***Chapter 18: “The Return Journey” (pgs. 310-319)***



* Bilbo woke up alone, and looked into the valley where he saw no living Goblins, but elves moving around and taking down the wall at the Front Gate.
* Men are looking for Bilbo – he remembers that he still wears the ring, and reveals himself immediately.
* The man takes him down to a tent in Dale, where Gandalf (with his arm in a sling) greets him. Bilbo is taken inside the tent to the bedside of Thorin Oakenshield – who lays wounded and dying.
* Thorin apologizes to Bilbo, saying that the world would be a better place if only more folks were like him. He asks for Bilbo’s forgiveness. He bids farewell, and dies.
* Bilbo cries over the loss of Thorin – but is so glad that he made it in time to say goodbye and to make amends before he died.
* Meanwhile, we learn of what happened while Bilbo was out cold. The eagles had gathered together, after watching the Goblins assemble with the Wargs. They came to the rescue of the elves, men, and dwarves.
* At the end, Beorn also appeared in his bear form to help. It was Beorn that picked up Thorin after he was wounded and carried him to safety. Beorn then returned to the battle and killed the Goblin called Bolg. Together, they all drove out into Mirkwood the Goblins who were not killed. All of the Goblins are either dead or now in hiding.
* Back in the present time, Thorin was laid to rest. Before he was buried, Bard laid the Arkenstone on Thorin’s chest in his way of honoring Thorin. The Elvenking laid Orchrist (Thorin’s sword) upon his tomb. He was buried deep beneath the mountain.
* Next in line, Dain now became the King Under the Mountain. As for the rest of the dwarves … Fili and Kili also died in the battle, defending and protecting Thorin. The others chose to now remain with Dain.
* The treasure was given out fairly by Dain: 1/14 to the dwarves, 1/14 to Bard (in this way he made peace, and the men of Dale became his allies), the emerald of Girion to the Elvenking. Bilbo took only 2 small chests (one of silver and one of gold) for himself – just what a pony could carry.
* Bilbo says his goodbyes to the dwarves, and heads toward home with Gandalf, the Elvenking, and Beorn. They travel to the edge of Mirkwood, where they next say goodbye to the Elvenking. Gandalf, Beorn, and Bilbo will go around the edges of the forest. Before leaving, Bilbo gave a necklace of silver and pearls to the Elvenking as a thank you.
* By mid-winter, Gandalf and Bilbo reach Beorn’s house, where they remained until spring. Beorn became a great chief of these regions, and peace came over this edge of the wild. Once spring came, Bilbo’s Tookish side was getting tired, and the Baggins side was getting stronger – he longed to continue the journey home.