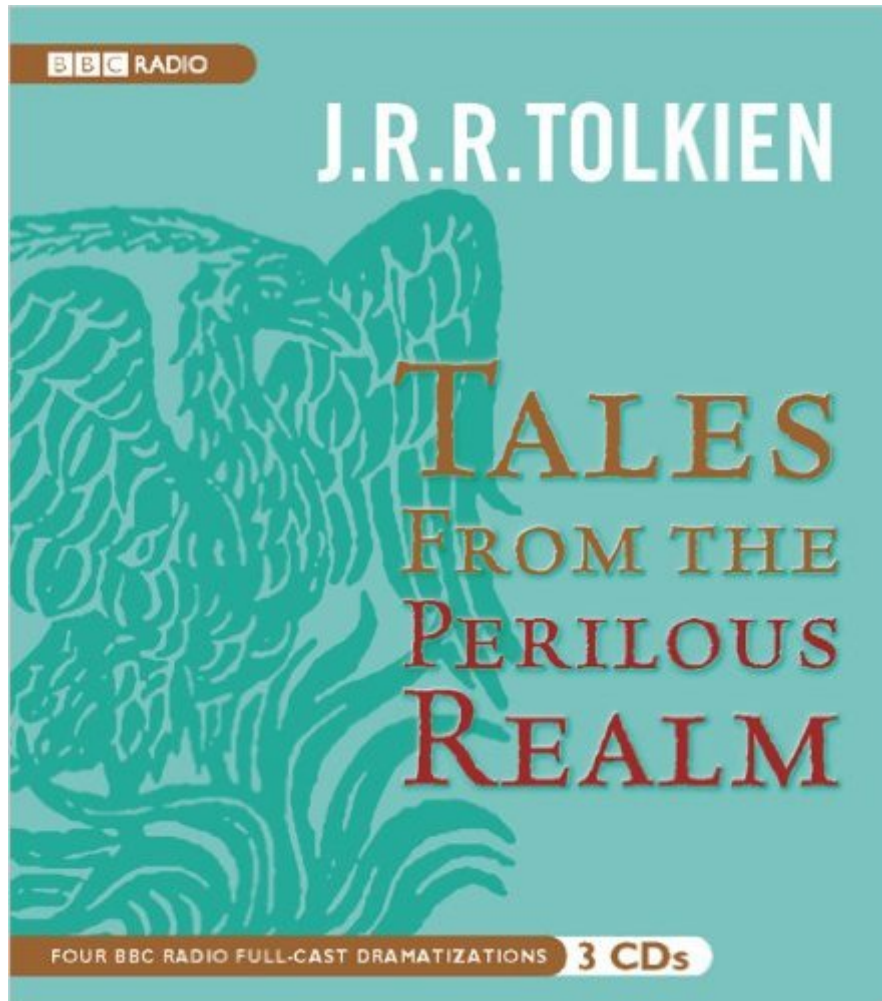


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Tales From The Perilous Realm (Four BBC Radio Full Cast Dramas)



Synopsis

Michael Horder stars as J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, in four BBC Radio full-cast dramatizations. Tolkiens tales of myth, mystery, and rumbustious exploits have been specially adapted for radio by Brian Sibley, one of the dramatists of the highly acclaimed BBC radio production of *The Lord of the Rings*. In *Farmer Giles of Ham*, having accidentally shot a giant, Farmer Giles finds his brave reputation being tested by Chrysophylax the dragon. In *Smith of Wootton Major*, when young Smith eats a piece of cake containing a silver star, he is granted access to the magical land of Faerie. In *Leaf by Niggle*, a thought-provoking allegory on the theme of creativity, the painter Niggle embarks on a fateful search for perfection. In *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil*, join Tom and the Hobbits in scenes from *The Lord of the Rings* which were not included in the BBC Radio 4 dramatization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Is this collection worth purchasing? Tom Shippey's introduction is, as always, incisive and insightful, packed with quotable phrases and interesting observations placing these shorter pieces within Tolkien's oeuvre. But it is aimed at the new reader of these works - it is a guide to how to read them, not ground-breaking new scholarship. I am personally not a fan of realism in illustration of Tolkien's works; I find that a more stylized approach better suits the atmosphere of his writing. This is perhaps purely a matter of personal taste, but I can't read the stories included in this collection without a deep longing for the original illustrations by Pauline Baynes - particularly for *Farmer Giles*, where

Tolkien himself said he felt her artwork reduced his text to a commentary on the drawings. To my mind, Lee's pale, washed-out pencil drawings hardly hold a candle to Baynes' ability to convey the humor, enchantment, and melancholy of Tolkien's shorter works. All of the included works by Tolkien are readily available elsewhere. Roverandom, Farmer Giles, Smith, and On Fairy-stories have recently appeared in excellent stand-alone editions with critical commentary and, when applicable, the original illustrations by Baynes or Tolkien himself. All but Roverandom and Smith are included in The Tolkien Reader, which is still in print, though alas only in paperback; I imagine this collection is meant to replace it in hardback. If you are a fan of Alan Lee, the answer may be yes, though for most of the tales there are actually only two drawings each.

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