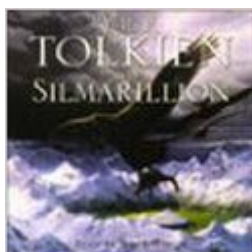


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The Silmarillion, Vol. 2



Synopsis

Set in a time far earlier than Tolkien's master works, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, this is the epic history of the elves, and the grand story of the creation of Tolkien's magical world. *The Lord of the Rings* narrated the great events at the end of the Third Age; but the tales of *The Silmarillion* are legends deriving from a much deeper past, when Morgoth, the first Dark Lord, dwelt in Middle-earth, and the High Elves made war upon him for the recovery of the Silmarils. Never published in the author's lifetime, *The Silmarillion* is an essential compendium for all Tolkien fans. It will be published in five consecutive volumes, each completely unabridged. The series contains not only the *Quenta Silmarillion*, but four other short works: the *Ainulindale*, *Valaquenta*, *Akallabeth* and *Of the Rings of Power*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the Tolkien canon, *THE SILMARILLION* is the most highly contested of all his works. Constructed as a prehistoric history of the Universe, the book has the cultural significance of the Bible in Tolkien's universe. It is Tolkien's primary work, but it's also his most troublesome, in more ways than one. One thing you need to know. In Tolkien scholarship, there are two primary ways to refer to the "Silmarillion". One is the *Silmarillion*, the *legendarium* proper, and then the 1977 *SILMARILLION*, which may or may not be what Tolkien envisioned. *THE SILMARILLION*, the book Tolkien spent all of his adult life writing, was, sadly, incomplete when Tolkien died at the age of eighty one in 1973. Naturally, this begs the question why did it take him decades to write the book, and it still be unfinished after all that time? Well, to understand that, you need to understand two

things: the scope of the project, and how Tolkien worked. The scope of the book was a complete imaginary history, a totally self-contained mythology, all written and developed for his home country, England (my home country as well). Imagine the Greek and Roman mythologies, all those myths and gods, developed by one man. Imagine Homer completely inventing all the gods for his stories. Imagine how hard that would be to come up with your own mythological traditions as such. No wonder Tolkien had such a hard time completing the work. Now, the scope (which is extremely ambitious for any artist) was compounded by how Tolkien worked. First, he was a philologist first and foremost, and so before the stories he invented languages. All of these languages (which would have taken a life-time to develop on their own) had their own history, and are so interlocked with the mythology that you cannot remove them.

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