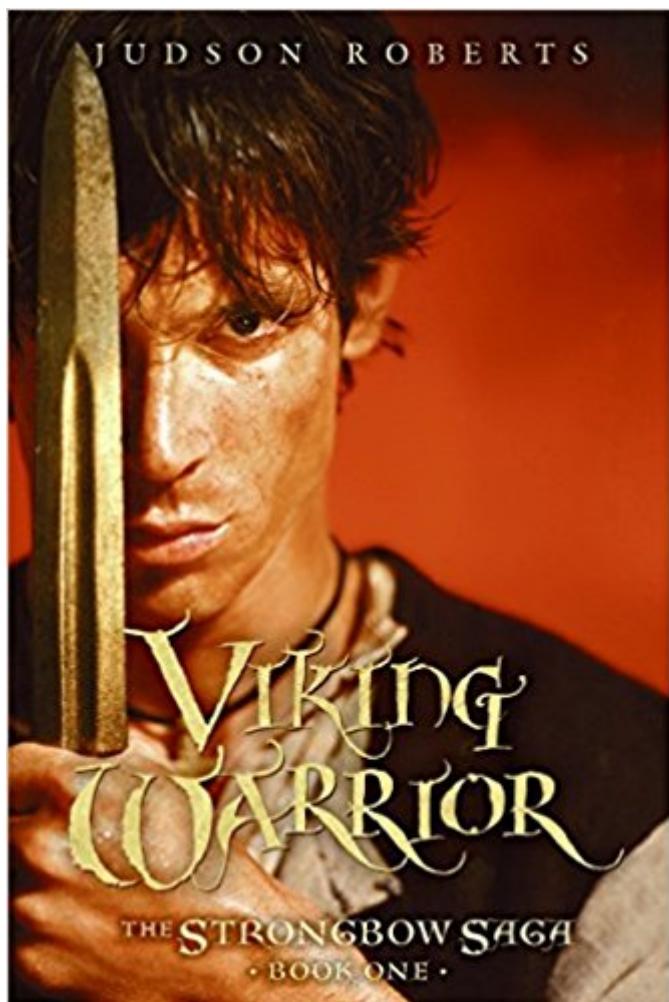


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Viking Warrior (The Strongbow Saga, Book 1)



Synopsis

A young man only at peace when he is at war Young Halfdan is a slave. He is crafty with a bow and arrow and wise in the ways of the animals, but he can only dream of a warrior's life. That is, until the dark day a Saxon's blows lay his father on his deathbed, and his mother makes a tragic bargain for Halfdan's freedom. A boy's destiny can come at the most terrible price. Halfdan must suffer a grave loss in order to grasp what he most desires: to train by, to live by, and, if the fates decree it, to die by the force of his sword and the swiftness of his arrow. He is to be a warrior -- a great warrior. Bloody, furiously paced, heart-wrenching, and unflinching, this is a story of a land where the destinies of boys and men are forged in the heat of battle. Young Halfdan shall come to know the glories of true brotherhood and the unspeakable horrors of true evil. In this first book in a saga teeming with thrilling details of the Viking world, young Halfdan emerges as a new hero . . . a new myth . . . a new legend.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Judson Roberts brings an extensive, carefully cultivated knowledge of ninth-century Viking history to the Strongbow Saga. He also draws on a distinguished career investigating and prosecuting crime as an attorney and a special agent. He lives in Houston, Texas.

An extremely well written young adult book that thoroughly immerses the reader in Viking society and thought process. This is the first in a series of books, I believe. Normally I am vehemently against such things. The author, however, provides a satisfying mini-conclusion while leaving it

open for more story to be told. Recommended for readers aged 10 and up. Be aware, though, that there are 1. Many descriptions of killing, and not being bothered about it. 2. Mention (but not description) of masters forcing themselves on slaves. 3. Description of attempted rape. There will be ample opportunity to talk about Stockholm Syndrome, slavery, abuse, etc. I would read the book *to* ages 10-12, and *with* ages 13-14.

Viking Warrior, the first of the Strongbow Saga, is an excellent book written in a way that makes you feel as if you are there in the middle of the action. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed it and will likely read the rest of the books in the series. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in Vikings or studying Viking history.

