

This month's issue of Empire magazine is jam packed with Hobbit goodness, with over 60 pages dedicated to Peter Jackson's return to Middle Earth. There are lots of interviews, trivia, and of course SPOILERS. Here we have what would seem to be the most interesting revelations from the mag. Apparently Smaug the dragon will indeed appear in the first movie. Jackson says he will make a "fleeting appearance" in the prologue, and that he will "remain as liquid tongued as the book's memorable villain (he is a character not a monster)". The director also reveals that the Mirkwood spider scenes have now been moved to film two, and that the creepy arachnids will speak, but only as a "psychic communication", which only Bilbo can hear. Possibly the most exciting revelation, at least for fans hoping that the Necromancer - an incarnation of Sauron, only mentioned briefly in the novel -

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