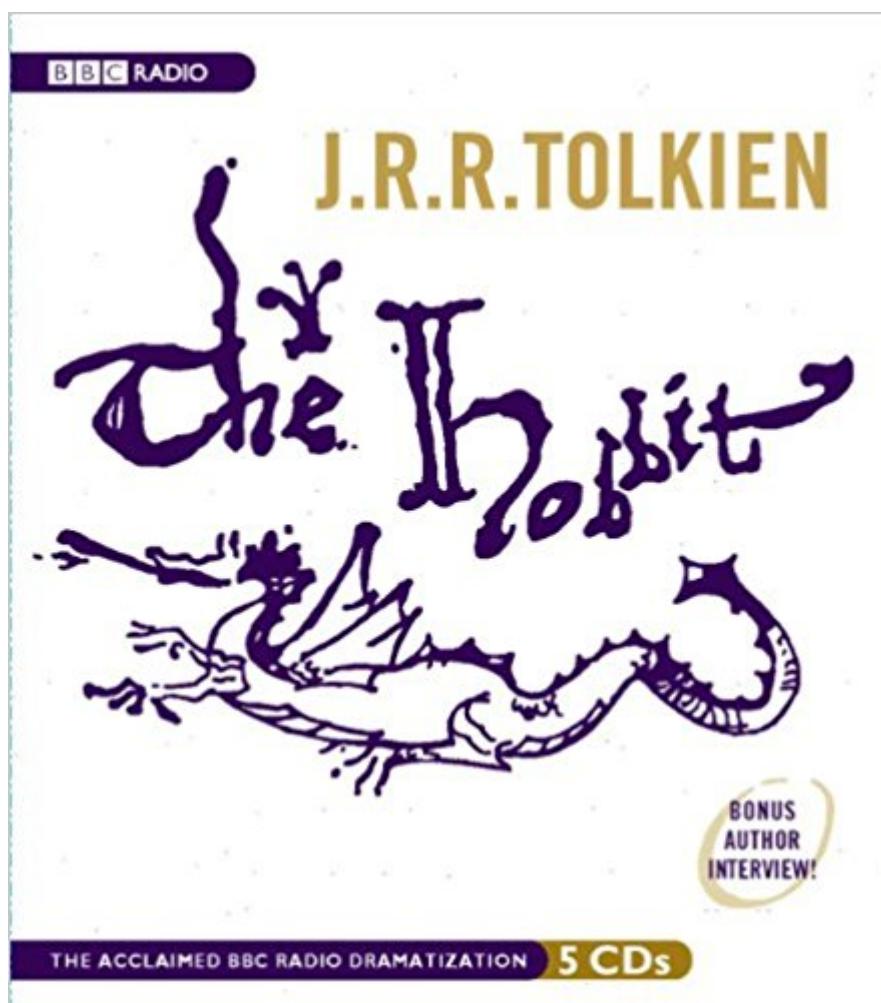


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# The Hobbit (BBC Dramatization)



## Synopsis

Tolkien's famous saga, the prelude to The Lord of the Rings, has all the ingredients of fantasy and adventure: dwarves, elves, goblins and trolls, a fearsome dragon, a great wizard, a perilous quest, and a dramatic climax. This radio dramatization became a classic when it was first broadcast on BBC Radio 4, and it continues to delight today. Bonus archival interview with Tolkien included! Available on 5 CDs.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: BBC Audiobooks America; Dramatization edition (July 29, 2008)

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Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 5.6 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (17 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This three-hour, forty-minute dramatization from the BBC in 1988 reduces J.R.R. Tolkien's celebrated tale to lots of clashes between the foes of the dwarves accompanying Bilbo and Gandalf, swords brandished, hearty songs sung, braying musical interludes, sometimes muffled dialogue, and rapid transitions. Thankfully, the utterly twee and self-consciously cutesy flavor of the opening scenes in the Shire (which made me wonder if I could enjoy this radio play at all) fades, and as with the narrative as originally crafted, as Bilbo finds his courage and wisdom, the story settles down and finds surer footing. This may be more a testament to Tolkien's control than those who combined to make this ambitious, yet sporadically moving and engrossing audio version. It's entertaining, but no substitute. However, I found myself on the freeway lost in Middle Earth again, a testament to the power of the voices and the story's aura. If you have not read the novel, do so first. The pleasure for those already familiar with "The Hobbit" comes from revisiting the realms as heard in dialogue. This can get confusing as sometimes Bilbo is first-person telling his adventures, sometimes in asides, sometimes in retrospect; overlaying this is a third-person narrator, and if one is not used to the tale,

one may get confused now and then. The altered nature of post-Python alteration of many characters' voices must be noted. Gandalf (accent on the last syllable noted, as with Gollum) seems too petulant and annoyed. Gollum comes across as frustrated and tormented, more akin to Tolkien's own rendering of the memorable riddle scene that can be heard on the J.R.R. Tolkien audio collection of tapes he had made (reviewed by me recently).

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