

## ELVEN-QUEEN 1

ELVEN-QUEEN. Halt! (DWARVES and BILBO freeze in surprise.)

THORIN. By whose authority do you bid us halt?

ELVEN-QUEEN. I am the Elven-Queen. Who are you that trespass on my domain?

THORIN (stage whisper to BILBO). Quick, Bilbo, make yourself invisible. Put on your ring.  
(BILBO does so, and from then on he is ignored by all.)

ELVEN-QUEEN (imperiously). Speak.

THORIN (stepping forward proudly). I am Thorin Oakenshield, son of Thrain, son of Thrór, King under the Mountain!

ELVEN-QUEEN (disdainfully). A dwarf all the same. Why did you and your folk attack my people?

THORIN. We did not attack them, your majesty.  
We came to beg because we are starving.

ELVEN-QUEEN. What are you doing in Mirkwood?

THORIN. We are looking for food and drink.

ELVEN-QUEEN (impatiently). But why are you here at all? (THORIN remains silent.) Come now! (THORIN remains silent.) Very well! You shall all go to my dungeons where you shall remain until you tell me the truth--if it takes a thousand years! Seize them! (The Elf GUARDS grab THORIN and surround the others. To the GUARDS.) How many are there?

GUARD. Thirteen, O Queen.

ELVEN-QUEEN. Away with them. (She exits L.)