



Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki

Kevin Crossley-Holland , Jeffrey Alan Love (Illustrations)

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Long-recognized master of Norse mythology Kevin Crossley-Holland pairs with award-winning artist Jeffrey Alan Love for an exceptional look at the Viking gods.

A collaboration by two talented creators provides the perfect means to delve into Norse mythology and pore over the enthralling exploits of all-powerful Odin; mighty Thor and his hammer, Mjolnir; and Loki, the infamous trickster. From the creation of the nine worlds to the final battle of Ragnarok, Carnegie Medal winner Kevin Crossley-Holland details the Viking gods as never before, while Jeffrey Alan Love's lavish illustrations bring the mythic figures to life on the page. Readers will be caught up in the seesawing struggle for power between gods, dwarfs, and giants, punctuated by surprising love matches, thrilling journeys, and dazzling magic. With its well-researched, lyrical prose and its dramatic and powerful artwork, this wonderful gift edition makes the perfect book for both the staunchest fans of mythology and newcomers with no knowledge of Viking folklore.

Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki Details

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Author : Kevin Crossley-Holland , Jeffrey Alan Love (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki for online ebook

Thomas Ray says

These are the stories on which Rick Riordan riffs in his Magnus Chase chronicles.

Lisa Hannett says

Wonderful retellings, wonderful illustrations.

Christine Spoors says

This was a really great book retelling the Norse myths. It's filled with brilliant illustrations by Jeffrey Alan Love and I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone looking to read all about the myths.

I must admit that I put this book down for a few months after I originally started it, simply because I feel like once you've read the Norse myths once you know everything that will happen. However, I am glad I picked this up again a few months later & I think if I was to recommend any book of the myths I'd suggest this one!

Julia says

This was an actual interesting mythoi book and one that I enjoyed since unlike other Nordic collections this was a book that attempted to put the stories into some semblance of order even though both the very first as well as the last story didn't even really have to be included. Fortunately, though, for their inclusions they do help to contribute even more information for the reader, especially for those who may not have attempted such stories before.

The author has attempted to make a brief character list and although they aren't all inclusive it does give the starting reader a chance to understand the major players within the stories as well as the unique way that even though they are predominantly shown without colors or defining viewed features how they will be portrayed in the following illustrations. The artwork is cleverly done as a result and even though it seems like it would be a lack of emotions there is actually more to the artwork as a result of its portrayal although I am still not quite sure if the portrayal of Loki is quite truthful in its design.

There is also an index in the back of the book that allows the reader to get to know most of the gods in a brief description although in some cases it is too brief such as with "...is a god". Unfortunately although the author does a great job in describing the world and its inhabitants there are other important aspects of names left out such as the Jotun and the Aesir, which are very important factors to know the differences of the beings involved. Otherwise other words that are included are elements of the culture thus helping the reader to be immersed in the Nordic background.

All in all this is one book that I would highly recommend to those who enjoy mythoi, especially the Nordic tales, and for those who are interested in getting started with the information. Due to the stories hold true to the original material they may be considered somewhat graphic as well as violent so age may be a consideration before sharing the stories with younger readers.

Priya Sharma says

I loved this, as I loved Neil Gaiman's "Norse Mythology". It's told in a sparse manner than makes some of the myths all the more brutal.

Jeffrey Alan Love's illustrations are striking and are entwined perfectly with each story. I have the UK cover but the US one is also stunning.

Kathryn says

The stories are wonderfully written, with vivid descriptions, lively characterization, and action that moves along at a nice clip. We would have loved it for the words alone. But the illustrations are what make this rendering really sing. It's such a treat to have Jeffrey Alan Love's bold, dramatic, emblematic images splash across every single page and drive each turn of each story home. So luscious.

Jean says

A very accessible version of the Norse myths for middle school age readers. I wasn't crazy about the illustrations but I'm sure others will like them. Just not my style.

Carro Herdegen says

Language – G (0 swears, 0 “f”), Mature Content – PG; Violence – PG; This book is a compilation of short stories that were passed down as myths of the Norse people. All of the gods have parts to play, though Thor becomes more of a focus in the second half of the stories, as they live in a tenuous balance with the giants, dwarfs, and each other. I think that it is important to point out that, while the Marvel characters are based off of these Norse gods, the heroes that are known and loved in current popular culture are only loosely based off of the gods recorded in the old Norse stories. One of my favorite parts of the book was looking through the illustrations; Jeffrey Allan Love did a superb job.

Reviewed for <http://kissthebook.blogspot.com/>

Leonard Kim says

Maybe I should have given this 4 stars. It's a bit of unfortunate timing that Gaiman's version came out the same year. I think this is a little less accessible than Gaiman and a little less informative and scholarly than

Crossley-Holland's own earlier version, so there's some question of the necessity of this.

Lesley says

An in-depth, lyrical and powerful re-telling of the major Norse myths, this book combines fast-paced story-telling with dark and amazing illustrations by Jeffrey Alan Love. The stories are dark and well-told, the book balanced in a traditional cycle framed as a story being told by mythical judges to an ancient king. The author's knowledge of Norse mythology is extensive and enthusiastic, and this shows in every story. That said, the author has made very little effort to reflect the contemporary world in his framing or selections of stories. Female characters as active protagonists are almost non-existent (which isn't the case in terms of the entire Norse mythos) and the small "tags" that begin each story are a missed opportunity to frame the stories in a more accessible moral world.

Rebecca says

My guess is, what you won't know about Odin, Thor and Loki after reading this anthology probably isn't worth knowing.

