



J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography

By Humphrey Carpenter

Download now

Read Online 

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter

The authorized biography of the creator of Middle-earth. In the decades since his death in September 1973, millions have read *The Hobbit*, *The Lord Of The Rings*, and *The Silmarillion* and become fascinated about the very private man behind the books. Born in South Africa in January 1892, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was orphaned in childhood and brought up in near-poverty. He served in the first World War, surviving the Battle of the Somme, where he lost many of the closest friends he'd ever had. After the war he returned to the academic life, achieving high repute as a scholar and university teacher, eventually becoming Merton Professor of English at Oxford where he was a close friend of C.S. Lewis and the other writers known as The Inklings.

Then suddenly his life changed dramatically. One day while grading essay papers he found himself writing 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit' -- and worldwide renown awaited him.

Humphrey Carpenter was given unrestricted access to all Tolkien's papers, and interviewed his friends and family. From these sources he follows the long and painful process of creation that produced *The Lord Of The Rings* and *The Silmarillion* and offers a wealth of information about the life and work of the twentieth century's most cherished author.

 [Download J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography ...pdf](#)

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography

By Humphrey Carpenter

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter

The authorized biography of the creator of Middle-earth. In the decades since his death in September 1973, millions have read *The Hobbit*, *The Lord Of The Rings*, and *The Silmarillion* and become fascinated about the very private man behind the books. Born in South Africa in January 1892, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was orphaned in childhood and brought up in near-poverty. He served in the first World War, surviving the Battle of the Somme, where he lost many of the closest friends he'd ever had. After the war he returned to the academic life, achieving high repute as a scholar and university teacher, eventually becoming Merton Professor of English at Oxford where he was a close friend of C.S. Lewis and the other writers known as The Inklings.

Then suddenly his life changed dramatically. One day while grading essay papers he found himself writing 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit' -- and worldwide renown awaited him.

Humphrey Carpenter was given unrestricted access to all Tolkien's papers, and interviewed his friends and family. From these sources he follows the long and painful process of creation that produced *The Lord Of The Rings* and *The Silmarillion* and offers a wealth of information about the life and work of the twentieth century's most cherished author.

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #43570 in Books
- Published on: 2000-06
- Released on: 2000-06-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .71" w x 5.50" l, .68 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages



[Download J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography ...pdf](#)



[Read Online J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

There may be a corner of the world where the name J.R.R. Tolkien is unknown, but you would be hard-pressed to find it. Since their publication, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* have been published in every major language of the world. And though he single-handedly gave a mythology to the English and was beloved by millions, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien remained refreshingly unchanged by his fame and fortune, living out his days simply and modestly among the familiar surroundings of Oxford College. Humphrey Carpenter, who was given unrestricted access to Tolkien's papers, brilliantly puts meat to the bones of the Tolkien legend in *J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography*, offering a well-rounded portrayal of this quiet, bookish man who always saw himself first and foremost as a philologist, uncovering rather than creating the peoples, languages, and adventures of Middle-Earth.

Carpenter chronicles Tolkien's early life with a special sensitivity; after losing both parents, Tolkien and his brother Hilary were taken from their idyllic life in the English countryside to a poverty-ridden existence in dark and sooty Birmingham. There were bright points, however. A social and cheerful lad, Tolkien enjoyed rugby and was proud of his gift for languages. It was also at this time that he met Edith Bratt, who would later become his wife. Academic life--both as a student and professor--is where this biography shines. Friendship with other men played a huge part in Tolkien's life, and Carpenter deftly reveals the importance these relationships--his complex friendship with C.S. Lewis, membership in the Inklings and the T.C.B.S.--had on the development of his writing.

The only criticism one can make about this book is that Carpenter tends to gloss over Tolkien's contributions to comparative philology. True, there is a chapter devoted to Tolkien's academic pursuits, but it tends to skim too lightly over the surface for this reviewer's tastes. Philology is a terribly methodical science, and the author clearly did not want to alienate readers who were primarily interested in Tolkien as a storyteller. Still, it would be nice to understand why Tolkien was held in such high esteem by his fellow academics. As it stands, Tolkien comes off as a slightly eccentric etymologist.

Fans who want to delve even deeper into Tolkien's life should pick up a copy of Carpenter's *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien*. --P.M. Atterberry

From Library Journal

Carpenter's 1977 biography offers a broad look at the Oxford don, who lived a relatively quiet life. This also details his close friendship with C.S. Lewis.

Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"A panorama of vignettes done with poise and exhaustive command. A man emerges whole." The Washington Post

"J.R.R. Tolkien left his impress upon a whole generation as few recent writers have done ... an excellent biography." Newsweek

"Excellent." Newsweek

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paula Jackson:

The feeling that you get from J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography is a more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by simply anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography instantly.

Robert Mundo:

The guide with title J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography contains a lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. That book exist new expertise the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you in new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Heidi Odom:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, think reading a book really can hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography which is having the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

Margaret Phillips:

A lot of people said that they feel weary when they reading a guide. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the particular book J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography to make your current reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading talent is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the sensation about book and examining especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the guide J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography can to be your friend when you're sense alone and confuse in what must you're doing of their time.

Download and Read Online J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By

Humphrey Carpenter #L0YS645AREO

Read J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter for online ebook

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter books to read online.

Online J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter ebook PDF download

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter Doc

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter MobiPocket

J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter EPub

L0YS645AREO: J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography By Humphrey Carpenter