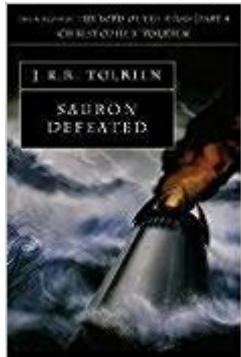


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Sauron Defeated (History Of Middle-Earth)



Synopsis

The final part of The History of The Lord of the Rings, an enthralling account of the writing of the Book of the Century which contains many additional scenes and includes the unpublished Epilogue in its entirety. In the first section of Sauron Defeated Christopher Tolkien completes his fascinating study of The Lord of the Rings. Beginning with Sam's rescue of Frodo from the Tower of Cirith Ungol, and giving a very different account of the Scouring of the Shire, this section ends with versions of the hitherto unpublished Epilogue, in which, years after the departure of Bilbo and Frodo from the Grey Havens, Sam attempts to answer his children's questions.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 second section is an edition of The Notion Club Papers. These mysterious papers, discovered in the early years of the twenty-first century, report the discussions of an Oxford club in the years 1986-7, in which after a number of topics, the centre of interest turns to the legend of Atlantis, the strange communications received by other members of the club from the past, and the violent irruption of the legend into the North-west of Europe. This series of fascinating books has now been repackaged to complement the distinctive and classic style of the 'black cover' A-format paperbacks of The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, The Silmarillion and Unfinished Tales.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

People whose primary interest in Tolkien focuses on Lord of the Rings will find that only the first 135 pages of this novel deal with the trilogy. The rest of the book concerns the fall of Numenor, related through Tolkien's time-travel story "The Notion Club Papers," and through his early drafts called "The Drowning of Anadune." Christopher Tolkien writes that it wasn't feasible to

publish all the notes concerning LotR in three fat volumes, so he chose to combine the final chapters from 'Return of the King' with other material. The decision may have been necessary, but it is also to some extent unfortunate because not everyone will be interested in reading 300 pages touching on Numenor. Those readers might be better off borrowing this volume than buying it. In this final segment of drafts, we cover Frodo and Sam in Mordor and the aftermath of the Ring's destruction. As with the previous volumes, we see alternative versions of events and characters, and sometimes glimpses of why Tolkien made the changes he did. A rejected epilogue meant to answer the questions of Sam's children provides some tantalizing morsels: not all the elves may leave Middle Earth, Celeborn may set sail one day, the sons of Elrond did not depart with him. We witness in this final segment the closing of a saga that took nine years to write, including two lengthy breaks, and spanned the entirety of WW2. Yet, I didn't feel a sense of closure. Something was missing. Perhaps it was the lack of discussion about finalizing the manuscript between the story's completion in 1948 and the publication of 'Fellowship' in 1954. We hear nothing about when Tolkien added the parts concerning Arwen.

'Sauron Defeated' is the last of a four volume series ('The History of the Lord of the Rings') within a series, (volume IX of 'The History of Middle Earth') edited by Christopher Tolkien, from the unpublished writings of his father, J. R. R. Tolkien, most famous as the author of 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' (LotR). The most important thing to realize about this book is that only about a third of its pages deal with 'The History of The Lord of the Rings'. The remaining two-thirds deals with a subject which harks back to 'The Lost Road' and the wager taken up between the two 'Inklings' (an Oxford literary and social society), Tolkien and C. S. Lewis. The LotR story in this book covers the last few days of Sam and Frodo in Mordor, as they painfully make their way to the Cracks of Doom on Orodruin in order to finally destroy the 'One Ring'. This takes a very few pages, after which we are left with the notes on the long and slow road home, to one of to me the most interesting episodes in the whole LotR, 'The Scouring of the Shire'. I can easily understand why Peter Jackson left this episode and the events involving Tom Bombadil from his films (ten hours is surely long enough for even a cinematic event of these proportions), but they still remain my favorite events. The middle third of the book is taken up with 'The Notion Club Papers', which appears to be a fictional account of the goings-on at the real live 'Inkling' meetings at Oxford. There is a lot of playful parodying here, especially on some of C. S. Lewis' works.

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