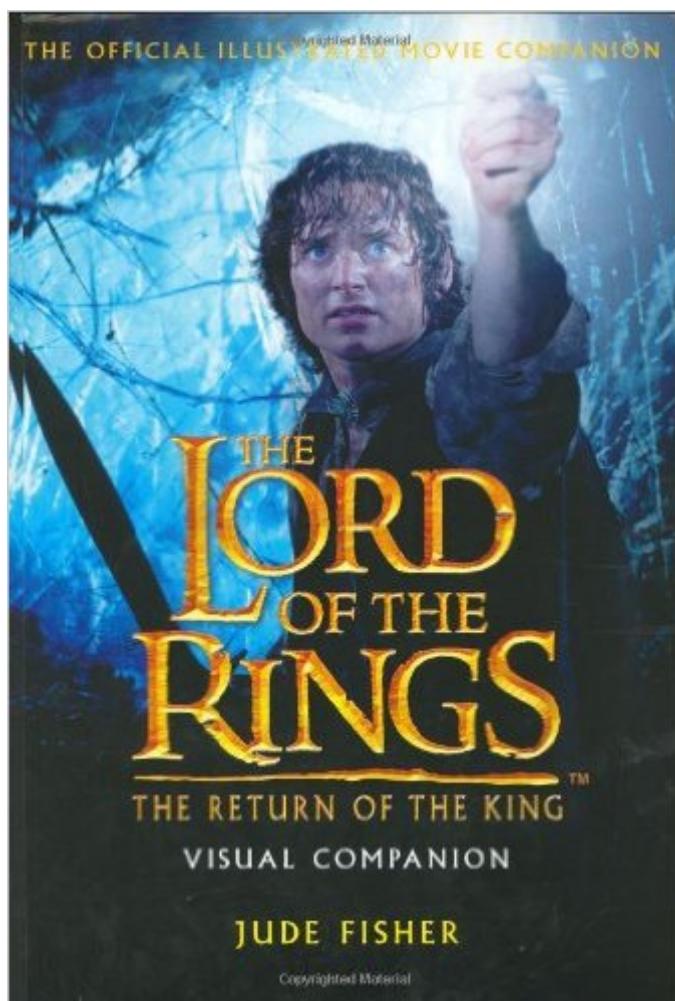


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# The Return Of The King Visual Companion: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion (The Lord Of The Rings)



## Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *The Two Towers* Visual Companion comes a lavishly illustrated keepsake guide to *The Return of the King*. As Frodo, Sam, and Gollum slowly make their way into the depths of the Dark Lord's realm of Mordor in their desperate quest to destroy the One Ring, the scattered members of the fellowship, now scarred and battered from the Battle of Helm's Deep, must journey to the Gondorian stronghold of Minas Tirith for a last stand against the might of Sauron and his evil minions.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 68 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; First Edition edition (November 5, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618390979

ISBN-13: 978-0618390977

Product Dimensions: 12.7 x 9.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #546,932 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations #91 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Cinematography #8227 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic

## Customer Reviews

This is a hardback book, oversize so it can accommodate the quality of images and text. A "coffee table" edition is what people would label it. This book is a more definitive version than the photo guide, and it goes into the story with more details and more images. In the first chapter "The Great Task", it recaps the first two movies and what all the characters were doing. Then for Return of the King, Chapter Two picks up with the Kingdom of Gondor, the Realm Aragon is destined to rule. Under the rule of Denethor, father of Boromir and Faramir, he is only the Steward of Gondor.

Discovering Boromir's death through one of the seeing-stones has made him power-mad in his grief and bordering on insanity. He is determined to hold on to the throne of Gondor and blames his son, Faramir, for setting Frodo with the One Ring free, and means to stand against Aragon's return as the King of Gondor. The book adds background for people who love the Rings movies, but have not read Tolkien books, and maybe have a few questions. This is not only a wonderful showcase, super packed with gorgeous photos, but explains little nuances to the non-reader of the books, the film

assumes you understand. So this book is highly recommended to Ring Collectors, but also for lovers of the movie wanting to know a little more. The images are stunning, well selected and give you a piece of the movie to keep forever. Great Christmas or birthday gift for your LOTR fan.

I have to hand it to the folks at Houghton-Mifflin. They have done a really wonderful job with the book franchise for LOTR. This visual companion has to be the best by far of the three....and has some of the best screen shots! The picture with Gandalf et.al. staring at the fires of Mount Doom/Mordor (in the center of the book) makes the volume priceless. As the previous reviewer mentioned, the book is laid out in such a way as to give the reader a good understanding of what has occurred previously...and what is going on at the time of RotK. Even if you have not read the books (yet!), this guide will help you become easily accustomed to the names/races/places etc. of Middle Earth and the War of the Ring. Highly recommended!

Actually, among the somewhat useless line of merchandise that springs from the idea that eager Lord of the Rings fans (and those who are especially anticipating the December 17th release of the third and final movie) will buy anything, this book is actually a useful tool. It would be the most helpful for the fan who wants to introduce a friend or family member to the series beloved by millions, or perhaps just an individual who wants to know what all the fuss is about. The book gives background for the upcoming Return of the King release mainly, but also gives a short but sweet background of what's happened before. With lovely new pictures of the movie, the text takes the reader from Mordor to Cirith Ungul, and from Gondor, to Isengard, to Rohan, to everywhere in between, explaining the complicated plot and complex characters along the way. The book is so helpful that if a person reads this book a few times, he might conceivably be able to walk in to theaters on December 17th and actually watch the third movie without having watched the first two, though I would not recommend it at all! If you need a refresher (remember, watching the first two movies is the best way!), and don't have time for the movies, just sit down and read up on this book, because it was written for you. If you're already a big fan, you might still get a kick out of the pictures, and you can always keep it handy for when your friends scratch their heads and say "Frodo WHO?" Warning: The book does contain Return of the King spoilers.

The movie adaptations of "The Lord of the Rings" end with "Return of the King," an epic and heartbreakin movie that is set to surpass its predecessors. And with "Fellowship" and "Two Towers," Jude Fisher offers a window into what the movie's going to contain. In it, she outlines what

happens to the increasingly splintered band of heroes as the battle for Middle-Earth revs up. She not only talks about what they do, but how they've changed over time (such as Sam's growing inner strength, or Frodo's deterioration). And it has some fantastic pictures to boot. The photos for this book are nothing short of phenomenal, especially for fans of Minas Tirith; plenty of pictures from all angles, the White Tower, Denethor's hall, archers on the walls, and a close-up of a guard near the Tree. There are also shots of Fell Beasts, Osgiliath, the Paths of the Dead (very creepy), Gandalf looking out at Mount Doom, and Frodo and Sam struggling up the slopes of said volcano; the one disappointment is the lack of Shelob pictures. The final shot of Frodo staring at the Ring is hauntingly ambiguous. Jude Fisher includes a recap of the previous two movies, just in case any details are forgotten. And her descriptions of movie action have gotten a bit more flowery, as if she's really gotten swept away by the story; thankfully, this doesn't really obscure what's going on, even if it does get a bit distracting. There are more spoilers (especially the death of one character, and the secret identity of another) but the climactic events are kept mysterious. Longtime fans and newbies alike will find "The Return of The King Visual Companion" a good source before heading into the film. Today, we fight! Tomorrow, we go to the movies!

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