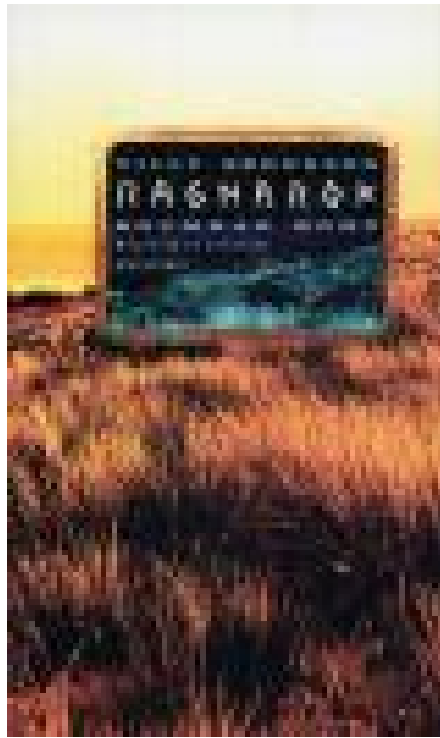




The Downfall of the Gods - Ragnarok

Villy Sørensen

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Riina Ojanen says

Byattin ja Sorensenin Ragnarökit olivat houkuttelevasti vierekkäin kirjaston palautushyllyssä, joten tartuin molempiin. Tarkoitukseni oli lukea kirjat vertailevasti, sillä pidin B:n Ragnarökistä aiemmin keväällä paljon, mutta äiti nappasi sen itselleen luettavaksi. Siispä luin vain Sorensenin Ragnarökin.

Ensimmäinen ongelma tuli vastaan nimistössä. Aasamaa, Ulkoma ja Keskimaa töksähtivät korviini, ja toivat hieman lastenkirjamaisen fiiliksen. Kirjaan valitut tarinat ovat tuttuja ja lyhyitä. Sorensen ei kuitenkaan ole tyytynyt kirjoittamaan myyttejä auki sanatarkasti, vaan on heittänyt mukaan myös omia juonilinjoja ja tulkintaa. Se oikeastaan pelastaa minulle tämän kirjan. Aluksi kirjan tarinat etenevät totuttuja ratoja, mutta joukossa on hajanaisia lauseenpätkiä jotka vihjaavat hahmojen motiiveista. Kirjan teemana on jumalten tuho, ja novellit tuovat selkeästi esiin ne tapahtumat ja teot, jotka johtivat siihen.

Kirjassa ei myöskään ollut takakansitekstin mainitsemia lentoliskoja, josta iso miinus. Takakansien kirjoittajien tulisi tuntea vastuunsa.

Vaikka kirjan lukaisi ihan sutjakasti, aiheesta kiinnostuneita suosittelisin ennemmin tarttumaan Anni Sumarin toimittamaan Odinnin ratsuun tai A.S. Byattin Ragnarökiin.

Iben says

The downfall of the gods was quite boring, not that I really was expecting that much.

It is written in a boring language, in a way that holds no excitement what so ever. The only reason a rate it so highly is that there is a limit to how boring you can make mytologi, but in my oppinion Villy Sorensen found that limit.

Krist?ne says

Labs dievu raksturu t?lojums. Mazliet trauc?ja latviskotie Zibensmil?i un Asmales, tom?r esam pieraduši pie Asg?rdas un Mjolnira, t? ir vienk?rši viegl?k iegaum?t.

Beigas š?ita pien?kam p?r?k p?kš?i - vai nu ar? neizpratu pašu beigu noz?mi. Pluss par Toru kleit?.

Elizabeth Nelson says

Hey, I'm always a sucker for myths, and the way it escalated from relatively juvenile antics to the literal end of the world was executed beautifully. In the afterword, Sørensen mentioned that he made an effort to paint all characters as less black-and-white, and you could see it in the way love was at least as important as war, and how Loki is stuck between two identities and worlds that are equally important to him. I also appreciated the historical background provided at the end.

Austra says

Šis kurss skandināvu dievu problēmas. Šķiet, ka patika nedaudz labāk, jo autoram gan piemīt prasme ironizēt, bet stils viļņam tās pasaules, lai neteiktu, ka vietm galīgi kokains. Brīžiem pārliecieni starp notikumiem ir tādi, kas šķiet, prasītos vairāk detaļu un vienkārši garākus stāstus. Bet visumā patika, interesantas paralēles ar cilvēku pasauli un visa tā dievu savstarpējā iemīšanās. Un ārkārtīgi vai vēlāk katram atnāks savs ragnaroks.

