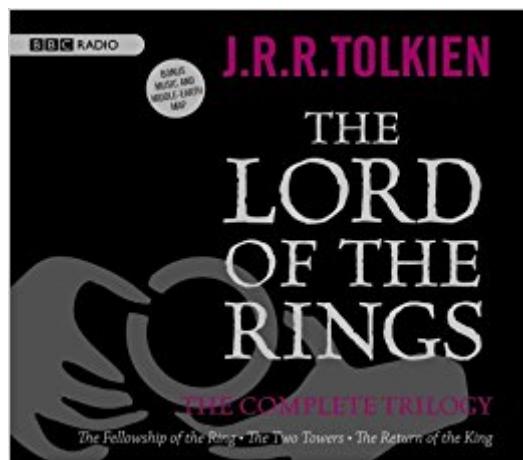


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# The Lord Of The Rings (BBC Dramatization, Consumer Edition)



## Synopsis

This audio set includes: The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; and The Return of the King. Undertaking the adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's best-known work was an enormous task, but with its first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on March 8, 1981, this dramatized tale of Middle Earth became an instant global classic. Thrilling dramatization by Brian Sibley and Michael Bakewell it boasts a truly outstanding cast including Ian Holm (as Frodo), Sir Michael Hordern (as Gandalf), Robert Stephens (as Aragorn), and John Le Mesurier. Tolkiens tale relates the perilous attempt by Frodo Baggins and company to defeat the evil Saruman and dispose of the Ruling Ring. Brian Sibley wrote the opening and closing narration for the character of Frodo, played by Ian Holm, who now stars as Bilbo in the feature films based on The Lord of the Rings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Originally broadcast in 1981 on BBC Radio, this full-cast adaptation of Tolkien's epic trilogy is justifiably regarded as a classic; unfortunately, in 2008, it faces inevitable comparison with Peter Jackson's films. While Jackson had stunning visuals, purists may find this simpler adaptation more to their taste. The radio version remains, in some ways, more faithful to the original trilogy. The extensive cuts to the narrative mean that much of Tolkien's poetic description and a degree of emotional resonance are lost, but narrator Gerard Murphy gives what remains the appropriate gravity. Most of the dialogue is pure Tolkien, and the fine cast does it justice. Ian Holm (who appeared as Bilbo in the films) offers a mature, nuanced portrayal of Frodo that is far truer to the text than Elijah Wood's wide-eyed innocent approach. (On the other hand, Sean Astin's accent and

inflections as Sam are so similar to the audiobook's Bill Nighy's, one might suspect that Astin studied this recording before filming.) The 12th CD is devoted to a selection of songs from the books, set to original music. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

With masterful talent, energy, and clarity, this 1981 BBC full-cast dramatization faithfully follows Tolkien's influential and timeless saga of hobbits, elves, orcs, and wizards. The original musical score, sound effects, and acting are stellar throughout, but special mention has to be made of the humorous and compelling scenes between Frodo (Ian Holm), Sam (William Nighy), and Gollum (Peter Woodthorpe) as they battle the Dark Lord, and themselves, in the quest to cast the "precious" Ring into the Cracks of Doom. The production, which includes all three books that make up the LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy, predates the Academy Award-winning films by 20 years, and remains a high watermark for both fantasy literature and audio production. Not to be missed. B.P.

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I had trouble finding this information before purchasing, so I am providing it. As far as I can tell, this edition (The Lord of the Rings (BBC Dramatization, Consumer Edition) - black box, 12 CDs) is \*almost\* the same as the originally-released 13-episode version, which I have on cassette tapes and have listened to often. According to a wiki website, BBC released this first as 26 half-hour episodes, then as 13 hourlong episodes (adding and removing small pieces to make this work). This version is the 13 episode version. In addition it has opening and closing narration for each of the 3 books in LOTR, written by Brian Sibley and spoken by Ian Holm as Frodo (he plays Frodo in the episodes as well) in which Frodo thinks about writing down the story. Also, the episode divisions have been removed - which explains why the 13 episodes now fit on 12 CDs. Overall I am very happy with this edition of my beloved BBC LOTR. I'm sure I will grow accustomed to the narrative framing - it's not very long or intrusive, and it's good; it's just a change. I will miss the music from the episode divisions, but I won't miss the interruptions to the narrative. I am thrilled to replace my worn-out cassette tapes with more durable CDs of the same performance.

