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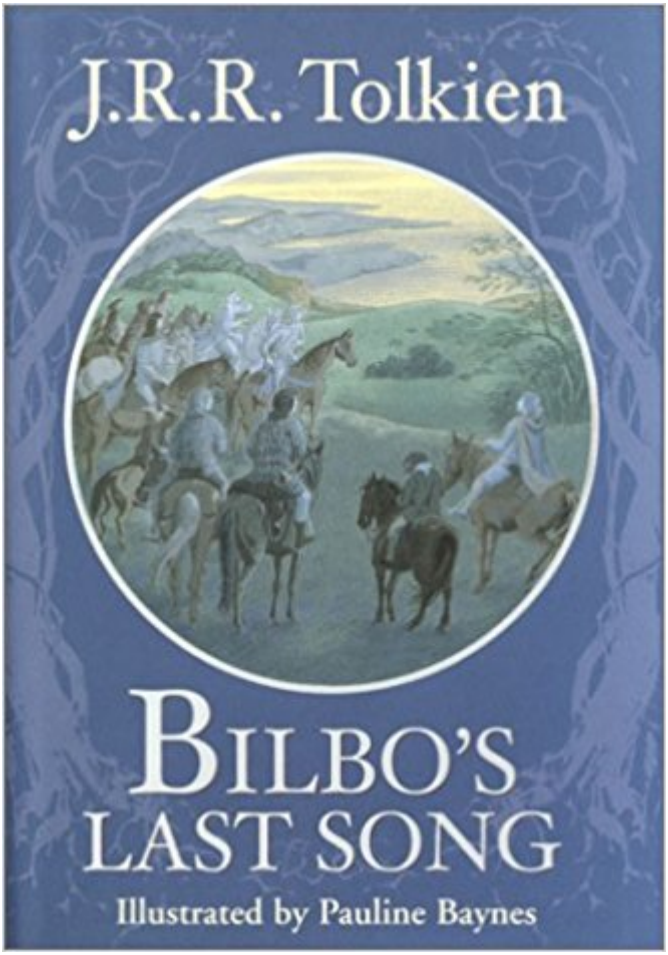
Bilbo's Last Song



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Synopsis

Bilboâ ™s Last Song is considered by many to be Tolkienâ ™s epilogue to his classic work The Lord of the Rings. As Bilbo Baggins takes his final voyage to the Undying Lands, he must say goodbye to Middle-earth. Poignant and lyrical, the song is both a longing to set forth on his ultimate journey and a tender farewell to friends left behind. Pauline Baynesâ ™s jewel-like illustrations lushly depict both this final voyage and scenes from The Hobbit, as Bilbo remembers his first journey while he prepares for his last.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

Customer Reviews

When it first appeared in 1990, PW called Bilbo’s Last Song by J.R.R. Tolkien, illus. by Pauline Baynes, "a must for all fans of Tolkien’s vast, epic fantasy." The poem, purportedly written by Bilbo Baggins (hero of The Hobbit) just before he takes ship from Middle-earth to the Undying Lands at the end of The Lord of the Rings, gives rise to Bayne’s medieval-flavored paintings. "The effect is stirring, the mood elegiac and the imagery riveting," said PW. (Sept.) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5 Up-- An illustrated version of a small poem from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. The poem, in which Bilbo talks about leaving Middle Earth and bidding farewell to his life and friends there, is a vehicle for Baynes to immerse herself in the characters and events in this trilogy. The pages are

filled with watercolor drawings skillfully depicting detailed scenes of great adventure--magical beings with glistening capes, sparkling rings, and other mystical objects that convey all the wonder and charm of Tolkien. Unfortunately, none of these wonderfully detailed drawings illustrate the words in this book. In fact, they were not intended to do so. Instead, they depict scenes from The Hobbit, The Return of the King, or The Fellowship of the Ring , necessitating complex explanatory notes for all of the illustrations, even the endpapers. The result is not a blending of pictures and words or even a picture book version of a children's poem, but a study of Tolkien--overwhelming for any reader unfamiliar with his work. Although this book pays tribute to him, it suffers from an excess of praise and loses its audience as a result. Most children would only be confused by it. --Jane Marino, White Plains Public Library, NYCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This was another purchase for my Mom for Christmas. She absolutely loved it. Although, I was completely surprised at how short the book is... maybe 20 pages. A bit disappointing to me, but she thought it was fantastic.

A final but of poetry to end the third age of middle earth. Night written and illustrated. A good addition to my Tolkien library.

Was a shorter read than expected but all the same good

It's a nice way to end the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit, and the art is beautiful...but a little pricy for a very short poem.

Really just an illustrated poem, but a delightful read. The illustrations are lovely and if viewed through the quill of Mr. Bilbo Baggins, one can imagine the old hobbit penning this on his last journey down to the Grey Havens. If you enjoyed the long goodbyes and repeated farewells at the end of The Lord of the Rings, this little poem book is a treat.

Tolkien's stories are always wonderful :)

Illustrations are crisp and active. I do think the hard copy preferable to the eBook version, but this is a good addition to the library.

It’s JRR Tolkein. What’s not to love?

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