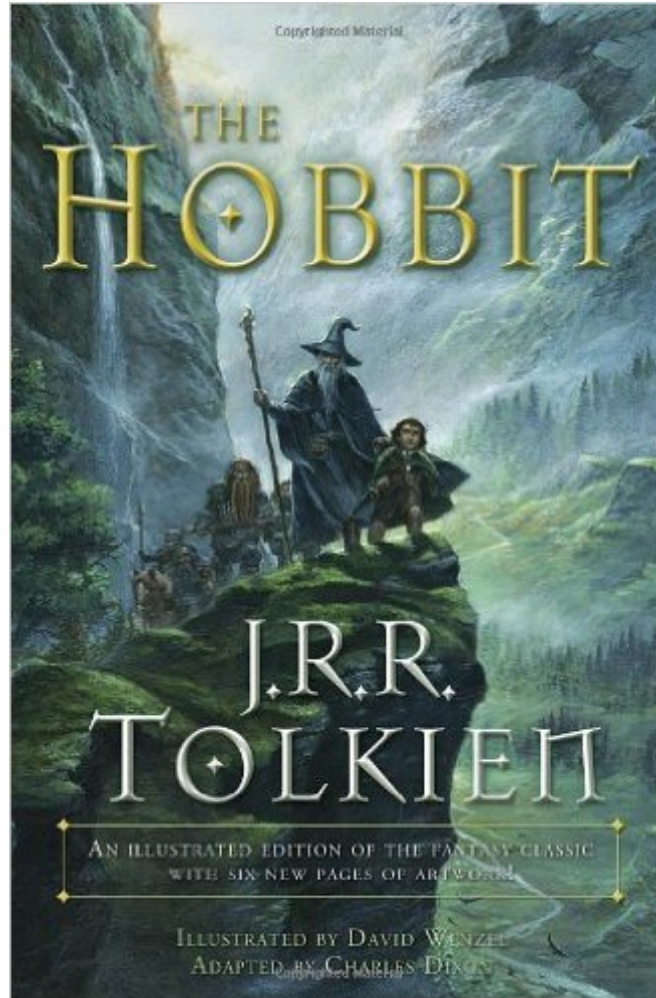


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# The Hobbit: An Illustrated Edition Of The Fantasy Classic



## Synopsis

AN ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF THE FANTASY CLASSIC WITH SIX NEW PAGES OF ILLUSTRATIONS! <sup>^</sup> First published in the United States more than seventy-five years ago, J.R.R. Tolkien<sup>^</sup>™s *The Hobbit* is one of the best-loved books of all time. Now a blockbuster film by Peter Jackson, Academy Award<sup>^</sup> “winning director of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Hobbit* was also adapted into a fully painted graphic novel, a classic in its own right, presented here in a new expanded edition. <sup>^</sup> When Thorin Oakenshield and his band of dwarves embark upon a dangerous quest to reclaim stolen treasure from the evil dragon Smaug, Gandalf the wizard suggests an unlikely accomplice: Bilbo Baggins, a quiet and contented hobbit. Along the way, the company faces trolls, goblins, giant spiders, and worse. But in the end it is Bilbo alone who must face the most dreaded dragon in all Middle-earth<sup>^</sup> and a destiny that waits in the dark caverns beneath the Misty Mountains, where a twisted creature known as Gollum jealously guards a precious magic ring.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000 (What's this?)

Paperback: 133 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books (May 29, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345445600

ISBN-13: 978-0345445605

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 0.4 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars<sup>^</sup> <sup>^</sup> See all reviews<sup>^</sup> (129 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #15,096 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in<sup>^</sup> Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels #146 in<sup>^</sup> Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations #207 in<sup>^</sup> Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

This is a fun adaptation of Tolkien's classic work and I enjoy it as such, but it is *\*not\** as described here by . First, buyers need to know that this is a graphic novel and an abridgment of Tolkien's work. Second, it is *\*not\** illustrated by Alan Lee as stated in 's description, the illustrations were done by David Wenzel. This is a glaring mistake that needs to correct quickly. There are plenty of

Alan Lee fans out there, especially after the LOTR movies were made with his assistance, and those fans may be disappointed to find the work of a different illustrator show up in their mailbox. also gives the wrong ISBN-10 number, though I doubt many will notice or care. Having said all this, I have enjoyed this adaptation of Tolkien's work. I bought it primarily for my 5 year old daughter who is a bit too young for the unabridged and non-illustrated novel but is still very interested in the story. She loves for me to read it to her and she gets a fuller and more accurate depiction of the story than the 1977 cartoon video provides. I recommend this work, but needs a fuller, more honest description of what buyers will be receiving.

