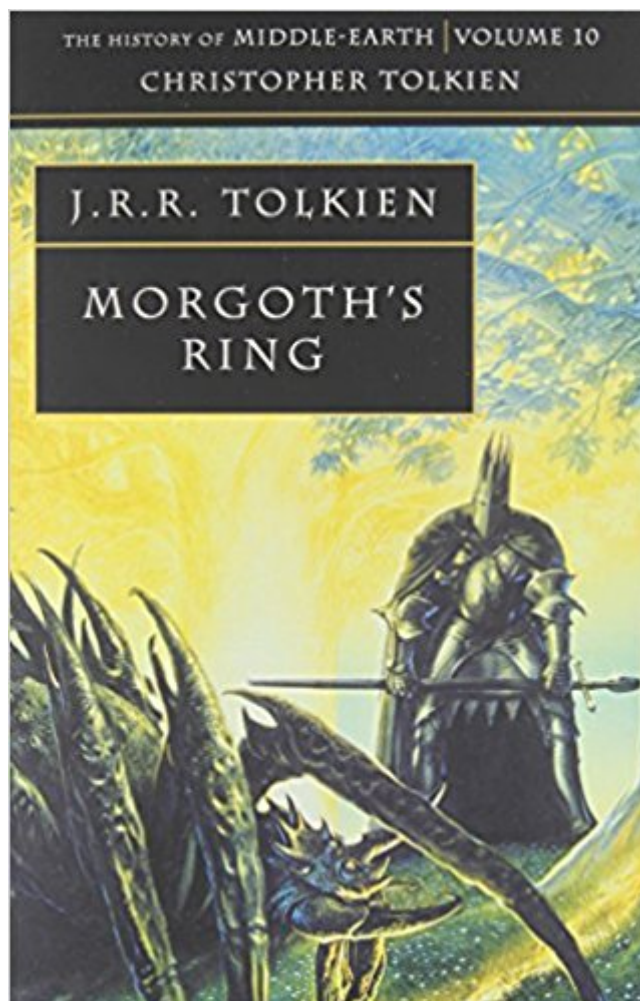


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Morgoth's Ring (History Of Middle-Earth, Vol. 10)



Synopsis

The first of two companion volumes which documents the later writing of The Silmarillion, Tolkien's epic tale of war. After the The Lord of the Rings was at last achieved, J R R Tolkien turned his attention once again to 'the Matter of the Elder Days'. The text of the Annals of Aman, the 'Blessed Land' in the far West, is given in full; while in writings hitherto unknown is seen the nature of the problems that Tolkien explored in his later years, as new and radical ideas, portending upheaval in the old narratives, emerged at the heart of the mythology, and as the destinies of Men and Elves, mortals and immortals, became of central significance, together with a vastly enlarged perception of the evil of Melkor, the Shadow upon Arda. The second part of this history of the later Silmarillion is concerned with developments in the legends of Beleriand after the completion of The Lord of the Rings.

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Customer Reviews

'Christopher Tolkien shows himself to be his father's son... Tolkien devotees will rejoice' The New York Times Book Review
'Illustrates the development, depth and richness of J R R Tolkien's personal mythology' Vector

J.R.R.Tolkien (1892-1973) was a distinguished academic, though he is best known for writing The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings and The Silmarillion, plus other stories and essays. His books have been translated into over 30 languages and have sold many millions of copies worldwide

Chris Tolkien reaches the (for me) most interesting part of his father's work in this penultimate volume of the History of Middle-Earth - the development of Tolkien's creation myths and explanation of evil, personified in Morgoth "the dark enemy of the world". The title alludes to the provocative notion that, just as Sauron weakened himself by pouring much of his malignant power into his One Ring, so too did Morgoth expend power he never recovered by tainting the very material of the world, to his lasting detriment and ours. That's a terrific theological idea that didn't get included in the published version of The Silmarillion. Watching Chris trace the reasons this idea lost priority to others is, as always, a terrific glimpse into an era of writing when a novel might go through dozens of drafts before coming near a typewriter much less a printing press. Alas that composition these days typically involves a word processor in which only the author's most recent impulses are recorded, leaving little trace of their original immediacy.

A delightful read for those wishing for an ever deeper understanding of Tolkien's early works with notations and commentary by both the author and his son. The intricate and complex world created by Tolkien becomes even more profound after reading 'Laws and Customs among of the Eldar' when the author explains such things as the rites concerning betrothal and marriage, naming traditions, and death. The 'Athrabeth Finrod ah Andreth', in my opinion, is the jewel of this volume. During the 'Debate' the reader learns that there was love between a human and an elf long before the Tale of Beren and Luthien. However, the story of Aegnor and Andreth seems to me a tragedy as the two were never able to act on their love as it was wartime and the elves did not - by both custom and nature - marry or have children. This volume is definitely worth it for anyone who desires either an informative text or another well-written story.

I admit, I haven't finished it yet, but if you like Middle-earth lore and have an interest in things like culture, history, and backstory (especially of the elves) you will adore this book. Definitely for those who go in for Tolkien lore.

perfect condition score 1-10 i give 20 thanks

This is the tenth volume of a detailed study about the Silmarillion- era (Pre- Lord of the rings). No question from the silmarillion, is left unanswered after you've read this hyper-detailed book about the fallen ainur, Melkor, most known under the name Morgoth meaning "the enemy of the world".

Here is described the rise of Arda, the assignments given by Eru, the lord of all, to the ainur (or the Valar in their earthly presence), AND how Melkor (who was Eru's favorite and most skilled of all) fell from grace and lusted to control the earth and everything in it. In this book , you will find how immensely great was Morgoth's power and how he could even distort Eru's very designs in the birth of the universe. It also includes detailed information about particular elven kings, half elven and men, who had a particularly important role in the history and shaping of Beleriand and Middle-earth. a lot of readers of the silmarillion felt that many details werent sufficiently explored and found the story hard to follow. Morgoth's Ring provides the 'in depth' look required to further appreciate the silmarillion. All fans of middle-earth and fantasy are urged to get this superb annal of the history of middle-earth and dive once more into the realm of the tree-light gems...

Still reading.

Confession; one thing that I like about this and the Silmarillion is the fact that the Elves are not this perfect little race like they are in LOTR. It seems to me the Eldar in Morgoth's Ring and Silmarillion have a real attitude problem; not perfect and unfailing as they seem to be portrayed later.

Unfortunately I find that these failings in the Elves make more interesting and relatable (yes, to me).Can you imagine one of the Eldar road raging (not that I road rage)?Sorry.

I have been a Tolkien fan since my tenth birthday when my sister Lisa gave me her copy of the Hobbit and told me I had to read it. I devoured it and went through the Lord of the Rings as fast. I used to read the LOR about every 3-4 months for the next 25 years (we live in the country were TV and Radio reception was almost non existence (we got 1 TV channel and the local college radio station) the cable company refused to run lines out were we lived because they felt it was not worth the expense expanding into an area that only had less than 20 families. The mountains and trees blocked all reception.The silmarillion was a dream come true when it was released and I have read that many times and think The Tale of Hurin and his family would be an incredible movie too.Then to get these books that give all the back ground information I owe a big debt to christopher tolkien I loved this and have all 11 books , the unfinished tales and every thing else he has released. I am sure it is too much for all but fanatics like me though

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