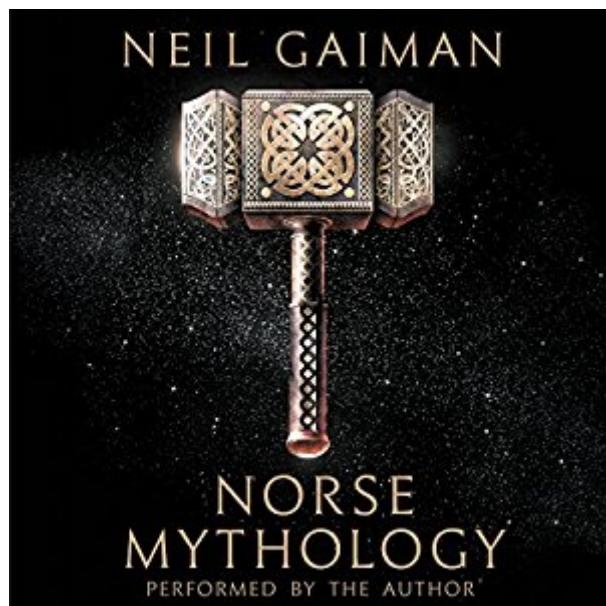


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Norse Mythology



Synopsis

Introducing an instant classic - master storyteller Neil Gaiman presents a dazzling version of the great Norse myths. Neil Gaiman has long been inspired by ancient mythology in creating the fantastical realms of his fiction. Now he turns his attention back to the source, presenting a bravura rendition of the great northern tales. In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman fashions primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds; delves into the exploits of the deities, dwarves, and giants; and culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and the rebirth of a new time and people. Gaiman stays true to the myths while vividly reincarnating Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki, the son of a giant, a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. From Gaiman's deft and witty prose emerge the gods with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to duping others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions, making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In "Norse Mythology", Neil Gaiman retells the Norse stories about the forming of the world, the creation of Yggdrasil and the Nine Worlds, how Odin lost his eye, how the gods got their treasures, Loki's children, Thor's journey to the land of the giants, the death of Balder, Ragnarok, and more. Gaiman previously adapted the Norse stories in some of his other works, like "American Gods" and "The Sandman" comics, but here he tells the stories in their own setting. Like any storyteller, he's updated the language a bit, except where older vernacular adds weight, and focuses on certain

elements over others, but the major points of the stories hold true. Gaiman's update demonstrates why these stories remain relevant and continue to enthrall us. Fans of Thor, Odin, and Loki will find plenty to enjoy and younger readers wanting to know more about the characters they read about in comics or see in movies, much like Gaiman first learned of Thor from Jack Kirby and Stan Lee's stories, will learn to love the original tales from this retelling. Based on his previous work, Gaiman appears to have been working toward this for awhile and he doesn't disappoint.

Some complain that when compared to Gaiman's other works, *Norse Mythology* falls a bit flat. The goal of this project was not to tell new stories, but to breath new life into the old stories. Gaiman stays true to the source materials and presents the stories of Thor and Odin and Loki and all of the Norse gods in a language that feels fresh and engaging. I've worked my way through the *Prose Edda* and the *Poetic Edda* and they are anything but an easy read. The prose of a millennia past is something of a hot mess. Gaiman has done all of the painful research for us and given us the old stories gift-wrapped in tight, modern language and a clarity and singular narrative that old Snorri Sturluson was incapable of providing. If you want new and exciting stories about Thor and the gang, pick up a Marvel Comic book or Rick Riordan's *Magus Chase* series. But if you have a genuine academic interest in the old Norse stories, you'll learn more from spending a day with Gaiman's Norse mythology than you will learn from spending a year sifting through the *Prose* and *Poetic Edda* and it will be a hell of a lot more fun.

As someone who had a general knowledge of Norse mythology, I can't say this book breaks any new ground for me, but I still enjoyed it immensely. Its that easy storytelling style that Gaiman does so well that let me breeze through it. He's truly a fantastic storyteller, and this an accessible, fun adaptation of those myths.

I bought this book right when it released at midnight and being hard to put down, I read it completely through the night. It was a fairly quick read but very enjoyable. As I recently read my first novel by Gaiman, I was interested in his writing style and intrigued to hear he would be retelling Norse Mythology. Coming into the book, I only knew the basics of Norse Mythology so I was excited to learn more about it. It is clear Gaiman has a great interest in the subject and he put a lot of care into it. These are stories that have been told over and over again and this is another retelling to pass through the countless generations these stories have survived. He retells the stories as chronologically as you can, and keeps the story flowing as it jumps around each chapter telling a

new story and each story just as interesting as the last. The stories he chose were all fascinating, there wasn't a single one that was boring. If you want to find out more about Norse Mythology this is definitely a fantastic read and a good place to start.

I wanted to have a fun read of Norse Mythology. Neil Gaiman provides that. He starts where he should, which means you have to start like you are a 5 year old first listening to a fable by the fire light. You have to meet these characters somewhere. Just a little later you will get the fun stories and the logic, or lack thereof, of these characters and worlds will play into the structure provided in the first pages. There are no illustrations, leaving illustrated editions for some future artist. I appreciate this. I get to use my own imagination guided only by Gaiman's clear prose. The stories are clear and concise. There is very little plodding, even when plodding is the activity in the story. The book is properly designed. Great typeface, excellent page layout, nice weight to the paper. Unlike many current books your eyes don't trip on a minefield of typographical errors. This book is what it is, and that is a lot. It isn't Stardust, Coraline, or American Gods, and you should not expect it to be.

I was already familiar with all but one of the stories included in Gaiman's Norse Mythology, but his retellings were breezy, bloody, colorful and an all around fun read. If Vikings, Northern Europe, or myths & legends are your jam, you'll probably enjoy this book.

The dust cover came in with some greasy finger prints all over it that I'm not super pleased about, but a 5 star rating is of course for the book itself. Once again Neil Gaiman is the God of all Authors and his work is amazing. Very pleased with the book, maybe not so much with whoever ate a bunch of fried chicken and then smeared their hands all over my nice dust cover. Order the book- just from someone else.

I've read some of the Eddas and found them hard to follow sometimes. This book reads like a series of bedtime/campfire stories, which in a way, I suppose they were intended as such when they were first told. It's a fast read, good for young adults and adults young at heart, like me. After finishing it in a day, I also bought my nephew a copy. He loves to read and loves mythology.

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