

# The Hobbit & The Lord of the Rings Boxed Set

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## The Hobbit / The Lord of the Rings Box Set A 75th Anniversary boxed set of Tolkien

Hobbits and wizards and Sauron--oh, my! Mild-mannered Oxford scholar John Ronald Reuel Tolkien had little inkling when he published *The Hobbit: Or, There and Back Again* in 1937 that, once hobbits were unleashed upon the world, there would be no turning back. Hobbits are, of course, small, furry creatures who love nothing better than a leisurely life quite free from adventure. But in that first novel and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the hobbits Bilbo and Frodo and their elvish friends get swept up into a mighty conflict with the dragon Smaug, the dark lord Sauron (who owes much to proud Satan in *Paradise Lost*), the monstrous Gollum, the Cracks of Doom, and the awful power of the magical Ring. The four books' characters--good and evil--are recognizably human, and the realism is deepened by the magnificent detail of the vast parallel world Tolkien devised, inspired partly by his influential Anglo-Saxon scholarship and his Christian beliefs. (He disapproved of the relative sparseness of detail in the comparable allegorical fantasy his friend C.S. Lewis dreamed up in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, though he knew Lewis had spun a page-turning yarn.) It has been estimated that one-tenth of all paperbacks sold can trace their ancestry to J.R.R. Tolkien. But even if we had never gotten Robert Jordan's *The Path of Daggers* and the whole fantasy genre Tolkien inadvertently created by bringing the hobbits so richly to life, Tolkien's epic about the Ring would have left our world enhanced by enchantment. --Tim Appelo

J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) was a distinguished academic, though he is best known for writing *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Silmarillion* and *The Children of Hurin*, plus other stories and essays. His books have been translated into over 50 languages and have sold many millions of copies worldwide.

### Other Books

*The Hobbit*, The classic bestseller behind this year's epic second instalment, now in a perfectly-sized pocket hardback. This new film tie-in edition features the complete story of Bilbo Baggins' adventures in Middle earth, with a striking cover image from Peter Jackson's film trilogy and drawings and maps by J.R.R. Tolkien. Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely travelling further than the pantry of his hobbit-hole in Bag End. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an unexpected journey "there and back again". They have a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon... The prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* has sold many millions of copies since its publication in 1937, establishing itself as one of the most beloved and influential books of the twentieth century.

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