

OFFICIAL REALM OF NIENNA NEWSPAPER

NIENNANEWS

NUMBER 3 AUGUST 2007

Socks!

we have an exclusive presentation
of the top selling socks in our realm

Rohan Restaurant

eat like a Hobbit in this tasty section

Pet's Corner

From an egg to a fully feathered dove, a fascinating
article about the childhood of these adorable birds

Dressmaking for Elves

For all you fashion lovers we have a selection of
hand made Elven dresses (pointy ears are not included)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: MOVIE REVIEW, CD REVIEW,
HISTORY OF GORTON, FELLOWSHIP OF NIENNA, POETRY...

Contents

- 03 Carrying Nienna With You
- 04 Character Spotlight - Huan
- 08 Fellowship of Nienna - Lientje
- 10 Fellowship of Nienna - Tinuviel
- 12 Etrond's Report
- 16 History of Manchester
- 19 Interview With A Niennice
- 22 Elf Singing
- 24 Socks
- 26 Rohan Restroom
- 30 Dressmaking For Elves
- 32 Pet's Corner
- 36 Etrond's Balls of Foresight
- 38 Captions and Captives
- 40 Eomer's Tips For Soldiers
- 42 CO Review
- 44 Movie Review - Bridge to Terabithia
- 46 Poems
- 48 Collector's Box
- 51 Artist's Corner

CARRYING Nienna With You

I remember first hearing about Lord of the Rings when the 'Fellowship of the Ring' film came out but I really didn't think it sounded like my kind of thing, how very wrong I was! When I was finally persuaded to watch 'Fellowship of the Ring' and then 'The Two Towers' I was completely enchanted by every aspect of the world of Middle Earth, and reading the books only made me even more so. Unfortunately I didn't really know anyone who loved it quite as much as me and after the initial Lord of the Rings hype started to die down, my friends got tired of talking about it and so I had no one to obsess with...which is where Council of Etrond came in!

I found CoE through a link from theonering.net and I joined straight away. Not long after that, I learnt about realms and after reading the description of each one I felt sure that Nienna was the right one for me and I definitely made the right choice! Everyone in the realm was so lovely and welcoming, and I haven't looked back since. I've never come across such a friendly atmosphere on a forum as here at CoE and in the realm of Nienna, there's a real family atmosphere, there's always someone around to cheer you up, or to offer encouragement or just to play a game with, also there's a never ending supply of every-flavour socks!! I've really enjoyed getting involved in competitions, games and projects like this - the Nienna magazine, it's so brilliant to belong to such a friendly community of like-minded people. I've met some really wonderful people from all over the world and made some lovely friends. And now I'm just so grateful to that person who persuaded me that I really should watch 'Fellowship of the Ring', I could never have imagined how much of an impact watching the one movie would have!!!

by Lozadora

Character Spotlight -> Huan



Huan, also known as 'the Hound of Valinor', was a large hound, likely the size of a small horse, was born in Valinor as the hound of Oromë the Hunter, and gifted to Celegorm: one of the Sons of Feanor.

"In Tavros' Frichs and pastures green
Had Huan once a young welp been.
He grew the swiftest of the swift,
And Oromë gave him as a gift
To Celegorm, who loved to follow
The great God's horn o'er hill and hollow."
(Lays of Beleriand: 236) (HCE III).

When Feanor rebelled, Huan followed Celegorm into exile to Middle-Earth and became part of the doom of the Noldor.

"No wizardry, nor spell, nor dart,
No fang, nor venom devil's art
Could brew had harmed him; for his weird
Was woven. Yet he little feared
That fate decreed and known to all:
Before the mightiest he should fall, before the mightiest wolf alone
That ever was whelped in cave or stone."
(Lays of Beleriand: 236-237) (HCE III).

Huan had been granted special powers by the Valar, and was allowed to speak three times and as can be read in the excerpt above, it was prophesied that he would be killed by the greatest wolf that ever lived. Huan became involved in the Quest for the Simaril in which Beren tried to recover a Simaril from Morgoth, the Dark Enemy.

When Beren had left Lúthien and gone with Finrod Felagund to Angband he was captured in Tol-in-Gaurhoth. Huan was with Celegorm and Curufin, who were out hunting smelled Lúthien and captured her. She was brought before Celegorm, but neither he, nor Curufin revealed to her that they had sent Beren to his death by the hand of Sauron, and took her as a prisoner to Nargothrond, "for her own protection". They secretly plotted to wed her to Celegorm and thereby force an alliance with Lúthien's father Thingol.

However, Huan felt pity for Lúthien, and often sought her out. It was on one of these occasions that the hound spoke for the first time, and told Lúthien of a way to escape. Huan and Lúthien then set out for the rescue of Beren and Felagund from Tol-in-Gaurhoth. Beren sang his song in praise of the Valacirca and Lúthien answered with a song of power.

"The wolves howled, and the isle trembled" (SIL: 205). Sauron knew Lúthien was there. Then he sent wolves to captivate her. But one by one the wolves were slain by Huan.

Sauron sent Oraugluin, the sire of the Angband werewolves and following a fierce battle with Huan, Oraugluin escaped and died at the feet of Sauron, whispering: "Huan is there!".

Sauron was well aware of the fate prophesied for Huan, and set out to fulfil the decree himself. He came to Lúthien and Huan as the mightiest werewolf that had ever walked Middle-earth. Lúthien cast a spell on Sauron and Huan sprang. The great hound took his the werewolf by the throat, pinning him to the ground. Sauron was forced to yield the mastery of the tower to Lúthien. Beren and Lúthien were free. They buried Felagund and walked together through the woods.

Huan returned to Celegorm to fulfil duty and doom and it was in the forest of Brethil that Celegorm and Curufin discovered Beren and Lúthien and attacked them. Huan forsook the Celegorm and rescued Beren from Celegorm's spear. In fury, Celegorm cursed the great hound "but Huan was unmoved". Celegorm and Curufin fled in fear and Huan pursued them. Beren once more departed to fulfil his quest, leaving Lúthien in the care of Huan. Lúthien heard Beren's great Song of Parting, and went after him.

Huan clad himself in the wolf-hame of Oraugluin, and for Lúthien he got the bat-fell of Thuringwechil, and "all things fled before them". Huan and Lúthien overtook Beren, but Beren was tormented by doubt. He would not bring Lúthien with him to the dangers of Changorodrim, but knew that he would not forsake his oath to Thingol. Huan spoke for a second time, explaining the paths of fate and doom of Beren, of Lúthien and also himself. And:

"His voice was like the deep-toned bells
That ring in Valmar's citadels"
(Lays of Beleriand: 279) (HoME III)

Beren and Lúthien were now freed from doubt and set out to fulfil the quest for the Silmaril. Morgoth, however, heard of the actions of the Hound of the Valar and being aware of the fate of Huan, nurtured in secret the terrible wolf Carcharoth, the Red Claw, Anfauglir, the jaws of Thirst, and Carcharoth guarded the gates of Angband. Beren and Lúthien, now clad as Oraugluin and Thuringwechil approached Angband, and Carcharoth met them with irony: for he knew that Oraugluin was dead.

