

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

The Motion Picture Trilogy  
- Extended Edition -

Original Screenplay by

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Based on the novels by J.R.R. Tolkien

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EXT. PROLOGUE - DAY

GALADRIEL (V.O.)  
(Elvish whispering)

I amar prestar aen...  
The world is changed.

Han mathon ne nen...  
I feel it in the water.

Han mathon ne chae...  
I feel it in the Earth.

A han noston ned gwilith...  
I smell it in the air.

Much that once was is lost. For none now  
live who remember it.

A fire flickers. A ring is forged.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It began with the forging of the great  
rings.

The high Elves - Galadriel, Gil-Galad and Cirdan - receive  
their rings. They look at them.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Three were given to the Elves: immortal,  
wisest and fairest of all beings.

Seven dwarfs pick up their rings from a pillow and hold them  
aloft in triumph.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Seven to the Dwarf Lords: great miners  
and craftsmen of the mountain halls.

Nine men, each holding a ring, lower them in a synchronous  
motion as if holding-close a precious secret.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And nine ... nine rings were gifted to  
the race of Men, who above all else,  
desire power.

An ancient parchment map shows the whole of Middle-Earth.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
For within these rings was bound the  
strength and will to govern each race.

The map moves towards Mordor.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But they were all of them deceived, for  
another ring was made.

Sauron, standing at the Crack of Doom, masked and clothed in metal armor, forges the One Ring in the chambers of Sammath Naur.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
In the land of Mordor, in the fires of  
Mount Doom, the Dark Lord Sauron forged  
in secret a master ring, to control all  
others.

The One Ring spins through the air.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And into this Ring, he poured his  
cruelty, his malice, and his will to  
dominate all life.

Sauron wears the One Ring on his right hand. The Ring begins to glow and a red inscription appears.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
One Ring to rule them all.

A shadow spreads across the map from Mordor.  
Screaming villagers flee from their burning homes, pursued by Orcs.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
One by one, the free lands of Middle-  
Earth fell to the power of the Ring.

An army of swordsmen marches across the plains of Dagorlad.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But there were some ... who resisted.

Men, Elves and Orcs assemble on the battlefield. The Orcs attack the Alliance, rushing across the field that separates the two armies.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
A last alliance of Men and Elves marched  
against the armies of Mordor, and on the  
slopes of Mount Doom they fought for the  
freedom of Middle-Earth.

Elrond gives command to the Elven archers to engage.

ELROND

(in command tone)

Tangado haid! Leithio i philinn!

[Hold positions! Fire arrows!]

The Elves raise their bows and release arrows at the oncoming Orcs, knocking down the first line. As the wave of the Orc infantry reaches the Elven troops, the Elves swing their swords up, slicing the Orcs, one after the other down the line. The Elves and the Men are fully engaged in combat, taking down many of the Orc troops. Elendil raises his sword in triumph.

GALADRIEL (V.O.)

Victory was near. But the power of the Ring could not be undone.

Sauron strides onto the battlefield, towering over both Elves and Men, the One Ring on his finger. He hits groups of warriors, sending them flying across the field.

Elendil raises his sword to strike Sauron, but Sauron parries the blow and flings him against the rock, crushing him to death. Isildur rushes to the fallen warrior. He grasps the hilt of the sword.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was in this moment ... when all hope had faded, that Isildur, son of the King, took up his father's sword.

Sauron stomps down the sword, shattering it. He reaches down towards Isildur, who strikes Sauron's hand with the broken blade of Narsil, slicing the finger that bears the One Ring. Sauron implodes, sending a shock wave throughout the battlefield, knocking the warring troops off their feet. His armor falls unto the ground, his body vaporized.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Sauron, the enemy of the Free Peoples of Middle-Earth, was defeated.

Isildur picks up Sauron's ashen finger still wearing the Ring. He takes it into his hand leaving only the One Ring.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Ring passed to Isildur ... who had this one chance to destroy evil forever.

Isildur leads a small column of Men through darkening woods, the One Ring glinting on a chain around his neck.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But the hearts of Men are easily  
corrupted. And the Ring of Power has a  
will of its own.

A band of Orcs ambushes the troops. Isildur is thrown from his horse but stumbles to his feet. In panic, he puts on the Ring, disappears and flees. He jumps into the river Anduin and materializes underwater, when the Ring slips from his finger. Isildur grasps for it. Orcs spot him and fire a barrage of arrows into him. His dead body floats down the river.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It betrayed Isildur ... to his death.

The ring sinks through the murky waters of the river into the dark.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And some things that should not have  
been forgotten were lost.

The waters of the Anduin river lie dark and undisturbed.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
History became legend, legend became  
myth, and for two and a half thousand  
years, the Ring passed out of all  
knowledge.

A small hand, scrabbling on the river-bed, reaches down and grasps the Ring.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Until, when chance came, it ensnared a  
new bearer.

The thin white hand opens to reveal the One Ring.

GOLLUM  
My Precious.

