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THE
HOBBIT
J.R.R. TOLKIEN

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien

The Hobbit

The Hobbit:
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Аннотация

Read the definitive edition of Bilbo Baggins' adventures in middle-earth in this classic bestseller behind this year's biggest movie. The Hobbit is a tale of high adventure, undertaken by a company of dwarves in search of dragon-guarded gold. A reluctant partner in this perilous quest is Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving unambitious hobbit, who surprises even himself by his resourcefulness and skill as a burglar. Encounters with trolls, goblins, dwarves, elves and giant spiders, conversations with the dragon, Smaug, and a rather unwilling presence at the Battle of Five Armies are just some of the adventures that befall Bilbo. Bilbo Baggins has taken his place among the ranks of the immortals of children's fiction. Written by Professor Tolkien for his own children, The Hobbit met with instant critical acclaim when published.

Содержание

COPYRIGHT	5
ILLUSTRATIONS	9
NOTE ON THE TEXT	10
AUTHOR'S NOTE	12
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	14



THE HOBBIT

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The Hobbit is a tale of high adventure, undertaken by a company of dwarves, in search of dragon-guarded gold. A reluctant partner in this perilous quest is Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving, unambitious hobbit, who surprises even himself by his resourcefulness and his skill as a burglar.

Encounters with trolls, goblins, dwarves, elves and giant spiders, conversations with the dragon, Smaug the Magnificent, and a rather unwilling presence at the Battle of the Five Armies are some of the adventures that befall Bilbo. But there are lighter moments as well: good fellowship, welcome meals, laughter and

song.

Bilbo Baggins has taken his place among the ranks of the immortals of children's fiction. Written for Professor Tolkien's own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant acclaim when published. It is a complete and marvellous tale in itself, but it also forms a prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*.

'One of the most influential books of our generation'

The Times

CONTENTS

[COVER PAGE](#)

[TITLE PAGE](#)

[COPYRIGHT](#)

[LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS](#)

[NOTE ON THE TEXT](#)

[AUTHOR'S NOTE](#)

[CHAPTER I: AN UNEXPECTED PARTY](#)

[CHAPTER II: ROAST MUTTON](#)

[CHAPTER III: A SHORT REST](#)

[CHAPTER IV: OVER HILL AND UNDER HILL](#)

[CHAPTER V: RIDDLES IN THE DARK](#)

[CHAPTER VI: OUT OF THE FRYING-PAN INTO THE](#)

[FIRE](#)

[CHAPTER VII: QUEER LODGINGS](#)

[CHAPTER VIII: FLIES AND SPIDERS](#)

[CHAPTER IX: BARRELS OUT OF BOND](#)

[CHAPTER X: A WARM WELCOME](#)

CHAPTER XI: ON THE DOORSTEP

CHAPTER XII: INSIDE INFORMATION

CHAPTER XIII: NOT AT HOME

CHAPTER XIV: FIRE AND WATER

CHAPTER XV: THE GATHERING OF THE CLOUDS

CHAPTER XVI: A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

CHAPTER XVII: THE CLOUDS BURST

CHAPTER XVIII: THE RETURN JOURNEY

CHAPTER XIX: THE LAST STAGE

KEEP READING

WORKS BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

ILLUSTRATIONS

Thror's Map

The Trolls

The Mountain-path

The Misty Mountains looking West

Beorn's Hall

The Elvenking's Gate

Lake Town

The Front Gate

The Hall at Bag-End

Map of Wilderland

NOTE ON THE TEXT

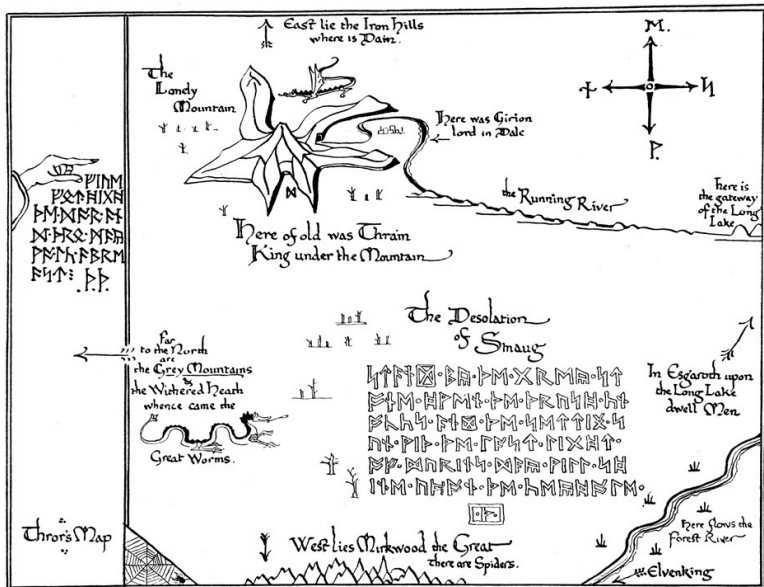
The Hobbit was first published in September 1937. Its 1951 second edition (fifth impression) contains a significantly revised portion of Chapter V, “Riddles in the Dark,” which brings the story of *The Hobbit* more in line with its sequel, *The Lord of the Rings*, then in progress. Tolkien made some further revisions to the American edition published by Ballantine Books in February 1966, and to the British third edition (sixteenth impression) published by George Allen & Unwin later that same year.

For the 1995 British hardcover edition, published by HarperCollins, the text of *The Hobbit* was entered into word-processing files, and a number of further corrections of misprints and errors were made. Since then, various editions of *The Hobbit* have been generated from that computerized text file. For the present text, that file has been compared again, line by line, with the earlier editions, and a number of further corrections have been made to present a text that, as closely as possible, represents Tolkien’s final intended form.

Readers interested in details of the changes made at various times to the text of *The Hobbit* are referred to Appendix A, “Textual and Revisional Notes,” of *The Annotated Hobbit* (1988), and *J. R. R. Tolkien: A Descriptive Bibliography* by Wayne G. Hammond, with the assistance of Douglas A. Anderson (1993).

Douglas A. Anderson

May 2001



AUTHOR'S NOTE

ÞM·HFBBIT
FR
ÞMRM·F+D·BFKH·FXFIT

This is a story of long ago. At that time the languages and letters were quite different from ours of today. English is used to represent the languages. But two points may be noted. (1) In English the only correct plural of *dwarf* is *dwarfs*, and the adjective is *dwarfish*. In this story *dwarves* and *dwarvish* are used*, but only when speaking of the ancient people to whom Thorin Oakenshield and his companions belonged. (2) *Orc* is not an English word. It occurs in one or two places but is usually translated *goblin* (or *hobgoblin* for the larger kinds). *Orc* is the hobbits' form of the name given at that time to these creatures, and it is not connected at all with our *orc*, *ork*, applied to sea-animals of dolphin-kind.

Runes were old letters originally used for cutting or scratching on wood, stone, or metal, and so were thin and angular. At the time of this tale only the Dwarves made regular use of them, especially for private or secret records. Their runes are in this book represented by English runes, which are known now to

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