Lúthien, in her finest hour, laid a spell upon Carcharoth, speaking the unforgettable words:

"O woe-begotten spirit, fall now into dark oblivion, and forget for a while the dreadful doom of life". (SIL 212)

Beren and Lúthien succeeded in their quest, and cut a Silmaril from Morgoth's crown. This act awakened Carcharoth, and the wolf bit off the hand of Beren, that held the Silmaril, and swallowed it. With the power of the Silmaril inside him, and mad with rage and pain, Carcharoth ravaged the land and brought a terror on onslaught that ever came to Beleriand. The Hunting of the Wolf began:

"To that chase went Huan the hound of Valinor, and Mablung of the Heavy Hand, and Beleg Strongbow, and Beren Erchamion, and Thingol King of Doriath" (SIL 218)

Carcharoth was hunted and was found in the dark vale of Esgalduin. The great Wolf avoided Huan and attacked Thingol. Beren threw himself before Thingol, but was felled by the Wolf and it was at that moment Huan leaps.

"And no battle of wolf and hound has been like it, for in the baying of Huan was heard the horns of Oromë and the wrath of the Valar, but in the howls of Carcharoth was the hate of Morgoth and malice crueller than teeth of steel; and the rocks were rent by their clamour and fell from on high and choked the falls of Esgalduin. There they fought to the death; but Thingol gave no heed, for he knelt by Beren, seeing that he was sorely hurt.

Huan in that hour slew Carcharoth; but there in the woven woods of Doriath his own doom long spoken was fulfilled, and he was wounded mortally, and the venom of Morgoth entered into him. Then he came, and falling beside Beren spoke for the third time with words; and he bade Beren farewell before he died. Beren spoke not, but laid his hand upon the head of the hound, and so they parted."

One wonders where did Huan go after death? Perhaps back to the Blessed Realm. In his draft of the unfinished Cantos of the Lay of Leithian, Tolkien mentions the "recall" after death of Beren and Huan! (Comment of Christopher Tolkien: "in which case my father must have intended to have Huan returned from the dead with Beren" from the halls of Mandos.) In the tale of the Nauglafring Huan returned to Beren and Lúthien in the land of Gûilwarthon after the fall of Menegroth. Huan would have liked that.

by RoseariaOlven

Fellowship of Nienna - Lientje



Real name: Caroline

Birth date: February 4th, 1985

Zodiac sign: Aquarius

Lives in: I used to live in Germany (nearby Cologne) until I was 18, but am actually Belgian (that is: my IO says "Belgian").

Occupation: student in philosophy (second bachelor, with a minor in theology). Pretty big contrast with what I did in high school (math and science), but I got sick of my own scientific, dogmatic view on things. I had to start over three (!) times before things worked out. The first time studying didn't go that well due to medical reasons, and the second time I started I thought what I really wanted to do was social studies, so I quit philosophy in the middle of the second semester... Wasted two years, but last year everything worked out well. (I'm very grateful to my parents for letting me start over again!) I love my faculty: it's pretty small, the relation we have with our professors is much more personal than in larger faculties, and there are lots of foreign students. We also have a great library (some say it's the best!), and the Husserl archive. Husserl is a German philosopher (phenomenology) who had to hide from the fascist government during the Second World War. The only thing left from his work is located in our faculty: tiny papers filled with stenographic words. He used his own system to take notes, so there are people today, still trying to decipher what he wrote! Last semester I noticed I've grown a great liking for the German Idealist philosophy of the late 18th, early 19th century (Kant and Hegel). I wish I understood more of their great systems, maybe someday...

What I like to do in my spare time: meeting with my friends, reading, cooking, listening to music and browsing the internet (my big shame: neopets... Ahum.) I read all kinds of stuff, but I do like phantasy and science fiction the most. My taste in music is a bit strange, and can change from one day to the other. In high school I was a big fan of hard rock and industrial (Metallica, :wumpscut:, Das Ich, ...) At the moment I really enjoy Nine Inch Nails, Bob Dylan, Depeche Mode, Caravan, Pink Floyd and Björk (and so many others, come to think of it!)

Lord of the Rings: I remember having watched LotR in high school, but I didn't really know it was part of a big trilogy, and part of such great books at that time. The LotR-mania started at university. In my first year, I got to know some fantastic people (some of them have gotten my best friends by now), and one of them was Elke. She could talk about the books so passionately that I just couldn't resist reading them myself. And I loved them from the very first pages (yes, despite the walking bits). We went to see the Rock together with a bunch of friends, and soon after that I read the Silmarillion (a gift from Elke) and the Unfinished Tales. I have always liked books about completely different worlds than ours, and the one Tolkien created is such a beautiful one, that I think I will keep reading the books for the rest of my life. I don't really have likes or dislikes for individual characters or places, I love the whole. But I do think that, if I were a person in Middle Earth, I would be a hobbit (I like eating, drinking, being lazy, calm environments, ...)

Council of Elrond: Elke happened to be an active member of CoE, so it didn't take long for me to join! I lurked on the forums for some months before I found out about realms. I took the little test to find out which one I should join, and Nienna came out. I love Nienna's character in the Silmarillion, so I joined her realm, and wasn't at all disappointed! The Niennites are such warm people, concerned with their surroundings, and I have come to like them very much. The only barrier for me to become a really active member is my general opinion on the internet: in real life, when I meet someone new, I throw myself on that person, enclose him or her in my heart and never let go. On the internet, you can only see what words they type, or maybe a photograph, and that way of "getting to know people" is still very hard for me... But I think it will get easier after a while.

Fellowship of Nienna - Tinuviel

Real name: Jasmine

Birth date: March 4th, 1993

Lives in: Canada

Occupation: Student

Noroscope sign: Pisces

My Hobbies: Horses, anything to do with horses is fun. (Okay, I take that back, cleaning stalls isn't fun.) I also enjoy reading, singing, swimming, ice skating, and CoC.?



My Pets: I have two very adorable and very chubby miniature horses. Miniature horses are not ponies, they look like large horses, in miniature size. They are no taller than 34 inches at the withers (the shoulder). I also have three cats, two dogs, and two chinchillas. For those who don't know, chinchillas are a rodent that looks like it has the body of a rabbit, the bushy tail of a squirrel, the ears of a bat, and the legs of a kangaroo. They have the softest fur of any animal.



Music: I like classical and Celtic music. I also like movie soundtracks and musicals. I sing and play the piano. I played violin for six years, and quit when I was eleven. I also took three cello lessons when I was about seven, but my teacher was really bad, and spent the whole lesson talking to my dad about the government!

My goal in life: I want to be an opera singer. I also want to do something with horses, maybe train miniature horses. Right now I am training my mini horse to pull a cart. Minis are very strong, they can easily pull two adults in a cart.

