Than what?

MERRY

Than me!

PIPPIN

I've always been taller than you.

MERRY

Pippin, everyone knows I'm the tall one.
You're the short one.

PIPPIN

Please, Merry. You're what, three-foot-six? At the most? Whereas me, I'm pushing three-seven, three-eight.

MERRY

Three-foot-eight? You did something.

Merry grabs the stone bowl and drinks.

PIPPIN

Merry, don't! Don't drink it. Merry! Treebeard said that you shouldn't have any.

MERRY

I want some!

PIPPIN

It could be dangerous! Give it back! Merry!
What's happening?

The hobbits trip over the roots of a tree. The roots begin to close in on them.

MERRY

Gah! It's got my leg!

PIPPIN

Merry!
Help!

The tree roots cover them up.
Treebeard approaches the tree.

TREEBEARD

Away with you. You should not be waking. Eat earth. Dig deep. Drink water. Go to sleep. Away with you. Come, the forest is waking up. It isn't safe.

The tree releases the hobbits.

Treebeard is carrying the hobbits through the forest.

TREEBEARD (CONT'D)

The trees have grown wild and dangerous. Anger festers in their hearts. Black are their thoughts. Strong is their hate. They will harm you if they can. There are too few of us now, too few of us Ents left to manage them.

PIPPIN

Why are there so few of you when you
have lived so long? Are there Ent
children?

TREEBEARD

Bru-ha-hroom. There have been no Entings
for a terrible long count of years.

MERRY

Why is that?

TREEBEARD

We lost the Entwives.

PIPPIN

Oh, I'm sorry. How did they die?

TREEBEARD

Die, no. We lost them. And now we cannot
find them. I don't suppose you've seen
Entwives in the Shire?

MERRY

Can't say that I have. You Pip?

PIPPIN

What do they look like?

TREEBEARD

I don't remember, now.

Scene 20
The King of the Golden Hall

Gandalf, Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli approach Edoras.

GANDALF

Edoras and the Golden Hall of Meduseld.
 There dwells Théoden, King of Rohan,
 whose mind is overthrown. Saruman's hold
 over King Théoden is now very strong.

The scene changes to Éowyn, who is kneeling before Théoden.

ÉOWYN

My lord, you son, he is dead. My lord?
 Uncle? Will you not go to him? Will you
 do nothing.

GANDALF

Be careful what you say. Do not look for
 welcome here.

Éowyn is crying by Théodred's bed, where the dead man lies.
 Gríma enters the room.

GRÍMA

Oh he, he must have died sometime in the
 night. What a tragedy for the king to
 lose his only son and heir.
 I understand his passing is hard to
 accept, especially now that your brother
 has deserted you.

ÉOWYN

Leave me alone snake!

GRÍMA

Oh but you are alone!
 Who knows what you have spoken to the
 darkness. In bitter watches of the
 night. When all your life seems to
 shrink. The walls of your bower closing
 in about you. A hatch to trammel some
 wild thing.
 So fair, so cold, like a morning pale
 spring still clinging to winter's chill.

Gríma touches Éowyn's cheek.

ÉOWYN

(regaining herself)
 Your words are poison.

Éowyn runs out of the hall. She sees Gandalf and the others.
 A flag rips off the pole and floats down, landing near

Aragorn.
 The company approaches the hall.
 They receive sidelong looks from the villagers.
 Aragorn sees Éowyn standing at the hall.
 They receive more suspicious looks.

GIMLI
 You'll find more cheer in a graveyard.

Guards approach the company as they climb the stairs to the hall.

GANDALF
 Ah.

HÁMA
 I cannot allow you before Théoden king
 so armed, Gandalf Grayhame. By order
 of... Gríma Wormtongue.
 Your staff.

With a nod from Gandalf, Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli give their many weapons to the guards.

GANDALF
 Eh? Oh. No, you would not part an old
 man from his walking stick?

Háma thinks a moment, gives Gandalf a knowing look, then allows him to pass.
 Gandalf winks and takes Legolas' hand as they enter the hall.

Gríma is at the King's side.

GRÍMA
 My lord. Gandalf the Grey is coming. He
 is a herald of woe.

GANDALF
 The courtesy of your hall is somewhat
 lessened of late, Théoden King.

Guards follow Gandalf and his party.

GRÍMA
 He is not welcome.

THÉODEN
 Why should I welcome you, Gandalf
 Stormcrow?

GRÍMA

A just question my liege.
Late is the hour in which this conjurer
chooses to appear. Lathspell I name him.
Ill news is in ill guest.

Gríma stands up.

GANDALF

Be silent! Keep your forked tongue
behind you teeth. I have not passed
through fire and death to bandy crooked
words with a witless worm!

Gandalf raises his staff.

GRÍMA

His staff! I told you to take the
wizard's staff!

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli fight the guards, allowing
Gandalf to walk to Théoden. One of the king's guards moves
to draw his sword, but is stopped by Háma.

GANDALF

Théoden, Son of Thengel. Too long have
you sat in the shadows.

Gimli knocks down Gríma and puts a foot on his chest.

GIMLI

I would stay still if I were you.

GANDALF

Harken to me! I release you from the
spell.

THÉODEN

(laughs)

You have no power here Gandalf the Grey.

The King continues laughing. Gandalf throws aside his grey
robe, revealing his white clothes.
Théoden, startled, leans back in his throne.

GANDALF

I will draw you, Saruman, as poison is
drawn from a wound.

Gandalf points his staff at Théoden, who squirms in his
throne.

THÉODEN

Aah!

Èowyn rushes in and tries to go to Théoden, but is stopped by Aragorn.

ARAGORN

Wait.

THÉODEN

(Saruman's voice)

If I go - Théoden dies.

Gandalf again points at Théoden with his staff, and the King flies against his throne.

GANDALF

You did not kill me. You will not kill him.

THÉODEN

(Saruman's voice)

Rohan is mine!

GANDALF

Be gone!

Théoden jumps up at Gandalf, yelling, but flies back. Saruman flies backwards in his chamber at Orthanc. Èowyn rushes to Théoden, whose face begins to change, and soon he looks normal again.

THÉODEN

I know your face. Èowyn - Èowyn. Gandalf?

GANDALF

Breathe the free air again, my friend.

THÉODEN

Dark have been my dreams of late.

GANDALF

Your fingers would remember their old strength better - if they grasped your sword.

Háma brings the King his sword and Théoden draws it. Théoden examines his sword, then turns his gaze towards a cowering Gríma.

Gríma is thrown out of the hall, and rolls down the stairs.

GRÍMA

Argh! I've only ever served you my lord.

THÉODEN

Your leechcraft would have had me
crawling on all fours like a beast!

GRÍMA

Send me not from your side!

Théoden raises his sword to kill Gríma, but is stopped by Aragorn.

ARAGORN

No my lord! No my lord. Let him go.
Enough blood has been spilt on his
account.

Aragorn holds out his hand to Gríma.
Gríma spits on it and runs off through the crowd.

GRÍMA

Get out of my way!

ARAGORN

Hail, Théoden, King!

Gríma rides out of Edoras.
The crowd kneels before the King.

THÉODEN

Where is Théodred? Where is my son?

Scene 21
The Funeral of Théodred

Rohirrim are gathered for Théodred's funeral.
 Théodred's body is carried toward the tomb on a bier made of
 shields and spears.
 Éowyn sings while the men pass the body to the women, who
 place it into the tomb.

ÉOWYN

Bealocwealm hafað fréone frecan forth
 onsended
 giedd sculon singan gléomenn sorgiende

[An evil death has set forth the noble
 warrior
 A song shall sing sorrowing minstrels]

on Meduselde þæt he ma no wære,
 Þæt he ma nowere is, þurh niedig rest.

[in Meduseld that he is no more,
 That he is nowhere anymore, for his
 necessary rest.]

And mægen deorost.
 Bealo...

[And that he is the dearest kinsman.
 Killing took him...]

Scene 22
Simbelmynë on the Burial Mounds

Théoden stands, with Gandalf, at his son's shut tomb.

THÉODEN

Simbelmynë, ever has it grown on the
 tombs of my forebears. Now it shall
 cover the grave of my son.
 Alas, that these evil days should be
 mine. The young perish and the old
 linger. That I should live to see the
 last days of my house.

GANDALF

Théodred's death was not of your making.

THÉODEN

No parent should have to bury their
 child.

Théoden starts to cry and covers his face.

GANDALF

He was strong in life. His spirit will
 find its way to the halls of your
 fathers.
 Westu hál. Ferðu, Théodred, Ferðu.

[Be-thou well. Go-thou, Théodred, go-
 thou.]

Gandalf turns and sees Èothain and Freda riding a horse.
 Èothain falls off the horse.

Scene 23
The King's Decision

Inside the Golden Hall the two children are eating. Éowyn is by their side.

ÉOWYN

They had no warning. They were unarmed.
Now the Wildmen are moving through
westfold, burning as they go, every
rick, cot and tree.

FREDA

Where's mama?

ÉOWYN

Hush.

GANDALF

This is but a taste of the terror that
Saruman will unleash. All the more
potent for he is driven mad by the fear
of Sauron.
Ride out and meet him head on. Draw him
away from your women and children. You
must fight.

ARAGORN

You have two thousand good men riding
north as we speak. Éomer is loyal to
you. His men will return and fight for
their king.

THÉODEN

They will be three hundred leagues from
here by now! Éomer cannot help us.
I know what is that you want of me. But
I would not bring further death to my
people. I will not risk open war.

