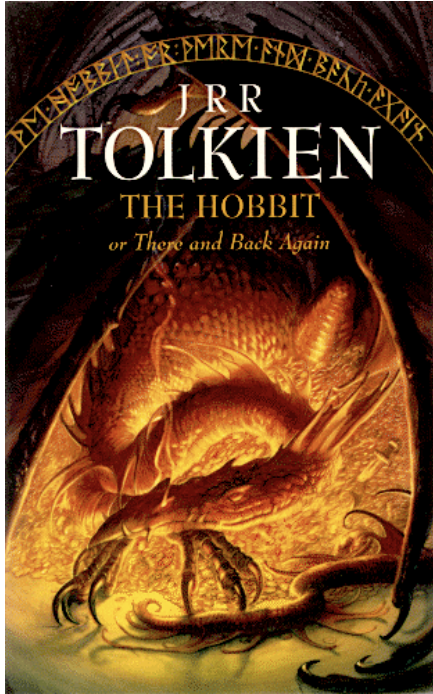


Special Book Showcase
J. R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit- Or There and Back Again*
by Lynn Hart

Abstract: J. R.R. Tolkien's classic novel *The Hobbit* is summarised and reviewed.



In this prequel to the iconic Lord of the Rings trilogy, Bilbo Baggins is persuaded by Gandalf and to help Thorin's band of dwarves reclaim their home in the Lonely Mountain, which was taken over by the dragon Smaug. To do so, they must travel the path across the Misty Mountains, where sinister creatures like goblins and trolls lurk in the shadows. Reluctantly, Bilbo follows Gandalf and the dwarves, where he stumbles upon a magic ring, which, as he and the others soon discover, holds great power.

J.R.R. Tolkien originally published *The Hobbit* in 1937. Before it became known as the prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* series, this book began as a bedtime story for Tolkien's children. Incidentally, one potential downfall of this book is that the language can be rather dry and old-fashioned in parts, which may make it harder for some young people to read for themselves. Nevertheless, *The Hobbit* is a delightful read for any reader who can get past the more difficult vocabulary. This novel is descriptive of the world it presents, and clever riddles, catchy rhymes, and gorgeous songs of ancient times are found throughout. You will catch a glimpse into the life of a Hobbit; reading the details of Bilbo's second breakfast made me hungry afterwards!

Original illustrations, namely maps and sketches of important places by Tolkien himself, are included throughout the novel which aim to impart to readers the author's own vision of

Middle Earth. For me, these illustrations also served as guides for envisioning all the strange places Bilbo and company visited on their journey to the Lonely Mountain.

If you're a fan of world building stories with a deep lore and numerous characters, and if you haven't done so already, I suggest you read this classic fantasy tale for yourself.

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ClermontLibrary (2013). **'If You Like the Hobbit, You Might Like (51 Books)'**
https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/44083.If_You_Like_the_Hobbit_You_Might_Like.

Tolkien, J. R. R. (1999). *The Hobbit: Or there and back again*. HarperCollins.

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