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The Hobbit, An Unexpected Journey: The World of Hobbits **- Paddy Kempshall**

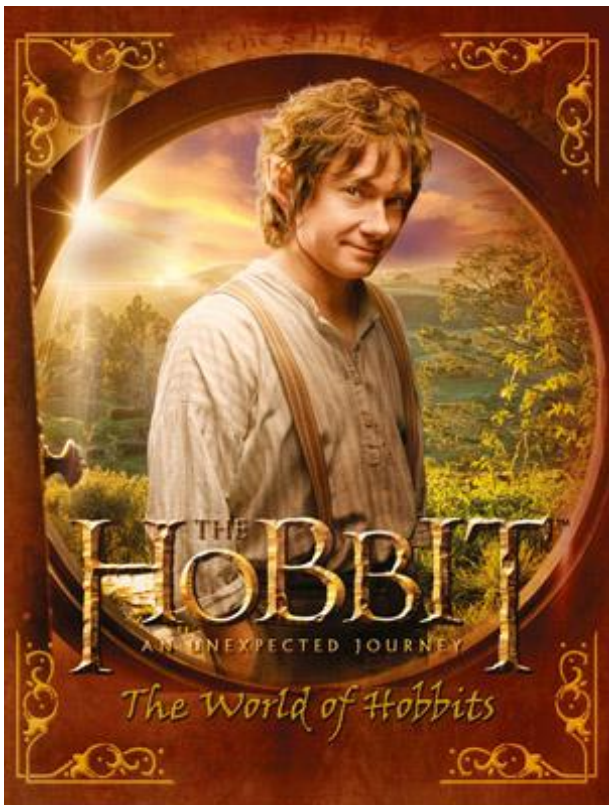
RRP \$16.99

Publisher: HarperCollins

Superb photos from the movie *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, allow a close-up look at the world of hobbits. Details of the places and characters involved in the first movie are fascinating. Did you know that because of their small stature hobbits are sometimes called halflings? And they love food so much that they have at least six or seven meals in one day.

Readers are invited to get to know these little folk from the Shire, especially Bilbo Baggins the hero of the story who sets off on the most exciting journey of his life. He reluctantly leaves behind a comfortable home in his hobbit hole known as Bag End.

Regardless of his small size, some of Bilbo's attributes give him an advantage for the long trek ahead – particularly his large, hairy feet. Although he's unused to adventures, Bilbo shows that he has an inner strength and great courage when the need arises – as it frequently does!



Portraits and information about Bilbo's travelling companions give an insight into their background. There's Gandalf the Wizard and thirteen dwarves who are determined to regain their stolen mountain and treasure. Each of the dwarves has their own peculiarities which either hinder or help the band of travellers. Of course, they meet quite a few unpleasant characters along the way, and readers are given a glimpse of these nasty creatures.

This well-designed, soft-covered book with beautiful colour photographs is an excellent guide to the movie and a wonderful keepsake.

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**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett.**