



## Roverandom

By J. R. R. Tolkien

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Written for Tolkien's son, this story features a real dog, Rover, who is turned into a toy by a wizard and then transported to the moon. The Man in the Moon renames him Roverandom and gives him wings. He sets out on a series of adventures, before finally asking for the spell to be undone.

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## Roverandom By J. R. R. Tolkien Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-Begun in 1925, this fantasy was roughly finished later, but set aside in favor of sequels to *The Hobbit*. Here, at last, two Tolkien scholars present it, with five illustrations by the author sandwiched between a long, minutely detailed introduction and padded but sometimes illuminating endnotes. Changed from a live dog into a toy after inadvertently biting a wizard, Rover is dropped on the beach by his young owner, where he meets a second wizard who sends him on a gull's back to the Man-in-the-Moon. Sporting wings and a new name, "Roverandom" irritates the Great White Dragon that causes lunar eclipses and visits a valley where sleeping children gather for pleasant dreams, among other places, then returns to Earth to beg the first wizard, a bumbling sort who has since married a mermaid and moved under the ocean, to make him a real dog again. Despite a wandering plot and minor inconsistencies, the old Tolkien magic is here in full force: in evocative names, glimpses of supernal events, and wonderfully exotic locales seen through the eyes of a comfortably familiar character. Enthusiasts will pore over the notes, but the story stands well enough on its own as an incidental piece from one of our century's great literary imaginations.

*John Peters, New York Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4 and up, younger for reading aloud. This previously unpublished story chronicles the adventures and life lessons of a very engaging young dog named Roverandom, who makes the mistake of being insolent to a passing wizard. To teach the dog a lesson, the offended wizard turns Roverandom into a toy dog, frozen in a perpetual begging position, frustratingly small and without a real bark. As he begins his determined quest to become a real dog again, Roverandom faces experiences that are humbling, eye-opening, and exciting, from a trip to the moon, where he faces the Great White Dragon, to under the sea, where he confronts both the adversarial Sea-serpent and the ill-tempered wizard who originally cast the spell (and who gets his own just desserts at the end). The tale will appeal to readers of all ages, with its detailed descriptions of fantastical landscapes, its snippety, rival wizards, and its creative characters, all described with Tolkien's trademark droll wit and humor, and enhanced by his few but charming drawings. Short, riveting chapters make this a great read-aloud book, and as with all good Tolkien tales, there's a lesson to be drawn: mind your p's and q's. The wordy but comprehensive and interesting introduction to the novel, which was originally written to comfort Tolkien's four-year-old son following the loss of a beloved toy, includes some fascinating information about the author and his family, a boon for educators, parents, and Tolkienphiles. Extensive endnotes clarify Tolkien's satirical references to the politics and society of his times and explain the many mythological characters. A delightful story for fans of Tolkien, fantasy, and myth, featuring the irresistible, sympathetic, and comic Roverandom, a classic character in his own right. *Shelle Rosenfeld*

From Kirkus Reviews

In 1925, the Tolkien family took a vacation at the beach, where four-year-old Michael lost his favorite object, a tiny toy dog. So to console him, father J.R.R. improvised the tale of a dog magically transformed into a toy. The story was rejected by Tolkien's publisher in 1937 and has lain neglected ever since. With good reason. It tells of young and impolite puppy Rover, who bites the wizard Artaxerxes's trousers; as a punishment, the wizard transforms him into a toy. Deposited in a toyshop, Rover is bought by a boy named Two, who loses the dog on a beach; but soon Rover meets Psamathos the sand-sorcerer. Psamathos sends Rover off on the back of Mew the gull to visit the Man-in-the-Moon. But the Man-in-the-Moon already has a moon-dog named Rover, so our Rover becomes Roverandom. Yessir, this is real edge-of-the-seat stuff. After various cutesy doings, Roverandom learns that Artaxerxes has taken a job under the sea, so he rides

inside Uin the Right Whale to plead with Artaxerxes to change him back into a real dog. Which, after more fluffy bits--yes, there's a mer-dog named Rover--the wizard does, and Roverandom returns to Two. Even for Tolkien scholars, these are awfully thin bones to pick over. -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **David Pimentel:**

The experience that you get from Roverandom is a more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Roverandom giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific Roverandom instantly.

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#### **Stephen Wilson:**

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#### **Betty Jordan:**

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