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The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien)



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Synopsis

A BBC Dramatization3 hours 35 minutes, 5 CDsBilbo Baggins, the hobbit, is a peaceful sort who lives in a cozy hole in the Shire, a place where adventures are uncommonÃ¢â ¬â •and rather unwanted. So when the wizard Gandalf whisks him away on a treasure-hunting expedition with a troop of rowdy dwarves, he’s not entirely thrilled.Encountering ruthless trolls, beastly orcs, gigantic spiders, and hungry wolves, Bilbo discovers within himself astonishing strength and courage. And at the ultimate confrontation with the fearsome dragon Smaug, the hobbit will brave the dangers of the dark and dragon fire alone and unaided.

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Customer Reviews

A BBC Dramatization3 hours 35 minutes, 5 CDsBilbo Baggins, the hobbit, is a peaceful sort who lives in a cozy hole in the Shire, a place where adventures are uncommon?and rather unwanted. So when the wizard Gandalf whisks him away on a treasure-hunting expedition with a troop of rowdy dwarves, he’s not entirely thrilled.Encountering ruthless trolls, beastly orcs, gigantic spiders, and hungry wolves, Bilbo discovers within himself astonishing strength and courage. And at the ultimate confrontation with the fearsome dragon Smaug, the hobbit will brave the dangers of the dark and dragon fire alone and unaided.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born on January 3, 1892, in Bloemfontein, South Africa. After serving in the First World War, he embarked upon a distinguished academic career and was

recognized as one of the finest philologists in the world. He was a professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford, a fellow of Pembroke College, and a fellow of Merton College until his retirement in 1959. He is, however, beloved throughout the world as the creator of Middle-earth and author of such classic works as The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. He died on September 2, 1973, at the age of 81.From the Paperback edition.

The story itself is on four CDs, the fifth CD contains several songs. This audio production won't replace reading the book, but may serve as an overview of the book. The sound effects at times seem a bit overdone - you'll hear a lot of huffing and puffing. As a previous reviewer noted, children may enjoy this set of CDs more than adults and the sound effects can help to hold their attention. Gollum sounds rather spooky, and Bilbo sounds as if he were out of breath most of the time.

This wonderful set of audio CDs has been a delight in my family. About 10 years ago we got rid of our television, and we spend a lot of time listening to audio drama and reading to each other. My five children have spent countless hours listening to this series, with its fantastic dramatizations of Tolkien's characters. The music and sound effects are also a real treat. It's also a great companion to the BBC's other Tolkien series, "The Lord of the Rings."It's my precious!!

Use you imagination!

If you are a fan of "The lord of the rings" audio version by the BBC, BE ADVISED THIS IS NOTHING LIKE THAT! This version of The Hobbit sounds like a group of elementarry children put it together.I realize that the hobbits are little,but the way their voices are on this version is similar to the lollipop guild from the wizard of oz. Very irritating. This is truly a version for children.

J.R.R. Tolkien's classic, "The Hobbit" is definately a 5-star affair. Having read, and re-read this wonderful tale many times, I was distinctly disappointed with the performance quality of this BBC audio production. The somewhat hokey background sounds distract from the storyline, and often are so loud that you cannot hear what the performers are saying anyway. The Hobbit is a classic, endearing story. I would not recommend this performance.

It doesn't get any better than this. My grandson is enthralled with the story. What's not to love with all these mystical beings?

First of all, there are two other Audio books I've listened to. The first is the unabridged reading by one speaker and the other is the abridged production by 5 or 6 UK voice actors, which is the best of all 3. Second, the style of this production (being reviewed) can be annoying. It's almost like the Audio CD of a play instead of a book -- not many Audio Plays on the market, are there? Third, the voice casting doesn't at all match what we've come to expect. After more than 50 years, we have movies, cartoons, video games, and other sources that have shaped our constructs and expectations for these classics to such an extent that we need confirmation of what we already know. Even so, I wouldn't recommend this audio book to anyone, not a new Hobbit reader, and not even to someone lacking all the previously formed expectations. It's just not one of the better Audio Books you might find on the Hobbit.

Having listened to the NPR "Minds Eye" production umpteen times before hearing this one, I have to admit I have developed a partiality to the voice characterizations of the former (Especially Bilbo, Thorin, and Gandalf).But this was a good rendition of the book.My main complaints are chiefly Gandalf, he sounds far from the authoritarian, quick resourceful old "busybody" portrayed so well by Bernard Mayes in both Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings NPR productions. Instead he sounds like a whiny, self-absorbed smartalic (Note, in the BBC Lord of the Rings, a different Gandalf was used). His "I shall light my staaaaph" skitto, repeated many times through the book, is quite corny. Bilbo is good, although his nonsensical "hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo!!" giggling, even in the grim face of spiders in dark forests, is just plain cartoonish and often ruins the moment. Thorin and Gollum are also passable, although Gollum sounds much more civilized and intelligent. His "gollum", which is supposed to be a choking rendered eternally on him by Deagols dying attempt to strangle him before he got the ring- is just plain dumb.....youll have to hear it. The forest scene was cut too short.However, the dragon is better and more dangerous. The goblins and music scores are better done and more entertaining; and this reading sometimes captures the sense of suspense and urgency in the adventure better, even if the storyline is less straightforward- which I could probably attribute to the NPR version's great old time radio style narration by Gale Chugg. The trolls to me in this one were a bit more scary and outlandish. In short, both renditions have their positive points but if I could only own one, I'd choose the former. This is definitely worth listening to; but I would not miss hearing the Minds Eye wooden boxed set.

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