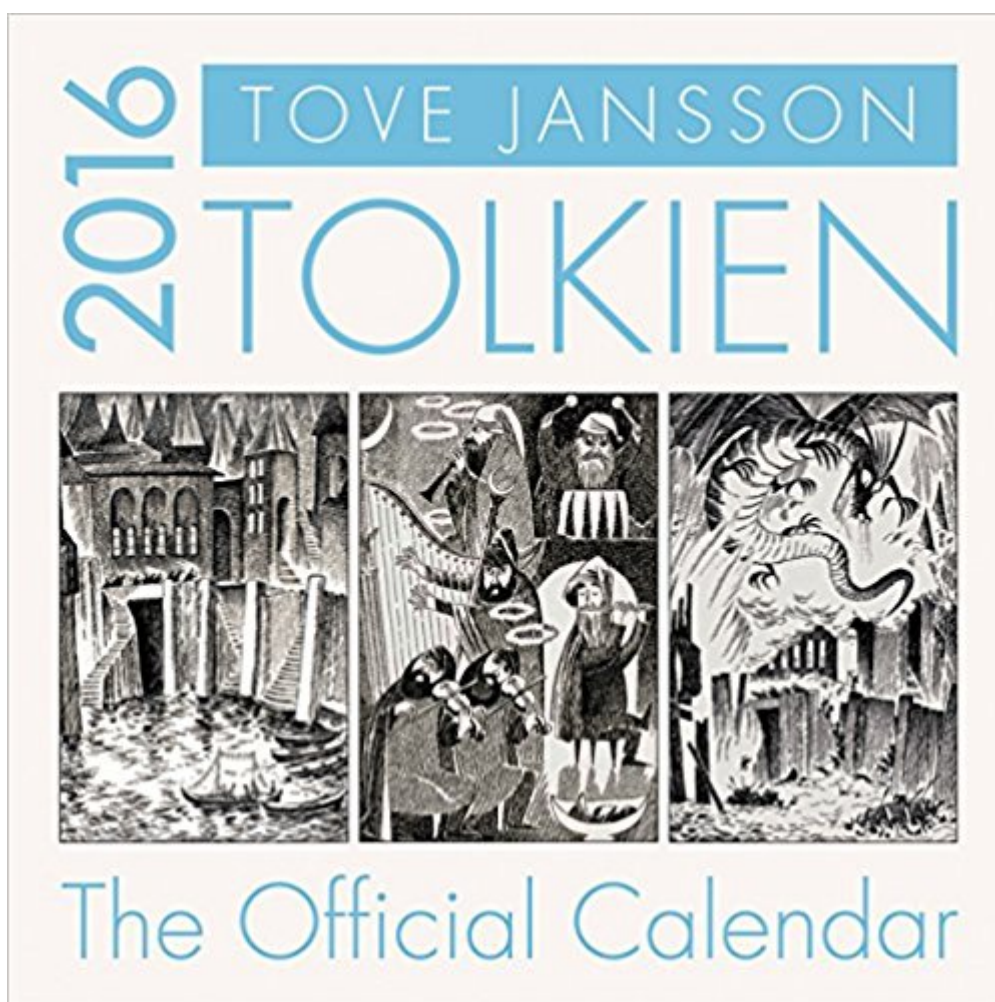


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Tolkien Calendar 2016



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The official Tolkien Calendar for 2016 is a striking creation featuring dramatic illustrations from the Finnish artist Tove Jansson. Jansson, who died in 2001 aged 86, was an author and illustrator best known for her books and comic strips depicting the Moomins, who inhabited a valley which is as pleasant and peaceful as Tolkien's own Shire but beset by a wider and more dangerous outside world. In the early 1960s Jansson was asked to illustrate the Swedish edition of *The Hobbit*, and it is from that work that the illustrations for this calendar have been taken. Jansson's favored technique was to use pen and ink to create etching like illustrations. With the exception of the center illustration depicting Smaug about to attack the dwarves and Bilbo on Erebor and of December's Bilbo in helmet and spear standing in front of Erebor while Smaug circles menacingly (which was the original cover illustration) all of the drawings are black and white. Many are done in great detail while others are more impressionistic. Jansson excelled at depicting landscapes, particularly water and mountains. I particularly liked July's depiction of Laketown with steps leading down to the water and March's landscape of Rivendell showing the dwarves crossing the narrow bridge. May's drawing of the goblins and wargs dancing around the burning pine trees in which the dwarves and Bilbo are cowering is appropriately eerie, as is June's depiction of Mirkwood as a labyrinth of twisted tree trunks through which the Company struggles to find a way. October and November's battle scenes are alive with action and menace. I was less impressed with the final drawing on inside back cover showing beastlike Elves with horns throwing barrels into the Forest River.

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