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THORIN. My good sir, the sign says: "Burglar wants good job, plenty of excitement and reasonable reward." Read it yourself. (Opens door and shows sign.)

BILBO. So! I've been deceived!

GANDALF (to THORIN). You asked me to find a fourteenth man for your expedition--and I chose Mr. Baggins here----

BILBO (incensed). Oh, you did, did you? Well, if you think that I----

GANDALF. --but I'm afraid I've made a sad mistake. This can't be the chap! No, no, I was looking for a member of the famous Took family. Imagine! I mistook him for a Took! (Glowers at BILBO.)

BILBO (stung). But I am a Took!

GANDALF. Really? Tch, tch, the blood must have thinned then.

BILBO. Why, my greatuncle, Bull-Roader Took----

GLOIN (cutting in). Yes, yes, but we're talking about you!

GANDALF (melodramatically). I said to myself, now here is a hobbit with desires beyond his next cup of tea--but alas, he's just an ordinary run-of-the-Shire hobbit. When adventure knocks, he locks his door and hides under the bed.

BILBO (highly insulted, standing up). Really, this is too much!

GANDALF (to DWARVES). Well, dwarves, you can go back to shoveling coal. The hobbit is afraid to go and you certainly can't set out with thirteen! That's too unlucky!

BILBO (with great dignity). Sir, I must tell you that to uphold the honor of the Took family, I would cross mountains and deserts and fight a hundred dragons! I would----

GANDALF (cutting in). Splendid! Mr. Baggins is with us! (Shakes Bilbo's hand.) Now, Thorin---- (Crosses to THORIN.)

BILBO (mumbling to himself). Now why did I say that? Bilbo, you're a fool! Now you have put your foot in it!