ARAGORN

Open war is upon you, whether would risk
it or not.

Théoden walks to Aragorn.

THÉODEN

When last I looked, Théoden, not
Aragorn, was king of Rohan.

GIMLI

Burp!

GANDALF

Then what is the king's decision?

People gather outside the Golden Hall.

HÁMA

By order of the King, the city must empty. We make for the refuge of Helm's Deep. Do not burden yourself with treasures. Take only what provisions you need.

GIMLI

Helm's Deep! They flee to the mountains when they should stand and fight. Who will defend them if not their king?

They enter the stables.

ARAGORN

He is only doing what he thinks is best for his people. Helm's Deep has saved them in the past.

GANDALF

There is no way out than that of ravine. Théoden is walking into a trap. He thinks he is leading them to safety, but what he'll get is a massacre. Théoden has a strong hold but I fear for him. I fear for the survival of Rohan. He will need you before the end, Aragorn. The people of Rohan will need you. The defenses have to hold.

ARAGORN

They will hold.

Gandalf turns to Shadowfax.

GANDALF

The Grey Pilgrim. That is what they used to call me. Three hundred lives of men I've walked this earth and now, I have no time. Good luck. My search will not be in vain. Look to my coming, at first light, on the fifth day. At dawn, look to the East.

ARAGORN

Go.

Shadowfax sprints out of the stable.

Scene 24
Brego

In the stables, a horse rears. Two men with ropes try to control him.
Aragorn approaches.

ROHAN MAN

That horse is half mad, my lord. There's
nothing you can do. Leave him.

Aragorn speaks to the horse in Rohirric and Elvish. He takes one of the ropes and it stops rearing. One of the men leaves. Aragorn unties it from the bridle. He continues speaking softly and the horse becomes gentle. The other man leaves.

ARAGORN

Fæste, stille nú, fæste, stille nú. Lac
is drefed, gefrægon.

[Fast, quiet now, fast, quiet now. A
battle is stirred up, they heard.]

Hwæt nemnað ðe?

[What is your name?]

ÈOWYN

His name is Brego. He was my cousin's
horse.

ARAGORN

Brego? Ðin nama is cynglic.

[Brego? Your name is kingly.]

Man le trasta, Brego?

[What troubles you, Brego?]

Man cenich?

[What did you see?]

ÈOWYN

I've heard of the magic of Elves, but I
did not look for it in a Ranger from the
North. You speak as one of their own.

ARAGORN

I was raised in Rivendell, for a time.
Turn this fellow free. He has seen
enough of war.

Scene 25
The Ring of Barahir

Gríma rides up to Isengard. Inside Orthanc, Saruman listens.

SARUMAN

Gandalf the White. Gandalf the fool!
Does he seek to humble me with his
newfound piety?

GRÍMA

There were three who followed the
wizard. An Elf, a Dwarf and a Man.

SARUMAN

(sniffs)

You stink of horse. The man, was he from
Gondor?

GRÍMA

No, from the North. One of the Dúnedain
Rangers I thought he was.
His cloth was spoor. And yet he bore a
strange ring. Two serpents with emerald
eyes. One devouring, the other crowned
with golden flowers.

Saruman flips through a book to an illustration of this
ring.

SARUMAN

The Ring of Barahir. So Gandalf Greyhame
thinks he's found Isildur's heir, the
lost King of Gondor. He is a fool. The
line was broken years ago.
It matters not. The world of Men shall
fall. It will begin at Edoras.

He snaps the book shut.

Refugees begin streaming out of Edoras. Inside Théoden's
chamber, the king prepares to leave.

THÉODEN

I am ready, Gamling. Bring my horse.
This is not a defeat. We will return.
We will return.

Gamling turns to leave, but is stopped by Théoden.
Gamling leaves, leaving the king to himself.

Scene 26
A Daughter of Kings

Inside the hall, Éowyn opens a chest and takes out a sword. She practices with it and swings around. Aragorn blocks her swing.

ARAGORN

You have some skill with a blade.

Éowyn frees her sword from Aragorn's.
Aragorn lowers his blade in respect.

ÉOWYN

Women of this country learned long ago
that those without swords may still die
upon them.
I fear neither death nor pain.

ARAGORN

What do you fear my lady?

ÉOWYN

A cage. To stay behind bars until use
and old age accept them. And all chance
of valor has gone beyond recall or
desire.

ARAGORN

You are a daughter of kings. A
shieldmaiden of Rohan. I do not think
that will be your fate.

The people of Rohan are heading towards Helm's Deep.
Théoden turns and takes one last look at Edoras.

Scene 27
Exodus from Edoras

At Isengard, Gríma talks with Saruman.

GRÍMA

Théoden will not stay at Edoras. It is vulnerable, he knows this. He will expect an attack on the city. They will flee to Helm's Deep, the great fortress of Rohan.

It is a dangerous road, take through the mountains. It will be slow.

They will have women and children with them.

Saruman walks through the depths of Isengard.

SARUMAN

Send out your Warg riders.

An Orc captain smiles menacingly. Shadows from wild beasts are shown behind him.

Scene 28
The Forests of Ithilien

Frodo, Sam and Gollum walk along a stream. Gollum tries to catch a fish.

SAM

Hey stinker! Don't go getting too far ahead!

FRODO

Why do you do that?

SAM

What?

FRODO

Call him names? Run him down all the time.

SAM

Because. Because that's what he is Mister Frodo. There's naught left in him but lies and deceit. It's the Ring he wants. It's all he cares about.

FRODO

You have no idea what it did to him. What is still doing to him. I want to help him Sam.

SAM

Why?

FRODO

Because I have to believe he can come back.

SAM

You cannot save him, Mister Frodo.

FRODO

(angrily)

What do you know about it? Nothing!

Sam walks away from Frodo.

FRODO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Sam. I don't know why I said that.

SAM

I do. It's the Ring. You can't take your eyes off it. I've seen you. You're not
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

eating. You barely sleep. It's taking a hold of you Mister Frodo. You have to fight it.

FRODO

I know what I must to do Sam. The Ring was entrusted to me. It's my task! Mine! My own!

SAM

Can't you hear yourself? Don't you know who you sound like?

Scene 29
Gollum and Sméagol

It's night, and Frodo and Sam are sleeping. Gollum is awake.
The Ring is in Frodo's fist.

GOLLUM

We wants it, we needs it. Must have the
Precious.
They stole it from us. Sneaky little
hobbitises. Wicked, tricky, false!

SMÉAGOL

No! No! Master!

GOLLUM

Yes. Precious first. They will cheat
you, hurt you, lie!

SMÉAGOL

Master's my friend.

GOLLUM

You don't have any friends. Nobody likes
you.

He covers his ears.

SMÉAGOL

Not listening. Not listening.

GOLLUM

You're a liar, and a thief.

SMÉAGOL

No.

GOLLUM

Murderer!

SMÉAGOL

Go away.

He starts to weep.

GOLLUM

Go away?!

Gollum laughs.

SMÉAGOL

I hate you, I hate you!

GOLLUM

Where would you be without me? Gollum...
Gollum... I saved us. It was me. We
survived because of me!

SMÉAGOL

Not anymore.

GOLLUM

What did you say?

SMÉAGOL

Master looks after us now. We don't need
you.

GOLLUM

What?

SMÉAGOL

Leave now and never come back.

GOLLUM

No!

SMÉAGOL

Leave now and never come back!

GOLLUM

Argh!

SMÉAGOL

(emphatically)

Leave now and never come back!

Sméagol is panting and looking around and realizes Gollum is
gone.

SMÉAGOL (CONT'D)

We told him to go away! And away he goes
Precious. Gone, gone, gone, Sméagol is
free!

Scene 30
Of Herbs and Stewed Rabbit

The next day, Sméagol comes back with two dead rabbits and drops them on Frodo's lap.

SMÉAGOL

Look! Look! See what Sméagol finds!
They are young! They are tender and
nice. Yes they are! Eat them. Eat them.

Sméagol laughs.

Sméagol picks up one of the rabbits and breaks its spine in front of Frodo.

Sméagol bites the rabbit. Sam takes the rabbits.

SAM

Make him sick you will, behaving like
that. There's only one way to eat a
brace of coneys.

Sam cooks the rabbits in a pot. Sméagol watches despondently.

SMÉAGOL

Argh! What's he doing! Stupid fat
hobbit. You ruins it!

SAM

What's to ruin? There's hardly any meat
on them.
What we need is a few good taters.

Sméagol moans. A faint sound catches Frodo's attention.

SMÉAGOL

What's taters? Precious, what's taters?
Huh?

SAM

Po-ta-toes! Boil them, mash them, stick
them in a stew. Lovely big golden chips
with a nice piece of fried fish.

SMÉAGOL

Phooh!

SAM

Even you couldn't say no to that.

SMÉAGOL

Oh yes we could! Spoiling nice fish!
Give it to us raw - and wriggling! You
keep nasty chips!

He crawls to Sam.

SAM
You're hopeless.
Mister Frodo?

Frodo follows the source of the sound.

Frodo lies down and sees an army of the Easterlings
marching.
Sam and Sméagol find him.

SAM (CONT'D)
Who are they?

SMÉGOL
Wicked men; servants of Sauron. They are
called to Mordor. The Dark One is
gathering all armies to him. It won't be
long now. It will soon be ready.

SAM
Ready to do what?

SMÉAGOL
To make His war. The last war that will
cover all the world in shadow.