LotR and CoE: When I was really little, my dad used to read the Hobbit to me. When I got a bit older he started to read the LotR to me. I have never read the Silmarilion or the Lost Tales, but some day I will lock myself in my room and read them. I first found out about CoE from a friend, Golden_Lorien. I joined August 2006. The first realm that I joined was Orome. I wanted to try a larger and more active realm, and my sis, Guahir_Goldenfeather from the realm of Ulmo, said that Nienna was a very active realm. So, after taking the realm quiz a billion times, I decided to join. I haven't looked back since.

Horses: I have always loved horses for as long as I can remember. When I was about eight, I took some Western trail riding lessons. Then when I was twelve, I took some English hunter-jumper lessons. I have two miniature horses called Bo and Q. Right now I am training Bo to pull a cart. Mini horses can easily pull two adults.

Books: I love fantasy, science fiction, and comic books. My all-time favorite comic book is Calvin and Hobbes. My second favorite is Fox Trot. I often have several books on the go, and I feel lost if I don't have a good book to read. I have a very bad habit of eating and reading at the same time, and bending pages. Oh well, as long as I can read the words in between the food stains, I figure it's all right.



Elrond's Report From Manchester

After the delights of travelling via the British Postal Service, I finally arrived in Manchester. Discarding my box and packing, I found myself surrounded by a very furry, but friendly welcoming committee. The Bunny Council



The next morning dawned and it was time to set off for my visit to Manchester, one of the largest cities in England, after London and Birmingham, so I was quite excited, considering how small Rivendell is. The two ladies, Magoleth and Rosearielven were most delightful company and our first stop was at a Brasserie in the centre of Manchester, where I had a delightful surprise. Surprise!!



Where all my friends had sprung from was a complete mystery ... *actually out of Magoleth's hold all* ;). It was wonderful to see them. We spent a pleasant half

an hour talking about this and that then asked for the bill. 'Trouble!!' There was a dispute as to who was going to pay for the coffee. 'Pay up!!' Eventually, Magoleth and Rosearielven, with a little help from Legolas, put an end to the dispute and the bill was paid.



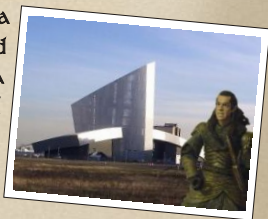
I Found Manchester to be a very interesting city, steeped in the Industrial Revolution and the home of The University of Manchester where Alan Turing is considered to be the Founder of the computer, without whom you would not be sitting there reading my report. And of course, home to the famous Manchester United Football team.



It seems that Shops, Art and Culture abound in Manchester. There are malls both in the City Centre and just on the outskirts. My two companions decided to show me one of the grandest facades for a shopping mall, which can be seen here at The Trafford Centre.



Manchester is also fortunate to have a branch of the Imperial War Museum and the architecture was amazing. It houses a large collection of photographs and personal accounts from all walks of life and equipment from many fields of battle. Surprisingly though there is nothing there from Middle Earth.



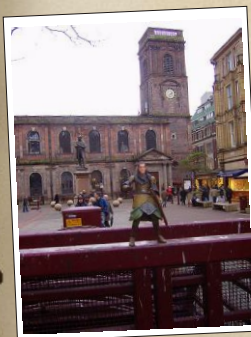
The Art and Culture bits are catered for by Manchester's many Galleries and I seem to remember something about Matchstick Men and Matchstick Cats and Dogs by an artist named Lowry, so a visit to the Lowry Centre was a must.



Whilst in this area, I took the opportunity, guided by my delightful hostesses, to view the Queen Elizabeth Bridge. It is a large structure spanning the Manchester Ship Canal, an artery of water that runs from Manchester to Liverpool, and was a lifeline thrown to the peoples of Manchester in 1884 to reverse their declining industry. This bridge was built and opened in 1984 to celebrate the centenary of the Ship Canal and has the ability to move completely upwards instead of the usual two opening arms. Quite impressive! Mind you, we have pretty spectacular bridges back home too.



Travelling back into the City Centre, I was treated to a visit to St Ann's Square, just one of the many historical areas in the city, dating back to 1222 when the regent for Henry III granted a license to the first Norman baron to settle in 'Mamcestre', or Manchester as it is now, to allow a Market to be held.



The Church you can see behind me, is St Ann's Church, built in 1708 and it was in the square that during the 1745 Rebellion, Bonnie Prince Charlie camped and reviewed his troops before continuing on his journey to London. A journey which was sadly cut short in Derbyshire. Now if I and the armies of Middle-earth had been there, well the whole story may well have been different. Lol!!

Well, evening was closing in and the ladies were tiring so we decided on a last look around Albert Square, named for Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert. The building behind me is Manchester Town Hall, a monumental building of Gothic appearance and quite breathtaking. But, as I mentioned we were all feeling a little leg weary and tired, even Aragorn. 'Yawn'



'Ready for home??' Nods of agreement. However, turning a corner I noticed a sign... Rohan "Travel Unlimited" Hmmmm, I wonder, I thought to myself. A moment later and with amazement, I found myself transported back to Middle-earth and deposited at Helm's Deep!!! Amazed!!!

Not half as much as the very helpful, if bemused, assistant in Games Workshop, who very kindly allowed my lady friends to chatter and take pics.

Yawning and after an extremely enjoyable day, we wended our way home, the lights of the City Centre beginning to twinkle. Time now to think of the next step of my journey. Finland, I believe. BRRRRRRRR!!! Oid someone pack my winter woofies?



Walking Through History: GORTON, Manchester

GORTON, OR GORE-TOWN as it was originally known, was a strategic battleground. The name originated from CORE Brook, which in turn got its name from the fact it 'ran red with blood' from the many battles with Danes between AD870-920.

Hyde Road, with its Roman origins, is the main road in the area and typically straight. It would have been constructed during the occupation from 79 AD until around 390 AD, after which it fell into disrepair until coming back into use in the 19th century.

Gorton was colonised by the Saxons in 610.

Ryder Brow, which is at the top of the road where I live, was alternatively named Winning Hill, and is where a decisive battle took place with the Danes.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, there were 96 Gorton men above the age of 18.

An earlier centre of Gorton Village was located at the bottom of Ryder Brow, also called Bottom O'ch Brow on Far Lane. (This area is just at the bottom of the street where I live). A few small cottages remain on what is essentially a winding country lane.



On Far Lane, near its junction with Ryder
Brow, is a small cluster of cottages.
The row comprising nos.46 to 50 is
dated 1782, as indicated on a recessed
Panel over the centre doorway.



Between 1773 and 1821 the population of Gorton more than doubled from 770 to 1,600, factories were built and the area moved into its most prosperous era as the industrial revolution took hold.

Gorton Town, now an inner city area of Manchester, was once a village which was long celebrated for its breed of bulldogs, its sturdy men, and its wakes*. It lay about a 1 hour coach ride from the city centre.



*Wakes:

One of the biggest Works in Gorton was the firm of Beyer Peacock & Co. Beyer Peacock built locomotives to order, mainly for the export market, but also built many locomotives that saw service in Britain. Here is part of the works with a number of newly built locomotives destined for shipment overseas. The locomotives were destined for Africa and India.

