

Review 79003: An Unexpected Gathering

By car_mp

Images by LEGO® Iberia S.A.



Set: An Unexpected Gathering

Set number: 79003

Parts: 652

Minifigs: 6

After the first wave of sets of the Lord of the rings, one of the most anticipated franchises since the trilogy by Peter Jackson, and before we get time to dream about what the second wave will bring us, the sets of the new trilogy, the Hobbit, begin to arrive. The set we review on this occasion represents Bag End, the home of Bilbo Baggins, the protagonist of this trilogy. The scene it refers to is the arrival of Gandalf and the dwarves to the house of a surprised Bilbo at the start of the adventure that

is narrated in the book.

The box is one of the first that comes to my hands after the reduction in size of the boxes and to be honest, I like it better this way. I suppose that for kids the bigger the better, but for me, as an adult, the fact that it is smaller makes me feel that what is inside is of higher quality. But that's just me.

It comes with two instruction manuals, a small sticker sheet, four numbered bags and three large plates outside the bags. Incidentally, the minifigs are built throughout the different building stages and not at the beginning as is usual in other sets.





The included minifigs are Gandalf, Bilbo and four dwarves. A highlight are the beards of these dwarves, especially that of Bombur, which includes a supplement to simulate his enormous paunch - quite a detail.

The construction is rather straight forward and there is a large variety of interesting pieces and colours. The final result is very striking, maybe too square to imagine it is a hill, but the number of pieces would have increased significantly if less abrupt slopes had been attempted.

The set is centred around the cave-house under the hill. The exterior is very detailed and very few large or "prefabricated" pieces have been used. A clear example is that the fence is made of bricks modified and tiles - no large fence pieces. The round window and door stand out and they resemble the film faithfully. The interior is even more detailed, with its fireplace, bookcases, and kitchen utensils... all around the large table in the dining room. The set is open at the back, following the most classic LEGO® tradition, but the roof can also be lifted off easily, giving the set even more playability. The set includes details that make it usable for the end scenes of the book as well, as they are not there at the beginning of the story... just in case I won't give any further details.



Conclusion

I should point out I am a Lord of the Rings fan, but I must also say that I have tried to be as objective as a weathered journalist like me can be. Looking at the images, whether 'legal' or not, of the sets from the The Hobbit theme that will come out in this first series, this is for me the star of the line-up. There may not be any orcs, wargs, spiders or other assorted Middle Earth fauna, but it has everything else. I mean it has everything a LEGO builder could want. No large pieces, no repetitive construction, external beauty, playability, building techniques, curious pieces, varied colours... It is without a doubt a LEGO SET - in all capitals. Whether or not you are a fan of the franchise you and your family will enjoy it.

Acknowledgements: LEGO SYSTEM A/S and Jan Beyer for this set and LEGO Iberia S.A., Joachim Schwidtal for the official images.

#