FRODO
We've got to keep moving. C'mon Sam.

Frodo starts to get up, but Sam stops him. Large beasts
appear.

SAM
Mister Frodo! Look! It's an Oliphant! No
one at home will believe this.

The calling sound is heard again and Sméagol backs away.

FRODO
Sméagol?
We've lingered here for too long. C'mon
Sam!

The Easterlings are attacked from the bushes.
A man shoots an Easterling off of an Oliphant. The body
falls near the hobbits.
The hobbits depart, but are caught by the humans.

SAM
Ah! Wait! We're innocent travelers!

FARAMIR

There are no travelers in this land,
only servants of the Dark Tower.

FRODO:

We are bound to an errand of secrecy.
Those that claim to oppose the enemy
would do well not to hinder us.

FARAMIR

The enemy?
His sense of duty was no less than
yours, I deem. You wonder what his name
is, where he came from, and if he was
really evil at heart. What lies or
threats led him on this long march from
home. If he would not rather have stayed
there in peace.
War will make corpses of us all. Bind
their hands.

Faramir turns over the dead Southron.

Scene 31
Dwarf Women

The villagers head towards Helm's Deep.

GIMLI

It's true you don't see many dwarf women. And in fact, they are so alike in voice and appearance, they are often mistaken for dwarf men.

Eowyn glances back at Aragorn.

ARAGORN

It's the beards.

GIMLI

And this in turn has given rise to the belief that there are no dwarf women. And the dwarves just spring out of holes in the ground!

Eowyn laughs.

GIMLI (CONT'D)

(laughs)

Which is of course ridiculous. Whoa!

Gimli falls from his horse.

GIMLI (CONT'D)

It's all right! It's all right. Nobody panic. That was deliberate. It was deliberate.

THÉODEN

I have not seen my niece smile in a long time.
She was a girl when they brought her father back dead. Cut down by Orcs. She watched her mother succumb to grief. And she was left alone to tend her king in growing fear. Doomed to wait upon an old man who should have loved her as a father.

Aragorn and Eowyn look at each other.

Scene 32
One of the Dúnedain

The refugees have camped. Éowyn carries a pot of stew.

ÉOWYN

Gimli?

GIMLI

No, I couldn't. I really couldn't.

Éowyn approaches Aragorn.

ÉOWYN

I made some stew. It isn't much, but
it's hot.

She gives him a bowl and spoon.

ARAGORN

Thank you.
Mmm. It's good.

He tastes and looks up at her, trying not to grimace. He
nods.

ÉOWYN

Really?

ARAGORN

Mmm.

Éowyn begins to walk away. Aragorn turns to pour out the
stew, but Éowyn turns around. He recovers, spilling some on
his hand.

ÉOWYN

My Uncle told me a strange thing. He
said that you rode to war with Thengel,
my grandfather. But he must be mistaken.

ARAGORN

King Théoden has a good memory. He was
only a small child at the time.

ÉOWYN

Then you must be at least sixty.
Seventy? But you cannot be eighty!

ARAGORN

Eighty-seven.

ÈOWYN

You are one of the Dúnedain. A descendant of Númenor, blessed with long life. It was said that your race had passed into legend.

ARAGORN

There are few of us left. The Northern Kingdom was destroyed long ago.

ÈOWYN

I'm sorry. Please eat!

Scene 33
The Evenstar

It is night. Aragorn smokes his pipe.

ARWEN (V.O.)

The light of the Evenstar does not wax
and wane. It is mine to give to whom I
will. Like my heart. Go to sleep.

Aragorn is dreaming of his time with Arwen in Rivendell.

ARAGORN

I am asleep. This is a dream.

ARWEN

Then it is a good dream. Sleep.
Sleep.

She leans down to kiss Aragorn.

ARAGORN

Minlû pedich nin, i aur hen telitha.

[You told me once, this day would come.]

ARWEN

Ú i vethed. Nâ i onnad. Boe bedich go
Frodo. Han bâd lân.

[This is not the end. It is the
beginning. You must go with Frodo. That
is your path.]

ARAGORN

Dolen i vâd o nin.

[My path is hidden from me.]

ARWEN

Si peliannen i vâd na dail lân. Si boe
ú-dhannathach.

[It is already laid before your feet,
you cannot falter now.]

ARAGORN

Arwen.

ARWEN

Ae ú-esteliach nad... estelio han.
Estelio ammen.

[If you trust nothing else... trust
this. Trust us.]

They kiss.
The group is trekking again.

ÈOWYN

Where is she? The woman who gave you
that jewel?

Aragorn smiles but remains silent.
A flashback of Elrond conversing with him in Rivendell
follows.

ELROND

Our time here is ending. Arwen's time is
ending. Let her go. Let her take the
ship into the West. Let her bear away
her love for you to the undying lands,
there to be ever green.

ARAGORN

But never more than a memory.

ELROND

I will not leave my daughter here to
die.

ARAGORN

She stays because she still has hope.

ELROND

She stays for you! She belongs with her
people.

Aragorn meets Arwen before the departure of the Fellowship.

ARWEN

Nach gwannatha sin? Ma nathach hi
gwannathach or minuial archened?

[Is this how you would take your leave?
Did you think you could slip away at
first light - unnoticed?]

ARAGORN

Ú-ethelithon.

[I will not be coming back.]

ARWEN

Estelio guru lîn ne dagor. Ethelithach.

[You underestimate your skill in battle.
You will come back.]

ARAGORN

Ú-bedin o gurth ne dagor.

[It is not of death in battle that I speak.]

ARWEN

O man pedich?

[What do you speak of?]

ARAGORN

Edra le men, men na guil edwen, haer o
auth a nîr a naeth.

[You have a chance for another life,
away from war, grief, despair.]

ARWEN

Why are you saying this?

ARAGORN

I am mortal. You are elfkind. It was a
dream Arwen, nothing more.

ARWEN

I don't believe you.

Aragorn holds open his hand, revealing Arwen's Evenstar.

ARAGORN

This belongs to you.

Arwen closes Aragorn's hand around the jewel.

ARWEN

It was a gift. Keep it.

The flashback ends.

ÈOWYN

My lord?

ARAGORN

She is sailing to the undying lands,
with all that is left of her kin.

Scene 34
The Wolves of Isengard

Háma and Gamling ride to the front of the column. Legolas stands a small distance away, scanning the surroundings.

GAMLING

What is it? Háma?

Their horses are restless.

HÁMA

I'm not sure.

A warg scout appears above them and charges towards them. The warg attacks Háma, killing him. Gamling fights with the scout. Legolas shoots the warg with his bow. Legolas kills the scout, but not before he yells out.

LEGOLAS

A scout!

THÉODEN

What is it? What do you see?

ARAGORN

Wargs! We are under attack!

The villagers panic.

THÉODEN

All riders to the head of the column!

GIMLI

C'mon get me up here, I'm a fighter.
 Argh!

Legolas spots the warg pack running towards them.

THÉODEN

You must lead the people to Helm's Deep
 and make haste.

ÈOWYN

I can fight!

THÉODEN

No! You must do this - for me.
 Follow me! Argh!

GIMLI

Forward, forward, march forward.

ÈOWYN

Make for the lower ground. Stick together!

Aragorn and Èowyn exchange looks. Aragorn sets off to battle.

Legolas stands alone, shooting at the wargs and their riders. The column of riders appears behind him. When Gimli's horse is near, Legolas swings himself up on the horse's back.

Wargs and Rohirrim run towards each other, swords drawn. The warg riders and the Rohirrim crash at full speed. They fight.

Many wargs and their riders are killed. Gimli falls of the horse and a riderless warg heads towards him.

GIMLI

Bring your pretty face to my axe!
Argh! That one counts as mine!
Argh! Stinking creature. Argh!

Legolas shoots the warg as it attacks, before Gimli has the chance to kill it himself.

A dead warg lands on Gimli.

A rider appears over the dead warg.

Gimli snaps the Orc's neck. Gimli tries to lift the creatures, but another warg crawls into view, growling.

Aragorn throws a spear at the warg, killing it. The dead warg lands on Gimli.

Théoden and Aragorn kill wargs and riders.

A warg jumps on Aragorn, who falls of his horse. He jumps on to a warg and fights with its rider. Aragorn is hit by the orc and falls to the side.

His hand is caught in the harness of the warg, and he gets dragged along. He fights with the orc, throwing him off. The warg runs off a cliff, Aragorn falling with it.

As the fighting dissipates, Legolas and Gimli look for Aragorn.

LEGOLAS

Aragorn!

GIMLI

Aragorn?
Tell me what happened and I will ease your passing!

Gimli spots a dying orc on the ground, laughing. He bends down and points his axe at it.

ORC

[COUGHING]

He's... dead

The orc laughs.

ORC (CONT'D)

He took a little tumble off the cliff.

Legolas grabs the orc.

LEGOLAS

You lie!

The orc laughs, blood bubbling in his mouth. He falls back dead. Legolas stands up but sees the Evenstar in the orc's hand.

Legolas and Gimli approach the cliff and look down into the river below. Théoden approaches behind them.

THÉODEN

Get the wounded on horses. The wolves of
Isengard will return.
Leave the dead.
Come.

Scene 35
Helm's Deep

The women and children approach Helm's Deep.

VILLAGERS
Helm's Deep!

The women and children enter Helm's Deep.

FREDA
Mama!

The children find their mother and run to her arms.

MOTHER
Freda! Freda!

Èowyn surveys the food.

ÈOWYN
Where is the rest?

