The Children Of Odin: The Book Of Northern Myths (Illustrated By Willy Pogan)
Synopsis

Master storyteller Padraic Colum’s rich, musical voice captures all the magic and majesty of the Norse sagas in his retellings of the adventures of the gods and goddesses who lived in the Northern paradise of Asgard before the dawn of history. Here are the matchless tales of All-Father Odin, who crosses the Rainbow Bridge to walk among men in Midgard and sacrifices his right eye to drink from the Well of Wisdom; of Thor, whose mighty hammer defends Asgard; of Loki, whose mischievous cunning leads him to treachery against the gods; of giants, dragons, dwarfs and Valkyries; and of the terrible last battle that destroyed their world. These ancient stories from Northern Europe, which make up one of the great myth cycles of Western civilization, spring to life in The Children of Odin.

This classic volume, first published in 1920 and reissued in 1962, is now available for the first time on the Kindle, illustrated with the original line drawings by Willy Pogany, to inspire a new generation of readers. The late Padraic Colum was a poet, playwright, founder of the Irish Review and a leader of the Irish Renaissance, but he is perhaps best known today for his outstanding books for children. He was awarded the Regina Medal in 1961 for his "distinguished contribution to children's literature," honoring works like The Children’s Homer, The Golden Fleece (a Newbery Honor Book), The Arabian Nights, The King of Ireland's Son and Roofs of Gold.

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Customer Reviews

You will find not only Norse myths in this book, but Teutonic tales as well. The drawings are incredible, as in all children's books. Adults will not be disappointed with this one, and children will be pleased to hear the exciting stories within. A MUST have for Norse mythology book collectors. An oldie but GOODIE! Classic and captivating. What else can I say? . . . I'm buying another one in case I lose my present copy-THAT IS HOW GOOD IT IS! I also recommend My Viking Book by Ruth Harshaw. Hard to find and quite old, but it is THE best children's book EVER! Don't miss either of them.

Buyer beware! This Alladin Publication is the same as the Dover Publication Nordic Gods and Heroes. However, it is lacking much of the original artwork, especially that which introduces each of the four parts. The first 3 parts are Norse mythology and the 4th is the Teutonic Ring of the Nibelungs. This book was written for children and young adults and gives only a bare bones telling of the myths. Be prepared for some archaic language: "dost", "spake", "knowst", etc. Why chooses to sell these two books as a pair is beyond me as they are essentially identical. I recommend the Dover edition because of the extra artwork.

This book is different than many mythology texts, it is a good read. The stories are more like stories, and they carry on from one story or chapter to the next. It holds the attention.

This book was (and still is) one of my childhood favorites. As I was growing up I found most texts boring and lost interest in mythology books that concentrated on being specific and complex. I stumbled upon this book in my Junior High library and was instantly hooked. It is full of wonderfully told stories that constantly entertain while providing an imaginative way of getting the stories' points across. It is a great book for children and I would suggest it for parents too.

This book is definitely one of the best books I've seen. The tales of Odin, and the other Norse gods, has never been told in a more imaginative way (in my opinion, of course). The stories were intriguing and filled with lush descriptions. If you like mythology, Norse or other, then this book is a must have!!

Other than Thor and Odin, I had almost no familiarity with Norse mythology, but decided I wanted to
learn more about it. This ended up being one of the best introductions to a new mythology that I have ever read. Written as a narrative (rather than a dictionary of mythological beings, which is what you find in most mythology books), you are able to get a much better picture of the Norse pantheon. I got the Kindle version, so there was none of the artwork mentioned in some of the other reviews, but the storytelling is so good, you don’t even really need the pictures.

I was an avid reader/studier of Norse mythology when I was a kid, so I picked this title up on a lark. I am SO glad that I did! This is a fairly comprehensive coverage of the old Norse stories, told in a manner that just seems "right" for the subject matter. Reading these stories, it was easy to imagine myself sitting around the smoky fire of a longhouse, hearing one of the "elders" or skalds telling the tales. The language is a little antiquated, so it might not be the best choice if you’re trying to introduce younger kids to the Norse myths, but it’s fine for the rest of us. Strongly recommended!

I enjoyed the author’s words, but reading them was very, very difficult due to the very small font. This book would be great for younger people who want to read about myths while sitting in full sunlight, but for older eyes trying to read by artificial light it was not much fun.

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