



The Ring Sets Out

J.R.R. Tolkien

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Continuing the story of The Hobbit, this seven-volume paperback boxed set of Tolkien's epic masterpiece, The Lord of the Rings is a collection to treasure.

Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power; the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring -- the ring that rules them all -- which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as the Ring is entrusted to his care. He must leave his home and make a perilous journey across the realms of Middle-earth to the Crack of Doom, deep inside the territories of the Dark Lord. There he must destroy the Ring forever and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose. Discover the incredible epic journey of Frodo in a celebratory seven-volume boxed set of fantasy classic, The Lord of the Rings.

The Ring Sets Out Details

Date : Published September 3rd 2001 by Collins (first published July 29th 1954)

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From Reader Review The Ring Sets Out for online ebook

Sleepover137 says

Love it, even though it took more than 100 pages to get out of the shire XD

Connel Luckhurst says

The best part of reading LOTR in it's six parts is the comfort that the first book brings. You feel the warmth of the Shire and it's Hobbit folk at the start. You also begin to feel the brewing of the storm as Frodo begins his journey. I know Tolkien's style is not for everyone but once again I begin to lose myself in Middle Earth.

Akshay Kalra says

Reading this as a high fantasy novel intended for young adults, i was a little disappointed as the book was immensely similar to its predecessor i.e. The Hobbit, which is a children's book. For the most part the story as its predecessor embarks on a journey to the east and my feelings about the journey (**up the hill, down the hill, under the hill, through the hill, into the dell, onto the ridge, into the thickets, across the ford**) can be likened with those of the characters as in all of US were longing for it to end.

David says

Horsey horsey don't you stop! Reading this to someone else, it gets rather boring describing scenery over and over again, which is why the first installment of my most favourite of books only gets 3 stars.

Kenny says

Ahh, coming back to read an old favorite. This is the mental equivalent of curling up in a warm blanket with a good cup of tea :)

The Lord of the Rings is actually six books - and this first one is a wonderful kickoff to the whole story. I recently read The Hobbit and this is a perfect continuation. Bilbo is of course once more surrounded by his friends and family and is going to celebrate his birthday, with everyone (including Gandalf) invited... But we learn that the Ring may not be just a simple "invisibility ring", and only after a real struggle does Bilbo manage to give it up for his young nephew Frodo...

Gandalf goes away to learn the truth, and when he finally returns to Frodo we learn that the Ring is actually the key to world domination by the Dark Lord Sauron. Frodo decides to follow in Bilbo's footsteps and take the Ring to Rivendell and seek advice from the elves... But it doesn't go according to plan!

What follows is a series of increasing problems as Frodo and his loyal gardener Sam, along with two friends Merry and Pippin, try to secretly make their way out of the Shire... pursued by evil Black Riders (servants of the Dark Lord) and bumble their way through a number of ancient evils and natural hardships trying to make it to Rivendell.

When read as a single book, this is surprisingly well plotted and driving! Gandalf is still a little too much "Mr Exposition" but I think it is justified to underline the danger presented by Black Riders

Book 2: The Ring Goes South, coming up!

Nina says

Years ago I went to the cinema with my brother (who loves LOTR) to see the second Lord of the Rings-film. I hadn't seen the first one, but my brother was so enthusiastic I went with him. I was a bit confused. Though the fight scenes were cool and I remember Legolas sliding down stairs/railings shooting arrows and I thought that was cool as well. There were talking trees, which was weird. I liked Merry and especially Pippin. Frodo was a bit mean.

About a year later I watched the first film. Alone, on a weekday afternoon. I was bored and don't remember much from that film, except they were in a forest at one point. That is it.

About five or six years later I watched the final film. Having completely forgotten the two first ones and not remembering the names of places and characters I was again quite lost. The spider was super freaky and scary and I had my eyes closed during that scene. There were elephantish creatures and I love Pippin.

C'est tout.

Just so you know that this, my first read of LOTR, is very much like discovering this story for the first time. I have technically watched the films, but in the wrong order and years apart and I probably remember three minutes in total. So I am not counting the films.

Also, I have decided that this is the year I will do things that I have previously been unwilling to do – like drinking coffee, eating sushi, and reading LOTR.

So, here's my thoughts on the first book:

I love, love, love the hobbits and Hobbiton. Love them. I could spend chapters on end in the Shire. One of the few things I remember from the films is how much I loved Pippin, but Merry might be stealing his thunder. And Sam, good old Sam.