MAN
This is all we could save, my lady.

ÈOWYN
Take it to the caves.

The riders return to Helm's Deep.

GUARD
Make way for the king! Make way for
Théoden. Make way for the King!

Èowyn hurries to meet them.

ÈOWYN
So few. So few of you have returned.

THÉODEN
Our people are safe. We have paid for it
with many lives.

Gimli walks to Èowyn.

GIMLI
My lady...

ÈOWYN
Lord Aragorn, where is he?

GIMLI

He fell...

Eowyn is shocked and looks at Théoden in disbelief.

THÉODEN

Draw all our forces behind the wall. Bar
the gate, and set a watch on the
surround.

GUARD

What of those who cannot fight my lord?
The women and children?

THÉODEN

Get them into the caves. Saruman's arm
would have grown long indeed if he
thinks he can reach us here.

Scene 36
Isengard Unleashed

GRÍMA (V.O.)

Helm's Deep has but one weakness. It's
outer wall is solid rock for except for
a small culvert in space, which is
little more than a drain.

Saruman pours explosives into a metallic ball.

GRÍMA

How? How can fire undo stone? What kind
of device can break down a wall?

Gríma moves a candle close to the ball, but it stopped by Saruman.

SARUMAN

If the wall is breached, Helm's Deep
will fall.

GRÍMA

Even if it is breached, it would take a
number beyond reckoning - thousands - to
storm the keep.

SARUMAN

Tens of thousands.

GRÍMA

But my lord there is no such force.

They walk to the balcony of the tower Orthanc and Gríma looks in awe at the sheer number of Uruk-hai warriors. A horn sounds and the army cheers.

SARUMAN

A new power is rising. Its victory is at
hand.
This night, the land will be stained
with the blood of Rohan! March to Helm's
Deep! Leave none alive!
To war!
There will be no dawn for Men.

The warriors cheer.

Merry and Pippin and Treebeard are moving past Isengard.

PIPPIN

Look! There's smoke to the south!

TREEBEARD

There is always smoke rising up from
Isengard these days.

MERRY

Isengard?

TREEBEARD

There was a time, when Saruman would
walk in my woods, but now, he has a mind
of metal and wheels.
He no longer cares for growing things.

The hobbits climb higher to get a view of Isengard.
The hobbits spot the Uruk army.

PIPPIN

What is it?

MERRY

It's Saruman's army! The war has
started.

Scene 37
The Grace of the Valar

Aragorn is floating in the river and washes ashore.
Arwen is lying on her bed in Rivendell.
Dreaming, Arwen kisses Aragorn on his lips.

ARWEN

May the grace of the Valar protect you.

Brego arrives and nudges Aragorn until he awakes. The horse
kneels down and Aragorn slowly gets on its back and rides
away.

ARAGORN

Brego.

Scene 38
Arwen's Fate

In Rivendell, Arwen lies on her bed. Elrond enters the room.

ELROND

Arwen. Tollen i lû. I chair gwannar na
Valannor. Si bado, no cîrar.

[Arwen. It is time. The ships are
leaving for Valinor. Go now, before it
is too late.]

ARWEN

I've made my choice.

ELROND

He is not coming back. Why do you linger
when there is no hope?

ARWEN

There is still hope.

ELROND

If Aragorn survives this war, You will
still be parted.
If Sauron is defeated, and Aragorn made
king and all that you hoped for comes
true... you will still have to taste the
bitterness of mortality.
Whether by the sword or the slow decay
of time, Aragorn will die. And there
will be no comfort for you. No comfort
to ease the pain of his passing.
He will come to death. An image of the
splendor of the kings of men in glory,
undimmed before the breaking of the
world.
But you, my daughter, you will linger on
in darkness and in doubt. As night
falling winter has come without a star.
Here you will dwell, bound to you grief,
under the fading trees, until all the
world has changed and the long years of
your life are utterly spent.
Arwen... there is nothing for you here,
only death.
Ah im, ú erin veleth lîn?

[Do I not also have your love?]

Arwen's face changes and we see Aragorn lying dead, Arwen
standing next to him, crying.
Arwen is walking alone in empty woods, dressed in black.
The scene comes back to Rivendell and we see Arwen's face.

Tears fall from her eyes and she gasps.
Elrond sits next to his daughter and holds her in his arms.

ARWEN

Gerich veleth nîn, ada.

[You have my love, father.]

A group of Elves, including Arwen, sets off from Rivendell.
Elrond stands and watches, as Arwen looks at him one last
time before leaving.

Scene 39
The Story Foreseen from Lórien

GALADRIEL

I amar prestar aen. Han mathon ne nen,
 han mathon ne chae a han noston ned
 wilith.

[The world is changed. I can feel it in
 the water, I can feel it in the earth, I
 can smell it in the air.]

The power of the enemy is growing.
 Sauron will use his puppet Saruman to
 destroy the people of Rohan.
 Isengard has been unleashed.
 The Eye of Sauron now turns to Gondor.
 The last free kingdom of men.
 His war on this country will come
 swiftly. He senses the Ring is close.
 The strength of the Ringbearer is
 failing. In his heart, Frodo begins to
 understand. The quest will claim his
 life.
 You know this. You have foreseen it. It
 is the risk we all took.
 In the gathering dark, the will of the
 Ring grows strong. It works hard now to
 find its way back into the hands of men.
 Men, who are so easily seduced by its
 power.
 The young captain of Gondor has but to
 extend his hand to take the Ring for his
 own and the world will fall. He is close
 now, so close to achieving his goal.
 For Sauron will have dominion over all
 life on this Earth, even until the
 ending of the world.
 The time of the elves is over. Do we
 leave Middle-Earth to this fate? Do we
 let them stand alone?

The Uruk-hai army marches.
 The of the Eye of Sauron watches. Frodo and Sam are lead to
 Henneth Annûn.
 The One Ring flies through the air.

Scene 40
The Window on the West

At Henneth Annûn, Faramir and one of his rangers look over a map.

FARAMIR

What news?

MADRIL

Our scouts report Saruman has attacked Rohan. Théoden's people have fled to Helm's Deep. But we must look to our own borders. Faramir, orcs are on the move. Sauron is marshalling an army. Easterlings and Southrons are passing through the Black Gate.

FARAMIR

How many?

MADRIL

Some thousands. More come every day.

FARAMIR

Who's covering the river to the north?

MADRIL

We pulled five hundred men out of Osgiliath, but if the city is attacked, we won't hold it.

FARAMIR

Saruman attacks from Isengard. Sauron from Mordor. The fight will come to men on both fronts. Gondor is weak. Sauron will strike us soon. And he will strike hard. He knows now we do not have the strength to repel him.

The two hobbits' hoods are removed.
Faramir approaches them.

FARAMIR (CONT'D)

My men tell me that you are orc spies.

SAM

Spies! Now wait just a minute.

FARAMIR

Well if you're not spies, then who are you?
Speak!

The hobbits remain silent and Faramir sits down.

FRODO

We are hobbits of the Shire. Frodo Baggins is my name and this is Samwise Gamgee.

FARAMIR

Your bodyguard?

SAM

His gardener.

FARAMIR

And where is your skulking friend? That gangrel creature. He had an ill-favored look.

FRODO

There was no other. We set out from Rivendell with seven companions. One we lost in Moria. Two were my kin. A dwarf there was also. And an elf. And two men. Aragorn, son of Arathorn and Boromir of Gondor.

FARAMIR

You were friend of Boromir?

FRODO

Yes, for my part.

FARAMIR

(stands)

It would grieve you then, to learn that he is dead?

FRODO

Dead? How? When?

FARAMIR

As one of his companions, I had hoped you would tell me.

FRODO

If something has happened to Boromir, we would have you tell us.

FARAMIR

His horn washed up upon the riverbank, about six days past. It was cloven in two.

But more than this, I know it in my heart. He was my brother.

Scene 41
Sons of the Steward

Faramir, on a riverbank, turns to see a boat approaching. He wades into the river.
It is filled with water and Boromir is lying dead inside.
The boat continues past Faramir.
Back in the caves of Henneth Annûn, Faramir sits alone holding Boromir's horn.

Another flashback, this time to a crowd at Osgiliath, facing Boromir.

CROWD

Boromir!
Boromir!

Boromir is waving the white flag of the Stewards.
Boromir stands upon a high wall in Osgiliath. He lifts his sword and addresses a crowd of Gondorian soldiers below.

BOROMIR

This city was once the jewel of our
kingdom. A place of light, and beauty,
and music. And so it shall be once more!
Let the armies of Mordor know this:
Never again will the land of my people
fall into enemy hands.
The city of Osgiliath has been
reclaimed. For Gondor!

The crowd cheers.
More cheering.

CROWD

For Gondor!

BOROMIR

For Gondor!

CROWD

For Gondor!

BOROMIR

For Gondor!

CROWD

For Gondor!

Back on the streets, Faramir and Boromir meet and embrace.

FARAMIR

Good speech. Nice and short.

BOROMIR
 Leaves more time for drinking!
 Break out the ale! These men are
 thirsty!
 Remember today, little brother. Today,
 life is good.
 What?

Faramir looks past Boromir and stops smiling.

FARAMIR
 He is here.

BOROMIR
 One moment of peace. Can he not give us
 that?

DENETHOR
 Where is he? Where is Gondor's finest?
 Where is my first-born?

BOROMIR
 Father!

Boromir and Denethor embrace.

DENETHOR
 They say you vanquished the enemy almost
 single-handedly.