Gorton is the original home of Manchester City Football Club, who have been in existence since 1880. They first formed as Gorton Athletic, but within 7 years they had merged with another team called West Gorton FC to become Ardwick FC. Their final incarnation as Manchester City Football Club, proper happened in 1899. That bit of info was for the benefit of the football fans amongst us. LOL!! Well, I guess Aegor would be interested.



Gorton is also home to St Francis' Monastery, which was built by E W Pugin, who's father built the Houses of Parliament in London.

It was de-consecrated in the 1970's due to redevelopment of area and demolition of surrounding terraced housing leading to re-location of population and dwindling church numbers. Its future was to that it was to be converted into apartments. Thankfully it was saved when it earned the status of a World Monument. Manchester's Taj Mahal, it has been called. It is now being converted into a cultural centre, where exhibitions, conferences and symphony/choral concerts will be held.



> Lastly and not least, GORTON can profess claim to John Thaw, actor, known mostly for playing the character 'Morse' on TV and our most infamous members of the community are Myra Hindley, now deceased, and Ian Brady, The Doors Murderers.

Interview with a Niennite - Aegor



How did you first get hooked on LotR?

A friend of mine told me of a "great Fantasy book that I should read", called LotR but that there is also a prequel to it called Hobbit. So I went to the library and picked up The Hobbit, finished it in 3 days and then followed up with LotR. I've been a fan ever since.

Which race of ME do you identify with the most? Which one would you like to be if you could live in ME?

Well I'm pretty dwarvish by nature, grumpy and all. But I also like eating a lot and not working, so I'd be a Dwarf living in the Shire.

How do you like it in Nienna? Especially since you're surrounded by a bunch of (crazy) women.

It was strange for the first few days, I still remember Seen's first post with leeks and squirrels. But I pretty soon got used to it, and now this place feels like a real Middle-Earth home to me. So that makes all of you my Middle-Earth family ;).

How would you cope if we all turned up on your doorstep?

Kind of like Bilbo reacted to Gandalf, maybe with a heart attack thrown in.

Do you intend to finish reading the Silmarillion?

So help me God...

If you could ask Tolkien one question, what would it be?

"Could I have your autograph please?"

Other than LotR and Tolkien, and Medical Books of course, lol, what other books do you like/read and any reason why?

Fantasy books are still number one on my list, just to get away from everyday life I guess. But I also enjoy a good detective story, to keep those gray cells going.

What is your favorite season and why?

Well it was summer before my air conditioner died, lol. But it still is, mainly because it's the only season when I can sleep late.

If you could which tree or flower would you grow in your garden?

Tomatoes, big fan of them. Not sure if that counts as a flower though... I always liked Heartseases, so I would have them as well.

What's the weirdest thing you've eaten?

Just to note here that I'll eat anything... the wierdest, maybe a bear, or an ostridge...

Chocolate or white milk?

White milk, and lots of it.

How do you like to have your eggs cooked?

With ham, lol.

Do you like egg and bacon with sauce, or without?

Without sauce but the trick here is to add just a little milk to your eggs to make them juicy on their own.

Do you cut your toenails after a shower, or before?

My toenail cutting activities are not connected with showers. I just cut them once they grow too big to allow me to wear sneakers comfortably.

What is your favorite color of socks?

I have a bright green pair with yellow decoration, they look like Australia and are just crazy.

How tall are you? (and no cheating, Master dwarf)

185cm, that's 6'2, I think.

Do you have any pets? If so, what are they and their names? If not... umm, why ever not?

Nope, my parents are a bit overprotective about their furniture. But I'm a cat fan.

What's the silliest thing you've done in your life?

Signed up for med school, you can get more silly than that. Hmm, last Christmas I dressed up as Santa and visited all my relatives and friends looking like that, I also paraded the streets and Ho-ho-hoed to people, got quite few laughs from them.

If you were given a million pounds or rather *calculates* 10,818,125.22 Kuna what would you do with it?

I'd buy a nice quiet bookstore and work there reading and selling books happily ever after.

Elf's Friday Show

I'm a home schooled student and every year we have a Friday Program, it's kind of like a real school day for us homeschoolers cause we get out of the house and go to a building and do fun classes like art or reading or musical theatre, there are a lot of things to choose from. Well, I personally love to act and sing so I joined a musical theatre class. I was excited but very nervous, I would be singing in front of friends and family!

I was given a song called "Hold On" and it's from the Secret Garden musical. (I personally did not know that was even a musical)

Anyway I had to learn and sing it in a Yorkshire accent and I was excited about that considering I'm pretty good at talking with a British accent. Well, it seems a lot harder to sing with an accent but I did it.

The next week my musical theatre teacher told us that we didn't have to be nervous or anything because she didn't mind if we messed up a little, we would just have to continue. She said that the people in the audience wouldn't care either if we missed a word or forgot a verse, we would just have to move on and finish the song. I guess that's true but I was nervous none the less.

That next week I was supposed to sing and I didn't feel nervous. But when I got there I sure did.

Waiting for my turn to sing seemed to take forever and I was shaking the whole time, in all my life I have NEVER been that nervous. I felt like I'd rather go to battle with the Elves of Lorien than go up on stage and sing.

When it was my turn to go up I felt my heart jump a little, then I walked up and stood in front of everyone, I tried to smile but it probably looked like I was sick.

Then the piano player asked if I was ready and I said yes. When I started my knees were shaking and I was worried the audience would notice, but they just kept smiling at me.

When I finally became comfortable I could be a little more free with my movements and I could sing with more confidence. When it came to the end of the song there was a loud cheer and everyone clapped.

One of my friends said that I had a wonderful accent and one of the boys that would be singing next said I sang the best out of all the girls. I felt very happy.

So there you go, that was my big adventure and an adventure it was. I don't know how soon I'll be wanting to do that again, still I love to act and sing but I think I need a little break, maybe I'll go off to Lorien and have a little vacation with my kin.

by Ely

Socks - R - Us

We at Socks-R-Us like to think we have something for everyone. Check out our fastest-selling products and find the one that appeals to you!



Rejuvenating sock - Makes you look twenty years younger!!! The rejuvenating sock is made with our unique rejuvenating solution that can be found nowhere else in Middle Earth! The King of Rohan has just purchased fifty cartons of it!

Get yours before we run out! HURRY!!

King Theoden of Rohan says: Your rejuvenating sock has done wonders for me. I look and feel ten years younger after just a week of eating your socks. Keep them coming!



Ale-sock - Made by our dwarven socksters, the ale-sock is specially designed for dwarves on the move. We know you can't carry your ale barrels with you wherever you go. But an ale-sock can fit perfectly in your pocket!

Please place your orders with us. We do not currently have the ale-sock in stock, since our best customer has cleared us out. We will let you know as soon as it's back in stock.

