

A Burglar's Fieldbook

Bilbo, Thief in the Night

THE COMPANY



ROLE

Stack regulator

BRACKET

3

CLOSE

T8-10

LOAD

Medium-high



TABLE PROMISE. Comfortable middle-Bracket-3 Bilbo. I cast tools from my graveyard, interact on the stack, and close through visible artifacts or tokens; there are no deterministic combos, extra turns, or Game Changers.

FIVE-PLAYER HOME. Designed for the full five-deck table; at four players, keep every deck ready for the next game.

01 THE ROUTE

- 01 Pack the library
Keep enough blue mana, one cheap setup piece, and a reason to attack.
- 02 Make passage
Equip or protect Bilbo before exposing him.
- 03 Choose one tool
Replay the artifact or spell that answers this turn's question.
- 04 Reveal the cache
Once artifacts and tokens are visible, animate them or protect one large threat.

02 OPENING HAND

KEEP

- Two to four lands with blue mana and one cheap mana or selection piece.
- A safe-passage tool or a believable way to stock the graveyard before Bilbo attacks.
- One contextual answer is useful; five reactive spells without an engine are not.

SEND BACK. One-land hands, even when the baubles and cantrips look charming.

03 COMMANDER REMINDER

Bilbo, Thief in the Night

Spells you cast from anywhere other than your hand cost {1} less to cast.

Whenever Bilbo attacks, you may cast an artifact, instant, or sorcery spell from your graveyard. If an instant or sorcery spell cast this way would be put into your graveyard, exile it instead.

PILOT FIT. Choose this when you prefer patience, precise answers, and deciding which threat must not resolve yet.

LEAVES OPEN. A slower clock and one-for-one answers can be stretched by several staggered threats.

04 INTERACTION

Stop the irreplaceable spell. Arcane Denial
Buy one whole combat. Aetherize
Contest the second hand. Soul-Guide Lantern
Protect the burglar. Spellskite

05 VISIBLE CLOSES

Animate the cache. Cyberdrive Awakener
Rise at sorcery speed. Rise and Shine
Send the protected threat. Kappa Cannoneer

06 YOUR FOUR OPPONENTS

The Great Goblin

EVEN • HOLD THE RESET

WATCH. A sacrifice outlet plus a wide board can turn removal into damage and cards.

ANSWER. Aetherize the attack, counter the recovery spell, or expose Stone of Erech before the death turn.

Thorin, King of Durin's Folk

EVEN • ANSWER THE MULTIPLIER

WATCH. Treasure and finite ETB multipliers turn an ordinary Dwarf turn into the pod's largest burst.

ANSWER. Save Resculpt or a counter for Thorin, Gandalf, Kindred Charge.

Beorn the Fierce

TEMPO EDGE • RESPECT THE DEN

WATCH. One protected trample turn can erase the time Bilbo spent curating the graveyard.

ANSWER. Keep a bounce spell for the committed combat and protect key equipment from Beorn's broad permanent removal.

Thranduil, the Elvenking

NECESSARY CHECK • SKILL MATCHUP

WATCH. Buried Alive and activated Elf abilities create hidden flexibility that scales with pilot knowledge.

ANSWER. Counter the graveyard setup or deploy Soul-Guide Lantern when the ability package becomes coherent.

