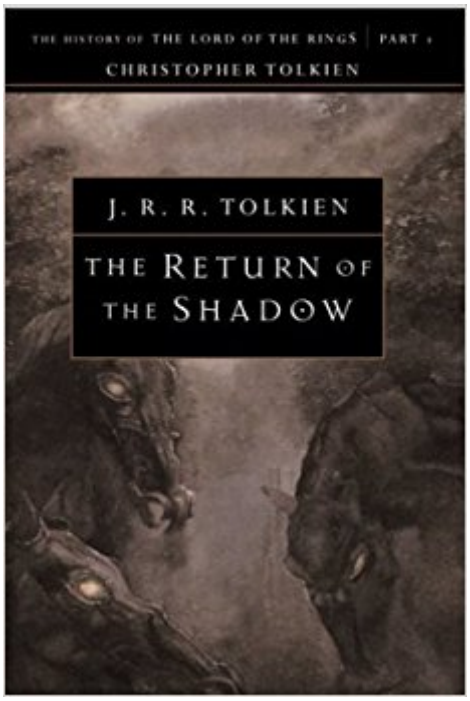
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The Return Of The Shadow: The History Of The Lord Of The Rings, Part One (The History Of Middle-Earth, Vol. 6)



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Synopsis

In this sixth volume of The History of Middle-earth the story reaches The Lord of the Rings. In The Return of the Shadow (an abandoned title for the first volume) Christopher Tolkien describes, with full citation of the earliest notes, outline plans, and narrative drafts, the intricate evolution of The Fellowship of the Ring and the gradual emergence of the conceptions that transformed what J.R.R. Tolkien for long believed would be a far shorter book, 'a sequel to The Hobbit'. The enlargement of Bilbo's 'magic ring' into the supremely potent and dangerous Ruling Ring of the Dark Lord is traced and the precise moment is seen when, in an astonishing and unforeseen leap in the earliest narrative, a Black Rider first rode into the Shire, his significance still unknown. The character of the hobbit called Trotter (afterwards Strider or Aragorn) is developed while his indentity remains an absolute puzzle, and the suspicion only very slowly becomes certainty that he must after all be a Man. The hobbits, Frodo's companions, undergo intricate permutations of name and personality, and other major figures appear in strange modes: a sinister Treebeard, in league with the Enemy, a ferocious and malevolent Farmer Maggot. The story in this book ends at the point where J.R.R. Tolkien halted in the story for a long time, as the Company of the Ring, still lacking Legolas and Gimli, stood before the tomb of Balin in the Mines of Moria. The Return of the Shadow is illustrated with reproductions of the first maps and notable pages from the earliest manuscripts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Collectively, these volumes are marketed as "The History of The Lord of the Rings" and tell

alternate stories of the siege of Middle-earth and Sauron’s defeat. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

CHRISTOPHER TOLKIEN is the third son of J.R.R. Tolkien. Appointed by Tolkien to be his literary executor, he has devoted himself to the editing and publication of unpublished writings, notably The Silmarillion, Unfinished Tales, and The History of Middle-earth.J.R.R.
TOLKIENÃ Â (1892Ã¢â ¬â œ1973) is the creator of Middle-earth and author of such classic and extraordinary works of fiction as The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, and The Silmarillion. His books have been translated into more than fifty languages and have sold many millions of copies worldwide.

How often do fans get to read draft versions of a favorite saga, glimpsing which elements were present from the beginning, how the story evolved, and various alternatives that were considered? For fans who relish such details, this is a book for you!Tolkien did not know at the outset what his story would be, but just began writing. Although he made numerous revisions to people and events, he stayed within the same framework rather than create something entirely new. Hence, the protagonists remained hobbits, the story opened with the birthday party, the hobbits leave the Shire, they arrive in Bree and meet a helpful stranger, they are pursued, and arrive in Rivendell. Tolkien foresaw the journey to Orodruin, that Gollum would play a role, and that the Shire would suffer, but did not yet Lothlorien, Saruman, Rohan or Gondor. Treebeard was originally envisaged as an enemy and the character who would become Strider/Aragorn as a hobbit ranger named Trotter.The bulk of Return of the Shadow follows the rewrites of various events from the Birthday party to the arrival in Rivendell. Some of the differences are minor, others more significant. The final two chapters focus on the failed attempt to cross the mountains and the entry into Moria. At this point, the party consisted of Gandalf, the shire hobbits, Trotter, and Boromir, although we see that Tolkien considered adding a dwarf and elf.Throughout the book, Christopher Tolkien adds his comments about the drafts and the story. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s amazing enough that Tolkien saved his original material, even those scribbled on scraps of paper, but ChristopherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s painstaking work organizing the versions, trying to figure out the order of writing, and deciphering script that was barely legible (in some cases, pencil with a different version overwritten in ink) is truly herculean. He notes discrepancies in maps and chronology, clarifies statements and passages, even admits when he doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know what his father was thinking. What he does not do is describe any philosophical outlook or response to life events that influenced his tale or Middle Earth. You will

need to look elsewhere for such an analysis.Parts of the book can be tedious if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re not particularly interested in maps, coordinating dates, or reading three versions of a scene in a row. But if you are keen to observe the process of creation that resulted in Lord of the Rings, you will find this book fascinating.

I like reading these books but I don't think very many others will. And I'm starting to get burned out on them. Previously I got the paperback edition of the first 5 books of this series. In the very first book there is a new story and it's a pretty good one. Some of the old stories are introduced to a traveler in the olden days. It's actually very interesting. But then it gets tedious.What is happening here is that JRR Tolkiens son Christopher went through all his Dads old papers to put these books together to show how JRR went about the process of writing Lord of the Rings. This volume and the next deal with Fellowship of the Ring. The story line you read sticks to the Fellowship line but it's different. This book shows the steps of character development. Ideas coming and going. Editing and rewrites. In short, to some folks this would be intensely boring. But I liked this book and I'm about half way through the next one, The Treason of Isengard. It's the same thing, the Fellowship story. Parts of what you read go from ideas that appeared in the Silmarillion to the end of tale of the Rings. Christopher Tolkien must have loved his father very much because he's put together an analytical series of books that leaves no comment untold, no idea unrevealed.

Tolkien should be knighted by the british govt! this he deserves,a ld war one officer, a great father and a great writer a great mind who conceved rd of the rings and the hobbit,,its a sad day when he isn't recognized and people like jagger are, what an insult to humanity!

The best and most accurate description of this series is a history of WRITING of the Lord of the Rings. It contains Tolkien's numerous revisions of the book before the final, settled account came out. For example, Frodo Baggins in a couple of early drafts presented in this book was named Bingo... Die-hard LOTR fans are saying, yeah, so what?The book is good for seeing the development of the story, but I hoped to find stories on more the background of Middle Earth itself, even more than in the Silmarrillon and other later additions to the history of Middle Earth. The fall of Numenor would make tremendous reading, wouldn't it? That tale is not in these books though. It is no fault Christopher Tolkien or his father that the tales don't appear. It does give you the feeling that LOTR was one vein in a tremendous gold mine of writing and that the mother-lode is still untapped.

How the first book of the Lord of The Rings trilogy was developed is presented. Tolkien's many,many revisions and changes are laid out. This is highly interesting to serious fans and students of Tolkien's work as well as anyone who wonders how a successful author can get from the first blank page to a finished work.

Excellent! A must have for all Tolkien fans. Early versions of the opening chapters of the lord of the rings with great explanations from Christopher. But not too scholarly; not boring, many long paragraphs of continuous writings from JRR enough to keep interest high.

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