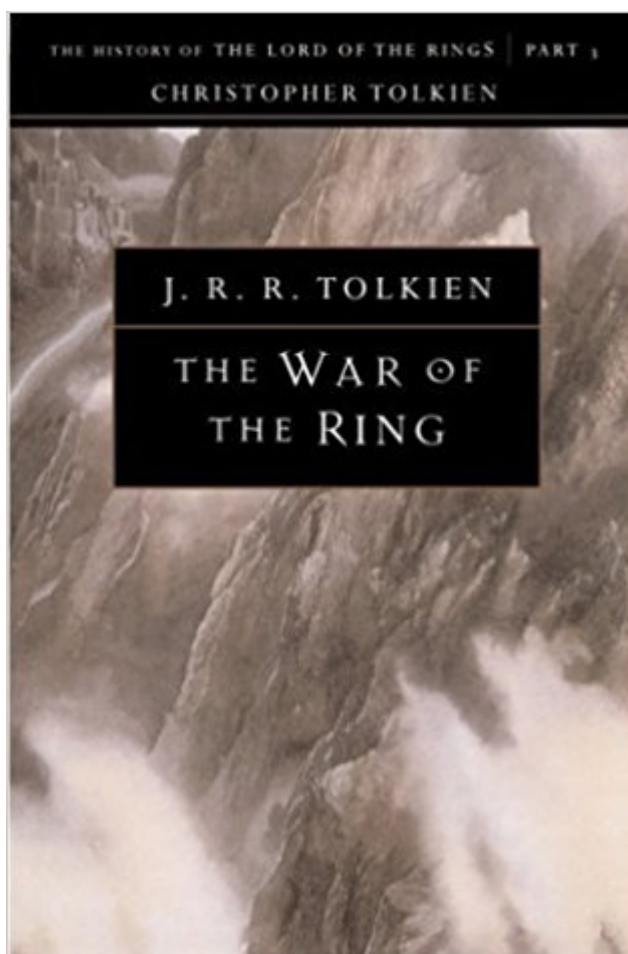


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The War Of The Ring: The History Of The Lord Of The Rings, Part Three (The History Of Middle-Earth, Vol. 8)



Synopsis

In *The War of the Ring* Christopher Tolkien takes up the story of the writing of *The Lord of the Rings* with the Battle of Helm's Deep and the drowning of Isengard by the Ents. This is followed by an account of how Frodo, Sam and Gollum were finally brought to the Pass of Kirith Ungol, at which point J.R.R. Tolkien wrote at the time: 'I have got the hero into such a fix that not even an author will be able to extricate him without labour and difficulty'. Then comes the war in Gondor, and the book ends with the parley between Gandalf and the ambassador of the Dark Lord before the Black Gate of Mordor. In describing his intentions for *The Return of the King* J.R.R. Tolkien said that 'It will probably work out very differently from this plan when it really gets written, as the thing seems to write itself once it gets going'; and in *The War of the Ring* totally unforeseen developments that would become central to the narrative are seen at the moment of their emergence: the palantir bursting into fragments on the stairs of Orthanc, its nature as unknown to the author as to those who saw it fall, or the entry of Faramir into the story ('I am sure I did not invent him, though I like him, but there he came walking into the woods of Ithilien'). The book is illustrated with plans and drawings of the changing conceptions of Orthanc, Dunharrow, Minas Tirith and the tunnels of Shelob's Lair.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Collectively, these volumes are marketed as "The History of The Lord of the Rings" and tell alternate stories of the siege of Middle-earth and Sauron's defeat. Copyright 2001 Reed Business

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"An opportunity to view the origins of one of the twentieth century's most popular and substantive works of fiction." --Hartford Courant

Part 3 of "The History of the Lord of the Rings" ("The History of Middle-Earth, Vol. 8), from "The Destruction of Isengard" to "The Black Gate Opens." This is NOT a backstory to the narrative. More accurately, this is a history of the writing of the trilogy itself. In the Foreword to the 1965 edition of LOTR, Tolkien acknowledged that after the first publication, he re-wrote the books, making numerous changes & corrections. We can be grateful that he did so. This book comprises a number of earlier versions derived from Tolkien's (not always entirely legible, let alone sequentially organized) manuscripts, with plenty of editorial notes & commentary by Christopher Tolkien. It's interesting to learn that Christopher was able to date one of his father's manuscripts by virtue of the fact that it was written on the back of a thesis submitted from an American applicant to one of Professor Tolkien's colleagues (paper being in extremely short supply in Britain in the early years of WWII). It's also a relief to LOTR fans to see how much truly awful dialogue & extraneous plot material was cut from the final version. Includes some of Tolkien's hand-drawn maps, & enables the reader to appreciate the enormous amount of work that Christopher has done in deciphering his father's handwriting. This "History" series is strictly for devoted Tolkien fans interested in seeing the author at work, or perhaps for anyone who wants to learn how a pretty good story becomes a great one.

Consistently interesting if you are really curious about how the work was written and how the narrative evolved. Definitely have to be very interested in Lord of the Rings and the author's writing process to read.

JRR is always good.

great purchase. All transactions should be like this.....PeaceRoger

This is a great addition to my collection. Take off the slipcover and place it with the rest of the histories. Works beautifully.

I ordered five or six at a time and being it was the next to read, I waited with baited breath, it was wonderful when it came. It came within the time allotted. The others came earlier is all.

As with all Tolkien context, great if you've read the trilogy...many times.

Great for the Tolkien enthusiast.

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