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The Hobbit (BBC Radio Collections)



Synopsis

THE GREATEST FANTASY EPIC OF OUR TIME Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. But the wizard Gandalf came along with a band of homeless dwarves. Soon Bilbo was drawn into their quest, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and worse unknown dangers. Finally, it was Bilbo "alone and unaided" who had to confront the great dragon Smaug, the terror of an entire countryside . . . This stirring adventure fantasy begins the tale of the hobbits that was continued by J.R.R. Tolkien in his bestselling epic *The Lord of the Rings*. From the Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Scenes from *The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies* Luke Evans as Bard and Orlando Bloom as Legolas in *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*, in theatres December 17, 2014. (cr. Mark Pokorny) [Click here for a larger image](#) Ian McKellan as Gandalf and Luke Evans as Bard in *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. (cr. Mark Pokorny) [Click here for a larger image](#) Smaug the Dragon attacks Lake Town in *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. (Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.) [Click here for a larger image](#) A scene from *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. (Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.) [Click here for a larger image](#) Luke Evans as Bard in *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. (Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.) [Click here for a larger image](#) Martin Freeman as Bilbo in *The Hobbit: The Battle*

of the Five Armies. (Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.)[Click here for a larger image](#)

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"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort." The hobbit-hole in question belongs to one Bilbo Baggins, an upstanding member of a "little people, about half our height, and smaller than the bearded dwarves." He is, like most of his kind, well off, well fed, and best pleased when sitting by his own fire with a pipe, a glass of good beer, and a meal to look forward to. Certainly this particular hobbit is the last person one would expect to see set off on a hazardous journey; indeed, when Gandalf the Grey stops by one morning, "looking for someone to share in an adventure," Baggins fervently wishes the wizard elsewhere. No such luck, however; soon 13 fortune-seeking dwarves have arrived on the hobbit's doorstep in search of a burglar, and before he can even grab his hat or an umbrella, Bilbo Baggins is swept out his door and into a dangerous adventure. The dwarves' goal is to return to their ancestral home in the Lonely Mountains and reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug. Along the way, they and their reluctant companion meet giant spiders, hostile elves, ravening wolves--and, most perilous of all, a subterranean creature named Gollum from whom Bilbo wins a magical ring in a riddling contest. It is from this life-or-death game in the dark that J.R.R. Tolkien's masterwork, *The Lord of the Rings*, would eventually spring. Though *The Hobbit* is lighter in tone than the trilogy that follows, it has, like Bilbo Baggins himself, unexpected iron at its core. Don't be fooled by its fairy-tale demeanor; this is very much a story for adults, though older children will enjoy it, too. By the time Bilbo returns to his comfortable hobbit-hole, he is a different person altogether, well primed for the bigger adventures to come--and so is the reader. --Alix Wilber

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Very nice books, binding seems nice. I love the covers although they are not "paperback" and are more of a fake leather material. These books are beautiful and very convenient. They are pocket-sized which is great for on the go, they aren't too small or too big (actually bigger than I anticipated which is a plus). The font size is readable, the only thing I would have to note is that the font size isn't the same throughout the different books. The font size seems to be based on the

length of the books, the longer the books are, the smaller the font is (I suppose this was in order to keep them pocket-sized as well as consistent with the sizes of the other books throughout the set). If you have decent to good eyes, this set would be perfectly fine for you on the go but those people who don't have as good of eye sight, because I know some people who tend to get headaches while focusing on small font, this set may not be for you. I will upload some pics of the font comparisons, books, etc.