Gimli, son of Glóin says: Your ale-sock is a pine means of Orc! (We think he meant 'fine piece of work'.)



Mint socks - A favourite of rangers and other wild beasts, our mint socks have been flying off the shelf. Try our limited edition extra-mint socks!

Arwen Evenstar of Rivendell says:

Thankyou thankyou thankyou!



Five-course sock - An innovation in socks! A whole five-course meal packed into one sock! Do we really have to say more?

Peregrin Took of Hobbiton says: I'm your biggest customer! I simply cannot live without your five-course socks... they're great as third and fourth dinners. Waiting eagerly for your ten-course sock!



Stew sock - Made according to a customer recommendation, the stew sock is a favourite of pranksters. It looks just like a chocolate sock, but we assure you it does not taste like one.

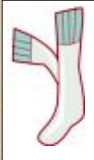
wink

Cowyn, Shieldmaiden of Rohan says: I'm really happy you used my recipe for a sock. I've already placed a huge order with you... there's a lot of possible victims out here.



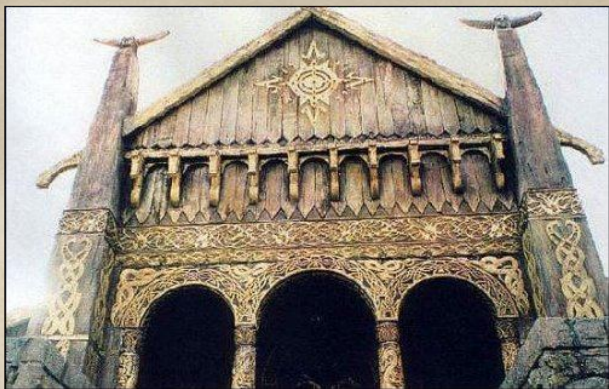
Diet sock - Our new diet sock is perfect for sock addicts on diets. Try it today!

Samwise Gamgee from Hobbiton says: I've never been more satisfied with a product. Your diet-socks keep me happy and on my diet! I'm no longer inclined to stuff myself with chocolate socks, I just stuff myself with diet socks instead. Thank you!



Whitening sock - A quick and easy way to whiten your teeth! Just chew on the Whitening sock for a few minutes and voila! Perfect, gleaming teeth!

The Mouth of Sauron says: This really works! My friends used to make fun of me all the time just because my teeth were slightly yellow. Well, I just tried one of your whitening socks, and I'm the one laughing now!



Rohan Restaurant

-Head Chef, Adonnenniel

Welcome to the Rohan Restaurant. I will be your chef this evening. We are so glad that you came to the Grand Opening. To show our gratitude that you came, we are giving out our recipes so you can make a three course meal at home for your family.

For your entrée tonight, we have a Green Salad with Vinaigrette, your main meal is Shepard's Pie with Irish Champ Mash Topping and desert will be a Peppermint or Strawberry Flavoured Chocolate Sock-shaped Treat. For drinks we have a refreshing Coca-Cola or Lemonade (or if you prefer an alcoholic beverage of your choice.)

Let us start with your entrée shall we?

Green Salad with Vinaigrette

These will serve 4 people and only takes about 5 minutes to do.

You will need:

Salad

- One whole lettuce, such as Butterhead or Cos, or 1x100-g (4 oz) bag of mixed green salad leaves

- 4-6 tablespoons classic French Vinaigrette

- 4 Spring Onions, finely sliced or a small bunch of chives, snipped.

Vinaigrette

- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar

- A pinch of caster sugar

- 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard

- 1 small garlic clove, crushed (or a small teaspoon already crushed)

- Salt and freshly ground black pepper



To make the Vinaigrette

1. Place the vinegar in a screw top jar, add the sugar and a good pinch of salt, then shake until the salt has dissolved.

2. Add the oil to the jar with the mustard and garlic and shake again until you have formed a thick emulsion. Season to taste and chill until needed.

To make the Salad

1. Break up the lettuce into individual leaves and gently tear into bite sized pieces. Wash under cold running water and dry. Tip into a salad bowl, drizzle over 2 tablespoons of the dressing, then gently toss to combine, adding more if necessary. Scatter over the onions or the chives and serve at once.

Chef's tip: Use as little dressing as possible, the leaves should barely glisten. If there is a puddle in the bottom of the salad bowl then you have used too much.

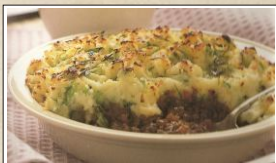
Shepard's Pie

with Irish Champ Mash Topping

Ah, one of my favourites. This serves 4 people (or one very hungry hobbie!)

Filling

- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil (or olive oil)
- 1 medium onion
- 225g (8oz) peeled carrots, finely diced
- 900g (2lb) Lean minced lamb
- The leaves from 4 sprigs of Thyme
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon of Tomato Puree
- 300 ml (10 fl oz) lamb gravy or beef stock
- Salt and Freshly ground pepper.



Mashed Potatoes

- 1.25kg (2 1/2 lb) peeled Maris Piper potatoes, cut into chunks
- 50g (2 oz) butter
- 2 bunches spring onions, trimmed and sliced
- 3-4 tablespoons milk

To make the pie

1. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the onion and cook over a medium heat for 5 minutes until soft and lightly browned. Add the carrots and cook for a further 2 minutes. Add the minced lamb, increase the heat to high, and cook for 3-4 minutes, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon as it browns.
2. Add the thyme leaves, Worcestershire sauce, tomato puree and gravy/stock and simmer for twenty minutes until the liquid has reduced and the mixture has thickened slightly. Season to taste, then spoon into a shallow 2.25-litre (4 pint) oven-proof dish.
3. Meanwhile, put the potatoes into a pan of cold salted water, bring to the boil and simmer for twenty minutes until tender. Drain well, pass through a potato ricer, or mash until smooth.
4. Pre-heat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6. Melt the butter in another pan, add the spring onions and cook gently for 2 minutes until soft. Stir into mashed potatoes with the milk and some seasoning.
5. Spoon the champ mash over the top of the lam, spread evenly and then rough up a little with a fork. Bake for 30-35 minutes until bubbling hot and golden brown.

Peppermint OR Strawberry Chocolate Flavoured Socks

This is FOR all you sock lovers out there in the Realm of Nienna.
This is GREAT FOR PARTIES.

What you will need

- Peppermint OR Strawberry Essence
- Dark OR milk cooking chocolate broken into pieces
- ½ (100ml) Can of Sweetened Condensed Milk
- Sock shaped moulds (if you don't have that you can just make normal fudge and then cut the chocolate to shape, Christmas stocking shaped ones work best)

What to do

1. Boil water in a pot and place a mixing bowl over the top. Melt the chocolate in the bowl but do NOT over melt it.
2. Add the Sweetened condensed milk to the chocolate as it is melting and a small amount (about a teaspoon, just a little bit less though) of the essence of your choice.
3. When the chocolate is melted spoon into the moulds and place into the fridge to cool. Eat the leftover chocolate before it sets. :)
4. When completely set, take the chocolate fudge out of the moulds. BE CAREFUL, as the fudge is still semi-soft and you don't want it to lose shape.
5. Serve and Eat!

