

The Wisdom of the Shire: A Short Guide to a Long and Happy Life



In *The Wisdom of the Shire*, Noble Smith sheds light on the life-changing ideas tucked away inside the classic works of J. R. R. Tolkien and his most beloved creation—the stout-hearted Hobbits. Drawing on *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and other tales of Middle-earth, Smith shows how a snug hobbit-hole is actually just a state of mind and how even the smallest person can have the valor of a Rider of Rohan. He explores subjects dear to a halfling's heart, such as beer, food, and friendship, as well as more serious concerns, such as courage, living in harmony with nature, and good versus evil. How can simple pleasures such as gardening, taking long walks, and eating delicious meals with friends make you significantly happier? Why is the act of giving presents on your birthday instead of getting them such a revolutionary idea? And how can we carry the burden of our own Ring of Power: without becoming devoured by it? *The Wisdom of the Shire* holds the answers to these and more of life's essential questions. Noble Smith is an award-winning playwright who has worked as a video game writer, documentary film producer, and media director of an international human-rights foundation.

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Coinciding with the release of the first of Peter Jackson's Hobbit trilogy, his follow-up to the huge Lord of the
Rings success, The Wisdom of the Shire is a:
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Noble Smith reminds us that we can all be as constantly surprising as the Hobbits. ?Peter
S. Beagle, author of The Last Unicorn and the introduction to The