There are several sellers listed as having this book, but they will ship you the mass market paperback instead. When I tried to call customer service, they were vastly unhelpful for a change. Best bet is to contact the seller BEFORE purchasing to ensure you will receive the GRAPHIC NOVEL instead of the MASS MARKET PAPERBACK. I own a copy of this graphic novel and my 6 year old ADORES this book. This is a wonderful way to get a young person interested in The Hobbit. Yes, it is abridged, but the core story line is intact and the illustrations are wonderful.

Like most everyone else who has reviewed The Hobbit, I've owned several copies over the years. From a tiny, dog eared paperback that I got free from a RIF event (Reading is Fundamental - they give books to school children) to this graphic novelization. Which is why it is so hard for me to write something bad about this book. I flipping love The Hobbit. But this version is dreadful. First off, it has been abridged. Who in their right mind would cut out parts of the Hobbit? Second off the writing is so teeny weeny and with the pictures running right into the center binding, I had to break the spine to get at the dialogue to read it. Tres annoying. Third, this is sorta a recap of number one, but with the parts left out and then the pictures teeming with activities and characters, well, sometimes it was just plain hard to know what was going on. Anyway, I think instead of this book, I'd rather buy the hardback version of The Hobbit which has pictures at the beginning of each chapter.

I purchased this illustrated edition of The Hobbit, primarily to be a gift to my adult children to read to their children. I have read The Hobbit numerous times over the past 50 years or so, along with the Lord of the Rings, The Silmarillion, The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, and other works by J.R.R. Tolkien. Some have expressed dissatisfaction with this adaptation, whether because some parts were left out or glossed over, or the illustrations weren't what they expected, or the illustrations had too much dialog covering them. J.R.R. Tolkien himself commented on the reception his books received while

he was still alive. He had received letters asking for more information about Hobbits and Middle-earth, and others saying that there was too much. I believe that he understood that no book or story would please everyone on every point, and that one must do the best they can on what they do, and not worry about pleasing everyone. Clearly, this edition does not please everyone, but I don't believe that it was intended to. There are two releases of the illustrated edition, with two different covers. The copies that I purchased were used, and shipped from private bookstores through , but not from . Both releases have the same story illustrations in them, but the illustrations before and after the story are different. Also, the covers were illustrated by two different artists, but the story was illustrated by a third artist. This edition stays true to the tale in J.R.R. Tolkien's, The Hobbit. Unlike Peter Jackson's movies, which change the storyline in significant ways, this adaptation does not change any of the storyline, though with only 134 pages, it does not go into great depth. It does address the major points of the story, and illustrates them in clear, well drawn illustrations. I have read The Hobbit onto a set of CD's that my older grandchildren listened to when they were little and again as their younger siblings listened to them. I know that they will enjoy this illustrated edition, and the parents or older siblings will read the story to the little ones, discuss the pictures and help the little one's understand the story. Graphic adaptations to stories don't appeal to everyone, particularly those purists who love the original works and don't want them changed. I consider myself a Tolkien purist, but can appreciate the quality of the illustrations and the accuracy of this adaptation. I would recommend this illustrated edition to those who want to share The Hobbit with children they hold dear, or for the child in each of us who wants to rediscover the story in a new way.

We loved it, but please know that this is the graphic novel (comic book) of an abridged version of Tolkien's work. I might go so far as to say the abridgement into the dialogue bubbles of a comic book was something of a failure, however I read it to my 6 year old, and with my editorial work on the fly, it was a great read. We both loved the illustrations and unlike the Jackson movies, this re-telling is much truer to J.R.R.'s style.

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