Well thank you for coming to the Rohan Restaurant. We do hope that you enjoyed your meal and that you will tell all your friends, either Dwarven, or Elven, Human or Hobbit, even a Balrog (sorry no Orcs, goblins or Uruk-hai). Please come again.

We are located two buildings down from the Golden Hall in Ederas.

Soon to be Opening in Gondor (have yet to find a building to rent)

Dressmaking for Elves

After a long illness during which I was introduced to Tolkien and the wonderful world of Middle Earth I decided to treat myself to a Convention! Master of the Rings it was called and was an unofficial one but nevertheless the "stars" were wonderful and so accessible. We could drink with them in the bar and have our photographs taken with them. They were so much more approachable then and it was fun listening to their talks and jokes. It was a two day convention and so I made three dresses. One I have no photograph of (SORRY) but the other two are here.



The Black dress was the hardest to make as I followed a pattern and believe me I am not used to doing that any more. I used to make clothes for myself and my daughter many years ago but had lost the knack. So I got the old sewing machine out, had it serviced and set to work. The material was the hardest to find and in the end I bought it in a Lancashire cotton town called Nelson where my Aunt lives. Material in abundance there! But it was black and the only time an Elf wore black was Arwen as a widow (well at least in the movie)! Ah well I bought some black lace for a veil as well!

The material has shiny black pieces on it almost like mirrors for the dress which I thought was lovely and the cape at the back, which I made detachable, is covered in gold filigree patterns. This material was also used to line the neckline of the dress and also the sleeves. I found an old beaded belt in a charity shop and also wore my Evenstar necklace which Rose and I bought at the convention. My dress really sparkled and it was worth the three weeks it took me to make it.

So my next effort should be easier surely!

Nope I decided to make a slip dress from a pattern and the cape by guesswork. Well the dress was easy but oh boy my scalp was sore by the time I had finished scratching it! How does that go together - where is Ngila when you need her?

Finally I sussed out that if I did everything in squares basically it would work just the bottom of the train for the White Lace jacket had to be rounded off and there I was Galadriel in her old age!!! Ha hah! The dress was made of fine satin and the cape of Net lace which you can buy to make curtains, cheap and cheerful. This dress has been used as a Fairy outfit and also the Snow Queen for parties etc as seen on the Photographs Thread of the Realm.



Then I got to work and made a Hobbit outfit trying to copy Rosie Cotton's dress you know the Blue one! Well that was a laugh but I managed it and found a straw hat and decorated it but forgot to have a photograph taken in it. It has since been used on stage with a Blue Velvet cape added in a Christmas production at Amdram. I wore the Hobbit outfit to go to the Royal Albert Hall to watch and listen to Howard Shore conducting the Lord of the Rings Symphony. I had expected a hall full of Elves etc and found a lot of weird people sitting around in scruffy jeans and things. What a let down for a girl! But the music was brilliant and I got Howard Shore's autograph at the end so it was really worth while.

by Magolch

Pet's CORNER

Doves are lovely creatures. Symbols of peace they are beautiful both to see and hear. I got my doves from a fellow bird-loving friend and member of the AOA (American Dove Association). I bought one of her already mated pairs and named them Kira and Snow. After bringing them home and letting them get settled in I decided to let them have a clutch of babies. So I gave them a nest (a flowerpot partly filled with bedding and straw) and let them do the rest.

Being already experienced parents they had no problem figuring out what to do with the eggs diligently sitting on them day and night. Ring Neck Doves only lay 1-2 eggs (normally two). So on January 11th I came in and found eggshells on the bottom of the cage and knew that was a sure sign that one of the eggs had hatched. Since this was also Nienna_Green's birthday I decided to name the first hatchling Nienna. (image 1)



I was able to handle Nienna when she was less than a day old. Her mom and dad (Kira and Snow) were both use to people fussing with their nests and seemed fine with it.



The next day right on schedule, the second egg hatched. Our lovely Rose named him Gandalf and became his Godbirdmother. (image 2)

FROM THERE BOTH CHICKS (like all chicks) went through a zooming growth spurt. They nearly doubled in size in the first few days of their life (Image 3) In this picture you can see Nienna's little eye starting to open. She doesn't seem to see very well, but there's definitely more movement than when she was smaller.



Image 3

By five days old they were too big for me to safely hold them both together. Their eyes were more open and started to look at things around them. It's amazing to look down at the little bird in your hands and know that it's looking back at you for the first time. This is also when you start to see feathers appear poking out from the yellow baby fuzz. The

primary flight feathers start growing first and look like spikes coming out of their wings. (Image 4 & 5)



Image 4

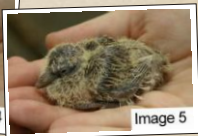


Image 5

At eight (and nine) days they were much more lively. Nienna started stretching her neck to see what was going on out there when I held her (though she was kind of sleepy in this picture). White Gandalf seemed more interested in things on the floor. Feathers are starting to fluff up (though they're still a little scraggly) and mom and dad are starting to leave them alone in the nest for longer periods of time. (Image 6 & 7)



Image 6



Image 7

Both babies are starting to look more like birds now, but both still need to be fed by mom and dad. They get quite demanding about it. (image 8)



A few days later Nienna started to venture from the nest. At first it was only the edge and a near by perch. I offered her some seeds from mom and dad's food dish. She seemed very interested, nibbling a bit here and there. Mostly though she was playing. Mom came over to make sure I wasn't giving Nienna something good that she was missing out on (Image 9)



At twenty one (and twenty two) days old both babies could perch on my finger, though Nienna always flutters up to my shoulder. (Image 10 & 11) Both were starting to flap their wings, working up their muscles up for flying.



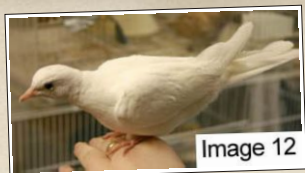


Image 12



Image 13

Ring Neck Doves are quite hardy in cold temperatures, but Nienna and Gandalf were young and born inside. So I had to wait for the temperature and weather outside to warm up for spring before I could put them out in my big aviary with my other doves. When I finally did (and as I expected) they were a little frightened by all the bigness. After living all their young little lives in a small room, outside with sun and wind was a little too much for them. I kept them in their cage in the barn for a few days then offered to let them out. Nienna jumped out onto my shoulder, but Gandalf wasn't so venturesome and decided he wanted another day before he would come out.

After they found out how much fun it was to fly around like crazy little children on a sugar high they didn't think it was so bad being in the big outside. They're learning well how to get along with the others (image 14, Gandalf's down next to the Peacock and Nienna's above a little ways from Kira and Snow) but they're still trying to figure out how to get under cover when it starts to rain. Every time it pours I have to run out and put the little soggy feather balls in the barn under the heat lamp. They seem to be doing better though. Soon they will be able to take care of themselves. And when they're old enough I might even let my little babies have their own little babies and the cycle will start all over again.



