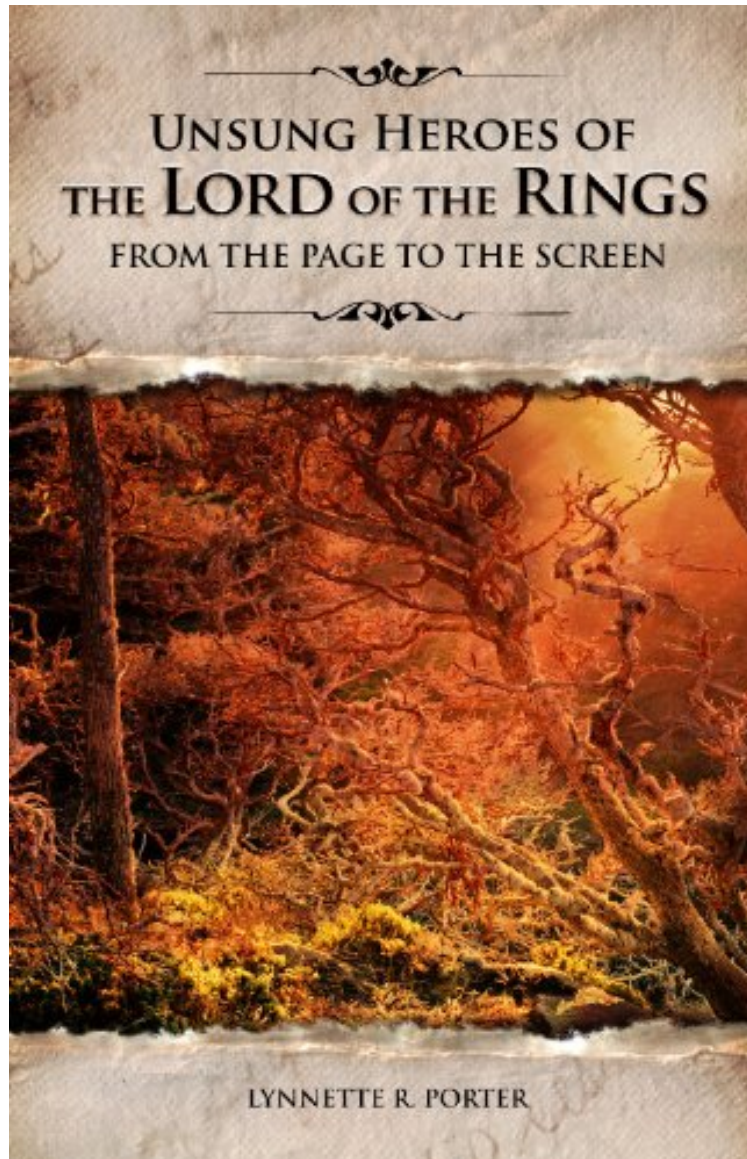


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Unsung Heroes of The Lord of the Rings: From the Page to the Screen

Lynnette Porter

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Lynnette Porter : Unsung Heroes of The Lord of the Rings: From the Page to the Screen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Unsung Heroes of The Lord of the Rings: From the Page to the Screen*:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. insights and contrastsBy Bobby NewmanIn *Unsung Heroes of the*

