
J.R.R. Tolkien

The Fellowship of the Ring (The Lord of the Rings #1)

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Description

Frodo Baggins knew the Ringwraiths were searching for him—and the Ring of Power he bore that would enable Sauron to destroy all that was good in Middle-earth. Now it was up to Frodo and his faithful servant Sam to carry the Ring to where it could be destroyed—in the very center of Sauron's dark kingdom.

Insightful reviews

Matt: I wasn't really "cool" back in high school. I never made out with girls under the bleachers, or smoked under the bleachers, or did any of the other things under the bleachers that - I am lead to believe - the popular kids did. Instead, I maintained a low profile and waited for the teenage years - that wilderness of strangled thinking - to end.

In high school, as today, I harbored geekish obsessions, had a wandering imagination, and nurtured an appreciation for minutiae. In other words, I should have been J.R.R. Tolkien's core audience. For whatever reason - perhaps intuition that I didn't need to dig my social hole any deeper - I never read *The Lord of the Rings* when most people first come upon *The Lord of the Rings*.

Actually, I was barely cognizant of LOTR until college, when the movies were released. I absolutely loved Peter Jackson's film trilogy. During law school, I left a legal writing final halfway through in order to see *Return of the King* on opening day. Despite this, I never desired to read the source material. From talking to my friends, who were Tolkien enthusiasts ("nerds"), I assumed I wouldn't like the books. They seemed too talky, dense, and plodding.

Finally, one fair summer night on my patio, my friend Jon and I were drinking beer and talking about *The Lord of the Rings* and how it was funny we could do this openly and still have significant others of the opposite sex. (I believe my wife was inside at the time, deciding what she would take in the divorce). Somehow, in a Miller Light and bratwurst haze, Jon got me to commit to giving LOTR a try. Then, I did a keg stand with Jon's homemade beer. This is how I read.

Now, having finished *Fellowship of the Ring*, I have new appreciation for what Peter Jackson accomplished. Yeah, he made it into an action film, but that's the medium of film; there needs to be action. He did a fine job of taking Tolkien's essence and goosing it. (Sometimes he goosed the action too much, but we can discuss Legolas surfing on his shield at Helm's Deep another day). It was this love of the film that, interestingly, made me hesitant to read the books.

Folks who love Tolkien love Tolkien with a vengeance. If it isn't obvious already, I don't have that underlying feeling. I understand, theoretically, Tolkien's achievement, but I'm not going to pretend to know all the references - religious, mythic, and linguistic - used as ingredients.

What I do know is that, at its heart, LOTR is an archetypal hero's journey. It begins with an orphan of average abilities, who has a task thrust upon him. This forces the hero to leave home

and enter the wider world. In the world he must pass tests, learn lessons, and eventually accomplish his task. Once that is done, the hero can return home; however, he is forever changed, and the home to which he returns is different.

The hero in LOTR is Frodo Baggins, a hobbit. Now, a hobbit is - well, they're short, but they're not dwarves. That's the important thing to remember. Hobbits are like pot-smoking liberal arts majors. They like to hang around, eat, smoke, drink, and talk. Frodo's uncle, Bilbo, is a rare hobbit who has gone out and had adventures. He also has a magic ring, which he gives to Frodo.

This ring...well it's evil. I could explain more, and Tolkien certainly does, but suffice it to say the ring is a Macguffin. It's like Marcellus Wallace's suitcase in *Pulp Fiction*: it drives the plot, and that's all you need to know. (This being Tolkien, though, you are certainly able to learn much, much, much more).

Bilbo and Frodo's friend, the wizard Gandalf, tells Frodo that he must take the ring to the Cracks of Doom to destroy it, lest the Dark Shadow Sauron get his figurative hands upon it. With this, the journey starts. Frodo is joined by three other hobbits: Sam (the loyal one); Pippin (the scared one); and Merry (the one portrayed by *Los's* Dominic Monaghan). After some brushes with the Nine Riders/the Nazgul/the Ring Wraiths (Tolkien has a very Russian way of making up a name, and then making up two or three or four synonyms, which makes things a little confusing), the hobbits meet up with Aragorn/Strider who leads them to Rivendell, where the elves live under Elrond. There is a counsel, the Fellowship is joined by Boromir (a man), Legolas (an elf) and Gimli (a dwarf). It all sounds like the set-up for a very complicated joke. But rest assured, the fate of Middle-Earth is at stake. (Though that does not stop the characters from stopping repeatedly for long meals; apparently, the Fellowship is comprised of foodies and gourmands).