Unlike many other people apparently, the songs didn't annoy me at all. They are an important part of the hobbits' culture and history and I liked the images of them singing to pass the time or to keep their spirits up, or just as an outlet of their joy.

The Black Riders are terrifying. Constantly lurking in the shadows, I got all nervous when the hobbits, and later Strider too, had to cross marshes or moors or mountains. Who knew when the Riders would catch up with them? And then what would happen?

And the Elves... I understand Sam's fascination. They are wonderful. Could have prettier names though. Thinúvien is not a pretty name for the most beautiful Elvish woman, and Glorfinden deserved a better name as well. But the Elves themselves are great.

Looking forward to the next part. I know boring bits are coming up, everyone has warned me about them, but I just really want to know what happens to my hobbits and Strider. Will start the next bit soon.

flajol says

Yet another attempt to make it through the full set of books...

I actually liked Tom Bombadil this time around, so that's an improvement on my previous false starts with this book.

Boy Blue says

I only want to talk about 3 things in regards to this book. They all have to do with things that weren't in the movie for better or worse.

1. Most people know the story pretty well even if they haven't read it or seen the films but one thing of particular note to me was the incredible number of songs and poems in the book. Tolkien was obsessed with song and poetry and in fact in the lore of his world the creator sang Middle Earth into existence. All the most powerful creatures all use words, song or incantation to create and manipulate power. Unknown to Tolkien but an interesting parallel for me considering what I've been reading recently is that singing and creation are intrinsic to the Australian Aboriginal creation myth. There's certainly some interesting territory to explore there.

I can see why an enormous amount of these songs and poems never made it into the films. They would have been hard to pull off seriously and in some ways they may have come off as a bit twee. In the story they add a lot of depth and this form of world building through internal myth and story is excellent. It's great to see the history of the different races and how the current characters are inserting themselves into that fabric.

2. Tom Bombadil. We all know about him and we all know he was sorely missed in the film. I just want to talk about him because he's absolutely fascinating. He seems to be the most powerful character in the whole of Middle Earth but is a jolly old fellow that just likes to walk around and sing. He has complete dominion over his realm and as Gandalf mentions, even Sauron wouldn't be able to challenge him there.

He is also the only character for whom the ring has absolutely no power or temptation. He puts it on and doesn't disappear, he seems to acknowledge its malevolence but puts no value in it whatsoever. When Frodo puts it on in front of him, he sees straight through the enchantment and says *"take that off, your hand is fairer without it"*. This nonchalant way of dealing with the ring is astounding when you compare it to all the other interactions around the ring. It's probably the reason the council of Elrond decide against giving it to him for safekeeping, saying that he may lose it because he doesn't care about it and that it's unfair to put his land under pressure from Sauron even if he could deal with it.

Tom has also been in Middle Earth longer than anyone else. The best thing about the character and it's always my favourite thing about stories is that Tom is not really explained at all, he's just this incredibly powerful character and that's that.

Did I also mention he rides a horse called Fatty Lumpkin? I mean come on what a name if ever there was one. Sure Shadowfax is cool and all but he's got nothing on Fatty Lumpkin.

3. The geographical minutiae gets tiring. Tolkien's deep world building is great but the constant geographical details actually make it hard to read at times. Details along the line of

They came down the valley on the western side of the Anduin, along a small stony path cut into the hill by the men of old, the shadow of the mountains to the east stretched to brush them as the three hills, one with that monolithic structure, receded in the north behind them. They crested a small rocky outcrop at dusk, there they saw billowing black clouds and a dark shadow growing in the south like a dark mantle being pulled over the land, it's tendrils just reaching out through the stagnant air of the bewitched forest, darkening their hearts. The outcrop provided good cover, surrounded as it was by ancient trees that snaked and wound around the stone. They set up camp on the western side under a particularly dense copse of the oldest looking trees.

No that is not a quote but a fictional invention to demonstrate the sort of tedium you may experience.

There are passages like that for pages and pages. Yes it's a quest narrative but the way Tolkien deems it necessary to name every rock, tree and river on this journey grows tiresome. It is the one thing that makes the book hard to read. Clearly, it was important to him that he built this world and even that he rendered it more vividly than the world we live in but I think that ambition was something that pleased him and not the average reader. This is where the movie is superior because it has no need to describe the scenery or path being taken as it just relies on NZ's natural beauty and fierce wilderness to do the work instead.

Peter says

I never really expected the LotR movies to be a direct adaptation of the books. But the first part of the first movie is a far cry from what was written in book 1. What happened to the decades between Bilbo's disappearance and Frodo's departure from the Shire? And to Tom Bombadil and the barrow whites? It looks like hardly anything made it to the first movie.

