

THE HOBBIT

CHAPTER ABSTRACTS – CHAPTER 14

- The narrator suspends telling the story of Bilbo and the dwarves at the mountain and focuses on Smaug as the dragon flies toward Lake Town to wreak vengeance. Smaug attacks Esgaroth (Laketown). The inhabitants have warning of his coming and prepare for his attack by cutting the bridges (so he cannot come at them on foot and has to remain in the air) and by making sure they have water on hand to extinguish his fires.
- Their readiness is of little help, for Smaug flies over the town and lights every roof on fire. Archers led by Bard the Bowman try to defend the town, but the majority evacuate.
- A thrush tells Bard, who is descended from the ancient kings of Dale, about Smaug's weak spot. The bird tells Bard to watch for the dragon's weak spot in the hollow of his left breast.
- With his last arrow, Bard kills Smaug, who falls onto the town and wrecks it. Bard escapes and is hailed as a hero by the townsfolk, who want to make him their king (except for the Master).
- Some blame the dwarves for waking the dragon, but most assume that they too are dead. Then the lake men remember the gold in the Lonely Mountain, and they think eagerly of how the wealth could rebuild their town.
- News of Smaug's death spreads quickly. It reaches far and wide, bringing the Elvenking and an army of elves, who stop at Lake Town to lend aid. The humans and elves then gather together in a single army and march toward the Lonely Mountain. Most of them expect to find a massive treasure left unattended.

