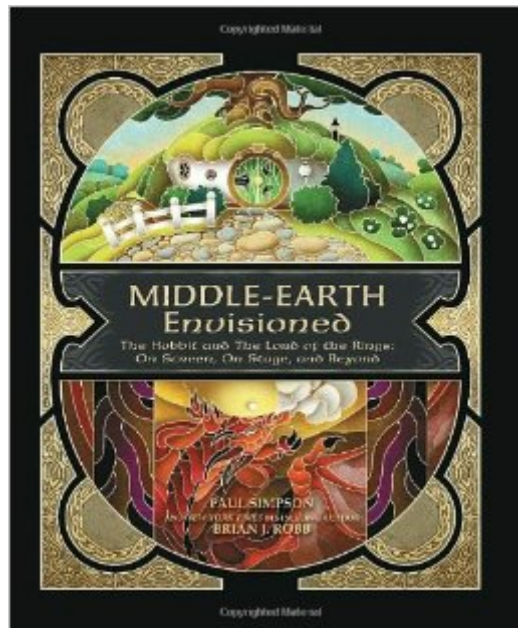


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# Middle-earth Envisioned: The Hobbit And The Lord Of The Rings: On Screen, On Stage, and Beyond



## Synopsis

The painstakingly crafted world that J.R.R. Tolkien created for *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion* is so vivid that it's easy to briefly imagine Middle-earth as a real place—even Tolkien himself had said it existed somewhere on Earth. From the languages spoken and the creatures that peopled it to the wars and cosmology, the richly imagined Middle-earth has left many artists and fans worldwide imagining what it would look and feel like to inhabit such a wildly inspired world. Tolkien left out no details in his picture so it is no surprise that Middle-earth has inspired such inventiveness in turn. *Middle-earth Envisioned* is the first book to explore the artistic legacy left by Tolkien's world. Paintings, drawings, theatrical performances, radio serials, and films inspired by *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* are all discussed in a manner that further illuminates the brilliance of Tolkien's creation. Readers will discover details surrounding an attempted Beatles live-action version (with Paul McCartney as Frodo Baggins), a nearly four-hour Canadian musical, the West End stage production of *Lord of the Rings*, and of course, the Peter Jackson films—including the *Hobbit* trilogy—and much more. In this beautifully illustrated gift book, discover the richness of Middle-earth anew, through the works of the artists inspired by it. From NYT bestselling author Brian J. Robb and Paul Simpson, TV guide writer/reporter and the former editor of the *Star Trek* magazine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Coinciding with the release of Peter Jackson's first instalment of his cinematic interpretation of *The Hobbit* this book contains a surprisingly comprehensive overview of just how both Tolkien's,

^The Hobbit^™ and ^The Lord of the Rings^™ have been translated and transformed through mediums such as audio, screen, canvas and theatrical performance. Almost in the spirit of such a venture the book itself is ^coffee-table^™ friendly and lavishly illustrated throughout. By way of introduction the authors briefly illuminate the residue which has gradually seeped from the written page and been moulded into grand spectacle, as well as every related facet in-between. A prologue ensures that any reader not familiar with Tolkien^™s name, outside of his accreditation on the opening titles of Jackson^™s films, is provided with a distilled account of his life together with summaries of ^The Hobbit^™ and ^The Lord of the Rings^™. Part I of the book is under the heading of ^The Hobbit^™ and contains four chapters naturally concentrating on interpretations of that title. Opening with a look at the audio adaptations the subsequent chapters prove quite in-depth while maintaining a textural flavour suitable to the casual reader. Each adaptation is examined ^ some more than others ^ in continuity beginning with the 1953 Canadian radio broadcast then roving through Kilgarriff^™s 1968 endeavours in some detail, and engagingly written nuggets such as this are peppered throughout the book. A seemingly small aside such as how when the original audio sources of Tolkien reading aloud extracts from his books were later remastered much of the background ambience such as the creak of his chair, or the rustle of papers, were lost.

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