



Tales of Norse Mythology (Barnes & Noble Collectible Editions)

Héléne A. Guerber

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Scandinavians of the Viking Age explored the mysteries of life through their sagas. Folklorist Helene Adeline Guerber brings to life the gods and goddesses, giants and dwarves, and warriors and monsters of these stories in Tales of Norse Mythology. Ranging from the comic to the tragic, these legends tell of passion, love, friendship, pride, courage, strength, loyalty, and betrayal.

Tales of Norse Mythology (Barnes & Noble Collectible Editions) Details

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From Reader Review Tales of Norse Mythology (Barnes & Noble Collectible Editions) for online ebook

Andreas says

This is my second book about northern mythology that I've read this year, both being far more analytical than I imagined. Not that I am complaining, as I enjoy learning about mythological origins and theories.

An informative book can only be as good as the information it conveys, and while Tales of Norse Mythology does manage to inform the reader of mythological tales and background information, some of the knowledge is outdated, such as the belief that vikings sacrificed humans despite the lack of evidence that it ever occurred.

That being said, it is still worth your time as a way to understand northern mythology and it can in most cases be used as a reference tool. I just recommend double-checking this source with a newer one before you do.

Clintford says

Loved it, way more interesting than I imagined it would be.

Edgar Shakespeare says

For nearly 20 years I have studied Mythology, Norse being my favorite. That is until I read this book. This book is so underwhelming that it made me feel less for the stories, which were written not as full stories, but rather as very brief synopsis.

You are told that this, this and this happens, without any detail, usually the detail left out are the details which make the Gods seem, godly. Instead you walk away remembering more about how they were outwitted time and time again, than any of their heroic deeds.

The final nail in the coffin was the very last chapter when describing the similarities between Greek (As was written in the book) and Norse mythologies, the author neglected to use Greek names for the major Greek gods, but instead named them by their Roman counterparts.

If you don't know anything at all about Norse Mythology, this is a good starter book, but it may leave you not wanting to learn more. If you know anything at all about Norse Mythology, read something else as this is just written in shorthand and only gives the gist of the stories.

Hannah Thomas says

When I read other books towards Norse Mythology, they just *scathed* the outer part. This went into **incredible** detail! Guerber started with the creation of the world, according to this mythology, and then went down the "line" of ancestry. She included every possible "direction" the stories took, in correspondence to each god or goddess.

In each story, she included translated poetry of various books, as a possibility of how these ancient writings were written and to give an idea of how other writings are expressed. Another plus about this are illustrations that represented certain "events."

What I found fascinating was the end. (view spoiler)

Chante Kuhn says

This is actually a reprinting of a famous book called Myths of the Norsemen written in 1909 by historian Helen A. Guerber, who was an expert on Germanic mythology. I bought it at a book store and found the contents to be just as beautiful as its cover. Don't be deceived by the lack of attention it receives online, it was an amazing read and very well organised which is perfect in little doses as it's not really a book to read in one sitting. When I got bored of another book I just flicked to a new tale or a particular god which entertained as well as educated me for a bit.

Jim says

Good Popular book about Norse Myths. Being of mostly Norwegian Ancestry, I find these stories great. THESE ARE MY PEOPLE! LOL

I have to admit I'm a bit of a sucker for these Barnes and Noble "Collectible" Leather books. I have no Illusion that they are really "Collectible" but they are rather lovely. LOL

Catherine Rector says

I'm not a scholar of Norse Mythology but I loved this book. A lot of the information is the same as what I've gotten from the Prose and Poetic Eddas, with a few exceptions. It's important to remember that the original printing of this book was for 1909 and some things have probably been proven untrue or dismissed in that time, but I found 95% of it to be an accurate and well written account (so far as my own knowledge goes).

Aside from the text, the book is GORGEOUS. It's faux leather hard cover with gold embossing, a ribbon bookmark, gold edged pages and is full of black and white art. It's the most beautiful book I own.

5/5 would buy again.

Barry says

Like most mythologies, it is a little dry sometimes, but it explains most of the deities. It also provides translated passages from the Edda, that correspond with the tales being related.

Lauren says

A dry overview of Norse mythology, the book has some interesting details, but I'll admit I zoned out more than once while reading. Quasi-recommended.

Eric Tanafon says

Physically, this book is gorgeous. There are some great illustrations. Many poetic quotes are included, both from translations of the Edda and later, original works. The material covers the core myths plus the Saga of the Volsungs and some additional tales that come from sources other than the Eddas. The actual stories, however, are marred by the author inserting bits that are, as far as I can tell, her own inventions. Even more problematic is the fact that she feels compelled to tell us what it all Really Means--that is, as seen through a nineteenth-century materialistic filter.

In my view, the stories we call myths can mean *more* than they appear to, but they don't mean *less*. It follows that every other tale is most likely *not* an elaborately coded retelling of the fact that it gets cold in the winter, while in the summer, the weather gets warmer and crops grow. But having once decided that myths are 'explanations of the natural world', your true nineteenth-century mythologist sees them everywhere they look, like a hammer-bearing guy hallucinating a world full of nails. The most egregious example of this peculiar academic fixation might be the story of Vidar. Vidar is, of course, Odin's son, who is said to avenge his father at Ragnarok by tearing the Fenris Wolf apart. In order to pull this off, he's given a shoe made from all the scraps of leather thrown away through the ages. This is the context in which Guerber, without a blush, brings up a theory that since Vidar has only one special shoe, he must be one-legged. From there it's a short jump (for her compatriots) to the conclusion that Vidar personifies a waterspout(!) that quenches the destructive fire that the Wolf no doubt symbolizes. Among other things, this goes to show that these theorizers have never actually *tried* to force apart the jaws of a supernatural wolf. It would have been better for them, in all sorts of ways, if they had. For one thing, they might have realized that you probably want to avoid stepping into said wolf's mouth with *both* feet.

All that said, there are nuggets here and there that make this book worth dipping into. For example, Guerber includes a summary of Odin's Ravens' Song (Hrafnagaldr Odins), an Eddaic poem I'd never heard of before. It may be a later work--some place the author in the 1700s--but it's still fascinating to read.

So, a worthwhile book to peruse, but keep your metaphorical salt shaker handy.