The Lord of the Rings (BBC Dramatization, Consumer Edition) This is a wonderful Radio/Audio Drama of Tolkien's famed "Lord of The Rings" trilogy. It is SO much better than the BBC's radio version of the "HOBBIT". Don't judge this set if you have only listened to the 1970's BBC Radio Drama of the Hobbit. Which has horrible sounding music ( like a dying moose ) ... and the sound

effects were louder than the dialogue. This one has less sound effects and more story telling!! :) And the voices are different enough to tell each character apart. It's a wonderful set. Pros: 1. Has a narrator that gives a description of what has or will happen 2. Voices are easier to tell apart 3. It goes into more detail 4. A Full Cast of Voice Actors Cons: I can't find one! :)

I recorded this radio series from my receiver back in the 80's. I loved it then, and I listened to those cassette tapes many times until they could no longer be played. I was sad to have lost that series, and to my delight I found out that they had re-issued this on CD's. My husband and I were planning a road trip from east to west last summer, and I thought this would be a great way to pass the time--listening to LOTR in the car as we drove all day. I could still remember the delightful songs. The portrayal of "Samwise" in this series is excellent. The part where he throws his pans away always makes me cry! If you are a true fan of the books, I truly think you will enjoy listening to this.

Doubtlessly, this is by far the very best dramatic adaptation ever made of the Great Book, the Lord of the Rings. Every version I've ever heard over the years, to put it mildly, have been but a shadows of this single glorious BBC production. (And that includes all later British and American versions too.) As someone who treasured my BBC cassette tape edition in its very nice box, obtaining this CD version was a real treat; it also has some phenominal extras too, like several of Tolkien's songs/poems set to music. In addition, it is worth noting, there is also indeed a serious classical music group, whom have, along with Sir Christopher Lee, done an outstanding service to all of us who've yearned for Tolkien's songs and poems to be set to a worthy musical score; by the "Tolkien Ensemble" and is available for purchase here at .Â The Lord of the Rings: Complete Songs and Poems - Christopher Lee - Tolkien Ensemble The WARNING I spoke of in my title is this: Some I'm aware of, have been honestly confused by the write-up for this BBC production as somehow being a "complete" and "unabridged" edition of Lord of the Rings on CDs. It is NOT an unedited or unabridged version of the ENTIRE TEXT of Lord of the Rings. Rather, the BBC production itself is unabridged, and thus is NOT an unedited reading of the ENTIRE TEXT of Lord of the Rings, in dramatized form! If you want to buy the best truly unabridged and unedited version of the entire Lord of the Rings, I suggest buying the FULL text edition, recorded onto a great many CDs, from the BRITISH arm of .com (UK). Moreover, the USA full-text version was sadly, very BLAND; key words and phrases of Tolkien, read out with an American accent, frankly set my teeth on edge. Along the same lines, I wouldn't buy a Brit-accented complete work by Mark Twain; it just does not work well. Moreover, in my humble opinion, the same holds just as true for the Harry Potter books (not on par

with Lord of the Rings, to be sure) yet the British-read versions of a very British work, just SOUND MUCH BETTER. (And its not by chance that the best movie versions of Shakespeare's plays are performed by English accented actors.)

This is one of my favorite interpretations of Tolkien's opus. When Peter Jackson came out with Fellowship of the Ring I found myself comparing characters in the film to those I had envisioned while listening to the BBC dramatization. For long drives or for a brief escape to and from the stress of work this is a fantastic production for a bit of escapism. Being a dramatization, this is an abridged version so anyone who wants to hear the Lord of the Rings trilogy unabridged will want a different version. But the spirit of story is captured very effectively here, and the voice acting is spot on and brings the story to life. For those familiar with the films the actor who portrays Bilbo Baggins is the voice of Frodo Baggins.

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