

The Lord of the Rings (Full Trilogy)

By John Ronald Reuel Tolkien

1008 pages

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One Book to Rule Them All

When people first sit down to read *The Lord of the Rings*, one of the first things they will notice is the size and weight of the book (I would not recommend throwing it at anything, or anyone for that matter, as it may cause lasting damage). At a little over a thousand large pages filled with small older English, it is a daunting task to say the least. Despite this I highly recommend reading this book if you like fantasy, action packed, or amazingly imaginative books.

The overall storyline of the book follows the journey of Frodo, an unlikely hero. The book starts out with Frodo, he is attending his uncle's 111th birthday when he suddenly vanishes into thin air, afterward everyone learns that he left everything to Frodo; his far-sought-after house, his wealth, his book, and his old ring. After some time passes a friend of his, Gandalf, a wise wizard of great renown, visits concerning said ring. He tells Frodo that the ring is not all that it seems to be and is in fact quite dangerous. He explains that the ring is very powerful and ancient and must be destroyed. He makes plans to sell his beloved house and embarks on the first stage of his journey. On the way he gains many friends and explores the wide world of middle earth. He travels in a fellowship made to protect him and guide him on his way. as they begin to lose members of the fellowship they begin to splinter and eventually Frodo splits away from the remaining party with his servant and friend, Sam. They, after much struggle and grief, reach their destination and accomplish what they set out to do. The story also follows the path of the

remainder of the fellowship and their contributions to Frodo's effort from afar, but the central conflict surrounds Frodo. Frodo grows as a character from being a small, young, timid Hobbit to being a famous, brave and heroic figure. His life before the book's time period was simple and care-free, but that does not last long in the book. He learns the true meaning of suffering and effort, and is considered a hero by all who know of his deeds.

Now, this book is very long and takes even longer to read; the language is reminiscent of older English with its "thou's" and "thine's" and "hither's and thither's". However, once you read it for a while you fall into its rhythm and the book goes by faster. The book is thus best read in a long stretch which is a bit of a downside because it can be harder to block off the amount of time necessary to read all at once rather than a little now and a little later, a great example of the difference of the writing style is this piece of dialogue: "You found Boromir less apt to your hand, did you not?" he said softly. 'But I who was his father say that he would have brought it to me.'" On the upside, reading the books allow a deeper understanding of the plot and the characterization, especially the development of the unusual friendship between Gimli and Legolas: "It is hard to be sure of anything among so many marvels. The world is growing strange. Elf and Dwarf in company walk in our daily fields."

The Lord of the Rings is by far one of the best books that I have ever taken the time to read, the language and the rich imagery creates a landscape that is so vivid that you can practically *see* the Tower of Isengard or the city of Minas Tirith or the lush fields between. The direct characterization is brief but the indirect; how they speak, what they say, how they act, continues to the very end, past even the conclusion of the plot. Even as the characters are leaving the story the reader learns more about them, as they have every time they have opened their

mouth or have been spoken about. Tolkien paints a picture with his words better than he could have with a paintbrush and Leonardo da Vinci to help.