Image 14

Elrond's balls of foresight



Welcome to another edition of everyone's favorite Elf Lord. Elrond is with us again to share his wisdom on the events that will come. So far he hasn't been wrong so be sure to read with care and then take care.



Aries After a very successful singing appearance at the coronation you will form a band called "The Rangers", sign a contract with Fungorn Records company and become a famous Middle-Earth rockstar.

Taurus

You will join "The Rangers" band on their tour but will soon be kicked out after a series of mushroom scandals in several Middle-Earth towns.



Gemini

Your fear of heights will prove unreasonable. Your fear of sharp objects however will not.

Cancer (Balin)

A sudden burst of nostalgia might prove bad for your health.



Leo

Don't eat too much lembas, people might start mistaking you for an Elf.

Virgo

Be sure to wear sunscreen lotion with a high protection factor even when travelling underground. You never know when something hot will be near.



Libra

If the field mice are still bothering you then a Hobbit or two might come in handy to scratch those hard to reach spots.

Scorpio

The Elf is well known to water his drinks, be careful when you compete with him.



Sagittarius

Good luck with those wolves.

Capricorn

All the Nazgul will make fun of you when you get beaten by a girl.



Aquarius

You wouldn't believe me if I'd told you how many children you are going have.

Pisces

Your balls will start to hurt from all that rubbing.



Captions and Captives



Small Elf *chinking*: "I wonder if I push him, it will have a dominoes effect?"



Sam: "If I take one more step, it will be the furthest away from the mobile Kitchen I've been since this morning."



Legolas: "Why should I go down there to get it? Frodo's the one who dropped the ring!"



Merry: "Oh for god sakes Sam, it's killing the mushrooms!"



Sam: "...And then he complained about my rabbit stew! I mean, I didn't mind the comments on the roast chicken so much, but the stew is my speciality! Anyway, he took a bite and ..."

Frodo: ZZZZzzzzzzzzz.....



Gandalf: Out of the way! They're having a drinking game without me!



Comer's Tips For Soldiers

1. Be suspicious.

Enemy has many disguises and you have to be sure you're not making friends with wrong persons. You can always use a few spears to make your point.

2. Talking is unnecessary

You're a soldier. They fight, not talk. And if you have to talk, keep it short.

3. Don't smile.

Not even on free time if your fellow soldiers are there. You're a stern soldier and smiling makes cracks to your professional outlook.

4. Look scary and shout.

When you attack, choose your scariest face and shout hard. Strengthens your heart, weakens the enemy's.



5. No tricks. Straight fighting.

Only some nancing elves spend time on playing stunts. Real soldiers do straight attacks with spears and swords.



6. Keep your helmet on.

Always when you fight. Remember what happened for example to the Lochlorien elf in Helms Deep... It's the other times you show people you're good-looking.



7. Make last minute save the day appearances.

If you happen to get banished, ride only so far that you're able to ride back just in time to save the day. It's impressive and it makes sure people remember you.

by Ainaric

Loreena McKennitt "The Book of Secrets"



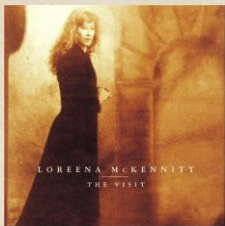
Loreena McKennitt is a musician, composer, producer who researches her work carefully and uses literary works as a springboard for her music. "The Book of Secrets" was born of an interest to learn more about the contemporaries of the Celts, who are part of McKennitt's heritage.

The music on this CD comes from themes in many different countries of the world, not unlike fans of Tolkien. From the very beginning the music draws the listener in with a variety of instruments and the glorious voice of McKennitt. "Prologue" was written after a trip to Athens and Istanbul. Other songs on the CD include: "The Dummer's Dance," "Skellig," "Marco Polo," "The Highwayman," "La Serenissima," "Night Ride Across the Caucasus," and last "Dante's Prayer." The inspiration for many of the songs came from Italy and is a mixture of themes. "The Highwayman" is set in the 18th century English countryside. Those who watched the movies Anne of Green Gables/Avonlea may remember the poem as one Anne recited for a competition. The setting for Skellig is the island Skellig Michael off the coast of Ireland.

"The Dummer's Dance" landed at 18 on the Top 100 in the U.S. Some of McKennitt's work has also been featured in movies. I highly recommend the CD to any who have not yet heard it. The haunting melodies are reminiscent of the elves and the sadness they must have felt to leave Middle Earth. Once you hear the music it will be ever in your mind. Since publishing "The Book of Secrets" she has completed another album.

by Brandywine

LOREENA McKENNITT "The Visit"



McKennitt shows her flare for captivating songs, haunting tunes and historical research in the CD "The Visit." The CD begins with a song called "All Souls Night" with origins taken from both an old Japanese tradition and the Celtic celebration.

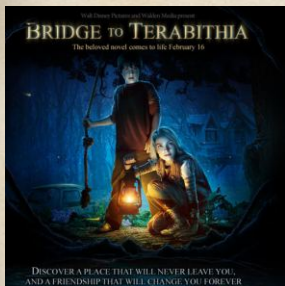
The CD continues with "Bonny Portmore" which decries the loss of old growth forests. "Bonnie Portmore" is a tune featured on many other CD's but here McKennitt gives a voice to the song that has an inspiring message.

"The Lady of Shalott" is another song featured on this CD. "The Lady of Shalott" is a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson beautifully set to work by McKennitt's rendition of the tune. "Greensleeves" is another song featured on this CD. Who knew that the lyrics were written by none other than King Henry VII. One of my favorite pieces from the CD is "The Old Ways" perhaps because it was inspired by a night the composer spent in Doolin, County Clare, Ireland. She says, "I spent a haunting New Year's Eve...and was moved by the antiquity of the celebration and the reminder that they may be the remnants of the old world meeting the new"

In all this CD please as much or more than "The Book of Secrets" and that in itself is a feat.

by Brandywine

Movie Review: Bridge to Terabithia



Journey to a land of breathtaking beauty and adventure with Jesse and Leslie, two misfit sixth-graders struggling against the usual pressures of childhood. The two children wander into the Forrest and create the world of Terabithia, in which the native inhabitants are imprisoned by a Dark Lord

and his minions. The friendship between Jesse and Leslie blossoms and grows, but tragedy strikes. A death threatens to steal the magic of Terabithia away. Will the children be able to cope?

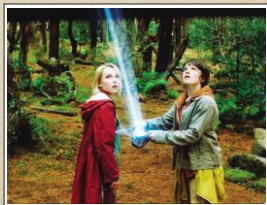
Bridge to Terabithia is a surprising film. The trailers and previews do not do it justice. There is a depth to the content of the film that the marketers do not capitalize on. It deals with bullying, poverty, grace, and death. This is not a film to take the kids to if you are seeking a pacifier. For those viewers who are familiar with the book, take heart. It is extremely close to its canon in all respects.