It's important to note what this book is not: it is not an action-packed adventure. Mostly, it is people walking through this make-believe world, talking about the past, and worrying about the future. There is a battle in the mountains of Moria that lasts for two pages; other than that, there are only scattered paragraphs when people are running, swords are unsheathed, and the stakes are raised. If swords and arrows are what you seek, just stick to the films. Moreover, you aren't going to find complex characterizations. The good guys are varying shades of good, and the bad guys are really bad. About the only conflicted characters are Boromir, who is conflicted for five sentences or so, and Gollum, the strung-out ring-addict.

So what is the book? Well, it's a place you visit.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a Nyquill connoisseur (or addict, take your pick). I often need something to calm my overactive mind before I can get to sleep. Instead of the Quill, for the past weeks, I used *Fellowship*.

This is a compliment.

Tolkien's world is so immersive, so fully realized - with its varied races, songs, languages, and

lore - that whenever you open the covers it's a sublime escape. You are in an ancient land filled with a rich and ancient history, and a wonderfully described topography. Sure, the shadow of war hangs over Middle-Earth, but there is no tension. If you feel like Frodo is in mortal danger, and might not accomplish his task, you're probably six years old and having the story read aloud.

Reading *Fellowship* was simply comforting. I wouldn't mind a kindly wizard giving me sage advice:

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 judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.

And I also wouldn't mind going on a little hike through the forest, and maybe hanging out with some elves:

Away high in the East swung Remmirath, the Netted Stars, and slowly above the mists red Borgil rose, glowing like a jewel of fire. Then by some shift of airs all the mist was drawn away like a veil, and there leaned up, as he climbed over the rim of the world, the Swordsman of the Sky, Menelvagor with his shining belt. The Elves burst into song. Suddenly, under the trees a fire sprang with light. 'Come!' the Elves called to the hobbits. 'Come! Now is the time for speech and merriment!'...At the south end of the greensward there was an opening. There the greenfloor ran on into the wood, and formed a wide space like a hall, roofed by the boughs of trees. Their great trunks ran like pillars down each side. In the middle there was a wood-fire blazing, and upon the tree-pillars torches with lights of gold and silver were burning steadily. The Elves sat round the fire upon the grass or upon the sawn rings of old trunks. Some went to and fro bearing cups and pouring drink; others brought food on heaped plates and dishes.

Frodo's journey is secondary to Tolkien's creation of Middle-Earth. And the genius of Middle-Earth is that it goes beyond the pages. With its allusions to a long history filled with famous leaders and famous events and famous battles, your imagination is ignited.

Upon finishing the first book, I saw how LOTR became a place of refuge for the outcasts and iconoclasts of our world. Like comic books, it is a place of escape, where the everyday order is turned upside down: the stakes are high, the heroes short, the beer is plentiful, and girls a distant afterthought.

FlibBityFLoob: I suppose what I am about to type will be considered sacrilegious to some reading this review. However, I always believe in honesty in reviews, so here goes anyway :)

As much as I love the story, I have to say that I liked the movie better than the book. *gasp*

There's the blasphemy for you. Hehehehe. There was just so much singing in the book. I wish I could have skimmed the singing passages, but I was listening to the audiobook which made skipping the songs difficult. Maybe I was clouded in my judgement by the audiobook narrator's singing talent, but I grew very tired of it early on in the book. And yet, it continued... and continued... and continued.

The LOTR movies that came out in the early part of the 21st century are some of my favorite movies. I was amazed by the cinematography, the story, the acting, and the music. The movies were something my husband and I could both enjoy together, and we have watched the movies numerous times over the last several years. Other than reading part of THE HOBBIT when I was a kid, I had never gotten around to reading the LOTR trilogy.

After listening to my husband wax poetic about how much he loved to read the Lord of the Rings growing up, I made a decision that I wanted to read the books to see for myself how they compared to the movies. Now that I've read the first book, I understand some of the characters my husband said were missing from the movies (such as Tom Bombadil). In regards to singing, Bombadil is definitely one of the main culprits! I kind of see why they chose to cut him out of the movie. I mean, the movie was already going to be really long anyway, so it seemed like a logical cut to me.

