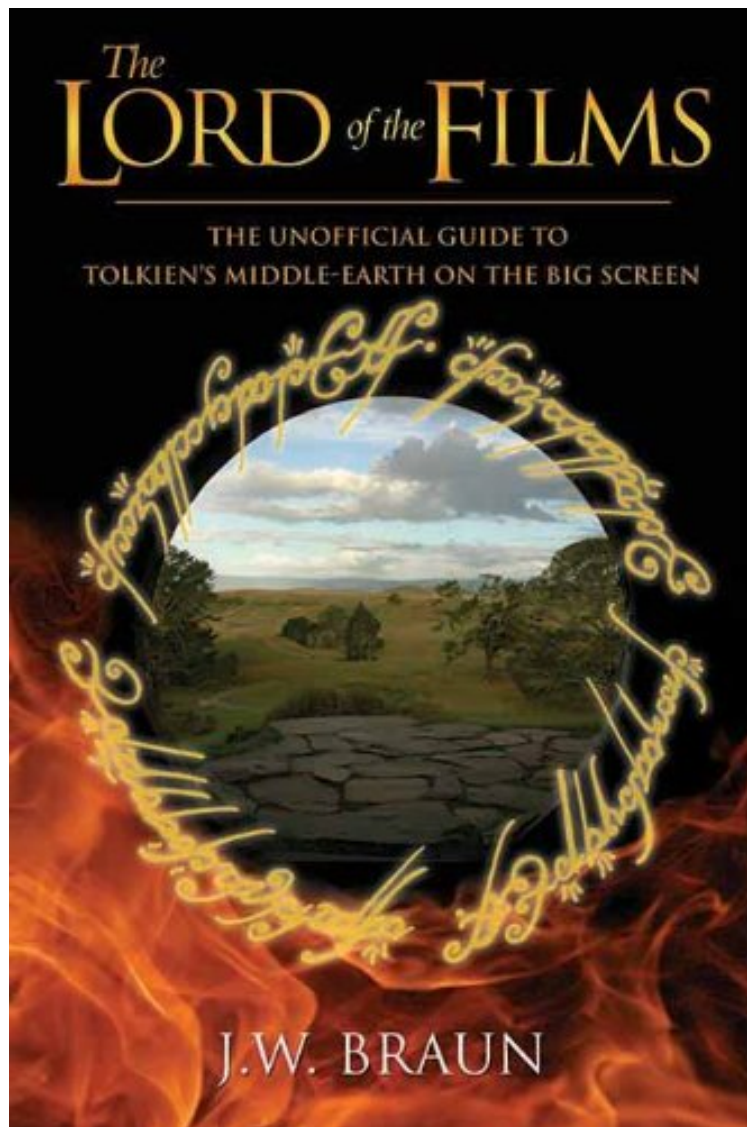


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## The Lord of the Films: The Unofficial Guide to Tolkien's Middle-Earth on the Big Screen

*J W Braun*

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**J W Braun : The Lord of the Films: The Unofficial Guide to Tolkien's Middle-Earth on the Big Screen** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lord of the Films: The Unofficial Guide to Tolkien's Middle-Earth on the Big Screen:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fun trivia, but not enough  
By ArnoldI bought this book after seeing the The Lord of the Rings trilogy for my fifth time and realizing, like Gollum's precious, that I needed more. The Lord

