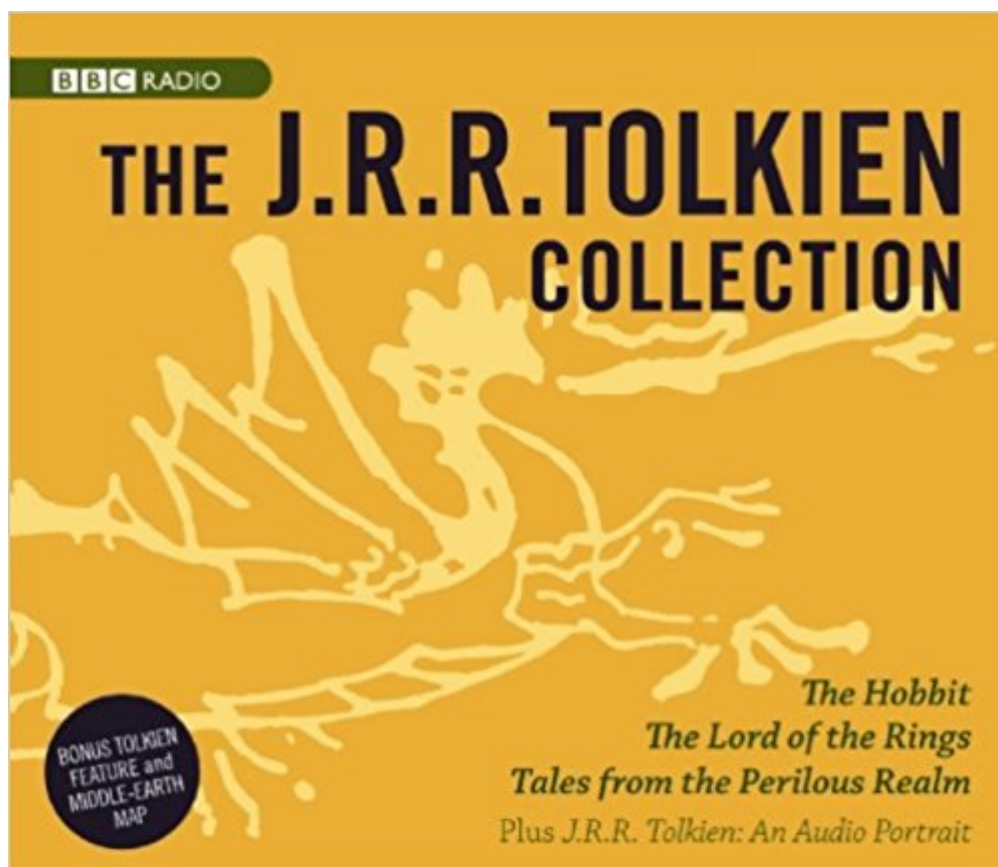


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The J. R. R. Tolkien Collection (BBC Dramatization)



Synopsis

This collectors edition box set features full-cast dramatizations of The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings and Tales from the Perilous Realm, plus Brian Sibleys J.R.R. Tolkien: An Audio Portrait.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,368,802 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (T) > Tolkien, J.R.R. #679 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #801 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

There have been innumerable depictions of JRR Tolkien's works in various media, but I feel that few would have met with the Professor's approval. The JRR Tolkien Collection created by BBC Radio is a rare exception. The radio dramatizations of The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, and the shorter works (Farmer Giles of Ham, Leaf by Niggle, Smith of Wootton Major, and The Adventures of Tom Bombadil) collected in Tales From the Perilous Realm have all been collected in this beautiful box set of 21 CDs with 20 hours of material. As a bonus the very fine JRR Tolkien: An Audio Portrait, which contains some of Tolkien's own interviews, has been included as well. I just received this set for Christmas and I've just begun to enjoy them by dipping into the various CDs and listening to small bits and pieces. I anticipate many happy hours with them through the coming years. The acting and presentation is superbly done, and the listener recognizes that the production had to have been put together by people who were not only familiar with but deeply admiring of Tolkien's works. I suppose what I like most about these radio dramatizations is that of necessity the listener must use his or her own imagination, and thus each person's experience of them will be almost as deeply individual as it is when actually reading the stories. In my opinion that's the best and indeed the only way to really appreciate Tolkien, and I think the Professor himself would agree.

Judging from the other reviews, mine may not sit too well with some. First, let me say I am a huge Tolkien fan and have been for over 30 years. And this BBC presentation of the Tolkien Collection was obviously done with wonderful intentions, and succeeded in most ways. The ways it did not succeed, however, were not minor in my opinion, being an audio version. I will first put aside the Audio Portrait; that was fantastic in all respects. I've always loved hearing Tolkien in his own voice, and his comrades were wonderful as well. Now to the other two works. The presentation of The Hobbit I simply found irritating for the most part. I apologize for making light, but EVERY character, with the exception of Bilbo and Thorin Oakenshield, sounded essentially like the Mayor of Munchkin City, with a high-pitched, helium voice. That includes Gandalf, all the other dwarves, even the Lord of the Eagles and the Great Goblin, for heaven's sake. It was simply too much. The Lord of the Rings was much better, with one exception, and in my opinion a glaring one. And that is the voice of Aragorn. The King who has returned, the Bearer of the sword that was reforged, the love of the Lady Arwen, the noblest man in Middle-Earth, who braved the Paths of the Dead--has a pronounced and distracting lisp. I certainly do not mean to offend anyone, but this is one of the two or three most important characters in an audio production of probably the greatest novel of the twentieth century. And every time he spoke I noticed it, and--for me anyway--it was a distraction. Again, apologies for any offense; I don't believe I'm guilty of vocal intolerance or discrimination. I am only expressing how the audio production affected me individually as a listener.

These are not unabridged audio books, but dramatic readings with a large cast. While they don't include every last detail from the books, this is more than made up for by the performances and scoring. 20 hours of audio!

This was very well done, no complaints really. I was a bit disappointed though, as I was looking for an unabridged reading of the trilogy.

When I was growing up, my mother had this set of books and I was always fascinated by Tolkien's cover art. When I got older, I read the movie tie-in copy of LoTR that was produced at the time, and absolutely fell in love. Years later, I wanted so much to own the editions my mother had that I so coveted. I was so pleased to find this full set on . Even better that it included The Hobbit, and came in the original series box. I cherish these so much that I don't know if I'll be able to read them!

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