

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

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 a 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?

EXT. HOBBITON WOODS - DAY

BILBO (O.S.)  
 (calling out)  
 Frodo!

Frodo leans against a tree in the woods, reading a book.  
 Birds sing, flowers are scattered among the well seeded  
 grasses and nature is peaceful.

In the distance, he perceives an approaching cart and a  
 horse. Frodo hears the faint singing to the tune of "The  
 Road Goes Ever On and On".

GANDALF  
 (humming)  
*Down from the door where it began.*  
*Hmm... hmm... hmm... hmm...*  
*And I must follow if I can.*

The Hobbit closes his book and stands, listening. He  
 recognizes the voice, smiles and runs off.

EXT. SHIRE LANE - DAY

Gandalf, wearing a gray cloak and a pointy hat, drives a horse-drawn cart through the sunshine on a grassy road next to the forest.

GANDALF (CONT'D)

(singing)

*The road goes ever on and on,  
Down from the door where it began.  
Now far ahead the road has gone,  
And I must follow if I can...*

Frodo runs to the cart, stopping on a bank above it. He folds his arms and looks down.

FRODO

You're late!

Gandalf brings the carriage to a stop. He slowly looks up from under his floppy hat.

GANDALF

(seriously)

A wizard is never late, Frodo Baggins.  
Nor is he early. He arrives precisely  
when he means to.

Both, he and Frodo, look at each other for a moment, then slowly begin to grin and crack up into laughter. Frodo leaps onto the front seat and hugs the old man.

FRODO

It's wonderful to see you Gandalf!

GANDALF

(laughs)

Ooh! You didn't think I'd miss your  
Uncle Bilbo's birthday?

EXT. HOBBITON FIELDS - DAY

Gandalf resumes his drive towards Hobbiton, Frodo right next to him. The wizard smokes a long pipe.

GANDALF

So, how is the old rascal? I hear it's  
going to be a party of special  
magnificence.

FRODO

You know Bilbo. He's got the whole place  
in an uproar.

GANDALF

Well, that should please him.

Gandalf chuckles.

FRODO

Half the Shire's been invited.

They drive past a few Hobbits working on a field of bright crops.

FRODO (CONT'D)

And the rest of them are turning up anyway.

Gandalf and Frodo both laugh. They approach a water mill and cross the river over a small stone bridge.

BILBO (V.O.)

"And so, life in the Shire goes on very much as it has this past Age ... full of its own comings and goings, with change coming slowly ..."

The Hobbit, who tried to remove the parasite from his ear, still struggles and shakes his hand.

The cart climbs up a slope through the village, which is surrounded by large trees and green hills.

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

"... if it comes at all. For things are made to endure in the Shire, passing from one generation to the next. There's always been a Baggins, living here under the Hill ... in Bag End."

INT. BAG END STUDY - DAY

Bilbo stops writing and looks up.

BILBO

(thoughtful)

And there always will be.

EXT. HOBBITON FIELDS - DAY

FRODO

(concerned)

To tell you the truth, Bilbo's been a bit odd lately. I mean, more than usual.

Gandalf listens thoughtfully, smoking his pipe.

FRODO (CONT'D)  
He's taken to locking himself in his  
study.

INT. BAG END STUDY - DAY

Bilbo picks up a map of Middle-Earth, looks at it, then  
closes it and puts it down.

FRODO (V.O.)  
He spends hours and hours poring over  
old maps when he thinks I'm not looking.

Bilbo pats his pants pockets. Suddenly, an expression of  
alarm comes over his face. He digs urgently into his pockets  
and turns them out, becoming more frantic.

BILBO  
(worried)  
Where's it gone?

Bilbo desperately searches the missing item in the whole  
house, turning over cushions and clothes. He becomes angry.

Finally, he shoves his hands into his vest pockets and stops  
with a sigh. He removes his hands from the pocket, the found  
item clenched in his fist. After taking a look at it, he  
holds it to his mouth in relief.

EXT. HOBBITON FIELDS - DAY

FRODO  
(thoughtful)  
He's up to something.

Gandalf glances at Frodo, who slowly looks back, waiting for  
an answer. The wizard avoids the gaze, deliberately staring  
at the scenery and smoking his pipe.

FRODO  
(smiling)  
All right, then. Keep your secrets.

GANDALF  
What?

FRODO  
But I know you have something to do with  
it.

GANDALF

Good gracious me!

FRODO

Before you came along, we Bagginses were very well thought of.

GANDALF

Indeed?

FRODO

Never had any adventures or did anything unexpected.

GANDALF

If you're referring to the incident with the dragon, I was barely involved. All I did was give your uncle a little nudge out of the door.

FRODO

Whatever you did, you've been officially labeled a disturber of the peace.

GANDALF

Oh really?

The cart drives past suspicious Everard Proudfoot, who cleans his front yard. Gandalf gazes at him and the grumpy Hobbit glares back. His wife Aurora comes out of the house.

EXT. HOBBITON - DAY

As the cart drives through the green village, Hobbit children are drawn to the sight of the old wizard and his cart. They run towards Gandalf.

HOBBIT CHILDREN

(shouting excitedly)

Gandalf! Gandalf! Fireworks? Gandalf?

The children rush past the Proudfoots, Aurora looks on in disapproval. Gandalf pretends to ignore the children. They come to a disappointed halt as the cart keeps on going away.

Fireworks go off from the cart. The hobbit children cheer and Gandalf laughs pleased. Everard chuckles, but his angry wife gives him a stern look. Everard restores his grumpy face.

FRODO

Gandalf, I'm glad you're back.

Frodo leaps from the cart. Gandalf smiles.

GANDALF  
So am I, dear boy.

