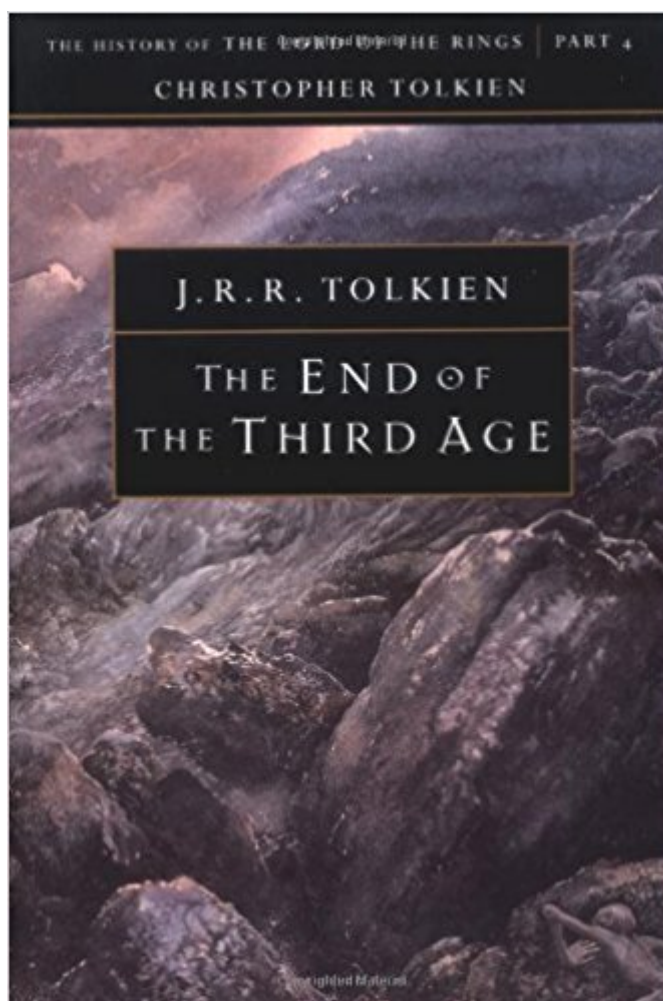


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The End Of The Third Age (The History Of The Lord Of The Rings, Part 4)



Synopsis

The End of the Third Age is comprised of the first section of the hardcover volume published as Sauron Defeated, the ninth volume of The History of Middle-earth. It completes Christopher Tolkien's account of the creation of The Lord of the Rings begun in the earlier volumes, The Return of the Shadow, The Treason of Isengard, and The War of the Ring. The End of the Third Age begins with Sam's rescue of Frodo from the Tower of Kirith Ungol, and giving a very different account of the Scouring of the Shire, this part ends with versions of the hitherto unpublished Epilogue, in which, years after the departure of Bilbo and Frodo from the Grey Havens, Sam attempts to answer his children's questions. The book is illustrated with changing conceptions of Kirith Ungol and Mount Doom, as well as previously unpublished drawings of Orthanc and Dunharrow.

Book Information

Series: The History of the Lord of the Rings, Part 4

Paperback: 159 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 1 edition (September 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618083561

ISBN-13: 978-0618083565

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #230,452 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > History & Criticism](#) #5159 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic](#)

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 Information, Inc.

"One marvels anew at the depth, breadth, and persistence of J.R.R. Tolkien's labor. No one sympathetic to his aims, the invention of a secondary universe, will want to miss this chance to be present at the creation." -- Publishers Weekly

What can you say? It's Tolkien and answers unanswered questions. I'm waiting for the last of all the books, but so far, they live up to the legend.

If you haven't read The Histories, do so. It's fun to watch the stories evolve, and let's face it: there's a finite amount of Tolkien in this world. Revel in it!

Good book about the writing of the lord of the rings

good background info!

I have added this to my Tolkien collection. Great addition.

Being a closet Tolkienite, I've read everything he wrote. I like the fact that his son Christopher has put a lot of work into this one too.

I love it

His notes. His rewrites. His discarded scribbles. His shopping lists. Just about every word J.R.R. Tolkien ever wrote has been carefully scrutinized and compiled into the "History" series. The finale of the series, "The End of the Third Age," is a prized curiosity for fans. It contains Tolkien's (sometimes garbled) notes and drafts of "Return of the King." Different lines, altered characterizations, changed scenes, and a radically different Scouring of the Shire appear in these drafts. (Frodo killed "Sharkey" in earlier drafts) Christopher Tolkien provides plenty of explanation between nuggets of text about "my father's" writings. And the crowning touch is a couple drafts of the unused epilogue, in which we see Sam talking with his family. People who aren't devoted fans of the "Lord of the Rings" books may be completely befuddled by "End of the Third Age." It's a fangeek thing, but it also serves as a literary curiosity. How did the story evolve, and how it was originally different? Well, this is part of what Tolkien wrote before the story was finished and published. Tolkien's outstanding writing is hinted at even in the roughest, most incomplete fragments. And what makes this of special interest is not what was unfinished, but what was finished and not included. The epilogues (which were unfortunately not used) are beautiful, sweet and touching, and show Tolkien's love of family. They also serve as a better wrap-up to the trilogy. The sweet epilogues lift "End of the Third Age" from a fan curiosity to a sort of "director's cut"

book. For die-hard fans, it's a must-have. For casual fans, it's certainly something to check out.

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