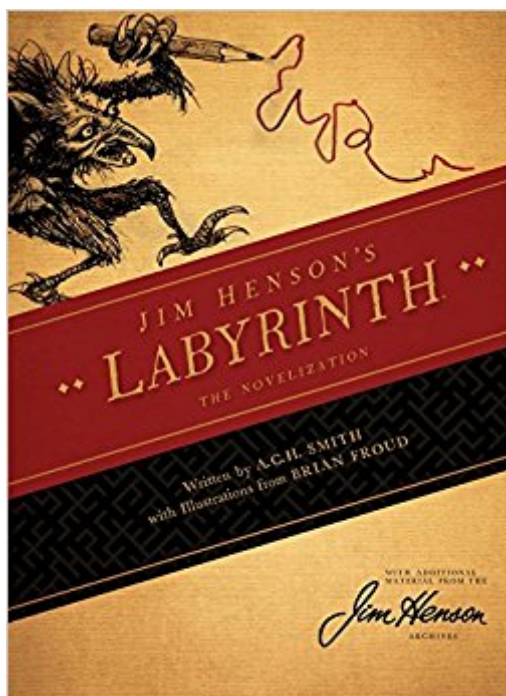


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Jim Henson's Labyrinth: The Novelization



Synopsis

Return to the Kingdom of Whence in this sprawling prequel to Jim Henson's classic film *Labyrinth*. Finally back in print and for the first time in hardcover is the novelization of *Labyrinth* written by A.C.H. Smith and personally overseen by Jim Henson. This is the first in a series of novels from the Jim Henson Archives. This beautiful hardcover features unpublished goblin illustrations by legendary illustrator and concept artist Brian Froud and an exclusive peek into Jim Henson's creative process with 50 never-before-seen pages from his personal journal, detailing the initial conception of his ideas for *Labyrinth*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jim Henson is the founder of The Jim Henson Company and created puppet characters for *Sesame Street*, *The Muppet Show*, *Fraggle Rock* and other programs. Brian Froud is a fantasy illustrator whose work inspired the characters in Jim Henson's "*The Dark Crystal*" and "*Labyrinth*." His other works include *Faeries* and *Goblins*.

As soon as I got it I went out in the yard, got into my hammock under the corkscrew willow tree and spent the whole day reading. I could practically hear the voices of Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie as Sarah and Jareth. See the scenes in my mind. Brian Froud's illustrations are beautifully reproduced. I laughed at Jim Henson's notes because his "chicken scratch" is just as bad as mine! The only nitpick I have is the song lyrics from "*Underground*", "*Magic Dance*", "*Chilly Down*", "*As The World Falls Down*" and "*Within You*" aren't used. Maybe copyright issues?

Plot: I have loved the movie *Labyrinth* since I was a child. I've watched it so many times that I know the plot and most of the script by heart. So when I saw the novelization, I knew I had to have it one day. Overall the plot is basically the same as the movie, though there are some slight changes. I feel like the movie was better but it was still fun seeing it in written format, along with extra info and backstory.

Setting: The labyrinth and the Goblin City, especially the Escher-inspired staircases have always been a huge selling point for me. It's so unlike anything I've seen, sort of like Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and *The Wizard of Oz*, but unique on its own.

Characters: The characters are just as good as in the movie, and some have a little more backstory that makes them even more fleshed out. And of course I imagined the characters as they are pictured in the movie. I have always admired Sarah. She's impulsive but also passionate, brave, and never hesitates to complain. I like how she tries to puzzle things out when she finds herself at a barrier as well. It would have been awesome to see more of Jareth's back story but I still enjoyed his character. Hoggle, Ludo, and Sir Didymus are just as lovable, as is the worm. Ambrosius didn't come off as strongly as he does in the books. The other characters that we see briefly, like the junk lady, the knockers, etc are all pretty true to character as well. Didn't care much for the Firey creatures in written format, though.

Relationships: I adore Sarah's friendships with Hoggle, Ludo, and Sir Didymus. It felt like there was definitely more of a romantic angle in the movie between Sarah and Jareth though I could feel Jareth's curiosity toward her in the book.

Writing/Voice: While I feel the story wasn't as strong as it is in the movie, I'm not sure if I'm biased or not because I've loved it for so long. Still, the writing wasn't bad but there were times where I felt it was a little too technical for a fantasy story. The characters definitely felt like the ones I know and love, though.

Ending: The ending was much different and more somber than in the movie, which I didn't like as much.

Overall, I really like the novelization and the extra stuff in the back (illustrations of goblins and creatures as well as Henson's early notes for the movie) were neat to see. This isn't probably something I would re-read any time soon but great for reference and as a lover of all things *Labyrinth*! Highly recommend for fans of the movie or Jim Henson fans in general. 4.5 stars.

I've been a major fan of *Labyrinth* ever since I was little. A few years ago I went looking for a novelization without success, and I just happened to stumble upon this. A lot of novelizations tend to be bland copies of the films...but this one is not!! It gives a lot more detail than the movie--such as backgrounds on Sarah and Jareth--and the character development is amazing. There are even some parts in there that weren't in the movie! The formatting is nice too: an easy-to-read,

non-cramped font that's not too small or hard on the eyes. It's very similar to the film, and it compliments it very well--so if you're a Labyrinth fan (whether you like to read or not!) I highly recommend this!! I tend to not enjoy reading, but I read (not speed-read) this one all the way through in just a few days. Not to mention there's quite a bit of "goblin art" in the back, with some of Jim Henson's notes!

I have loved the Labyrinth since I first watched it back in the 80s as a little girl. I have always wanted to read the book version. I was ecstatic when I saw that they had made one and republished it recently. I snatched it up. It was like reading the movie with only slight changes. I was hoping for some more insight and depth into the characters. But overall it was a good read. My only complaint was the cover. I would have loved it in paperback with a beautifully illustrated cover. I know that seems petty, but the cover is a big part of my desire to buy a book. I see gorgeous artwork on the cover with promises of fantasy and adventure which inspires me to pick it up or buy it. The cover is very dull and uninspiring. I would have thought they would have tons of fantastic artwork from the artist that designed the goblins and the Labyrinth Universe. So that was a little disappointing. But as a fan I am happy to have it.

The technique in this novel is, frankly, simple for the most part and then unnecessarily complicated in others. Inconsistent is a good word for the writing style here. If you're a big fan of the movie I would definitely recommend it because if nothing else it gives a greater insight to the inner thoughts of both Sarah and Jareth. It brings a depth to the story that the movie could not possibly have done. Some of the novel deviates from the movie but it definitely adds a more interesting layer that makes the story seem more complex than the slightly watered down version in the film. (Obviously that's because Labyrinth is ultimately a children's "coming of age" story and sadly more adult themes and concepts needed to be subdued for the target audience.)

This is not a work of great literary merit, but it is not trying to be. If you, like me, were slightly warped as a child by watching the original movie (also on the lovable psychological damage list: The Dark Crystal and The Last Unicorn) and wish to recapture your baffled acceptance of the weirdness of the Henson creative team, then this book is a good quality way to do it. It is also excellent as a chapter book to read to a child piece-by-piece at bedtime as a way to interactively pass the quirky damage on to the next generation. Be warned: After exposure you may crave Renaissance festivals, '80s hair, and turquoise eye shadow.

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