

SMAUG

SMAUG (stirring, in a thundering voice). Thief! I know you're there. I smell you and I hear your breath. Thought you'd catch me napping, did you? (Vapors and bubbles increase.)

BILBO (summoning up all his courage). Oh, no, O Smaug. I did not come to rob you. I only wished to have a look at you and see if you were truly as great as tales say. I did not believe them----

SMAUG (somewhat flattered). Do you now?

BILBO. Truly, songs and tales fall far short of the reality! You are the greatest of calamities.

SMAUG. Nice manners for a thief and a liar. Come closer so I can eat--I mean, see you.

BILBO. I don't think that would be wise, O Smaug.

SMAUG. Hmm, you seem familiar with my name, but I don't remember smelling you before. Who are you? Where do you come from?

BILBO (trying to sound formidable). I come from under the hill and over the hills. I am he that walks unseen. I am Barrel-rider and Ringbearer and Luckwearer and I am here to reclaim the rightful treasure of the King under the Mountain.

SMAUG (snorting and belching smoke). The King under the Mountain is dead, and I have eaten his people as a wolf eats sheep. I laid low the warriors of old, when I was young and tender. Now I am old and strong! Thief in the shadows!

BILBO. I am the clue finder, I am he that buries his friends alive and drowns them and draws them alive again from the water. I am Ringwinner and Luckwearer and Barrel-rider!

SMAUG (gloating). My armor is like tenfold shields, my teeth are swords, my claws spears, the shock of my tail is a thunderbolt, my wings are as a hurricane, and my breath is death!