Nevertheless, I think Tom Bombadil's songs will forever haunt my memory, as it gets stuck in my head regularly,, "Tom Bom, jolly Tom, Tom Bombadillo!"

Book Bite Reviews says

There aren't many books that are written quite like this anymore. It is a well written fantasy about Hobbits mainly Bilbo Baggins and his nephew Frodo, who had come upon the unfortunate findings of a Ring . The ONE ring to rule them all...etc that was lost long ago and picked up by Smiegle. This ring is the sole connection between The Hobbit and The Lord of The Rings. I must say that I adored The Hobbit and I can't wait for the last movie to come out. How exciting.

Frodo is so sweet and kind as are most Hobbits, which I find quite fascinating and satisfying. The Elvens are also a peaceful and gentle people who make suitable friends of Hobbits.

The adventures of Frodo Baggins thus begins in the Shire and in this installment, ends near the Elven territory of Rivendell, called The Ford. I kept looking for signs of where Bilbo journeyed approximately 80 hobbit years ago. Where Frodo and Company arrived at the 3 stone Trolls they sat down and ate. How wonderful it was to be in the same vicinity as Bilbo! Oh and at the watchtower of Amon Sul that is where the Orc leader in The Hobbit stationed his army and one of them was killed for his failed attempt to kill Thorin Oakenshield. Herein is where the Dark Riders stabbed Frodo in the shoulder.

Of course I've watched the Lord of The Rings movies years ago, but it's immensely rewarding to read along with the Audiobook Read by Phil Dragash on youtube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jYdUf...>

Shawn Birss says

Uh... It ended on a cliffhanger!

I find it difficult to write reviews for books as classic and beloved as this. The Lord of the Rings has been so often read, analyzed, and reviewed, that I don't really feel I have a lot to offer. So, I'm just going to write a few notes about my own experience of reading, and my thoughts after finishing part one of this six part epic.

This is my third time reading this book, but my first time finishing it. Twice in the last twenty years I've picked it up. Neither time did I make it past Tom Bombadil. I do not know why. This time, I could hardly put it down. It infected my dreams, and my thoughts during the day. Tolkien has created a world so real, that it seemed to hijack my imagination even when I wasn't reading it.

I love the poetry and song.

I love the patient descriptions of place.

I love the characters.

I intended to read each part, and then take a break before reading the next, as I did with The Green Mile last year, but I don't know if I have the self control to wait...

I am reading The Hobbit to my children as I read this book, and it has been a wonderful companion. I've read The Hobbit many times, but I really appreciated having the mythology of the original book so fresh in my mid as I read this one. I've enjoyed seeing Tolkien's progression.

The next part will be entirely new to me. I have never reached it in previous readings. However, at Part Three, I will come to familiar pages again. When I was in High School, I was not aware that these books could not be read out of order. Curious about LOTR, I searched the library, and found that Fellowship was taken out, but Two Towers was in. I read the first few chapters before putting it back, confused. I'm looking forward to seeing how much I still remember from that when I reach it.

So good. Read this book.

Tasneem Mhmd says

nice novel baaad movie

Ben Payne says

I listened to the Audible version of this book (or half book if you prefer - it's the first half of Fellowship of the Ring - the first "book" of that book).

Like a lot of fantasy readers, I read Tolkien when I was really young, then read lots of other fantasy by other authors that were derivative of Tolkien, and eventually became a little embarrassed of liking Tolkien. I started to feel that these books were a bit antiquated and full of outdated attitudes.

While that's true, to some extent, they're actually much smarter books and better written than I'd given them credit for. The world-building is so deep and rich, it's quite intoxicating. And the characters are very likeable. Hobbits are just the perfect everyman character. The pacing is possibly a little slow for modern sensibilities, but at the same time there's a lovely sense of menace to this first section, with the characters menaced by the mysterious riders that follow them across the countryside, with its desolate abandoned landscapes and crumbled towers.

I really enjoyed "reading" it again via the audiobook, which is really nicely read.

Brendan Childs says

The reason I read this book is because it is from a genre of books that I like (fantasy), and it is a classic series of fantasy books that are known to be one of the best that there are. I also read this because I have never gotten round to reading this series even though I have seen the movies many times. The category this book completes is a book written before my grandparents were born.

The things I liked about this book is that it starts the series really well and introduces you to all the characters in a way that you can easily keep up. It also starts off the storyline in a nice way, slowly building it up so that you can understand easily what is happening. Added to all of that it is also a nice length, not too short and not too long.