Bob says

An imaginative retelling of the downfall of the Norse gods. Villy Sorensen has such a completely fresh take on these stories that they feel amazingly contemporary.

Reni says

The book, written in traditional fairy tale style, points at some big theological (or rather philosophical?) questions via re-tellings of popular Old Norse myths. And on top of that, if you know the myths, parts of it are simply funny as Hell.

Charlotte says

Growing up in Scandinavia I have had my fill of Norse Mythology, also I have always had a certain interest in different mythologies. I have read the newer versions of original poems, non-canonical versions, the comics, the film, plays, viking museums.

Sørensen's "Ragnarok" is short, easily read and gives a good overview of Norse mythology. It is a retelling* of the legends and it gives a new perspective on the old stories, the gods and their actions. If you have read some of Villy Sørensen's other books, you can easily recognise the writing style and the unique twist he gives the stories.

Ivo Stunga says

Tad nu ir tā, ka grāmata sevī apvieno skandināvu mitoloģijas šīs ceļvedis, bagātīgu ar fikciju, kaujas un dižošanos ainām, kā arī ar nelielu devu humora, kā, piemēram, Tors, kurš nemitīgi grib visiem šāidāt galvaskausus - vismaz reizes daždesmit - un tikai galvaskausus, neko citu.

Tajā tātāt varot sāzāmā mēdienu situācijas atspulgu - dažādo nāciju un valstu līdzspastvēršanu un cīņu par varu. Jā, to var tur saskatīt. Bet man vairāk labpatīk šīs vārot dievu un mīļu cīņas, to savstarpējās attiecības, attiecības ar jotuniem un abu pušu attiecības ar cilvēkiem un visu pušu viltības, bravūrības un

dievu, l?dz ar to pasaules, boj?eju, kuru v?sta pats darba nosaukums.
Saistoši, pat?kami un viegli las?mi.

Inita says

St?sti par skandin?vu dieviem un to boj? eju. Secin?ju, ka zinu skandin?vu dievus p?c to v?rdiem,
p?rvald?bas sf?ras, ta?u nezinu, neesmu las?jusi m?tus par vi?iem. Bija pietiekami interesanti, bet ne
p?rlietu aizraujoši las?šanai.

Sarah Rose says

I think what you have to keep in mind with this book is, that these are folk stories. Stories that have been told through history. Therefore, it's not bound to be profound literature, simply how the stories were told. And Sørensen's stories sound a lot like the ones that I have always been told. This is how I know the stories about Aserne, Midgård, Valhalla og Jætterne etc. Ragnarok. I read this in Danish FYI. It was nice to read the stories again, which I probably haven't done since 3rd grade. I've always been a big fan of Norse mythology.

rameau says

Two reasons: Loki, and Thor in a dress.

Meghan says

Sorensen's "The Downfall of the Gods" is a wonderful first-excursion into Norse mythology for those unfamiliar with the stories. Based on the lyrical poetic Edda, the myths contained are presented in plain, no-frills prose, therefore making it readily accessible to the curious and the unvikings.

Where Sorensen becomes interesting (to his readers more familiar with the mythology) is his presentation of Loki, a being Sorensen claims, "...Has no parallels elsewhere - though it is worth nothing that he shares the same fate as that of the Greek Prometheus." Loki presented as a self-sacrificing servant of humanity is compelling, though I highly recommend reading David Penchansky's book "What Rough Beast?" (particularly the chapter on Genesis) to illuminate some parallels between Loki and the Serpent that tempts Adam and Eve to the Tree of Knowledge.

Dawn Christoffersen says

The absolute best, funniest, and more importantly darkest version of the Norse mythology tales I grew up with. In Villy Sorensen's words you truly get a sense of how ambiguous Odin is, how much Loki sees and understands, and how little everyone else does, leading to their own end. Get this book if you can!

Linda says

I picked this book up when browsing through the low-price bin at my local bookstore and ever since opening it on my way home I haven't understood how it got there.

I have always loved reading legends from Scandinavian mythology and this was a treat for me. Written in relatively simple language it is a book to slowly enjoy and of little enough volume to take up and re-read when new books are delayed in the post. It's shortness was also the only drawback I saw in the book, as I would have loved it to explore more myths and go in more detail, as I know there is much left untold.
