

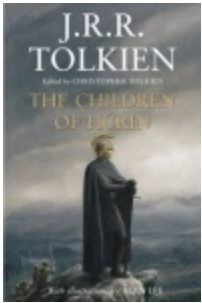


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**Signed Copies of 'The Children of Hurin'
Selling on Abebooks.com**
May 01, 2007

By **Kimberly Maul**

A first edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, from 1937, was the most expensive book to ever sell on online retailer Abebooks.com, with a price of \$65,000. Now that Tolkien's *The Children of Hurin* has been released, prices for Tolkien's books, including the latest, which was completed by the author's son, Christopher Tolkien, are on the rise.

The Children of Hurin, which was published on April 17, has a deluxe edition set to be published on May 16 in the United States, which is priced at \$75. But signed copies of the book, including a special edition featuring a publishers' bookplate signed by Christopher Tolkien and the book's illustrator Alan Lee, are selling for up to \$1,000 on Abebooks.

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The signed copies of the book are especially rare, as Christopher Tolkien, who is 82 years old, will not be making any promotional appearances to sign copies of the book. The publisher, Houghton Mifflin, has been using the signed bookplate editions for promotional purposes.

Abebooks currently has **three signed copies** available—one autographed by Lee alone, and one regular US edition and one UK deluxe edition both signed by Tolkien and Lee.

Abebooks also reports that another (unsigned) first edition of Tolkien's *The Hobbit* is up **for sale**—for the record-breaking price of \$169,000.

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