I definitely love the world that Tolkien built. I didn't hate the book. I just found it to be a bit long-winded at times. SCANDAL! I know, I know. LOTR is a classic. I found myself saying things like: "Stop singing, Gimli and get on with the action!!!!". As much as I love the plot, I shouldn't be belittling the book's prose. But, I can't be the only one who feels that way. Well, maybe I am. I don't care. :P

I still plan to continue the trilogy in book form. I have a feeling there will be less singing in the next book, but I could be fooled. I almost expect the guards of Mordor to break out into song. EEK! That's an image that might have me giggling in RETURN OF THE KING. Tap dancing/singing guards in a giant orc chorus-line. I need therapy... or more sleep.

I suppose I now understand what compelled someone to make a musical version of LOTR. I had always wondered the motivation behind the musical in the UK, but they likely are trying to capture the spirit of the songs in the books.



Denisse:

"Y aquellos que habitan mas allá del mar no lo recibirán: para mal o para bien pertenece a la Tierra Media. El problema tenemos que resolverlo nosotros, los que aun vivimos aquí"

NOTA: Hay algo que quiero expresar antes de dar mi opinión sobre el libro: Esa quote la AME! No creo que la mayoría entienda el significado de esas lineas. Verán, la pregunta ¿Porque Dios deja que estas cosas pasen? es muy común, no creo que pueda ser explicado de una mejor manera que con esas sabias palabras del maestro Tolkien, lo que decidamos crear, bueno o malo, tendrá consecuencias a toda la humanidad y si estas son problemas, las soluciones también tendremos que crearlas nosotros. NADA ni NADIE va a bajar a solucionar nada, queremos libertad en el mundo que habitamos? bien pues, hay que pensar antes de actuar.

Ame este libro, es aventura en el mas puro sentido de la palabra. Te enseña sobre el valor, coraje, lucha, entrega, amistad, lealtad, unión, esperanza...

Te enseña lo fácilmente que se puede corromper un hombre y lo difícil que es pelear contra eso todos los días, pero lo reconfortante que es al final haberlo logrado.

La escritura es perfecta y fácil, para algunos puede que sea tediosa pero creo que es porque brincar del genero YA al genero de ADULT no es fácil, pero luego de unas paginas te acostumbras. Las descripciones son fantásticas, **Tolkien hace un gran trabajo en adentrarte en el mundo de la Tierra Media**Y cuando se cuenta sobre el pasado de esta, o lo que paso en otras edades solo me hace querer releer el Silmarilion otra vez!

Los personajes son variados, entretenidos y auténticos. Y la historia no esta nada forzada. **El libro hace un trabajo perfecto en demostrar lo importante que es buscar y encontrar la belleza y la alegría, sobretodo cuando el camino es oscuro** todos tenemos algo que hacer, hay que dejar de darle vueltas a las cosas y enfrentar nuestro destino.

Muy pocos son capaces de crear e imaginar un mundo tan completo, entre esa poca gente, J.R.R Tolkien. Osea, el hombre invento un idioma por Dios!

Dale una oportunidad, que no se quede en las películas, te aseguro que te llevaras una sorpresa.

PD: Legolas, Elrond y Gandalf!!!! los amo y ya.

Inge: Well, that took me method too bloody long. it truly is an awesome global that Tolkien has created. The fantastical creatures, center Earth, all of the locations and languages and songs. That should have taken eternally to come back up with, or even he used to be only a genius.

both way, i am gonna be a blasphemist right here and say I favor the movie. The publication felt too long-winded and never as attractive because the movie. The characters stayed two-dimensional and so much of them weren't that various from one another. the tale went on too lengthy and the songs all started using me nuts after a while. Honestly, it was once a role attempting to end this. And analyzing is not a job. until you have got a truly cool job, within which case I envy you. I gotta say, Aragorn is lots extra enjoyable to monitor than to learn about.

helen the bookowl: How may perhaps you now not expense this booklet five stars? :D

Emily: you know the way they say That's The Fellowship of the hoop is facts of that! It takes the guideline of show-don't-tell and flushes it down the toilet, simply because who could relatively event the entire kick-ass motion scenes themselves after they may perhaps simply pay attention a person discussing them over dinner tables like they have been discussing rice vs. potatoes? Pffft, not anyone ofc.... Right? I mean, who likes motion anyway. Why do not we simply drop the entire motion more often than not and upload pages of pages of surroundings descriptions instead? Hearing in regards to the stunning shades of the bushes is much more enjoyable than listening to approximately how humans nearly GET KILLED by means of terrible CREATURES OF EVIL attempting to break the realm AND break ALL issues GOOD!! I'd say pass watch the movie.

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