Lord of the Rings, Lynette Porter gives us a more in-depth examination of several of the less emphasized characters than is generally given in such works. The back stories that may not be known to those who have only seen the films, or not grasped the whole history given by Tolkien in various works, is presented in an easily understood form. Material that appears only in the written word, or only in the film versions, helps to highlight crucial aspects of the characters. Two particular stand-out chapters were the ones on Galadriel and Arwen, and Legolas and Gimli. As regards the latter chapter, the major point Tolkien was making regarding overcoming one's own cultural biases was particularly poignant, although Porter avoids commentary Tolkien had made in letters regarding the Jewishness of dwarves (potentially awkward given comments about bearded dwarf women in the films). Tolkien's own comments were not likely indicative of anything deeper than a representation of a people living as aliens among other peoples. Tolkien himself was reported to have a great respect for the Jews, calling them a "gifted people," so no charges of anti-semitism there. While Porter avoids this aspect of the discussion, the central points shine through clearly and inspirationally. An enlightening read for all fans of the books and movies.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. OMG! I accessed the book on an online research ...By Janet JohnOMG! I accessed the book on an online research site and found this whooper with my first "search." "In simplest terms, Galadriel is a daughter of Finarfin, who is a descendant of the Valar, and Galadriel herself is one of the Eldar, one of the first Elves, whose lineage goes back only a few generations to the creation story, according to The Silmarillion." ¹¹. Lynnette R. Porter, *Unsung Heroes of the Lord of the Rings: From the Page to the Screen* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 116, <http://www.questia.com/read/119704156>. I guess she didn't actually read The Silmarillion.⁸ of 11 people found the following review helpful. Helps to Understand the Book and the MovieBy John MatlockIn first looking at this book I was reminded of John Milton's "They also serve who only stand and wait." "This is a book on heroes, but not the star. This is a book on the lesser heroes, the little people, the women, even children that are also heroes, even if of a lesser scale. Written in the aftermath of the 9/11 attack where we learned that the ordinary firemen, policeman, yes, even office worker occasionally does heroic things. This book, though is based on the characters in The Lord of the Rings. It concentrates on finding heroic behavior in the lesser characters to illustrate both the genius of Tolkien's work, how well it was adapted to the movies and to illustrate how these minor heroes have similarities with today's real-life heroes. This book helps to understand how the adapted the book to the new medium of film, but also to show the depth of the original work and how faithfully this was carried out in the transposition to film.

Most criticism of The Lord of the Rings trilogy emphasizes the most likely heroes in the tales: Aragorn, Frodo, Gandalf, and even Sam. From popular to scholarly literature, the women and smaller characters often go overlooked. But our notions of what makes a hero have altered since September 11, and sometimes the most unlikely people can come to embody all that we look up to and admire in a person. Here, Lynette Porter examines what we mean when we talk about heroes, and for the first time illustrates the heroic qualities that can be found in the women and other beloved, though less-celebrated, characters in the The Lord of the Rings books and movies. She takes a critical look at the importance of literary and cinematic heroes in general, emphasizing the roles of Merry, Pippin, Galadriel, Eowyn, Arwen, Legolas, and Gimli, who can all be considered heroes despite their relatively smaller roles. She shows, ultimately, that our attraction to and celebration of heroes does not have to be limited to the leading man, but rather that women and youth often display essential characteristics of true heroes. Bringing together a discussion of both the books and the movies, Porter reveals for readers the heroic nature of several characters in The Lord of the Rings who have been ignored in terms of their status as heroes. Nevertheless, these female and youthful characters have received incredible popular acclaim and illustrate the shift in the way the Western movie-going public identifies and glorifies heroes. While other stars may have outshone the likes of Merry and Pippin, Arwen and Galadriel, Porter redirects the spotlight on these favorites of the books and movies to show us how the roles they play, the actions they take, and the behaviors they display are worthy of our praise and admiration. This unique and refreshing perspective adds dimension to our understanding of The Lord of the Rings phenomenon.

"[P]orter's style is clear and engaging. Large undergraduate and general collections." - Choice "Porter examines the intricacies of modern human expectations for heroes and myths, and how those complex emotions influence what we read under the covers with a flashlight as opposed to what we see from the unlikely heroes, the minor characters who catch our attention and earn our admiration because they embody some aspect of heroism, such as the character of Merry as the knowledgeable hero, Pippin as the youthful, impulsive hero, Eowyn as the action hero, and so on, and how we seek out those characters who embody what we sense we have, or lack, in ourselves." - Reference Research Book News "[S]hows a good grasp of available criticism in both academic and popular publications. The best feature of this book, I think is that, contra the lamentably common view that Tolkien relied primarily on types for his characterization, Porter shows how well he thought out their individual personalities." - Tolkien Studies About the Author Lynette R. Porter is Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where she teaches Honors Literature and Humanities. She is the author of three other books.