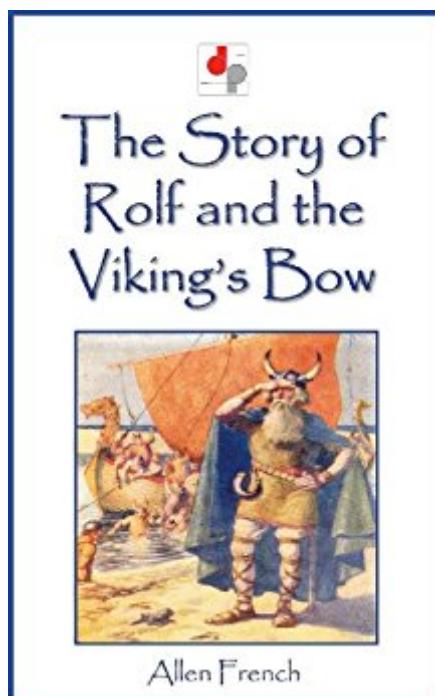


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The Story Of Rolf And The Viking's Bow (Illustrated)



Synopsis

The Icelanders were a wonderful people. To escape the tyranny of kings they settled a new land, and there built up the laws and customs in which we see the promise of modern civilization. Few early peoples had such a body of laws; few developed such manhood. No better pictures of a law-abiding, rural, and yet valiant race have ever been made than in the tales which the Icelanders had the skill to weave about their heroes, those men who, at home in their island, or so far abroad as Constantinople, made the name of Icelander respected. We read of these men and this people in stories which, somewhat too "old" for boys and girls, reveal the laws, customs, habits of a thousand years ago. The Njal's Saga, the Grettir's Saga, the Ere-Dwellers' Saga, and the Gisli's Saga are perhaps the greatest of those which have been translated. They are reinforced by such shorter pieces as Hen Thorir's Saga, and the Stories of the Banded Men, the Heath-Slayings, Hraffnkell Frey's Priest, and Howard the Halt. The spirit of those days is particularly well given in that wonderful fragment of Thorstein Staffsmitten which (not being part of any complete saga) has been drawn upon for the closing incidents of the present story. Many other such incidents are preserved, a reference to one of which (in a footnote to the Ere-Dwellers' Saga) gave the suggestion for the main plot of this book. At the same time, in contemporary writings, we may read of the life of other divisions of the Scandinavian race; the story nearest to this book is the Orkneyingers' Saga. The main interest of all these tales is the same: they tell of real men and women in real circumstances, and show them human in spite of the legends which have grown about them. The sagas reveal the characteristics of our branch of the Aryan race, especially the personal courage which is so superior to that of the Greek and Latin races, and which makes the Teutonic epics (whether the Niebelungen Lied, the Morte Darthur, or the Njala) much more inspiring than the Iliad, the Odyssey, or the Aeneid. The prominence of law in almost every one of the Icelandic sagas has been preserved in the following story; and the conditions of life, whether at home or abroad, have been described as closely as was possible within the limits of the simple narrative form which the sagas customarily employed. ALLEN FRENCH.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first read this book as a boy of 11 in the late 1950's. It was the first full-sized book I'd ever read. The story of Rolf and the Viking's Bow awakened in me a love for books that has remained with me all these years. The memory and impact of this book have stayed with me as well. After recounting my experience with some friends whose son was just getting interested in reading I decided to read the book again. I'm so glad I did. At my first reading it was a story of adventure for a boy looking for more than comic books could provide. Upon this reading I discovered that it was so much more. Rolf and the Viking's Bow is a story of deception, betrayal, murder, revenge and forgiveness and even a little happily ever after at the end. Highly recommend!

Though the speech is a bit difficult at first, the story is well worth persevering all the "thee"s & "thou"s. Great action, great comic relief in Frodi's character, & great character shown by Rolf. we also learned so much about the history of the time. i give it two thumbs up!!

I like the simple presentation of the story and the quaint, archaic words with which it is written very much indeed.

We are on chapter 7 of this and it is a great story. I was disappointed in the description of illustrated,

we have only seen 1 illustration so far... great price for the ebook!

An interesting read if you want to emerge yourself in Viking culture.

I think that it is not the best book for kids ! I mean some parts are awesome but others are very hard to understand!

Terrible-quality edition that looks as if someone printed it off his home computer; tiny print; full of typos and strange gaps between text portions; weird images (just an X in a box) on random pages; not published by an actual publisher. Additionally, the writing itself is very poor and impossible to follow.

My kids and I read this book together. It was a bit of a hard read with the old Iceland English, but it was worth the tongue-tied moments as the lessons of this book were great...mostly lessons about pride.

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