

ELVEN QUEEN 2

FIRST ATTENDANT. Halt! In the name of the Elven-Queen. (The DWARVES groan as the ELVES surround them.)

ELVEN-QUEEN (stepping forward). So, Thorin Oakenshield, we meet again! Of course I knew I would find you here. Where is the burglar?

THORIN. What burglar?

ELVEN-QUEEN. Don't try to deceive me. He may be invisible but the treasure isn't! Well, now that we are all here, we can discuss matters. How shall we divide the treasure?

THORIN. No elf has a claim to the treasure of my people! I will not parley with armed elves.

ELVEN-QUEEN. But the wealth of the elves is mingled in Smaug's hoard. Let us discuss that.

THORIN. We will give you nothing! Not a single gold coin. We look on you as foes and thieves!

ELVEN-QUEEN. So you claim treasure that is not really yours. Then how are you better than Smaug? Besides, you need my aid.

BILBO (stepping up to the ELVEN-QUEEN and removing his ring). Have you a better plan than ours, Your Majesty?

ELVEN-QUEEN (startled). Ah, the burglar has decided to show himself! But you're not a dwarf--what are you?

BILBO. A hobbit, ma'm. Allow me to introduce myself. Bilbo Baggins, Esquire, companion to Thorin Oakenshield. At your service. (Bows cordially.)

THORIN (furious). Mr. Baggins! Will you please not interfere----

ELVEN-QUEEN. A hobbit? Then maybe you'll listen to reason. Certainly I have a better plan. Dragons have to be slain. Then we should share the treasure. Part of it belongs to us. The dragon stole it from us.