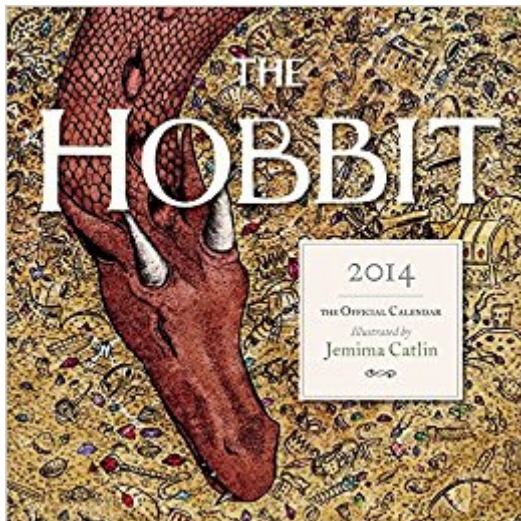


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Tolkien Calendar 2014, The Hobbit



Synopsis

Pub Date: 2013-07-23 Pages: 24 Language: English Publisher: Voyager The official Tolkien Hobbit calendar for 2014. Artwork by Jemima Catlin 12 x 12.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973) was a major scholar of the English language, specializing in Old and Middle English. Twice Professor of Anglo-Saxon (Old English) at the University of Oxford, he also wrote a number of stories, including most famously *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-1955), which are set in a pre-historic era in an invented version of the world which he called by the Middle English name of Middle-earth.

The official Tolkien calendar for 2014 follows 2013 with illustrations taken from *The Hobbit*, but with a really magical difference. The illustrations for this calendar are all done by a new, young artist with a fresh vision of the world of J.R.R. Tolkien. Jemima Catlin, who has also provided the illustrations for a forthcoming new edition of *The Hobbit*, has hearkened back to *The Hobbit's* origins as a children's story. Her drawings remind me of the illustrations in the books I was most fond of in my childhood, most strongly E.H. Shepard's in *The Wind in the Willows* and *Winnie the Pooh*. There are also some echoes of Tolkien's own illustrations in some of Catlin's works here, and in this circumstance there can be no higher praise. Each month in the calendar has a full color drawing with a smaller one in black and white on the margins of the grid, along with a quote from the corresponding chapter in *The Hobbit*. Some of the scenes have been depicted by other artists, but

Catlin's interpretation always provides something new. January's view of The Hill of Hobbiton, which is clearly influenced by Tolkien's own drawing, includes a wistful Bilbo on his pony sadly looking back at his home as he begins his Unexpected Journey, while September's close up of Smaug's head as he lies on his treasure similarly evokes Tolkien's illustration, with a narrower focus that emphasizes the dragon's menace. October's death of Smaug in Laketown, August's Bilbo riding a barrel, and May's Bilbo awakening in the eagle's eyrie also owe a lot to Tolkien's own drawings. February's trolls and April's dwarves climbing trees to escape the wargs remind me of another childhood favorite, Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are*! Perhaps the most pleasing element in this calendar is the number of scenes which have rarely or never been illustrated. I'm very fond of March's Elves in the trees singing as Bilbo approaches Rivendell, April's climbing dwarves, and July's battle between Bilbo and the spider in Mirkwood, while November's depiction of Bilbo shouting "The Eagles Are Coming!" at the Battle of Five Armies is probably the most dramatic. But I think my favorites are two quieter scenes: June's Beorn entertaining Gandalf, the dwarves, and Bilbo at a dinner served by dogs, sheep and ponies and December's Gandalf, Balin, and Bilbo sitting around a cosy fire in Bag End. Both have a homey, comforting air which definitely appeals to me. I look forward to using this calendar next year and I am certain Jemima Catlin will have a long and fruitful career.

I've bought nearly every Tolkien calendar in this series since the first one, in about 1974--the first two had the same illustrations, by Tolkien himself, with different colored borders. I got a little tired of the recent calendars by the Dutch artist who's been painting Tolkien since Tolkien was alive to appreciate and even acquire a couple of his paintings--but the art, while impressive and I can admire it and understand it (I think) isn't pleasant on my wall like this is. I think I actually like these pictures on my wall better than their recent appearance in the new illustrated *Hobbit*. But especially in the book, they'll never really replace Tolkien's own illustrations, however much I may like them as a new take on the story. And, in fact, I think I prefer some earlier takes, such as Michael Hague's in the mid-1980s or so. Or look around for some fan alternatives, from organizations like Beyond Bree, or fan artist Jef Murray.

Jemima Catlin's art is a fresh and imaginative take on JRR Tolkien's classic story that will delight those who love the book. The images are in chronological order (there and back again). Uniquely to this calendar, the images fill the top fold of each month plus a third of the lower fold. This gives each month a centerfold feel. None of the months suffer from a misalignment that might have ruined this

larger-than-usual presentation. The lower fold of the months also feature two small drawings to go with the main art plus a quote from the Hobbit text as well as the phases of the moon. I would have a hard time singling out any one image as my favorite but the trolls (February), Rivendell elves (March), and Smaug attacking Laketown (October) are very good. The calendar opens with a short biography of Tolkien (which I would have liked to have been accompanied by a painting of the professor by Catlin) and closes with a full 2015 calendar with six more pen and ink drawings. This calendar is a must for all who cherish the works of Tolkien.

I purchased this calendar for my mother whom is a big fan of LoTR. Jemima Catlin is a phenomenal artist and each month is just so visually appeasing. I also purchased my mom The Hobbit illustrated by Jemima Catlin. If you enjoy this calendar I definitely recommend buying this version of The Hobbit!

We've been getting Tolkien calendars since the 70s and this art is a fantastic way to enjoy JRR's work every day. Since the movies came out the "real" calendars have been harder to find, so thank you ! I love the movies but the illustrated calendars bring so much more depth to appreciating the stories. Recommended to any fan, whether or not they have read the books.

I really enjoy the artwork on this calendar and it makes me happy to see it hanging on my wall every day. The days of the month are a little bit small for writing in but it includes cute holidays like J.R.R. Tolkien's birthday. I love this calendar and will save it after 2014 is through because the art is so fun!

I like this calendar because of the artists view of Middle Earth. Very different from many of the artists. A great find for my collection.

Been buying my brother a Tolkien calendar every year since 1976 when we were 13 years old. He still has every one !!

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