BOROMIR
 They exaggerate. The victory belongs to
 Faramir also.

DENETHOR
 But for Faramir, this city would still
 be standing. Were you not entrusted to
 protect it?

FARAMIR
 I would have done, but our numbers were
 too few.

DENETHOR
 Oh, too few. You let the enemy walk in
 and take it on a whim. Always you cast a
 poor reflection on me.

FARAMIR
 That is not my intent.

BOROMIR
 You give him no credit and yet he tries
 to do your will.
 He loves you, Father.

Boromir withdraws to an alcove. Denethor follows.

DENETHOR

Do not trouble me with Faramir. I know his uses, and they are few. We have more urgent things to speak of. Elrond of Rivendell has called a meeting. He will not say why, but I have guessed its purpose. It is rumored that the weapon of the enemy has been found.

BOROMIR

The One Ring. Isildur's Bane.

DENETHOR

It has fallen into the hands of the Elves. Everyone will try to claim it: Men, Dwarves, wizards. We cannot let that happen. This thing must come to Gondor.

BOROMIR

Gondor.

DENETHOR

It's dangerous, I know. Ever the Ring will seek to corrupt the hearts of lesser men. But you, you are strong and our need is great. It is our blood which is being spilled, our people who are dying. Sauron is biding his time. He's massing fresh armies. He will return. And when he does, we will be powerless to stop him. You must go. Bring me back this mighty gift.

BOROMIR

No. My place is here with my people. Not in Rivendell.

DENETHOR

Would you deny your own father?

FARAMIR

If there is need to go to Rivendell, send me in his stead.

DENETHOR

You? Oh, I see. A chance for Faramir, captain of Gondor, to show his quality. I think not. I trust this mission only to your brother. The one who will not fail me.

Boromir sits his horse and looks up at the flag of the Stewards.
Boromir and Faramir look at each other.

BOROMIR
Remember today, little brother.

Boromir rides away.

Scene 42
The Forbidden Pool

Back at the caves, Faramir sits alone. One of his men walks to him.

MAN
Captain Faramir. We found it.

Faramir approaches the sleeping hobbits. Frodo wakes.

FARAMIR
You must come with me. Now.

Frodo is lead outside.

FARAMIR (CONT'D)
(points)
Down there.

Frodo looks down at a pool and sees Gollum dive in it.

FARAMIR (CONT'D)
To enter the Forbidden Pool bears the
penalty of death.
They wait for my command. Shall they
shoot?

Archers step out from the bushes, with arrows drawn.
Gollum squats on a rock with a fish, singing.

GOLLUM
Rock and pool
is nice and cool,
so juicy sweet!
I only wish
to catch a fish,
so juicy sweet!

Faramir raises his hand to give the order to fire.

FRODO
Wait. This creature is bound to me. And
I to him. He is our guide. Please, let
me go down to him.
Sméagol. Master is here. Come, Sméagol.
Trust master. Come.

Faramir allows Frodo to go to Gollum, who is eating a fish.

GOLLUM
We must - go now?

FRODO

Sméagol, you must trust master. Follow me, come on. Come. Come, Sméagol. Nice Sméagol. That's it. Come on. Don't hurt him! Sméagol don't struggle! Sméagol listen to me!

Gollum, with a fish in his mouth, follows Frodo.
Gollum is grabbed by Faramir's men.

GOLLUM

Master!

Gollum screams as a hood is placed over his face. Frodo looks up at Faramir.

Inside the cave, a man kicks Gollum. He tries to scuttle away, but is dragged back by his foot. One of the men holds him while another punches him.

FARAMIR

That is enough.
Where are you leading them? Answer me!

Gollum is thrown into a corner.
Gollum cries.

GOLLUM

Sméagol. Why does it cry, Sméagol?

SMÉAGOL

Cruel men hurts us. Master tricksed us.

GOLLUM

Of course he did. I told you he was tricky. I told you he was false.

SMÉAGOL

Master is our friend - our friend.

Faramir looks at Gollum, confused.

GOLLUM

Master betrayed us!

SMÉAGOL

No, not it's business. Leave us alone.

GOLLUM

Filthy little hobbitses! They stole it from us!

SMÉAGOL

No... no.

FARAMIR

What did they steal?

Gollum turns to face Faramir.

GOLLUM

My... Precious! Argh!

The hobbits hear Gollum's scream.

SAM

We have to get out of here. You go. Go now.

You can do it. Use the Ring, Mister Frodo. Just this once. Put it on. Disappear.

Sam moves to Frodo.

FRODO

I can't. You were right, Sam. You tried to tell me. I'm sorry. The Ring's taking me, Sam. If I put it on, he'll find me. He'll see.

SAM

Mister Frodo...

Faramir enters, and draws a sword. Frodo backs away, hitting a wall.

FARAMIR

So... this is the answer to all the riddles. Here in the wild I have you. Two haflings and a host of men at my call. And the Ring of Power within my grasp. A chance for Faramir, captain of Gondor, to show his quality.

Faramir reveals the Ring with the tip of his sword.

The Ring calls.

Frodo suddenly pushes the blade away, angrily, and runs into a corner.

FRODO

No!

SAM

Stop it! Leave him alone! Don't you understand?! He's got to destroy it.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

That's where we're going. To Mordor. To
the Mountain of Fire.

A man enters the room, and the lure of the Ring is heard
again.

MAN

Osgiliath is under attack. They call for
reinforcements.

SAM

Please. It's such a burden. Will you not
help him?

MAN

Captain?

FARAMIR

Prepare to leave.
The Ring will go to Gondor.

Sam looks at Faramir with pleading eyes.

Scene 43
Aragorn's Return

Aragorn rides on Brego.
He sees the army of Saruman.
Aragorn makes his way to Helm's Deep.

ARAGORN
Mae carnen, Brego, mellon nîn.

[Well done, Brego, my friend.]

He rides up to the fortress and in to the courtyard.

GIMLI
Where is he! Where is he! Get out of my
way! I'm gonna kill him! You are the
luckiest, the cunningest, and most
reckless man I ever knew!
Bless you, laddie!

Gimli embraces Aragorn.

ARAGORN
Gimli, where is the king?

Aragorn runs into Legolas.

LEGOLAS
Le abdollen.

[You're late.]

You look terrible.

Aragorn laughs and puts his hand on Legolas shoulder.
Éowyn sees them.
Legolas gives Aragorn Arwen's Evenstar.

ARAGORN
Hannon le.

[Thank you.]

Théoden is sitting inside, and Aragorn pushes the doors open
and enters.

THÉODEN
A great host, you say?

ARAGORN
All Isengard is emptied.

THÉODEN

How many?

ARAGORN

Ten thousand strong at least.

Théoden turns to face Aragorn.

THÉODEN

Ten thousand?!

ARAGORN

It is an army bred for a single purpose:
to destroy the world of Men.
They will be here by nightfall.

THÉODEN

Let them come.
I want every man and strong lad able to
bear arms, to be ready for battle by
nightfall.
We will cover the causeway and the gate
from above. No army has ever breached
the deeping wall or set foot inside the
Hornburg.

Théoden walks outside, Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli following him.

GIMLI

This is no rabble of mindless orcs.
These are Uruk-hai. Their armor is thick
and their shields broad.

THÉODEN

I have fought many wars, Master Dwarf. I
know how to defend my own keep.
They will break upon this fortress like
water on rock. Saruman's hordes will
pillage and burn, we've seen it before.
Crops can be resown. Homes rebuilt.
Within these walls, we will outlast
them.

They continue walking.

ARAGORN

They do not come to destroy Rohan's
crops or villages. They come to destroy
its people. Down to the last child!

THÉODEN

What would you have me do? Look at my
men. Their courage hangs by a thread. If
(MORE)

THÉODEN (CONT'D)

this is to be our end, then I would have them make such an end as to be worthy of remembrance!

ARAGORN

Send out riders, my lord. You must call for aid.

THÉODEN

And who will come. Elves? Dwarves? We are not so lucky in our friends as you. The old alliances are dead.

ARAGORN

Gondor will answer.

THÉODEN

Gondor? Where was Gondor when the Westfold fell? Where was Gondor when our enemies closed in around us!? Where was Gon - No, my Lord Aragorn, we are alone. Get the women and children into the caves.

Théoden walks from Aragorn.

GAMLING

We need more time to lay provisions for a siege, lord -

THÉODEN

There is no time. War is upon us!

GAMLING

Secure the gate.

Scene 44
Entmoot

Merry and Pippin are riding Treebeard.

TREEBEARD

The Ents have not troubled about the wars of men and wizards for a very long time.
But now something is about to happen that has not happened for an age:
Entmoot.

MERRY

What's that?

TREEBEARD

It is a gathering.

MERRY

A gathering of what?

Ents come from the forest and surround them.

TREEBEARD

Beech, Oak, Chestnut, Ash. Good, good, good many have come.
Now we must decide if the Ents will go to war.

Merry grins.

Scene 45
The Glittering Caves

People scurry around Helm's Deep.

ROHAN MAN
Come on people! Quickly, now!

ARAGORN
We'll place the reserves along the wall.
They can support the archers from above
the gate.

LEGOLAS
Aragorn, you must rest. You're no use to
us half-alive.

Eowyn calls out to Aragorn.

EOWYN
Aragorn! I'm to be sent with the women
into the caves.

ARAGORN
That is an honorable charge.

EOWYN
To mind the children, to find food and
bedding when the men return. What renown
is there in that?

