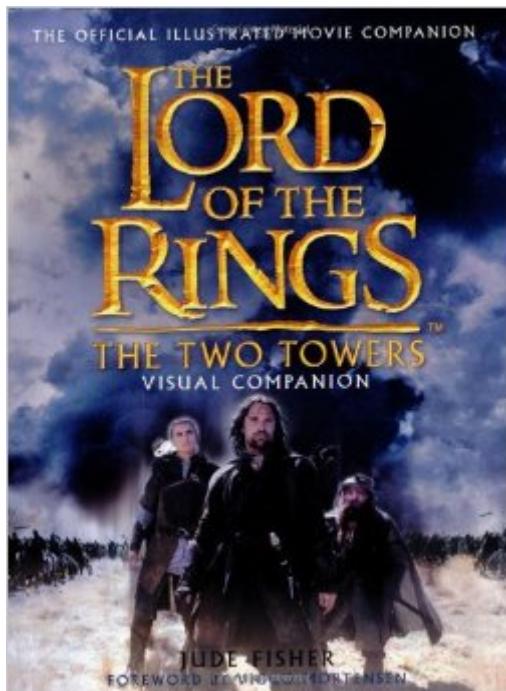


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The Two Towers Visual Companion: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion (The Lord Of The Rings)



Synopsis

The official, fully authorized companion to the second part of Peter Jackson's award-winning trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. *The Two Towers Visual Companion* is a full-color guide to the characters, places and landscapes of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth as depicted in the second film in *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, and features a special introduction by Viggo Mortensen, who plays Aragorn. Lavishly illustrated with more than 100 full-color photographs, including exclusive images of Gollum, Treebeard and the battle of Helm's Deep, *The Two Towers Visual Companion* offers a privileged tour through the principal events of the second film. It begins with a recounting of *The Fellowship of the Ring*, and then takes the reader on the separate journeys undertaken by the Fellowship in *The Two Towers*. *The Ring Quest*: in which Frodo and Sam journey alone towards Mordor, alone that is, except for the sneaking figure of Gollum, who has been dogging their footsteps since Moria. *The Captives' Journey*: in which Merry and Pippin are carried by the fearsome Uruk-hai towards a fateful encounter with the wizard, Saruman, at the stronghold of Isengard. *The Companions' Journey*: in which Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli pursue the abducted hobbits across the Plains of Rohan and into the eaves of Fangorn Forest. Also included are a brand new map of Rohan and Gondor and a specially commissioned battle plan of the climactic events at Helm's Deep, where a brave stand will be made by the Free Peoples of Middle-earth against Saruman's horde. The companion offers an unforgettable tour of the haunted swamp of the Dead Marshes and the lovely but dangerous land of Ithilien which borders Mordor, the breathtaking kingdom of Rohan, home of the Horse-lords, its seat of power, Edoras, and the ancient stronghold of Helm's Deep, and provides an invaluable introduction to Peter Jackson's *The Two Towers*.

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Customer Reviews

Last year's "Fellowship of the Ring Visual Companion" was a must-have for newbies to Middle-Earth, who previously didn't know what a hobbit was or what the big deal was about an elf/human romance. Jude Fisher follows up with the "Two Towers Visual Companion," to give readers little bits and pieces that aren't quite in the movies. Fisher goes over the various people, places, and occasionally new races that are introduced in "Two Towers." She doesn't recap much stuff from the previous movie, so if you want to fully understand this book, pick up the "Fellowship" guide first. It's sprinkled with plenty of bright pictures, usually several for each character, and background information that will be new to some who've only watched the movie. (For example, the tale of Beren and Luthien is contrasted to Aragorn and Arwen's involvement, and Gollum's history is spelled out in greater detail). Fans will definitely want to check out the pictures of Treebeard, Grima Wormtongue, and the battle of Helm's Deep. It's sort of a guidebook to Middle-Earth, and so mainly the areas of greatest activity are shown. That means not a lot of hobbit stuff. However, there's a great fold-out map of the Helm's Deep Battle, and a very poetic foreword by actor Viggo Mortenson in which he praises Jude Fisher and briefly analyzes the depths of "Lord of the Rings." (Mortenson's literary skill is never more evident than it is here) This book is primarily intended for people who haven't read the books, but longtime fans may enjoy it as well.

I just received my copy today, and enjoyed thumbing through the pages. Personally, I don't think it's quite as appealing as the first book, though probably only a half-star inferior. Perhaps the novelty has worn off just a tad. The new characters are introduced, and as with the first book, there are some frightening pictures of orcs. There is also a most lovely portrait of Arwen. Gollum receives much more treatment in this book--for obvious reasons. Another highlight are the numerous quotations from the Tolkien stories, many of which just stay with those of us who have not read the original books. The photos are great (I was quite surprised by the Ent!), but at times, I got the impression the publishers were struggling a bit to fill pages. This is a minor complaint, and the book is worth having. I do hope the slight inferiority of this one to the first is not a preview of the same regarding the film!

As with last year's Visual Guide to "Fellowship of the Ring," this book mostly serves as a teaser for the film to come, allowing the reader/viewer to linger over some few images of the hours of pleasure

ahead. Almost everyone will come away wanting more, but that is its intention. The photos give us a wonderful taste of the film's drama and epic quality, and allow a deep appreciation of its artistry. A nice little bonus is the four-page fold-out overview of the battle of Helm's Deep. I can't imagine that anyone who loved the first film and anticipates loving the next won't want a copy of this book.

This made a very great gift for my sweetie who loves anything to do with Tolkien and of course, Lord of the Rings Movies! He adored this book and it made a great addition to his collection! :-)

If there are things in the movie you don't quite get or are a little foggy this book will really help. Great big pictures and good history of Middle Earth. Well put together!

I'm an amateur artist and bought this book for some good reference pics--particular of the actors--for doing some LOTR drawings. The problem is that the pics are rather small much of the time (a lot of fluffy text takes up much of the pages), and the shots usually aren't that interesting, anyway. There are few headshots of the main characters, and Gollum isn't featured at all, outside of the back of his head. Of course, you can find tons of beautiful LOTR images online, such as at the official movie site, but for drawing, I find it more convenient to have a photo reference on the table in front of me. If you're just a fan and don't care about creating portraits, I'd still recommend just looking around online. The photos in this book are surprisingly mediocre given the absolutely stunning source material.

Perfect for LOTR fans, this book is packed with great photographs and engrossing text. Jude Fischer incorporates both Tolkien and Jackson. It's great for those of us who get in Lord of the Ringsy moods but don't have the time to watch the movie. You'll love it :)

The Two Towers Visual Companion is a beautifully done book that die hard Tolkien fans and those new to Tolkien's world will appreciate. Most of the oversize book is filled with gorgeous full color photographs to give you little teasers regarding the film, but also to help define the different races and introduce new characters. For those who are not as familiar with The Fellowship of the Ring, it gives you a little background on those events that spill over into The Two Towers and then moves forward with the story. This makes it a great book for those who are not very familiar with Tolkien's world as it clearly explains who everyone is as far as races and cultures go. There are sections on Gollum, The Dead Marshes, Ithilien, Faramir, Fangorn Forest, Ents, Saruman, Gandalf the White,

The Rohirrim, and many more. I am a big Tolkien fan so it was all review for me, but Jude Fisher does a fine job of summarizing the story and preparing the reader for the film. My main interest in reading this book was to see where the book by Tolkien and the movie by Jackson differed and, in that respect, it was very helpful. At the cheap price available now, it is a worthy addition to any fantasy or Tolkien fan's library.

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