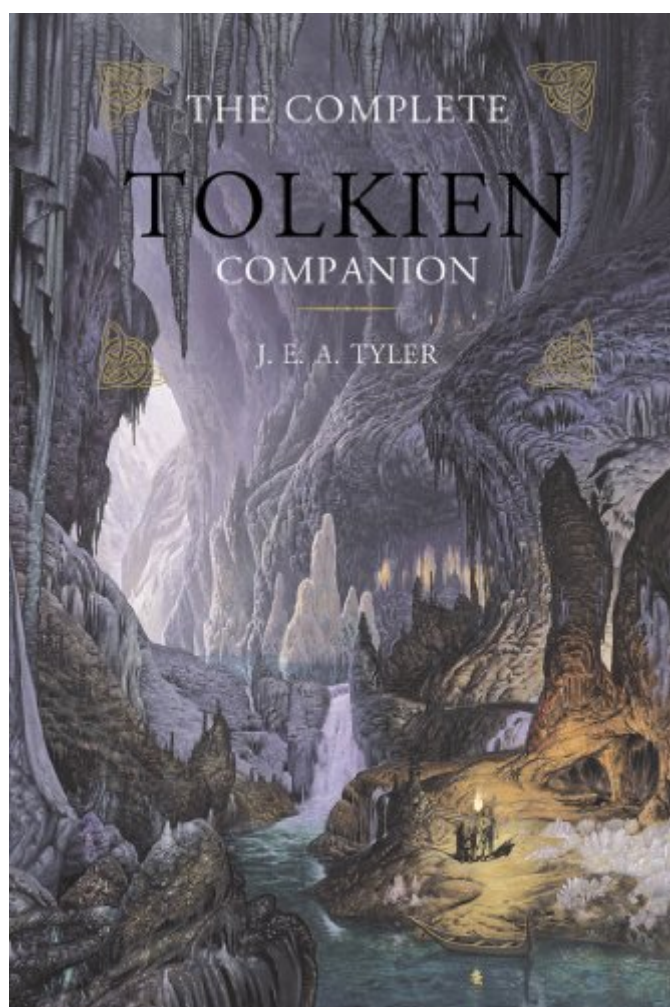


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The Complete Tolkien Companion



Synopsis

For all those who journey to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth, here is the complete guide to its lands, legends, histories, languages, and people. The Complete Tolkien Companion explains, translates, and links every single reference - names, dates, places, facts, famous weapons, even food and drink - to be found in Tolkien's world, which includes not only *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* but also *The Silmarillion* and many other posthumously published works. A detailed explanation of the various Elvish writing systems, together with maps, charts, and genealogical tables, bring the remarkable genius of Tolkien and the unforgettable world and wonder of Middle Earth to life with focus and accuracy. Presented in alphabetical order for quick and easy reference, this is an indispensable accompaniment for anyone who embarks on the reading journey of a lifetime. First published in 1976, this edition has been fully revised and updated for a new century of Tolkien lovers.

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Customer Reviews

There are any number of Tolkien "encyclopedias," but I believe this is the best. Well-written with

ample details drawn from the best of the available Tolkien materials, including the posthumously published "Peoples of Middle-Earth" & "Unfinished Tales," among others. Illustrations include the lines of descent for the Eldar & the Edain, maps of the Battle of the Pelennor Fields, & a diagram of the "Spoken Tongues" showing the descent of the various languages of Middle-Earth from the original Quenya (equivalent to our Indo-European). Tyler assumes that his readers are generally familiar with Tolkien's best-known works ("The Hobbit," LOTR, & "The Silmarillion"), so he mostly summarizes the events from those books, while offering more detailed information about characters such as the "weedy & ineffectual" Lotho Sackville-Baggins (son of Otho & Lobelia) & peoples such as Gondor's historic enemies the Haradrim (who are mentioned only in passing in LOTR, but get two full pages in Tyler's book). All of the Feanorian Tengwa characters/letters are included, along with their sound values & the words they also represent, should you decide to learn the Quenya tongue. Comprehensive & entertaining.

Wow, I am so glad that J.E.A. Tyler put together, because the information helped me to get a better grip of who, what, and why. There is so much depth to the Lord of the Rings that is difficult keep to keep track of the story, the languages used and the pronuciations of the names can be daunting to the most avid of fans. However this book helps tremendously. This book added to the my enjoyment of the grandure of the story.

This is a good source of information about Tolkien's writings. It sometimes reads like a novel. The author assumes you are as knowledgable as he is about the Tolkien world so not all the information you want is there. I find Foster's Guide to Middle Earth much better. The Companion is a good additional source of information along with The Atlas of Middle Earth

I've looked at several Middle-Earth references, and this is the best; it is complete, consistent, and as much fun as the works by Tolkien, himself. I also have the paperback version (for bad weather), and both are equally easy to use.

I first purchased the Kindle edition, but found it cumbersome to search for specific entries as a search would yield ALL references in addition to the specific entry, e.g. a search for "hobbit" listed all the entries where the word hobbit is found. So I purchased the paperback and am very pleased with it. The Kindle edition could be vastly improved with a comprehensive index of links to the entries. A reliable and worthy reference for Tolkien's master works, it is an encyclopaedia of

persons, places and things born in J.R.R. Tolkien's creation of the world that brought us hobbits and the Lord of the Rings. The contents of its original edition (pub. 1976) spanned Tolkien's earliest works, i.e. "The Hobbit", "The Lord of the Rings", "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil" and "The Road Goes Ever On." The second edition, "The New Tolkien Companion" (pub. 1979), expanded to include "The Silmarillion" (1978). This third edition, "The Complete Tolkien Companion" (2004), now includes references for the twelve volume "History of Middle Earth" series and "Unfinished Tales" (1980) compiled and published by Tolkien's son, Christopher.

The book is excellent, and a superb reference; for the content alone I would happily have given it 4-5 stars. However, they really messed up when putting it into Kindle format. Why oh why did they not to format this as a dictionary???? It would have been 1000 times more useful if they had only done this, and would have easily been worth a couple of extra bucks, if that what it took to cover the cost. Then when I was reading any Tolkien work, one could set temporarily as the default dictionary, and look up anything and everything that I desired. As it is, the contents will let you skip to a given letter, but that is it. From there, you must flip through it page by page to find the entry you seek. Incredibly frustrating, and completely unnecessary. What a shame!

Great source of information on Middle Earth, comprehensive and attractively laid out. And joy of joys, the cover has a painting of "The Glittering Caves of Aglarond" by Ted Nasmith, my all-time favorite Tolkien artist. I never cared too much for Alan Lee's watercolor depictions (too flat and washed out - Middle Earth is, in my mind's eye, a rich and vibrant world, colorful even under Sauron-darkened skies.) I was a bit disappointed when Peter Jackson chose Lee for the films. Anyway, I like the book. It could have used some illustrations, but that's not a biggie.

Bottom line: It's pretty thorough and reasonably priced. Whenever I have looked up a character, location, or event, it's had what I wanted. Worth the money and helpful to have around if you read much Tolkien. Heck, even if you read only Hobbit or LOTR, this is helpful.

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