ARAGORN
My lady, a time may come for valor
without renown. Who then will your
people look to in the last defense?

EOWYN
Let me stand at your side.

ARAGORN
It is not in my power to command it.

Aragorn begins to walk away.

EOWYN
You do not command the others to stay!
They fight beside you because they would
not be parted from you. Because they
love you.
I'm sorry.

Eowyn walks away.

Inside Helm's Deep, people wander in to the caves.
Husbands and sons are taken away from their wives and

mothers.

In the armory, weapons are handed out to the villagers.

ARAGORN

Farmers, farriers, stable boys.
These are no soldiers.

GIMLI

Most have seen too many winters!

LEGOLAS

Or too few. Look at them. They're
frightened. I can see it in their eyes.
Boe a hyn neled herain... dan caer
menig!

[And they should be. Three hundred...
against ten thousand!]

He looks at Aragorn as the room turns silent.

ARAGORN

Si beriathar hyn ammaeg na ned Edoras.

[They have a better chance defending
themselves here than in Edoras.]

LEGOLAS

Aragorn, men i ndagor. Hýn ú ortheri.
Natha daged aen!

[They cannot win this fight. They are
all going to die!]

ARAGORN

Then I shall die as one them!

Aragorn and Legolas stare at each other, and Aragorn walks
away from the elf.

Legolas tries to run after him, but is stopped by Gimli.

GIMLI

Let him go, lad. Let him be.

Scene 46
"Where is the Horse and the Rider?"

Théoden is given his armor by Gamling.

GAMLING
Every villager able to wield a sword has
been sent to the armory. My lord?

THÉODEN
Who am I, Gamling?

GAMLING
You are our king, sire.

THÉODEN
And do you trust your king?

GAMLING
Your men, my lord, will follow you to
whatever end.

Gamling helps the King in to his armor.

THÉODEN
To whatever end.
Where is the horse and the rider. Where
is the horn that was blowing.
They have passed like rain on the
mountains. Like wind in the meadow. The
days have gone down in the west. Behind
the hills, into shadow.
How did it come to this?

Uruks march towards Helm's Deep.
The villagers receive their weapons.
A helmet is placed on the head of a scared boy, while
another child looks at the axe in his hand.

Scene 47
"Don't Be Hasty Master Meriadoc!"

At the Entmoot, Pippin awakes.

MERRY
It's been going for hours.

PIPPIN
They must have decided something by now.

TREEBEARD
Decided? No, we've only just finished
saying good morning.

MERRY
But it's nighttime already! You can't
take forever.

TREEBEARD
Don't be hasty.

MERRY
We're running out of time!

Scene 48
The Host of the Eldar

SOLDIER

Move! Move to the outer wall.

Aragorn is sitting alone on stairs.
 He sees a confused looking child with a sword.

ARAGORN

Give me your sword.
 What is your name?

HÁLETH

Háleth, son of Háma, my lord.
 The men are saying that we will not live
 out the night. They say that it is
 hopeless.

Aragorn stands up and swings the sword.

ARAGORN

This is a good sword, Háleth, son of
 Háma.
 There is always hope.

He lays his hand on the boys shoulder.

Inside, Aragorn puts on his armor.
 Legolas hands him his sword.

LEGOLAS

We have trusted you this far and you
 have not led us astray. Forgive me. I
 was wrong to despair.

Aragorn smiles at the elf.

ARAGORN

Ú-moe edamed, Legolas.

[There is nothing to forgive, Legolas.]

They look at each other and smile. Gimli enters the room,
 wearing armor that is far too long for him.

GIMLI

If we had time, I'd get this adjusted.
 It's a little tight across the chest.

The armor falls to the ground.
 Legolas and Aragorn smile at the dwarf.
 The sound of a horn is heard from outside.

LEGOLAS
That is no orc horn!

They rush out. Men peer over the wall.

MAN
Send for the king. Open the gate!

The gates are opened, and an army of elves march in. Men stare in awe.
Théoden walks down the stairs and meets the Elf Captain.

THÉODEN
How is this possible?

HALDIR
I bring word from Elrond of Rivendell.
An alliance once existed between elves
and men. Long ago we fought and died
together.
We come to honor that allegiance.

Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli rush down the stairs.

ARAGORN
Mae govannen, Haldir!

[Welcome, Haldir!]

You are most welcome.

Aragorn stands before the elf and then hugs him. Haldir, a little surprised, returns the gesture.
Legolas comes down the stairs and embraces Haldir. The army of elves turn and lower their bows and shields in unison.

HALDIR
We are proud to fight alongside men,
once more.

Scene 49
The Battle of the Hornburg

Men and elves stand at Helm's Deep.
 Saruman's army slowly approaches, shouting and rumbling.
 Legolas and Gimli stand at the wall. Gimli has some trouble
 seeing over the wall.

GIMLI

Argh. You could have picked a better
 spot.
 Well lad, the luck you live by, let's
 hope it lasts the night.

Aragorn comes to them.
 There is lightning and a rumble of thunder.

LEGOLAS

Your friends are with you, Aragorn.

GIMLI

Let's hope they last the night.

Théoden and his men watch on as it starts to rain.
 The troops of Saruman walk forward, carrying torches and
 long spears.
 The women and children sit silently in the caves, listening.
 Aragorn walks back and forth on the wall.

ARAGORN

A Eruchîn, ú-dano i faelas a hyn an uben
 tanatha le faelas!

[Show them no mercy! For you shall
 receive none!]

The Uruk-hai stop. Aragorn walks forward and looks down at
 the huge army.

GIMLI

What's happening out there?

LEGOLAS

Shall I describe it to you? Or would you
 like me to find you a box?

Gimli laughs.
 The Uruks pound their spears and roar. The men and elves in
 the fortress ready their weapons.
 And old man accidentally shoots an arrow, hitting an orc.
 Everything goes silent, as the orc falls down, dead.

ARAGORN

Dartho!

[Hold!]

The Uruks roar in anger and charge.

THÉODEN

So it begins.

As the army below runs forward, the elves prepare to shoot their arrows.

LEGOLAS

Faeg i-varv dîn na lanc a nu ranc.

[Their armor is weak at the neck and under the arms.]

ARAGORN

Leithio i philinn!

[Fire!]

The bows are released and the Uruks showered with arrows.

GIMLI

Anybody hit anything?

THÉODEN

Give them a volley.

GAMLING

Fire!

More arrows are shot.

ARAGORN

Tangado a chadad!

[Keep firing!]

GIMLI

Come on! Send them to me!

Many Uruks fall dead. The Uruks shoot arrows back. A dead elf falls from the wall. The Uruks put up ladders.

ARAGORN

Pendraid!

[Ladders!]

GIMLI

Good!
Legolas, two already!

The Uruk-hai climb the ladders. Heavy fighting follows.

LEGOLAS

I'm on seventeen!

GIMLI

Argh! I'll have no pointy-ear outscoring
me!

LEGOLAS

Nineteen!

More ladders rise against the walls.

Scene 50
Old Entish

The Ents hover, making low voices. Treebeard approaches the hobbits.

PIPPIN

Merry.

TREEBEARD

We have just agreed.

He seems to fall asleep.

MERRY

Yes?

TREEBEARD

I have told your names to the Entmoot
and we have agreed: you are not orcs.

PIPPIN

Well that's good news.

MERRY

And what about Saruman? Have you come to
a decision about him.

TREEBEARD

Now don't be hasty, Master Meriadoc.

MERRY

Hasty?! Our friends are out there. They
need our help! They cannot fight this
war on their own.

TREEBEARD

War, yes. It affects us all. But you
must understand, young hobbit. It takes
a long time to say anything in old
Entish, and we never say anything unless
it is worth taking a long time to say.

Scene 51
The Breach of the Deeping Wall

The fighting at Helm's Deep continues. Gimli hacks away with his axe.

GIMLI
 Seventeen. Eighteen. Nineteen. Twenty.
 Twenty-one. Twenty-two.

A group of Uruks, covered in shields, approach the main gate.

ARAGORN
 Northway! Nauthannen!

The elves shoot, and many of the Uruks fall down.

THÉODEN
 Is this it? Is this all you can conjure,
 Saruman?

Below, the troops carry Saruman's explosives to the drain. An Uruk soldier carrying a bright torch runs towards the hole.

ARAGORN
 Togo hon dad, Legolas! Dago hon!

[Legolas, stop him! Kill him!]

Legolas hits the Uruk with two arrows, but fails to kill it, letting the Uruk-hai light the explosives. A large part of the wall explodes. Théoden looks upon in shock. Huge boulders fly through the air. Aragorn lies on the ground, unconscious. Saruman's army starts to crowd through the hole in the wall. At the gates, the Uruks try to break through.

THÉODEN
 Brace the gates!
 Hold them! Stand fast!

The men run to the gate and try to hold it, as the Uruks pound from the other side. Men throw rocks and spears down on the orcs below. Aragorn regains consciousness as the Uruks run towards him. Gimli sees this and jumps down from the wall, landing in a pool. He hacks the attacking Uruks.

ARAGORN
 Gimli! Prepare to charge!
 Hado i philinn!
 (MORE)

ARAGORN (CONT'D)

[Hurl the arrows!]

Herio!

[Charge!]

Gimli continues fighting, but is hit and falls in to the pool.

They attack, Aragorn leading them.

Legolas takes a shield from the ground and rides down the stairs on it, shooting arrows at the Uruks.

The Uruks continue flowing in from the hole in the wall, but they are met by men and elves and a dwarf.