I fall into the category of enthusiasts who like mythology a great deal, but who don't have a fantastic aptitude for learning about it. This book was perfectly aimed at educating someone like me, whilst enticing me in with interesting illustrations and incredibly told tales of the Gods of the Vikings.

Told in an almost whimsical, fairy tale way whilst still adequately portraying some of the brutality of the hammer-wielding, creepy one-eyed and trickster Gods, this anthology plunges you into a world of crazy creatures and magical monsters in a way which just sticks with you. And actually, for quite a large collection, the stories move along at a really great pace and don't become too bogged down with facts; rather, they are woven into the tale cleverly and more delicately than a typical "educational" text.

A real master of mythology - it's like watching a movie, only much much better, as any good book should be.

ARC provided free from the publishers in exchange for an honest review.

Ashleigh (a frolic through fiction) says

Rated 3.5/5 stars

A really enjoyable introduction to Norse mythology, something I've very much been in need of for awhile! Simple writing style as it's written for a younger audience, but I love how the stories are woven together into a sort of timeline even though the myths don't necessarily fit together - effectively creating an easy-to-follow story. The art style wasn't entirely to my taste, as it didn't seem to fit the stories all the well (in my eyes), but they did support the stories pretty well nonetheless.

Thank you to the publishers for sending me a copy of this book. This in no way affects my opinion.

Strawberry says

This is a truly stunning book and one which will be enjoyed by not only kids but adults too. 'Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki' is a large hardback book about A4 in height but a bit wider and is filled with thick matt pages. The paper is the heavy kind making this a weighty book to hold and I'd advice putting it down while reading it. There are stunning illustrations just like the ones on the cover that give this book and the tales told within an interesting and dark atmosphere.

The book begins with a forward by the author explaining where the myths come from, after that there are a couple of double page spreads showing relevant characters, one has the names of all the relevant gods and goddesses, the next dwarfs and giants, and this is followed by a picture of the Norse World and the ash tree Yggdrasill. All these are accompanied with some great illustrations and I especially like the picture of Yggdrasill as this is a key part to the Norse stories and how they all connect and even though I've heard of the myths before I couldn't piece them in my mind so well until I'd seen this picture.

The rest of the book is the various myths which should be read in order to get the most out of the stories. Each myth is like a short story, it has its own title and a brief sentence about it before the text of the tale. Although the Norse myths are different and some of them very strange compared to stories of today they are surprisingly compelling to read and I love the way this book tells them. I had some knowledge of the myths before I started reading this but having them in this book, arranged the way they are with the stunning illustrations has made it really easy to remember and I keep wanting to read them again and again.

Every story is interesting to read with some of them having morals to them, in a lot of them though you will read some pretty dark things such as characters being killed or hurt in the most gruesome of ways, every story however is interesting to read and has its conclusion. In some of the stories there's mentions of things such as the killing and skinning of animals for food but none of these stories are done in a too gruesome way, it's nothing that wouldn't be appropriate for kids although the Norse myths themselves are dark in their very nature, especially towards the end of the book such as what happens to Loki.

The illustrations are just amazing and I think it's really made this book all the more fun and powerful to read! Every illustration is like a shadow illustration, you rarely see any kind of faces, unless it is the silhouette of someone sideways or one or two eyes visible against the black shadows. Given how different and interesting the Norse myths are, these illustrations really do fit the atmosphere of the stories and how the whole book feels. The majority of the images are all black but there are other colours mixed into some pictures too such as blue for the sea, yellow for golden hair and red for Loki's eyes. There is an illustration on each page or double page spread and many times there is so much black that you get white text on black as the whole images seems to swallow the text. You can only get a sense for the pictures by seeing them, they really are brilliant, and I'm amazed how easy it is to see what is happening when a lot of the time all you see is shadows.

There is a glossary at the back of the book with not only the names of characters but also some words used which some kids may not understand which is good as it saves going backwards in the book to find out who someone is or understand what something is. There is also a contents at the start of the book with all the myths labelled so you can dip in and out of reading a certain tale, although if it's the first time you really should read them in order to feel the full impact of the stories.

Although this is a book I'd recommend for kids and adults there may be some kids who might find the tales a little scary or gory. The Norse myths are strange and different but there's also something so compelling about them, they really do make for interesting reading and although some of the stories might be a bit weird or dark, I don't think it's anything an older child would find too difficult or unappealing. I really have enjoyed this book and would invite anyone of any age to read this if you are keen to learn the Norse myths as it's a really exciting read and a great source of learning these tales. Some kids might find some of the stories a little strange to read, given what happens in the tales themselves but overall I would really recommend this book – I can't stop myself re-reading it!

-Thanks to Walker Books for a free copy.

Valery says

In all fairness, I just finished a sort of encyclopedia style Norse mythology book, so this one seemed a little too cutesie. It is a great story book, however, perfect for younger ages. Although, it may be a wee bit juvenile for older teens and adults.

There were a few inconsistencies in the names compared to the previous book I read, which sort of threw me off. But, if I had read this one first I might have enjoyed it more. Still, it was a good read.

For my clean readers:

Lightens the violence to be presentable for younger ages, though there is still the murder, fights, lying, infidelity, unfaithfulness, and all out war that is prominent in Norse legends. All stuff you can't avoid when delving into mythology.

Hadi says

A beautiful book - the illustrations are marvelous - but I really don't like the Norse gods at all: mean, petty and conniving, and lacking any kind of moral framework. Life must have been very grim indeed, if these were the best stories of gods that the Norse folks could think of.