First and foremost, I really liked this story. I think the author does a really good job as a writer and storyteller, and it seems to be well-edited. I have already bought book 2 of the series, and downloaded it to my Kindle. This is clearly a book written for males, both adults and young adult. I unashamedly admit I'm a junkie for those sorts of adventure stories. I'm the guy folks write these sorts of stories for. In addition, I have a huge love of historical fiction. This book falls into both categories, so I'll enjoy even mediocre writing. That said, Mr. Roberts has clearly written a story that is well above mediocre. Like I said, it's well-written, well-told, and well-edited. It's the story of a young slave in Scandinavian culture of 1000 years ago, who rises to warrior status. It's not overly graphic in its violence, and certainly not graphic sexually. I felt it did a really great job of painting a picture of Scandinavian culture of that era that Mr. Roberts appears to have researched well, often dispelling popular myths about said culture. It's right up the sweet spot of what I love to read about. I want to use this as a point of comparison to the Cave Bear series that I struggled with. In my review of those books, I admitted that I was probably not the audience - the author seemed to be aiming at women, and in particular adolescent girls. If someone were addicted to genres that targeted that audience in the same way I'm addicted to adventure stories and historical fiction, they probably overlooked a lot just because the story was written for them. Mr. Roberts has written these stories for me. If you're not a fan of either historical fiction or adventure stories, you might find many faults that I never noticed - I can't predict that. If you like either of these genres, I think you'd really enjoy this story. Now, for some additional information. If you read my blog (at NeilHanson dot com) you know I'm a writer who publishes independently. This means I write what I want and publish it myself. It also means I don't have a big publishing house providing lots of marketing muscle to get my book out in the market - I depend on loyal fans who love what I write. There are pros and cons to

traditional publishing (big publishing houses and literary agents) vs the independent route I take. One of the big cons to the traditional route is the control the publishing house has over your life, your career, and what it is you write. I've already pointed out one of the pros to the publishing house route - a big gorilla pushing your book in the marketplace...That fact is relevant here. In reading Mr Roberts' website, it appears that he had a "deal" with a big publishing house to publish the first 3 books in the series, and an option on the fourth book. After 3 books, they apparently sat on the option - preventing him from publishing it - before finally releasing the option recently. This allows him to now publish the 4th book, and it will be interesting to see whether he publishes it independently or through another contract with a publishing house. I'd certainly encourage him to go independent. He has a great story and a great brand, and it seems to me he could make a good go of this on his own. Of course, here again, I have a bias toward the independent route, due to the freedom it gives an author from both a business perspective and a creative perspective. As writers, we each must decide whether we want the big sales numbers that a publishing house might bring to the table, or the freedom to give what our core audience wants from us. The key in this is the core audience - the fan base. As independents, we absolutely survive or perish based on the support we receive from you - our core fan base. If you like what we write, we really depend on you to spread the word, to "like" us on Facebook or Google+, to read and comment on our blog, and to recruit other fans who might buy what we have to offer - or at least read what we write. I'm a new fan of Mr. Roberts. I'll buy his books, and assuming they stay as good as the first one, I'll try and get others to read his stuff as he publishes more in the series (assuming he does so independently). Thanks for reading!

It was entertaining as a book, but I thought it ended too abruptly.....guess they want you to buy the next book

I didn't know this book was for young people when I ordered it. I am used to books for adults, and I don't mean as in sex, but writing styles. Conversations seem mechanical and the words used don't seem (to me) to be the kind these types of individuals would use in every day conversation. I have been looking for authors who are at home writing about this particular period in history and don't feel the need to explain every nuance in a characters behavior. My imagination does quite fine actually. This would, however, probably be fine for a young person.

I read this series a few years ago and ever since I've been waiting for the book 4 to come out. I

judge the worth of a fictional series based on if I can put down long enough to sleep....With this series, I slept about 6 hours total by the time I finished the third book. The Strongbow Saga is an excellent historical fiction novel from the viewpoint of a slave boy turned Viking. I especially like the perspective of the main characters strength is primarily as an Archer. Robert Judson does an a great job of being realistic with the Main Character's strength and weaknesses; making the story believable in that the Character himself is also aware of his own strengths with a bow and current weakness with sword/shield in fighting up close with full grown/experienced opponents. Since the timeline is shortening for the tentative release of book 4, I have been checking and his website (judsonroberts.com) at least twice a day. I fully expect to read this next book in one sitting. Excellent novels Mr. Roberts.

"Viking Warrior" is without a doubt the best Viking novel that I have come across. It takes the reader inside of Viking society and really brings that ancient civilization back to life. This is the story of a strong and intelligent young man who was born into slavery "thralldom" as the illegitimate son of a Viking lord. Through his mother's grit and toughness he becomes a free man, and the adventure begins. I was gripped by this novel from the very first, and few readers will fail to read all three novels in this "Strongbow" series. Once again, the distinguishing feature of this novel and this series is its realism. There is nothing implausible about the story in this novel, and in fact it is true to history. Strongly recommended. RJB.

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