The mountainside of the Misty Mountains is cloudy and calm.

GALADRIEL (V.O.)  
The Ring came to the creature Gollum,  
who took it deep into the tunnels of the  
Misty Mountains. And there, it consumed  
him.

At a pool in a cave, surrounded by decayed fish flesh and bones, Gollum crouches on a stone, holding the Ring.

GOLLUM  
 (ecstatic whispering)  
 It came to me. My own. My love. My own.  
 My precious!  
 (louder)  
 Gollum!

A silver full moon bathes a lake in cold moonlight. A forest lies dark and still. The sun rises.

GALADRIEL (V.O.)  
 The Ring brought to Gollum unnatural long life. For five hundred years it poisoned his mind. And in the gloom of Gollum's cave, it waited. Darkness crept back into the forest of the world. Rumor grew of a shadow in the east, whispers of a nameless fear, and the Ring of Power perceived its time had now come.

The Ring bounces down a chasm in the rocks and falls to the muddy floor of a mountain tunnel.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 It abandoned Gollum. But something happened then the Ring did not intend.

Bilbo, scrabbling amongst the bones and scree in the cave, comes across the ring.

GALADRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 It was picked up by the most unlikely creature imaginable.

BILBO  
 (surprised)  
 What's this?

GALADRIEL (V.O.)  
 A Hobbit: Bilbo Baggins of the Shire.

Bilbo gazes in delight and wonder at his find.

BILBO  
 A ring!

Frightened by a screaming voice, Bilbo gets to his feet and pockets the One Ring.

GOLLUM (O.S.)  
 (shrieking)  
 Lost! My precious is lost!

White clouds lie above the Misty Mountains.

GALADRIEL (V.O.)

For the time will soon come when Hobbits  
will shape the fortunes of all.

INT. BAG END STUDY - DAY

The parchment map moves from the Misty Mountains over Rivendell, Weathertop, Bree and Bywater to Hobbiton before slowly revealing the whole of Middle-Earth.

BILBO (V.O.)

Ahrrmm ... The twenty-second day of September in the year fourteen-hundred, by Shire-reckoning. Bag End, Bagshot Row, Hobbiton, Westfarthing, the Shire, Middle-Earth. The Third Age of this world.

The map rests on the floor with several other maps, books, scrolls and similar items of research. Bilbo is seated at his desk, a quill pen in his hand, smoking the pipe.

BILBO

"There and Back Again: A Hobbit's Tale, by Bilbo Baggins". Now ... where to begin? Ah, yes.

He dips the quill in the ink and begins writing.

BILBO (CONT'D)

"Concerning Hobbits."

EXT. HOBBITON - DAY

Everyday scenes in the Shire: Cows pull a plow on a field. A hobbit struggles to move a pig on a rope.

BILBO (V.O.)

"Hobbits have been living and farming in the four Farthings of the Shire for many hundreds of years."

In the market square, Hobbits gather to look over the latest wares, present their stock, and share a drink.

BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"Quite content to ignore and be ignored by the world of the Big Folk. Middle-Earth being, after all, full of strange creatures beyond count, ..."

In the fields, cows are being milked, pathways swept clean, and animals grazed. A Hobbit sleeps next to a pig. Another

one seems intent on removing a parasite from his ear.

BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"... Hobbits must seem of little  
importance being neither renowned as  
great warriors nor counted among the  
very wise."

INT. BAG END STUDY - DAY

Bilbo pauses and chuckles to himself. He turns to knock at the door.

BILBO  
(calling out)  
Frodo! Someone at the door.

Bilbo turns immediately back to his writing.

EXT. HOBBITON - DAY

A hobbit, preparing to kiss his sweetheart, is distracted by a tray of muffins. He grabs one and stuffs it into his mouth.

BILBO (V.O.)  
"In fact, it has been remarked by some  
that the Hobbits' only real passion is  
for food."

Hobbits prepare for a party in the field. Carrying a barrel of ale on his shoulder, a Hobbit refills his mug as he walks. Three Hobbits sit around smoking pipes.

BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"A rather unfair observation, as we have  
also developed a keen interest in the  
brewing of ales, and the smoking of  
pipe-weed."

Hobbits work on a field, while two enjoy a leisurely game in the sunshine. Others are gardening with kids playing around them.

BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"But where our hearts truly lie is in  
peace and quiet and good tilled earth."

Sam plants flowers in front of his house, admiring them.



BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"For all Hobbits share a love of things  
that grow."

Hobbits are setting up for Bilbo's party on a field,  
struggling to put up a tent. A large birthday banner is  
raised and applauded.

BILBO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"And yes, no doubt, to others our ways  
seem quaint. But today, of all days, it  
is brought home to me: It is no bad  
thing to celebrate a simple life."

INT. BAG END STUDY - DAY

It knocks on the door again.

BILBO  
(calling out)  
Frodo, the door!

The knocks become louder and more insistent.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
Sticklebacks! Where is that boy?