of the Films: The Unofficial Guide to Tolkien's Middle-Earth on the Big Screen is a quick and fun read brimming with movie trivia. While I enjoyed reading it, I have to admit I was a bit disappointed. First, the good. If you love the movies, you'll probably learn a few interesting tidbits from *The Lord of the Films*. These range from bloopers to special effects to legal disputes behind the film. For example, even after watching all of the "making of" extras on the DVDs, I never realized that Kate Winslet and Sean Connery had been asked to be in the film (as Eowyn and Gandalf, respectively). Mercifully, they both said no, allowing us to enjoy the performances of Miranda Otto and Ian McKellan. The book is written for a wide range of audiences, so even diehard LOTR fans will probably learn something. It also includes some interesting interviews (including one with Zac the Orc) and trivia games at the end. Unfortunately, *The Lord of the Films* is organized more like a factoid/trivia collection than a historical narrative of the film production. Each fact only receives a sentence or two. This is unfortunate, because some of the issues merit a longer discussion. I really would have enjoyed learning more about where and why the films departed from the book. Some of the changes in the movies work well. For example, I really like how the movie incorporates the Arwen-Aragorn love story from the Appendix. Other changes proved silly. For example, whose dumb idea was it to have Denethor jump off Gondor in flames in *Return of the King* (in the book, he dies in a funeral pyre)? While these are mentioned in *The Lord of the Films*, much more could have been discussed. I certainly understand how much of a challenge it must have been to fit all of this information into 220 pages. Nonetheless, if there is a revised edition, I think there is certainly some material that could be cut (such as the comments of moviegoers) to make more room for the more important issues. Ultimately, *The Lord of the Films* is a fun factoid book about the film, but it isn't a definitive account of the making of the movies. That gap remains to be filled. The book is also not a substitute for watching the bonus features on the DVDs, which are actually quite interesting. However, *The Lord of the Films* is worth a quick read and would probably make a nice small Christmas gift for any LOTR fan.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. A "RINGER'S" DELIGHT! By Jacqueline Roland Oh, I know many people, other than "Ringers", will find this book delightful. But for Ringers... WOW!... for us, this book is a real treasure. So much information... WONDERFUL 'behind the scenes' stuff ... hours and hours of delightful discoveries that will add to my enjoyment ( and yours, I'm sure ) each time we watch the films. J.W. Braun did his homework, and we are grateful recipients of this absolutely FUN romp through our favorite movies, the films of Middle Earth. Now, along with reading and re-reading LOTR, I'm going to be reading and re-reading *Lord of the Films*. Thanks, J.W.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Plenty of trivia, but light on substance/Kindle Edition Review By Larry Zieminski Good small book on the history of the Lord of the Ring films. It tends to be more trivia based than actual detailed analysis of how the films were made (for that, the documentaries on the extended editions still remain the best source). EDITED TO ADD: I wanted to point out that my problems with the book had more to do with wanting more out of it. It is not the fault of the writer, but rather a problem of expectations. The good thing this book did for me was to encourage me to go back and rewatch the films again. The Kindle edition is good. There were no obvious typos or formatting errors. The pictures show up just fine, though on the 6" Kindle 3 screen you can't make out too much detail. I have no issues recommending the kindle edition of the book.

First popularized in Tolkiens classic and bestselling series, *The Lord of The Rings* has garnered millions of fans around the world. The stunning film trilogy by Peter Jackson was groundbreaking, beautiful, and, as expected, hugely successful. *The Lord of the Films* is a unique scene-by-scene guide to all of the *Lord of the Rings* movies, with lots of games, puzzles, and interviews with the filmmakers tossed in. In this book, each scene in each movie is tackled on four different fronts: a closer look at the plot and the action, a look behind the scenes, a reveal of mistakes that slipped through, and audiences reactions. In addition to the famous live-action trilogy, other related films (such as the animated adaptations) are covered as well. As an added bonus, the author reveals details about the prequel films currently in production and due out in theatres in 2011 and 2012, as well as a foreword by Cliff Broadway, a staff member of *TheOneRing.net* a member of the inner circle of those who worked on the films. After reading this book, fans will feel like theyre watching *The Lord of the Rings* for the first time all over again!

"It's a ton of fun, well put together and has a great softback design. I highly recommend." -- Book Legion (added by author)"I would say that this book is a must for every Ringer. Braun's research is extensive, his interviews with artists and extras are delightful, and his facts are far from repeats." --Megan Hayner, *TheOneRing.com* (added by author)"Author J.W. Braun, an eminently qualified aficionado of the movies, offers readers a dragon's lair of information about the creation, production and marketing of the films as well as the cultural zeitgeists surrounding each theatrical release." *Scene Magazine*