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The Islands Of The Blessed (Sea Of Trolls Trilogy (Paperback))



Synopsis

>The crowning volume of the trilogy that began with >and continued with >opens with a vicious tornado. (Odin on a Wild Hunt, as the young berserker Thorgil sees it.) The fields of Jack's home village are devastated, the winter ahead looks bleak, and a monster's draugr has invaded the forest outside of town. But in the hands of bestselling author Nancy Farmer, the direst of prospects becomes any reader's reward. Soon, Jack, Thorgil, and the Bard are off on a quest to right the wrong of a death caused by Father Severus. Their destination is Notland, realm of the fin folk, though they will face plenty of challenges and enemies before get they get there. Impeccably researched and blending the lore of Christian, Pagan, and Norse traditions, this expertly woven tale is beguilingly suspenseful and, ultimately, a testament to love.

Book Information

Series: Sea of Trolls Trilogy (Paperback)

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 16, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416907386

ISBN-13: 978-1416907381

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #88,834 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Norse #32 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #37 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9 • This concluding volume of Farmer's trilogy opens with a storm that brings new adventures and challenges for apprentice bard Jack, who is now 14. A destructive, restless spirit has been drawn to his village by the presence of a magical bell, and Jack, his friend Thorgil, and the Bard set out on a journey to the magic Notland, home of the mermaids, in order to

set the spirit to rest. As in the previous books, there are challenges and enemies aplenty, and readers will enjoy revisiting characters from those titles, including Jack's changeling sister. The conclusion brings the characters to a new understanding of their own pasts and strengths. Jack and Thorgil's often-rocky relationship gives humor and humanity to both characters, and the Bard continues to be enticingly magical. As always, Farmer excels at the details that bring a magical world to life, from food to smells to travel inconveniences, and her merfolk are inhuman and powerful. Readers who appreciate strong fantasy with mythic roots will find this an intriguing read. --Beth L. Meister, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, WI

END --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"It's a wondrous tale of hobgoblins, mermaids and sea hags, Saxons and Northmen, old gods and young bards, thoroughly steeping readers in Norse mythology. It's also a long, beautifully written tale, expertly weaving together several story lines and informing readers new to the series of crucial plot points from the previous volumes." -- "Kirkus Reviews", Starred Review

In this third and final installment of the series, Jack and Thorgil join the Bard for one last adventure--this time to put a mermaid's spirit to rest. While the story certainly had its moments, in the end it was disappointing as a conclusion to the series. I noticed a slower pace and wandering plot in the second book, but it became much more pronounced in this one. I remember looking down at one point and realizing I'd read 25% of the book, but still had no idea what the main conflict of the plot was going to be. This continued throughout the book, as several themes and plot arcs were introduced, given significant space in the text... but then lacked real significance for the overall plot (such as the Tanners or the princess/bride incident). The ending was abrupt, with no closure to much of the tension in the series (Thorgil and Jack's relationship, Brutus as king/redemption for Brutus, etc.). I was glad it didn't go the everyone-dies direction, but most of my satisfaction was in that it wasn't as bad as it could have been, not that it was good. The religious aspect of the book was ultimately disappointing to me. I appreciated in the Sea of Trolls that Christianity was allowed to stand with the rest, and that even the Bard put in a good word now and then. But by the end of the novel, Christianity/the Christian characters had gotten their wrists slapped more than anyone else. Perhaps the most frustrating moment to me was when Jack calls on the life force at the end of all things, so to speak, he does so almost directly quoting St. Patrick's prayer (I Arise Today)--but without any of the Christian elements. This is such a minor thing, and insignificant in the scope of the plot, but it really got under my skin. Christianity played such a significant role in this time

period--not just as a religion, but as a preservation of culture and literature. But by the end, Brother Aidan was the only Christian character who was in any way mature. Though I adored him, his goodness was greatly overshadowed by the simplicity and/or cruelty of other "Christian" characters. Such representation was frustrating by the end. I would still recommend the series, but I feel like the sequels disappoint after such a great beginning.

This was a good and satisfying ending to the series. There is a huge storm in the beginning where a few crazy things happen which ultimately lead to yet another adventure. I thought this was a good story but a bit long. The good thing is everything was wrapped up and all questions were answered! This was a solid 4 star series and I am glad my husband found this for me at the Drury Lane bookstore in Grand Marais MN!

I'm so lucky I discovered this trilogy after it had been out for a while. I couldn't wait to finish up the series and this conclusion will not disappoint. Let's face it, if you read the first two, you know how good this book is going to be. It is. But seriously, why isn't this series a movie already? It's so epic!

Two young English children learn to appreciate other cultures. Well, at least the brother does. There is no danger from the trolls, it turns out, but beware of half-trolls!! I love that the Viking-type chieftain is scary, violently ruthless, and loving all at the same time. He understands everyone, just like Aslan. But he doesn't listen to his wife, Heidi. I read this as an audiobook, and the performance was amazing. I know it made me love the book. I can't guarantee as much love for the silent version, but go for it. As promised on the cover, it'll probably be a classic.

This series is well worth the read and quite an adventure. As an adult it made me think about things that have happened in the past and possibly may still happen in this day and age. The children enjoyed the book on a different level and seemed to find all three books in the series real page turners.

I love Nancy Farmer's stories. I love how different and strange her stories are, and I particularly like her look into the Saxons and Norsemen in this series. I've loved everyone of the books in this series, including this story, until the end. Truthfully I was disappointed at the end of this story. The other stories felt like they had a good strong ending, but this story was just kind of vague, and left room for more. I feel like it was ended in a rush with the promise of more, but the knowledge that

this story was the end, and I was never going to get to read more. I would love it if Nancy Farmer would write one more sequel, but I could tell that this ending was the only ending I was going to get because the the children were starting to grow up. I enjoyed the books while they lasted, and I enjoyed parts of the end, but like I said previously, I was just slightly disappointed at the end.

I'm always sadden when I finish a good series. So many questions are left unanswered, the ending could be the ending or the beginning. But as always This novel was filled with adventure, historical references and a great story line.

I loved the book, until the end. I feel left hanging in the wind. I am sad to leave the series and would have felt complete by having another book or two to read.

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