



# Sméagol, Déagol, and Beagle: Essays from the Headwaters of My Voice

*Peter S. Beagle*

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## **Sméagol, Déagol, and Beagle: Essays from the Headwaters of My Voice** Peter S. Beagle

Acclaimed fantasy icon Peter S. Beagle (author of *THE LAST UNICORN* and other classics) shares 10 richly-detailed, deeply-personal essays about the people and works that have been his greatest inspirations: his teachers, his parents, Robert Nathan (*PORTRAIT OF JENNY*), James Stephens (*THE CROCK OF GOLD*), Walt Kelly (*POGO*), Georges Brassens, James Thurber (*THE THIRTEEN CLOCKS*), T. H. White (*THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING*), Lord Dunsany (*THE KING OF ELFLAND'S DAUGHTER*), and J.R.R. Tolkien (*THE HOBBIT* and *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*).

Featuring an extraordinary mix of autobiography and literary insight, supported by the dazzling language that made Beagle world-famous, these essays speak deeply to the heart—and to the creative spark in all of us.

The title piece (subtitled "J.R.R. Tolkien and My Adventure with Crazy Ralphie") includes a riveting behind-the-scenes look at the creation and production of the 1978 animated version of *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*, the film that inspired a 17 year-old Peter Jackson to become a Tolkien fan in the first place. Bakshi's adaptation inspires strong passions both pro and con: no matter your vote on that, Beagle's insights as the movie's screenwriter are a revelation.

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—Peter S. Beagle was born in 1939 and raised in the Bronx, just a few blocks from Woodlawn Cemetery, the inspiration for his first novel, *A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE*. Today, thanks to classic works such as *THE LAST UNICORN*, *TAMSIN*, and *THE INNKEEPER'S SONG*, he is acknowledged as America's greatest living fantasy author; and his dazzling abilities with language, characters, and magical storytelling have earned him many millions of fans around the world. In addition to stories and novels Beagle has written numerous teleplays and screenplays, including the animated versions of *THE LORD OF THE RINGS* and *THE LAST UNICORN*, plus the fan-favorite "Sarek" episode of *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*. His nonfiction book *I SEE BY MY OUTFIT*, which recounts a 1963 journey across America on motor scooter, is considered a classic of American travel writing; and he is also a gifted poet, lyricist, and singer-songwriter. He has won the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, and Mythopoeic Awards, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Fantasy Association, and also France's prestigious Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire.

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