The part of this book that I didn't like is that it is very slow and dull and even though it does start the story well it is quite boring for most of the book. Another part that I didn't like about this book is that it has almost no action in it making it a bit of a mission to get through. As well as all that it uses a relatively old version of English in it which can take a bit of getting used to.

I would recommend it to anyone that likes a good fantasy book, unless they cannot get through the initial slow starting which does actually last the whole book. If you liked other classic fantasy series or even action or sci-fi books I would recommend this book.

I'mogén says

Okay, so my review got... Not saved somewhere along the line... So I have to try and remember allllll that was said! -.-

Here we go!

The Lord of The Rings The Fellowship of the Ring, Book One: The Ring Sets Out is just that! Frodo and friends set out on their first adventure with the ring in order to meet with Gandalf and learn more about the current troubles of MiddleEarth, which Frodo's inherited ring seems to be the target of.

I was rather pleasantly surprised that this novel didn't start as The Hobbit did, which is to say rather slowly! It was full of adventure from the get go, which I really appreciated! I very much enjoy that the edition I have is split into even smaller books and would greatly recommend this edition because where they are smaller it's much easier to get through; it's not as intimidating and daunting an experience as reading a massive book would be, seeing as Tolkein's works are quite heavy worded as well and also because I'm not trying to rush through it or getting held back because of the size I've found that I can really understand the characters more because I have the chance to spend more time with them and can gain a sense of sympathy and empathy for the hardships they have to tackle within their adventure.

Okay! I think this is a better review than the first go. Sometimes things need a second chance to be better! :)

Anyway! A definite recommendation!

Pick it up, give it a go and enjoy!

Gén. >(^_^)<

Jennifer Fleming says

In all honestly I was torn between 3 and 4 stars for a while as I can appreciate how incredibly written it is however I tried reading this book a couple of years ago and really struggled to get into it. I don't know whether it was because I was too young or whether the first 150 pages really are very difficult to get through as I literally picked up where I left off this time, given they were still walking around just outside the Shire halfway in.

That said, after picking it up again after promising myself to read them all this Summer, I was introduced to Tom Bombadil, Strider and eventually Glorfindel and found it a really captivating read, especially after Strider joined them at the Prancing Pony.

It's also nice to be able to follow what's going on as I have watched the movies already and maybe what I've just said is some kind of blasphemy as I should separate the book from the movie but given that I particularly struggle to create a clear image of characters in my mind, being able to see Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen etc. this, along with Tolkien's words, allowed me to find myself absorbed in the story and travelling on this journey with them.

In all honesty, I would love to give this book four stars however as I know just how action packed they are going to become, even if I gave it four stars now I know it would have to bring it down as I know that in

comparison, the rest of the series is going to blow me away.

I now cannot wait to pick up the second book and continue to Rivendell and beyond.

Mazzy says

The Ring Sets Out is the first of the six books of the *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The three volumes consist of two books each.

The Ring Sets Out begins in the light tone of *The Hobbit*, but soon the ‘little’ adventure of Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin turns dark. We hear stories of great evil, of the wretched creature named Gollum and that something dark has arisen in the land of Mordor.

The four hobbits are innocently and surprisingly brave, encounter the Nazgûl, an evil ancient tree, marvelous Tom Bombadil and Goldberry, and finally Strider, who helps them avoid capture by the Nazgûl. And finally, we meet Glorfindel.

Tõnu Vahtra says

I have seen both the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit trilogy in the movies and also read Hobbit in childhood but this was my first Tolken book in native language. I started reading during trekking in Nepal Everest region which definitely added a lot to the experience. During the flight back to Europe I watched again the Hobbit movies and now will do the same with Lord of the Rings trilogy also in the near future, added the other parts of the story to immediate reading list.

There were many familiar moments from the movies but also some mixed sections that actually took place in the Hobbit movies or took place at a different time. The book was very engaging and I finished it in a few sittings. There was a lot of singing in the book, much less attention has been put on this part in the movies.

“All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.”

“May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.”

“Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgement.”

Jennifer Royan says

Love diving into this story piece by piece and am doing so again based on the dates when book breaks occur. Considered reading it literally on the day when events were to occur, but... do you know they were in the wilds for 17 days between getting stabbed and reaching the ford?!

Jessica says

Stuck between 3 and 4 stars. Some of it was great but then other parts consisted of 15 pages of "the road went down and then sloped back up and then went back down and then went right and up again" le sigh. Also very much underestimated the huge difference between the book and the film.