Having only an old 1994 worn paperback edition of the Lord of the Rings, I wanted to purchase a version that I could read and display for many years to come. I did a ton of research and decided upon this version (ISBN 116-1749849-2513827), illustrated by Alan Lee and published by Harper Collins in June 2014 (I am adding these details because the .com site does not make it clear what this version is). Please note that this particular printing is NOT available in the US but any Tolkien or LotR devotee should not be deterred (Frodo wouldn't have been!). I must say that this is the finest published one-volume version of the LotR that I have ever laid eyes upon, and is well worth every penny. It includes approximately 50 high-quality color illustrations by Alan Lee, which even for a 30-something like me makes the reading experience exceptional. The front and back covers are made of durable, high-quality cloth (as shown), with a strong and handsome turquoise binding. The pages -- not just the illustrations but the entire book -- are glossy and made of "whiter" paper than you generally find, the margins large, and the typeset easy on the eyes. For those who care about such things, the printing is based on the 2004 corrected text, with even further corrections. There are updated introductions/forwards by Wayne G. Hammond & Christina Scull, authors of the authoritative "LOTR Readers Companion," as well as by Douglas A. Anderson, who provides a detailed publication history of the Lord of the Rings. The full appendices are included. Two-page red and black maps of Middle Earth and of Gondor/Rohan/Mordor adorn the front and back covers, with a map of the Shire before the first chapter. Also present are other essentials such as the Doors of Moria and the Tomb of Balin. The only drawback is that the facsimile pages of the Book of Mazarbul was not included, which I found to be surprising and a bit disappointing. Also, the ring inscription and the Gandalf "rune" are printed in black rather than silver and red. Probably the main issue is the clear plastic slipcover, which is barely bigger than the book itself, and it is difficult to slip the book back inside it after taking it out. You are more likely to scuff the corners of the book. That being said, these are far from dealbreakers, and the joy to be received from owning this edition far outweighs these issues.

I purchased this illustrated edition of *The Hobbit*, primarily to be a gift to my adult children to read to their children. I have read *The Hobbit* numerous times over the past 50 years or so, along with the *Lord of the Rings*, *The Silmarillion*, *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien*, and other works by J.R.R. Tolkien. Some have expressed dissatisfaction with this adaptation, whether because some parts were left out or glossed over, or the illustrations weren't what they expected, or the illustrations had too much dialog covering them. J.R.R. Tolkien himself commented on the reception his books received while he was still alive. He had received letters asking for more information about Hobbits and Middle-earth, and others saying that there was too much. I believe that he understood that no book or story would please everyone on every point, and that one must do the best they can on what they do, and not worry about pleasing everyone. Clearly, this edition does not please everyone, but I don't believe that it was intended to. There are two releases of the illustrated edition, with two different covers. The copies that I purchased were used, and shipped from private bookstores through , but not from . Both releases have the same story illustrations in them, but the illustrations before and after the story are different. Also, the covers were illustrated by two different artists, but the story was illustrated by a third artist. This edition stays true to the tale in J.R.R. Tolkien's, *The Hobbit*. Unlike Peter Jackson's movies, which change the storyline in significant ways, this adaptation does not change any of the storyline, though with only 134 pages, it does not go into great depth. It does address the major points of the story, and illustrates them in clear, well drawn illustrations. I have read *The Hobbit* onto a set of CD's that my older grandchildren listened to when they were little and again as their younger siblings listened to them. I know that they will enjoy this illustrated edition, and the parents or older siblings will read the story to the little ones, discuss the pictures and help the little one's understand the story. Graphic adaptations to stories don't appeal to everyone, particularly those purists who love the original works and don't want them changed. I consider myself a Tolkien purist, but can appreciate the quality of the illustrations and the accuracy of this adaptation. I would recommend this illustrated edition to those who want to share *The Hobbit* with children they hold dear, or for the child in each of us who wants to rediscover the story in a new way.

I've been a fan of these stories for years... and it's been years since I've read the books. It's past time I've re-read these - and now I have them to do so. I've the paperback set but I wish I got the imitation leather set lol - who know, I might end up with them as well. The set I have: the print or font is average sized (not tiny, nor is it large). Binding is good for a paperback - should last a long time. I'm very happy about this purchase - I just wish I would have thought about more and got the

imitation leather cover set now. LOL :)

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