



# Where the Shadows Lie: A Jungian Interpretation of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings

*Pia Skogemann*

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**Where the Shadows Lie: A Jungian Interpretation of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings** Pia Skogemann

**Where the Shadows Lie** takes the reader on a journey through Tolkien's Middle-earth, following the hobbits, their companions, and the characters they encounter on their quest. Along the way, Skogemann reveals the deep symbolic layers that are the source of joy and enchantment that many find in reading *The Lord of the Rings*. Aragorn, with the aid of Gandalf, Legolas, and Gimli, ascends to the throne and becomes the center of a great, unified kingdom—a symbol of the collective Self. The four hobbits, representing individual ego-consciousness, are transformed by the quest and acquire the psychological tools they need to renew the Shire—the small domain enfolded in the great.

Jung's theories of the collective unconscious and the archetypes provide a key to understanding the forces of fantasy that are so powerful in Tolkien's masterpiece—and thereby a key to understanding ourselves and the events of the outside world in our modern times.

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