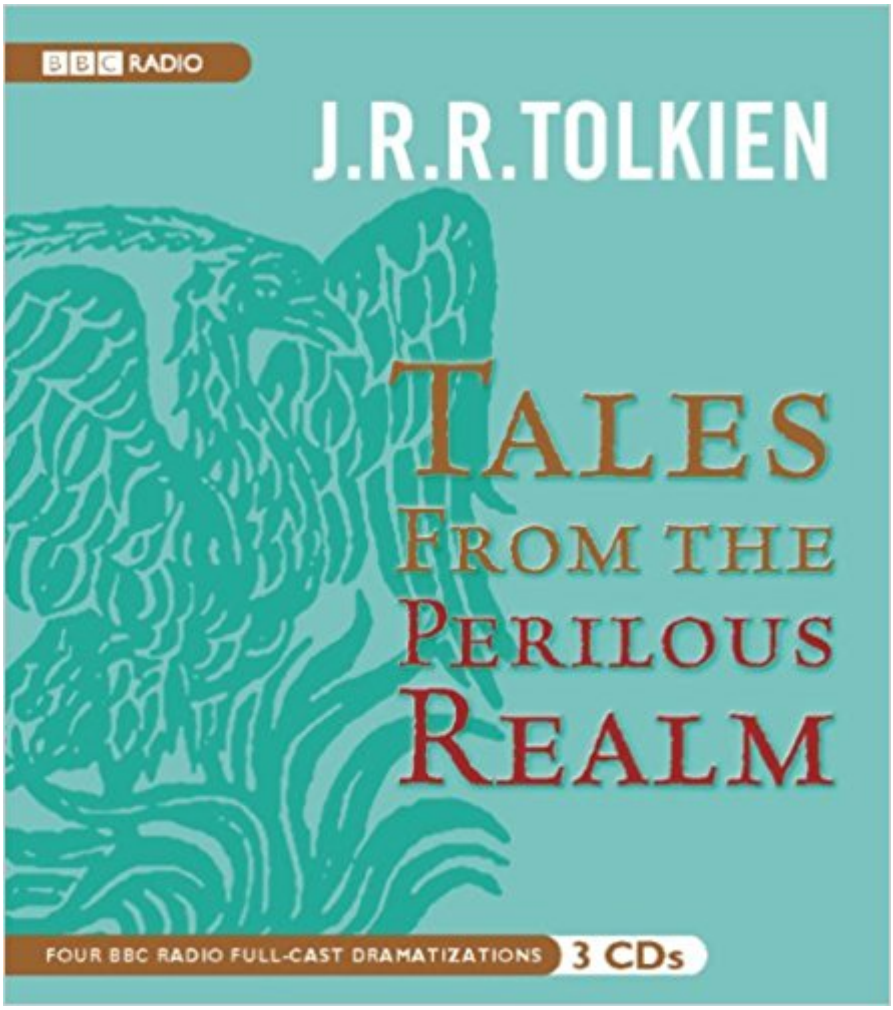
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Tales From The Perilous Realm (Four BBC Radio Full Cast Dramas)



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Synopsis

Michael Hordern stars as J.R.R. Tolkien, author of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, in four BBC Radio full-cast dramatizations. Tolkiens tales of myth, mystery, and rumbustious exploits have been specially adapted for radio by Brian Sibley, one of the dramatists of the highly acclaimed BBC radio production of The Lord of the Rings.In Farmer Giles of Ham, having accidentally shot a giant, Farmer Giles finds his brave reputation being tested by Chrysophylax the dragon. In Smith of Wootton Major, when young Smith eats a piece of cake containing a silver star, he is granted access to the magical land of Faerie.In Leaf by Niggle, a thought-provoking allegory on the theme of creativity, the painter Niggle embarks on a fateful search for perfection.In The Adventures of Tom Bombadil, join Tom and the Hobbits in scenes from The Lord of the Rings which were not included in the BBC Radio 4 dramatization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Farmer Giles of Ham: 'A fabulous tale of the days when giants and dragons walked the kingdom' Sunday Times Leaf by Niggle: 'A haunting and successful demonstration of the qualities of faerie' New York Times The Adventures of Tom Bombadil: 'Something close to genius' The Listener Smith of Wootton Major: 'Whoever reads it at eight will no doubt still be going back to it at eighty' New Statesman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

J.R.R.Tolkien (1892-1973) was a distinguished academic, though he is best known for writing The

Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings and The Silmarillion, plus other stories and essays. His books have been translated into over 30 languages and have sold many millions of copies worldwide. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This has a lot of the lesser known works by Tolkien, such as, Farmer Giles of Ham, Smith of Wootton Major, Leaf by Niggle, Roverandom and Adventures of Tom Bombadil. These stories are much shorter than Tolkiens more celebrated classics and definitely worth reading. Roverandom is about a dog who gets involved in the lives of wizards and is never the same again. Leaf by Niggle is about an artist who in trying to master one small thing is becomes totally encompassed by it. The Adventures of Tom Bombadil is a series of poems about the character Tom Bombadil who also appears in Tolkiens Lord of the Rings series. Farmer Giles of Ham is about a farmer who is the reluctant hero of a town who is plagued by a dragon. I really enjoy this one as well as Smith of Wootton Major. Smith of Wootton Major takes place in a town who’s most exalted position is the town baker and said baker has a most mysterious assistant. This tale of fairies and cakes is a good read for everyone.

In concert with the UK and US publication of "The Perilous Realm" compilation volume -- with sterling pencil illustrations by Alan Lee -- we have this audio compilation of BBC performances dramatized by Brian Sibley, a long time Tolkien Scholar. While my personal preference is to read -- rather than watch or listen to -- Tolkien’s work, these shorter pieces are better adapted to the radio play form than the voluminous and sometimes consciousness-straining BBC version of The Lord of the Rings -- an audio file recommended only to those with an a-prior and crystal-clear comprehension of that work.Perhaps the greatest kindness here -- in addition to putting "Leaf by Niggle" within easy reach of those only casually familiar with Tolkien’s body of work -- is a very approachable approach to the complicated and often daunting "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil". Bombadil is, of course, one of the more famously difficult to interpret characters in Middle Earth, viewed by critics as everything from a bumpkin-like distraction to a profoundly fundamental and elemental force of nature. The focus here is perhaps more on the passages dealing with Mr. Bombadil within The Lord of the Rings than with the epically long poem, so there still remains an agreeable measure of "daunting" to be dealt with.It’s heartening to see these stories take their turn as the film craze both calms and gets set to rebuild. And while we’re at it, completists should also check out the splendid Harper Collins facsimile edition of Mr. Bliss.

Tales From the Perilous Realm is a great compilation of short stories, poems and essays that were written during various periods of his life. If you are choosing between this and "The Tolkien Reader" I would definitely recommend you go with this book. The only thing you are missing out on is the Homecoming of Beorhtnoth...and that's ok. In brief: Roverandom was a charming story (would be a great bedtime story for kids) about a dog that runs afoul of a wizard. Farmer Giles is a fun tale of an unlikely hero and a dragon. The Adventures of Tom Bombadil is a wonderful collection of "Middle-Earth" poems and tales. Leaf by Niggle is very thought-provoking. Smith of Wootton Major is a great reminder to never judge a book by its cover. Lastly, the book also includes the full On Fairy-Stories essay/speech if you want a view into Tolkien's mind. Definitely a required read for Tolkien fans.

I've only read "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil" and "Roverandom", but this is another great compilation of J.R.R. Tolkien's works. It's a nice breather to see his work outside of Middle Earth and Beowulf!

Tolkien is one of the few authors that never wrote a bad story. I thoroughly enjoy reading this over and over. I highly recommend checking out the BBC production for radio of these stories as well. If you are a Tolkien fan this is a must read and wonderful to read to children as a bed time book as well

The poem on man as a sub-creator that occurs in his essay on fairy-stories is worth the price of the book. As are his thoughts on man as a sub-creator. We make in the manner with which we are made. This is why poetry, anthropomorphic interpretations of the world, mythology, and other forms of Freudian "wish-fulfillment" cannot be really regarded as distortions of reality at all. Insofar as our minds work in alliance which Nature itself, we are making in the same manner in which we are made, and we are so reflecting God's created world back on itself.The idea is Neo-Platonic in its significance and really does a lot to give artists and myth-makers and Pagan peoples in general a great amount of dignity that cannot be fathomed from the perspective or atheism or other religions.In Leaf By Niggle, all tales do indeed come true, and Niggle spends a short purgatory in one of his own paintings!

This book contains all three of my favorite Tolkien short stories: "Farmer Giles of Ham," "Smith of Wootton Major," and "Leaf by Niggle.""Farmer Giles of Ham" contains the best talking dog in all of

literature, and is a hilarious story about heroism, magic swords, giants, and dragons."Smith of Wootton Major" is a bittersweet story about a blacksmith who discovers the realm of Faerie, and learns there to make very delicate and magical toys and ornaments.And "Leaf by Niggle" is about an artist, Niggle, whose most major work is a wonderful picture of a tree. Unfortunately, the original picture is eventually destroyed in a fire, and the only surviving piece of it is a single leaf, which is accorded an honored place in a museum. A very sad story about artists, and the nature of art.

Bought as a gift. It went over really well. Any Tolkein fan will enjoy.

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