

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***The Hobbit, or there and back again by J.R.R. Tolkien***

**Publisher: HarperCollins**

**RRP \$19.99**

This timeless tale captivates and holds the reader, even though it was written over seventy years ago. It's an adventure that tests the courage of all the characters caught up in its twists and turns.

At the centre of the story is a timid little hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. Gandalf the wizard chooses Bilbo to join a band of dwarves on their quest to regain their mountain kingdom and stolen treasure from the wily dragon, Smaug the Magnificent. The dwarves are dubious about the hobbit, "He looks more like a grocer than a burglar!" However, Gandalf defends Bilbo as, "...fierce as a dragon in a pinch."

As the travellers journey through enchanted forests and deep into goblin caverns, Bilbo proves that he is quick-witted, resourceful and loyal. Although he often wishes he was safe at home in his hobbit hole, Bilbo meets every challenge with the courage of a warrior.

Their mission takes the companions through sinister places that have been the downfall of many who have gone before them. The trials are terrifying and their lives are often threatened by trolls, orcs, wargs, wolves, giant spiders, and goblins.

On occasions, help comes from creatures the dwarves would usually view with suspicion. Desperate situations and daring escapes keep the tension high and lead towards the inevitable point of no return. Again, it is Bilbo who plays a central role at the climax.

Drawings and maps by the author add to the magic of reading the original tale by master storyteller J.R.R. Tolkien. A classic for the family bookcase.

**Reviewed by Jean Bennett**