Scene 52
The Entmoot Decides

Treebeard again approaches the hobbits.

TREEBEARD

The Ents cannot hold back this war. We must weather such things as we have always done.

MERRY

How can that be your decision?!

TREEBEARD

This is not our war.

MERRY

But your part of this world! Aren't you? You must help. Please. You must do something.

The Ents glance at each other, looking self-conscious.

TREEBEARD

You are young and brave, master Merry. But your part in this tale is over. Go back to your home.

Merry puts his coat back on.

PIPPIN

Maybe Treebeard's right. We don't belong here, Merry. It's too big for us. What can we do in the end? We've got the Shire. Maybe we should go home.

MERRY

The fires of Isengard will spread. And the woods of Tuckborough and Buckland will burn. And all that was once green and good in this world will be gone. There won't be a Shire, Pippin.

Merry grabs Pippin's shoulder.

Scene 53
The Retreat of the Hornburg

Legolas, Gimli and Aragorn are fighting.

THÉODEN
 Aragorn, pull back to the gate!

ARAGORN
 Am Marad!

[To the Keep!]

Nan barad! Haldir! Nan barad!

[Pull back! Haldir! Pull back!]

Haldir nods at him and calls for the others.
 Gimli is dragged away.

GIMLI
 What are you doing? Stop it!

Haldir calls for his men, but he does not see an Uruk behind him and is struck.
 Haldir stumbles in pain, as he looks around. Behind him, another Uruk strikes Haldir at his back.

ARAGORN
 Haldir!

Haldir falls on his knees, as Aragorn fights his way up the stairs.
 Haldir looks around in disbelief, and sees all the dead elves around him.
 Aragorn rushes to Haldir. The elf dies in Aragorn's arms.
 Aragorn lays Haldir down, as more Uruk-hai approach him. He jumps on one of the ladders and falls down with them.

GAMLING
 Brace the gate!

The gate is almost broken.

THÉODEN
 To the gate! Draw your swords!

The king, with his men, try to defend the breaking gate.

GAMLING
 We can't hold much longer.

Aragorn rushes to the gate.

THÉODEN

Hold them!

ARAGORN

How long do you need?

THÉODEN

As long as you can give me!

ARAGORN

Gimli!

Aragorn and Gimli sneak around to the other side of the gate. Aragorn takes a peek at the many Uruks.

GIMLI

Come on. We can take 'em!

ARAGORN

It's a long way.

Gimli glances over Aragorn.

GIMLI

Toss me.

ARAGORN

What?

GIMLI

I cannot jump the distance so you have to toss me.

Eh... Don't tell the elf.

Aragorn nods and is about to throw Gimli, but the dwarf stops him.

ARAGORN

Not a word.

Aragorn throws Gimli, and jumps after him. The two battle the troops at the gate.

THÉODEN

Shore up the door!

Gimli! Aragorn! Get out of there!

Saruman's army puts up more ladders. Legolas shoots the chain for one of the ladders. It falls, crushing some of the Uruks below. The men try to seal the gates, as Aragorn and Gimli continue fighting on the other side. Legolas is standing up on the wall.

LEGOLAS

Aragorn!

Legolas throws down a rope. Aragorn, holding Gimli with him, jumps on to it. Legolas pulls them both up. More ladders rise.

THÉODEN

Pull everybody back. Pull them back!

GAMLING

Fall back! Fall back!

THÉODEN

They have broken through. The castle is breached! Retreat!

GAMLING

Fall back!

THEODEN

Retreat!

ARAGORN

Hurry! Inside. Get them inside!

GAMLING

Into the Keep!

Scene 54
Master Peregrin's Plan

Merry and Pippin are riding Treebeard.

TREEBEARD

I will leave you at the western borders
of the forest. You can make your way
north to your homeland from there.

PIPPIN

Wait! Stop! Stop! Turn around. Turn
around. Take us south!

TREEBEARD

South? But that will lead you past -
Isengard.

PIPPIN

Yes. Exactly. If we go south we can slip
past Saruman unnoticed. The closer we
are to danger, the farther we are from
harm. It's the last thing he'll expect.

TREEBEARD

Hmm. That doesn't make sense to me. But
then, you are very small. Perhaps your
right. South it is then.
Hold on, little Shirelings. I always
like going south. Somehow it feels like
going down hill.

Treebeard turns around.

MERRY

Are you mad, we'll be caught.

PIPPIN

No we won't. Not this time.

Scene 55
Osgiliath

Frodo, Sam, and Gollum approach a city.

MAN

Look. Osgiliath burns. Mordor has come.

FRODO

The Ring will not save Gondor. It has
only the power to destroy.
Please, let me go.

Faramir looks at Frodo, but motions his men to move.

FARAMIR

Hurry.

FRODO

Faramir, you must let me go!

Scene 56
The Last March of the Ents

Treebeard carries the hobbits near Isengard.

TREEBEARD

And a little family of field mice that
 climb up sometimes and it tickle me
 awfully. They're always trying to get
 somewhere -
 Many of these trees were my friends.
 Creatures I had known from nut and
 acorn.

Treebeard stops as he sees cut and burned trees.

PIPPIN

I'm sorry, Treebeard.

TREEBEARD

They had voices of their own.
 Saruman! A wizard should know better!
 There is no curse in elvish, entish or
 the tongues of men for this treachery.

Treebeard looks past the ruined forest to the furnaces of
 Isengard.
 Treebeard's leaves ruffle in anger.
 Treebeard lets out a powerful cry that echoes through the
 forests.

PIPPIN

Look at the trees, they're moving!

MERRY

Where are they going?

TREEBEARD

They have business with the orcs. My
 business is with Isengard tonight. With
 a rock and stone.

The hobbits look as Ents march out from the forest.

MERRY

Yes!

TREEBEARD

Rárum-rum! Come my friends. The Ents are
 going to war. It is likely that we go to
 our doom. The last march of the Ents.

The Ents march towards Isengard.

Scene 57
The Nazgûl Attack

Osgiliath is under attack. Faramir and his prisoners enter the city.

MADRIL

Faramir, orcs have taken the eastern shore. Their numbers are too great. By nightfall we'll be overrun.

Frodo stumbles.

SAM

Mister Frodo!

FRODO

It's calling to him, Sam. His eye is almost on me.

SAM

Hold on, Mister Frodo.

Sam continues speaking, but Frodo can no longer hear him.

FARAMIR

Take them to my father. Tell him, Faramir sends a mighty gift. A weapon that will change our fortunes in this war.

Faramir turns to leave.

SAM

You wanna know what happened to Boromir? You wanna know why your brother died? He tried to take the Ring from Frodo. After swearing an oath to protect him. He tried to kill him! The Ring drove your brother mad!

MAN (O.S.)

(crying)

Look out!

A tower is hit with a boulder and crumbles. The call from the Ring is heard again.

SAM

Mister Frodo?

FRODO

They're here. They've come.

The cry of a Nazgûl is heard.

FARAMIR

Nazgûl!

Stay here. Keep out of sight. Take
cover!

A Nazgûl on a winged beast flies over Osgiliath. Frodo
stares at it, as the men around him start to run.
Gollum is terrified. Faramir grabs the hobbits and leads
them to cover.

Scene 58
Forth Eorlingas

At Fort Eorlingas, Uruks try to break through the inner door.

THÉODEN

The fortress is taken. It is over.

ARAGORN

You said this fortress would never fall
while your men defend it. They still
defend it. They have died defending it!
Is there no other way for the women and
children to get out of the caves?
Is there no other way?

A loud bang at the door is heard. The women and children in the caves cower in fear.
The king and his men remain silent.

GAMLING

There is one passage. It leads into the
mountains. But they will not get far.
The Uruk-hai are too many.

Aragorn grabs Gamling by his shoulder.

ARAGORN

Send word for the women and children to
make for the mountain pass. And
barricade the entrance!

THÉODEN

So much death. What can men do against
such reckless hate?

The Uruk-hai keep trying to break the door.

ARAGORN

Ride out with me.
Ride out and meet them.

Théoden turns to face Aragorn.

THÉODEN

For death and glory?

ARAGORN

For Rohan. For your people.

GIMLI

The sun is rising.

Aragorn looks up to the window as the sun rises.

GANDALF (V.O.)

Look to my coming at first light on the fifth day. At dawn, look to the East.

THÉODEN

Yes. Yes! The horn of Helm Hammerhand shall sound in the deep, one last time.

GIMLI

Yes!

Gimli climbs up to blow the horn.

THÉODEN

Let this be the hour when we draw swords together.
Fell deeds awake. Now for wrath. Now for ruin. And the red dawn!

Gimli blows in to the horn and the doors give in.

THÉODEN (CONT'D)

Forð Eorlingas!

The King rides out with Aragorn, Legolas and his men by his side. They fight as Gimli blows the horn. The men fight down the causeway into the Uruk army. Aragorn stops and looks up. He sees Gandalf on the back of Shadowfax.

ARAGORN

Gandalf.

Théoden turns to look up.

GANDALF

Théoden king stands alone.

Èomer rides up alongside Gandalf.

ÈOMER

Not alone.
Rohirrim!

Èomer draws his sword.

THÉODEN

Èomer!

ÈOMER

To the king!

Gandalf and the Rohirrim charge down a hill to Uruk-hai. The Uruk-hai point their spears at them, but are blinded when the sun rises. They fight.

