Chapter 1

An Unexpected Party

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit, a small, beardless creature with hairy feet who is quite sociable and loves the comforts of home. Bilbo himself is very well off and fond of food and clothes. His house is a beautifully furnished hole in the ground.

Bilbo Baggins greets a passer-by and does not recognize him as Gandalf the wizard. Gandalf tells Bilbo that he is looking for someone to share an adventure with, but Bilbo firmly declines the invitation even after Gandalf reveals himself to Bilbo and reminds him of his longtime relationship with his family, the Took family. After Bilbo invites Gandalf to tea the next day, Gandalf scratches a strange mark on Bilbo’s door and leaves.

The next day, thirteen dwarfs arrive at Bilbo’s hole in the ground. They are named Dwalin, Balin, Kili, Fili, Dori, Nori, Ori, Oin, Gloin, Bifur, Bofur, Bombur, and Thorin.

The dwarfs eat, talk, smoke and play musical instruments. They sing about a treasure that lies buried under a mountain guarded by a dragon. The dwarfs tell Bilbo that the scratch on the door means that Gandalf advertised Bilbo as a burglar, but they are skeptical of his abilities to get the treasure.

Gandalf has a map made by Thor, Thorin’s grandfather that shows where the treasure is hidden, so they go to bed with plans for an early start the next morning to get the treasure.
Chapter 2

Roast Mutton

Bilbo Baggins awakes the next morning to find the dwarfs gone. Gandalf appears and agrees to give him one-fourteenth of the treasure if he helps them. Bilbo runs to meet the dwarves forgetting his handkerchief. He catches the dwarves and they set out on ponies loaded with provisions, but after Gandalf disappears one of the ponies runs away leaving them with little food.

They see a campfire and Bilbo goes to investigate. There are three trolls, Bert, Tom and William who are complaining that they have no men to eat. They are fighting among themselves when Balin (one of the dwarves) enter their camp. They put him in a bag and then do the same with the rest of the dwarves who have come to look for Bilbo. Bilbo hides in the top of a bush.

Gandalf tricks the trolls into staying out past dawn, so they all turn to stone, and Gandalf and Bilbo free the dwarves.

The next morning they take the trolls food, clothes, swords, and gold and head out to the Mountain on their ponies.
Chapter 3

A Short Rest

Bilbo and the dwarves approach the Misty Mountains. The sense of danger increases and, once again, Bilbo thinks of home. Gandalf warns them that they are at the edge of the Wild and that they can stay with his friend Elrond in Rivendell.

The way is difficult, but at last they come to the valley of Rivendell and are greeted by singing elves. Bilbo loves elves, but elves are dwarf’s traditional enemies so they decline an invitation to supper.

The group end up staying fourteen days with Elrond, a wise and hospitable elf who interprets Thorin’s map saying it says to stand by a stone near a thrush and the setting sun will shine on a key-hole.

The next day, the dwarves leave and go over the Misty Mountains and beyond.
Chapter 4

Over Hill and Under Hill

The travelers are caught in a violent storm that is the work of the stone-giants. With their ponies, the expedition seeks shelter and sleep in a cave. Bilbo dreams that a crack opens in the back of the cave; he wakes to find the crack is real and the ponies have disappeared though it and the Goblins have entered. When the goblins try to grab Gandalf, he creates a lightening-like flash in the cave and several goblins fall dead. The crack closes and Gandalf disappears.

The great goblin interrogates Thorin and recognize Thorin’s sword as Orcrist or Goblin-cleaver that has killed many goblins. The Great Goblin sentences all the dwarves to death but the lights go out and the sword Glamring (also called Foe-hammer or Beater) appears by itself and runs through the Great Goblin, killing him.

Gandalf’s voice leads the dwarves out of the caves, but not before they kill several more goblins. Dori is carrying Bilbo, but falls and Bilbo hits his head on a rock and loses consciousness.
Chapter 5

Riddles in the Dark

Bilbo regains consciousness, finding him alone, and tries to crawl through the tunnel. He finds a ring, which he absentmindedly pockets. He finally reaches a lake that he cannot cross because he does not know how to swim.

Bilbo is spotted by old Gollum, who lives on an island in the lake. Gollum is a small, slimy, dark creature with pale eyes, named for the sound he makes when he swallows. Gollum engages Bilbo in a game of riddles, at which Bilbo proves his equal.

Gollum figures out that Bilbo has found his ring that makes him invisible. Bilbo, who does not understand the power of the ring, slips it on his finger. He immediately becomes invisible and Gollum cannot find him to attack. Bilbo escapes once again by leaping over Gollum’s head, but he runs right into the goblins. As they rush him, he slips the ring on, becoming invisible, and narrowly escapes to the outside where it is light and the Goblins cannot follow.
Chapter 6

Out of the Frying-Pan Into the Fire

When Bilbo emerges, he discovers that he is on the other side of the Misty Mountains; his wanderings inside have taken him through. He decides he must go back and look for his friends. Still invisible, he hears Gandalf and the dwarves arguing; Gandalf is saying that they must go back and rescue Bilbo. Bilbo slips off the ring so they can see him. They set off, because the Goblins are after them, but he does not tell them about the existence of the ring.

Night falls and they hear wild wolves, the Wargs howling. The dwarves and Bilbo climb trees to hide from them. Gandalf, who understands the Warg language, listens to their plan to join the Goblins and raid the nearby village. He sets the wolves on fire with burning pinecones he throws down from his tree, chasing them away.

The Lord of the Eagles hears the noise and brings other eagles with him to investigate. In the meantime, the Wargs have joined the goblins setting fire to the forest. As Gandalf’s tree goes up in flames and he prepares to jump to his death, the Lord of the Eagles swoops down and carries him away. The other eagles seize the dwarves and Bilbo and carry them to their nest. They give the expedition a place to rest for the night and bring back animals for the dwarves to roast and eat.