This movie is incredibly well-acted. The performance of Anna Sophia Robb as Leslie Burke was amazing. She brought a depth of character and vibrant innocence to Leslie that is astonishing in so young an actor. Josh Hutcherson, who plays Jesse Arons, also brings an extraordinary amount of talent to the table, playing the bullied and neglected character well.

What this movie achieves in acting proficiency, it lacks in plot consistency. The scene changes often feel choppy and ill-planned. The story line is not altogether easy to follow, as most twists and turns come suddenly and unexpectedly. The character growth portrayed through the film is understandable, yet rushed. More time could have been taken in plot development, as the movie is actually a little on the short side. However, this does not detract that much from the overall experience.

Bridge to Terabithia challenges people to be more open-minded and thoughtful in actions and deeds. Leslie challenges Jess to open his mind to the endless possibilities of his imagination. Her child-like willingness to use her mind and to think about things from new perspectives is a lesson that we can all learn from. Look deeper, see farther. Engage all the faculties of your mind.

It is refreshing to see a true children's film that approaches these issues. There is enough fantasy content to keep younger children engaged while at the same time touching the hearts of the adults in the audience. This film is a true work of art.



Starring Josh Hutcherson, AnnaSophia Robb, Zoey Deschanel, Robert Patrick, Bailee Madison, etc.

Directed by David C. Sudo

Based on the book by Katherine Patterson

1 hour, 35 minutes long

Memorable Quote: "If any of you try to download this essay, you will be downloaded into detention."

Vala's Rating: 4 Stars ****

by ValaDRÉ

FOR ETERNITY

Snow is falling as I look through my window.
I sit and watch the flakes fall soft and silent.
The trees stretch dark thin arms towards the sky
And the song of a lone wolf drifts on the wind.

I shiver, though the fire burns brightly in the hearth
I pull your cloak tight round me and settle back to wait.
I whisper a silent prayer to give me strength,
I must not give up hope, I must hold on to my faith.

It seems so long since you left to serve your country.
The soldiers came and you left my side for war.
A last kiss and smile and you were gone from me.
You looked so brave and fearless, and I felt a fight go out.

The winter wind is bitter and I've never felt so low
I know the call of duty's strong, and you had to do your part
But my heart is breaking and I need you by my side
To hold the hands I love and feel your warmth around me.

I rest my head on the cold glass and slowly close my eyes
To see again the face that gives me life and reason.
I hear your voice, soft calling, and cry myself to sleep.
To dream of happy times and ease away the pain.

You will return, I have to hold that thought.
And I'll be here to comfort you, to soothe away the scars
But for now, my love, I'll sit and bide my time
Until you're safe and home with me once more.

I stir, I'm cold and stiff, something moves in the dark
The fire is all but out and moon shadows fill the room
I hear my name. Am I dreaming? I stumble and fall
But strong arms are around me and your face before my eyes.

'You're here, is it really you,' I can't believe it's true.
'Yes,' you answer 'I'm home at last, nothing can part us now.'
The snow has stopped, the cold wind gone, the air is still and warm.
I smile and hold you in my arms, I know now we have eternity.

Rivendell

Radiant Repose-

Ima(d)ris:

Veridian objects

Endure - memorizing Elder years;

Nostalgized

Deep dreams:

Ephereal etchings of

Lost Life still

Lingering

by Nicoma Green

Collector's Box -> Griffin



I've been collecting Tolkien books for many years now. The first books I had were a hard back set of the Lord of the Rings that I *cough* "borrowed" from my father (You don't see them in the picture because he found out they were gone and took them back). I later got a big full volume of LotR (all the books in one) as a present from my parents. Then I found a hardback copy of the Silmarillion at a yard sale. The people were getting rid of it for very cheap so I snapped it up. After that I started strongly hinting to my friends and family that I wanted Tolkien books for Christmas and birthdays. I wasn't disappointed. I got several Histories of Middle Earth from my Aunt and a beautiful set of Alan Lee illustrated LotR from my parents *drools over her shiny pretties*

As the movies came out my dad and I split the price and bought each one and the Extended Editions. (technically their half his, but I made sure to watch them enough that he got sick of them and let me take them when I moved out). I also got the sound tracks as they came out. The Return of the King soundtrack I actually bought before the movie came out in theaters. It was rather interesting to listen to it and try to guess what would be going on during the different songs.

After the movies came and went I started seeing LotR sets in yard sales. It broke my little book loving heart to see them tossed aside for so little, so I started snatching up any copy I came across. I even found one (one copy of the Fellowship of the Ring with no sign of the other two. *pets* Door thing.

At one yard said I asked the girl who was selling her books (she was maybe sixteen or seventeen years old) why she was getting rid of her copy of LotR and she said she had "out grown it". I'm afraid I scared her half to death as I grew wide eyed and started gasping clutching the book to my chest in shock. How could anyone "out grow" Lord of the Rings!

cough Anyway, when it became apparent my family thought I had enough Tolkien things they stopped buying them for me and I had to pick up the quest myself again. I scrimped and saved and was able to scrape up enough to buy the unabridged audio version of LotR, the Hobbit and Silmarillion. Then a little later I found The Road goes ever on: a song cycle by Tolkien and Donald Swann on the internet for a decent price. I also found ruffling through the local book stores clearance pile a copy of Tolkien's Ring by David Day, a book about legends behind LotR. A very interesting read (ok, ok, I really bought it because it's illustrated

by Alan Lee). I also acquired the Atlas of Middle-Earth, Tree and Leaf and another wonderful book called J.R.R. Tolkien Artist & Illustrator A collection of Tolkien's drawings and illustrations.

My collection is also not limited to book (though they make up 99% of it) I also bought the Ring of Barahir (They call it the Ring of Aragorn, but it's the Ring of Barahir) for my highschool graduation. Being home schooled I didn't have a class ring, so I use this instead. And I also have Arwen's pendant from the movie as a reward for reaching my goal for NaNo 06. I do have a One Ring, but it's just a cheap one off of a bookmark tassel.



So to sum everything up I have:

- > 7 copies of the Lord of the Rings (plus one lone copy of the Fellowship)
- > 5 copies of the Silmarillion
- > 5 copies of the Hobbit (ok, 4, the big picture book is my fathers he just hasn't noticed it's gone)
- > 3 copies of the Unfinished Tales
- > 1 through 8 of the Histories of Middle-Earth (I have a lead though where I can get the last four)
- > 20 Disc. Tolkien books, Atlases, soundtracks and biographies
- > 2 rings
- > 1 necklace

62 items in all



by Rose

Disclaimer: This Magazine is for entertainment purposes only. The content has been produced by fans of J.R.R. Tolkien. Whilst we will be referring in part to the world created by J.R.R. Tolkien and using characters, scenarios and timelines created by him, or mentioned in the work of Christopher Tolkien, by no means is any "ownership" of their original creations implied. Images used in this magazine and related items are from the New Line Cinema Lord of the Rings movie trilogy and other Artists, and no ownership is implied by their use hereto.