

# The Silmarillion Reading Guide

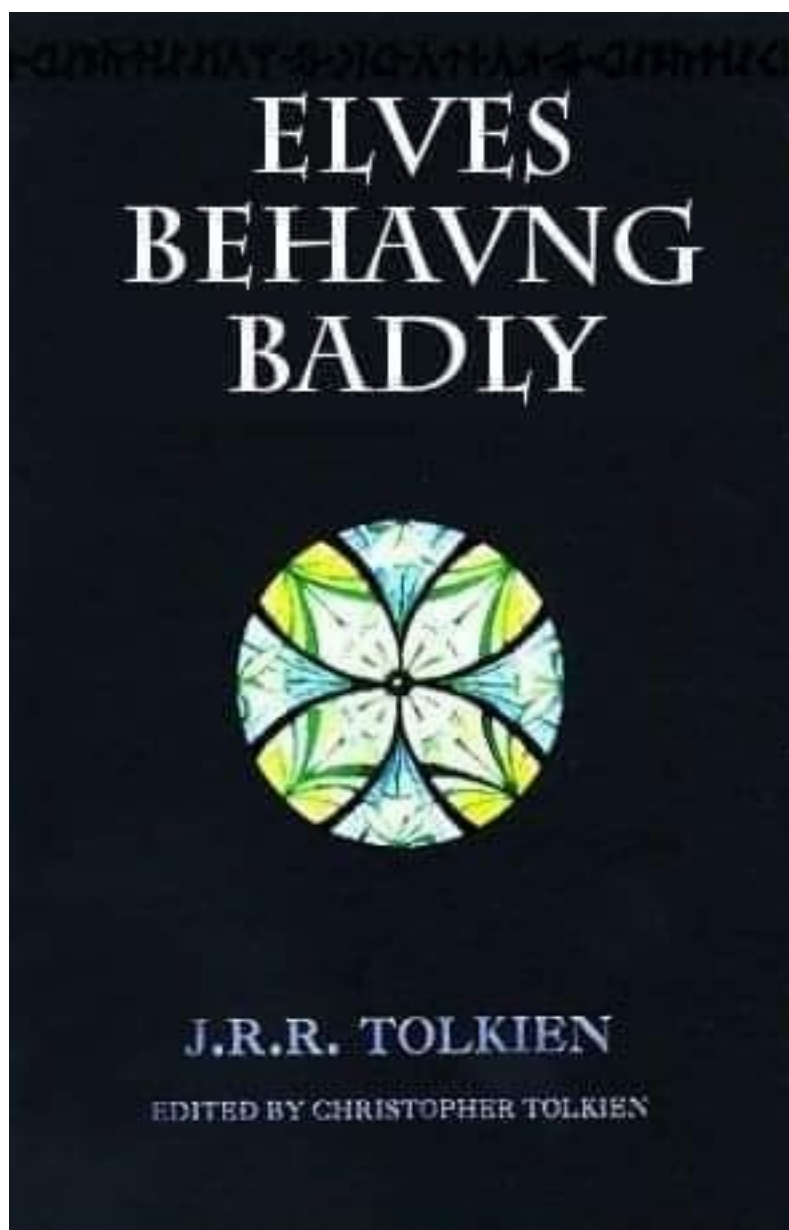


Figure 1: The Silmarillion

## Abbreviated Reading

If you want to read The Silmarillion but find it too difficult, I recommend reading some of these chapters in isolation as individual stories.

1. Of Beren and Lúthien
2. The Children of Húrin (aka Narn i Chîn Húrin)
3. The Fall of Gondolin
4. TODO: which one of the creation tales?

The Children of Húrin is also available as a more fleshed out, standalone book. The audiobook is read by Christopher Lee. This version has more details but leaves out a few segments that tie it in with the rest of the Silmarillion.

## Difficult Chapters

Of Beleriand and its Realms is a notoriously difficult and boring chapter. It's got some lovely moments, but it's largely just land descriptions. If you get bored there, just skim it or skip it.

## Terms

There's a million terms for varying groups of elves; "the elves who went here" vs. "the elves who didn't", "the elves who went here but didn't go further" vs. "the elves who went further", etc etc etc. I made it thru my first read thru by

defining each of these terms as simply “a group of elves”.

## **Audiobook**

I’ve listened to the version read by Martin Shaw several times and loved it; his tone and voice are appropriately epic for the material. But I’m sure the Andy Serkis version is also very good.