The wizard takes a puff from the pipe.

GANDALF (CONT'D)  
(thoughtful)  
So am I.

The wizard continues his way through Hobbiton until he stops his cart outside Bag End.

GANDALF  
(to the horse)  
Whoa, whoa.

He gets down and goes through the gate which bears a sign saying: "No admittance except on party business."

EXT. BAG END - DAY

Gandalf raises his staff and raps on the front door.

BILBO (O.S.)  
No thank you! We don't want any more  
visitors, well-wishers or distant  
relations!

GANDALF  
And what about very old friends?

Bilbo opens the door.

BILBO  
(amazed)  
Gandalf?

GANDALF  
Bilbo Baggins!

BILBO  
My dear Gandalf!

Gandalf drops to his knee to embrace his old friend. They hug.

GANDALF  
Good to see you! One hundred and eleven  
years old - who would believe it?  
(surprised)  
You haven't aged a day.

They both laugh as Bilbo bids the wizard inside.

BILBO  
Come on, come in! Welcome, welcome! Oh,  
here we are.

INT. BAG END LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gandalf follows the Hobbit through the round door, watching out not to bump his head. Bilbo closes the door.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
Tea? Or maybe something a little  
stronger?

Gandalf hands Bilbo his staff and hat. The Hobbit takes it from him and puts it away.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
I've got a few bottles of the Old  
Winyard left. Twelve ninety-six - very  
good year. Almost as old as I am.

Bilbo laughs and runs down the corridor towards the kitchen.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
It was laid down by my father. What say  
we open one, eh?

GANDALF  
Just tea, thank you.

Gandalf bumps his back into the chandelier and steadies it. He turns around, hitting his head on a beam. The wizard nurses the pain with his hand and enters Bilbo's study.

BILBO (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I was expecting you sometime last week.  
Not that it matters, you come and go as  
you please. Always have done and always  
will. You caught me a bit unprepared,  
I'm afraid. We've only got cold chicken  
and a bit of pickle ... Oh, there's some  
cheese here - oh no, that won't do.

Gandalf examines Thorin's map of the Lonely Mountain, which is mounted on a frame.

BILBO (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Err, we got raspberry jam and an apple  
tart ... Not much for afters, I'm  
afraid. Oh, no - we're all right! I've  
found some sponge-cake.

Bilbo enters the room with some food in his hands but the

wizard apparently disappeared.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
I could make you some eggs if you ...  
(baffled)  
... oh - Gandalf?

Gandalf suddenly peers from the kitchen behind the Hobbit.

GANDALF  
Just tea, thank you.

Bilbo turns round with a smile.

BILBO  
(with mouthful, mumbling)  
Oh, right!

He takes a bite of food.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
You don't mind if I eat, do you?

GANDALF  
No, not at all.

Gandalf sits down on a chair at the kitchen table. There is a loud knocking on the door.

LOBELIA (O.S.)  
(shouting)  
Bilbo Baggins!

Bilbo jumps out of sight, pressing his body against the wall.

BILBO  
(to Gandalf, whispering)  
I'm not at home!

He tiptoes to the window and peeps outside.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
It's the Sackville-Bagginses.

LOBELIA (O.S.)  
I know you're in there!

BILBO (CONT'D)  
They're after the house. They've never forgiven me for living this long!

The Hobbit tiptoes back to the kitchen.



BILBO (CONT'D)  
I've got to get away from these  
confounded relatives hanging on the bell  
all day, never giving me a moment's  
peace.

Gandalf tries to make himself comfortable at the small  
furniture.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
I want to see mountains again ...  
mountains Gandalf! And then find  
somewhere quiet where I can finish my  
book. Oh, tea!

Bilbo hurries to take the kettle from the fire.

GANDALF  
So, you mean to go through with your  
plan, then?

BILBO  
Yes, yes. It's all in hand. All the  
arrangements are made.

Gandalf lifts up the lid of the tea pot.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
Oh, thank you.

Bilbo starts to pour water into it.

GANDALF  
Frodo suspects something.

BILBO  
'Course he does. He's a Baggins! Not  
some block-headed Bracegirdle from  
Hardbottle.

The Hobbit returns the kettle to the fireplace.

GANDALF  
You will tell him, won't you?

BILBO  
Yes, yes.

GANDALF  
He's very fond of you.

Bilbo thinks about the statement for a second.

BILBO  
 (seriously)  
 I know. He'd probably come with me if I  
 asked him.  
 I think, in his heart, Frodo's still in  
 love with the Shire, the woods, the  
 fields, ... little rivers.

The Hobbit stands gazing out of the kitchen window.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
 I'm old, Gandalf.

Bilbo looks at Gandalf sadly.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
 I know I don't look it, but I'm  
 beginning to feel it in my heart.

Gandalf gazes at his friend in tense when Bilbo's fingers  
 reach into his waistcoat pocket, fidgeting a small, unseen  
 object. Bilbo sits down wearily at the table.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
 I feel thin, sort of stretched, like  
 butter scraped over too much bread. I  
 need a holiday, a very long holiday. And  
 I don't expect I shall return. In fact,  
 I mean not to.

EXT. PARTY FIELD, HOBBITON - NIGHT

Bilbo and Gandalf sit peacefully smoking pipe outside Bag  
 End. They overlook the party field, where last preparations  
 are being made.

BILBO  
 Old Toby. The finest weed in the  
 Southfarthing.

Bilbo blows a perfect ring of smoke which hangs gently in  
 the still air. Gandalf sucks his cheeks in and out and blows  
 a full-rigged ship through the ring.

BILBO (CONT'D)  
 Gandalf, my old friend, this will be a  
 night to remember.