

This past weekend, my roommate and I were on a mission to rewatch the extended versions of The Lord of The Rings. (Let's not talk about the three-part Hobbit right now, though, ok? I am still reeling.) And as we watched, I remembered exactly how white and dudely LOTR is. It's still one of my favorite book series, and I've always thought the movies did justice to the books, but that doesn't mean the cast couldn't use a refresh. Now seemed like the perfect time for a diverse -- and occasionally gender-swapped -- recast.

Let's start with the elves.

Michelle Yeoh is a shoe-in for Galadriel, as she is beautiful and perfect in all ways. I can already see her in the swirling, iconic silhouette they gave Cate Blanchett. If you will just look at Lance Reddick, you will see that he is practically already part elf; he's our Elrond. Byung Hun Lee is clearly Legolas, and I will fight you about it if I have to.

The Riders of Rohan were also pretty easy to cast.

Jason Momoa is already a horse lord; we need look no further for our Eomer. Ken Watanabe has the gruff thoughtfulness I look for in my Theoden. And Dichen Lachman, bestill our hearts, is capable of taking out a Nazgul as Eowyn.

Now we're off to the no-longer-so-white city of Minas Tirith in Gondor.

Alessandro Juliani has already played several overlooked heroes, and done Shakespeare for god's sake. Faramir: check. Boromir was the first recast in my head, and he is Sendhil Ramamurthy. Just look at that tortured, brooding nobility.

Now hang in with me here, because we're about to take a sharper turn:

Indira Varma -- as Aragorn. Stalwart, a natural leader, dedicated, and not afraid to bring it on the battlefield; she has embodied all these qualities in her various roles. Give us a warrior queen to root for, am I right? And then we have Idris Elba as Arwen, the heart and soul of our wandering heroine. Who wouldn't live through the Battle of Helm's Deep for him? And James Edward Olmos is Gandalf, because obviously.

And what about our hobbit friends?

They're all ladies. Arden Cho is our Frodo: an innocent and exuberant spirit to start with, who shoulders more and more responsibility as the journey progresses. America Ferrera is Sam, the rock of the group, loyal to a fault, and a hero in her own right. Merry and Pippin are, respectively, Diane Guerrero and Amandla Stenberg; Diane is the slightly older and wiser, but still mischievous one, while Amandla is the impish youngest, always getting into trouble without ever really meaning to.

You might have noticed a few missing names; I couldn't quite bring myself to recast Saruman or Gimli, because Christopher Lee and John Rhys-Davies are my personal favorites. Denethor, I couldn't quite find someone with as clear a penchant for insanity. And Celeborn -- well, let's be really here, does anyone care about Celeborn? What is he even for?