Scene 59
The Flooding of Isengard

Ents enter Isengard, throwing boulders.
Orcs try to defend the Isengard, but are squashed by the Ents. One of the Ents is pulled down, and orcs climb on to it, chopping it with their axes. Treebeard then throws a stone, saving his fellow Ent. The hobbits cheer.
Saruman runs out to his balcony and watches.
Merry and Pippin throw rocks on the orcs below.

TREEBEARD

A hit. A fine hit.
Break the dam! Release the river!

One of the Ents is set on fire with lit arrows. Saruman watches at his balcony.
An Ent pulls open the beams supporting the dam.
The dam breaks and masses of water flow in.

MERRY

Pippin, hold on!

TREEBEARD

Hold on, little hobbits!

The Ents stand still and resist the waters, as they flow down in to the fires of Isengard, flooding everything. The Ent on fire is saved by the water.

Scene 60
The Tales That Really Mattered...

Osgiliath is attacked by the Nazgûl. Frodo slowly starts to walk away from Sam.

SAM

What are you doing?
 Where are you going!
 It's me. It's your Sam.
 Don't you know your Sam?

The Nazgûl approaches.

Frodo stands alone on a wall, staring at the Nazgûl in front of him.

Frodo raises his hand, holding the Ring.

Faramir turns to look at him. Frodo moves to put on the Ring.

Sam runs up to Frodo and jumps on him. The hobbits dodge the attacking beast.

Faramir shoots the winged beast with his bow.

The hobbits roll down the stairs. Frodo draws Sting and points it at Sam's neck.

Frodo blinks his eyes, watching Sam, who has tears falling from his eyes.

Slowly, Frodo gets off Sam, panting. He falls down and drops his sword.

FRODO

I can't do this, Sam.

Sam gets up and Gollum joins them.

SAM

I know. It's all wrong. By rights we shouldn't even be here. But we are.

Sam watches the Nazgûl fly away.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's like in the great stories, Mister Frodo. The ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were. And sometimes you didn't want to know the end. Because how could the end be happy. How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened.

But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer.

Those were the stories that stayed with

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

you. That meant something. Even if you were too small to understand why. But I think, Mister Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back only they didn't. Because they were holding on to something.

The Uruks flee Helm's Deep. The men shout in victory.
Aragorn and Eowyn embrace.
Isengard is flooded.
Saruman retreats from his balcony.
Frodo is sitting behind Sam, leaning on a wall, with tears in his eyes.

FRODO

What are we holding on to, Sam?

Sam walks to Frodo and lifts him up.

SAM

That there's some good in this world, Mister Frodo. And it's worth fighting for.

Faramir walks to them and kneels before Frodo.

FARAMIR

I think at last we understand one another, Frodo Baggins.

MADRIL

You know the laws of our country. The laws of your father. If you let them go, your life will be forfeit.

FARAMIR

Then it is forfeit. Release them.

Scene 61
Fangorn Comes to Helm's Deep

The Uruks run from Helm's Deep and into a line of trees.

ÈOMER

Stay out of the forest! Keep away from
the trees!

The Uruks run into the forest. It groans and sways. Horrible sounds emerge.

Èowyn touches Aragorn's face and smiles. The two embrace.

Scene 62
The Final Tally

The Rohirrim are clearing Uruk bodies. Gimli sits on one, smoking his pipe.

LEGOLAS

Final count: fourty-two.

GIMLI

Fourty-two ?! That's not bad for a
pointy-eared Elvish princeling.
I myself am sitting pretty on fourty-
three.

Legolas frowns. He draws his bow and shoots Gimli's Uruk.

LEGOLAS

Fourty-three.

GIMLI

He was already dead.

LEGOLAS

He was twitching.

GIMLI

He was twitching because he's got my axe
embedded in his nervous system!

Gimli wiggles the axe handle, making the Uruk twitch.

Scene 63
Flotsam and Jetsam

Merry and Pippin stand waist-deep in water. They look up at the balcony of Orthanc.

MERRY

He doesn't look too happy, does he?

PIPPIN

Not too happy at all, Merry.

Saruman and Wormtounge stalk along the balcony.

MERRY

Still, I suppose the view would be quite nice from up there.

PIPPIN

Oh yes, a quality establishment. I hear the staff are very good. What are you doing?

Merry surreptitiously tries to measure his height against Pippin's. Pippin looks back at him, and Merry pretends to be picking something out of his hair.

MERRY

Nothing. The world's back to normal, that's all.

PIPPIN

No it isn't. I'm starving.

MERRY

Good luck trying to find something decent around here. Probably only dead rats and moldy bread. Saruman's storeroom!

Pippin finds an apple floating in the water. He looks up, then he smiles. More apples are floating. He grabs them, then drops them to pick up a roast chicken, then finds a whole basket of apples. Merry finds a carafe of wine. They enter a storeroom filled with food. They see barrels marked 'Southfarthing'.

PIPPIN

I don't believe it.

MERRY

It can't be.

PIPPIN

It is.

They open a barrel.

MERRY

Longbottom Leaf. The finest pipe-weed in
South Farthing.

PIPPIN

It's perfect. One barrel each. Wait. Do
you think we should share it with
Treebeard?

MERRY

Share it? No. No. Dead plant and all
that. Don't think he'd understand. Could
be a distant relative.

PIPPIN

I get it. Don't be hasty.

MERRY

Exactly. Bar-hrum.

Treebeard peeks into the storeroom as smoke begins to billow
out.

Scene 64
Farewell to Faramir

Faramir and the hobbits wade through the flooded city to an alcove. Gollum follows.

FARAMIR

This is the old sewer. Runs right under the river through to the edge of the city. You'll find cover in the woods there.

SAM

Captain Faramir, you have shown your quality, sir. The very highest.

FARAMIR

The Shire must truly be a great realm, Master Gamgee, where gardeners are held in high honor. What road will you take once you reach the woods?

FRODO

Gollum says there's a path near Minas Morgul that climbs up into the mountains.

FARAMIR

Cirith Ungol?
Is that it's name?

Gollum crawls past him.
Faramir grabs Gollum and holds him by the neck.

GOLLUM

No. No! Yes.

FARAMIR

Frodo, they say a dark terror dwells in the passes above Minas Morgul. You cannot go that way.

GOLLUM

It is the only way. Master says we must go to Mordor, so we must try.

FRODO

I must.

Faramir throws Gollum down.

FARAMIR

Go, Frodo. Go with the goodwill of all Men.

FRODO

Thank you.

Frodo and Sam start off. Faramir grabs Gollum again.

FARAMIR

May death find you quickly if you bring them to harm.

He flings Gollum toward the sewer. Gollum limps away.

SAM

Come on. Keep up! Mister Frodo didn't mean for them Rangers to hurt you. You know that, don't you? He was tryin' to save you, see?

GOLLUM

Save me?

SAM

So there's no hard feelings. Forgive and forget.

GOLLUM

No, no. No hard feelings.

SAM

Very decent of you. Very decent indeed, Gollum.

Scene 65
"The Battle for Middle-earth is About to Begin"

Gandalf and his company sit on their horses.
 They look towards Mordor.

GANDALF

Sauron's wrath will be terrible, his
 retribution swift.
 The battle for Helm's Deep is over. The
 battle for Middle-Earth is about to
 begin. All our hopes now lie with two
 little hobbits. Somewhere in the
 wilderness.

Frodo, Sam, and Gollum walking through woods.

SAM

I wonder if we'll ever be put into songs
 or tales.

FRODO

What?

SAM

I wonder if people will ever say, 'Let's
 hear about Frodo and the Ring.' And
 they'll say 'Yes, that's one of my
 favorite stories. Frodo was really
 courageous, wasn't he, dad.' 'Yes, my
 boy, the most famousest of hobbits. And
 that's saying a lot.'

FRODO

You left out one of the chief
 characters. Samwise the Brave. I want to
 hear more about Sam.
 Frodo wouldn't have got far without Sam.

Frodo stops to look at Sam.

SAM

Now Mister Frodo, you shouldn't make
 fun. I was being serious.

FRODO

So was I.

SAM

Samwise the Brave.

Scene 66
Gollum's Plan

FRODO

Sméagol!

SAM

We're not gonna wait for you. Come on.

Farther away, Sméagol is crawling, fighting with Gollum again.

SMÉAGOL

Master - Master looks after us. Master wouldn't hurt us.

GOLLUM

Master broke his promise!

SMÉAGOL

Don't ask Sméagol. Poor, poor Sméagol.

GOLLUM

Master betrayed us! Wicked, tricky, false! We ought to ring his filthy little neck! Kill him! Kill him! Kill them both. Then we take the Precious and we be the master.

SMÉAGOL

But the fat hobbit. He knows. Eyes always watching.

GOLLUM

Then we stabs them out. Put out his eyses. And make him crawl.

SMÉAGOL

Yes! Yes! Yes!

GOLLUM

Kill them both.

SMÉAGOL

Yes! No. No. It's too risky, it's too risky.

SAM

Where's he gone? Oi Gollum, where are you?

FRODO

Sméagol!

GOLLUM

We could let her do it.

SMÉAGOL

Yes. She could do it.

GOLLUM

Yes, Precious she could. And then we takes it once they're dead.

SMÉAGOL

Once they're dead. Hush!
Come on, hobbits. Long ways to go yet.
Sméagol will show you the way.

Gollum comes out from behind a tree.

GOLLUM

Follow me.

The hobbits follow Gollum.

It is revealed what lies ahead: Mount Doom and Barad-Dûr, being circled by flying Nazgûl.