



Olaf the Glorious: A Story of the Viking Age

Robert Leighton

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Robert Leighton (1859-1934) was a British author. His works include: The Pilots of Pomona: A Story of the Orkney Islands (1891), The Thirsty Sword (1892), Wreck of the Golden Fleece: The Story of a North Sea Fisher-boy (1894), In the Grip of the Algerine: A Historical Tale (1894), Olaf the Glorious (1895), Under the Foeman's Flag: A Story of the Spanish Armada (1896), The Splendid Stranger: A Story of the Monmouth Rebellion (1898), The Golden Galleon (1898), Convict 99 (with Marie Flora Barbara Connor) (1898), In the Shadow of Guilt (with Marie Flora Barbara Connor) (1901), Cap'n Nat's Treasure: A Tale of Old Liverpool (1902), The Boys of Waveney (1902), The Haunted Ship: A Tale of the Devon Smugglers (1903), In The Land of Ju- Ju: A Tale of Benin (1903), The Kidnapping of Peter Cray: A Story of the South Seas (1903), The Green- Painted Ship (1905), The Cleverest Chap in the School (1910) and Kiddie the Scout (1920).

Olaf the Glorious: A Story of the Viking Age Details

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Nicki says

I'm not certain whether this book was supposed to be fiction or non fiction. The text and writing was old fashioned since it was written over 100 years ago. However, I did really enjoy it and it kept me enthralled throughout. I liked reading about Olaf one of the first Christian kings of Norway. The book was free which was an added bonus.

Nathan Huffstutler says

Very enjoyable.

It's the story of Olaf, a Viking who eventually became the King of Norway, but it's only loosely based on actual history. It has the feel of the more detailed narratives of The Silmarillion. I read it in just a few days on Kindle.

The story drew me in, then it got a little weighed down in the second half. But the final few chapters are riveting.

The author's portrayal of King Olaf is too positive. Olaf sometimes forced people into Christianity, and he occasionally tortured someone who wouldn't convert.

One reason I enjoyed the book is that it's about courage and bravery. A great book for real men. You won't find tight pants or pink paisley shirts in here.

If you like Tolkien, you'd probably enjoy this. It also made me want to know more about Anglo-Saxon and Norse history.

Aaron Adamson says

I can't recommend this book based on writing - it struggles to decide whether it is a dramatic retelling or a historical biography.

That said, Olaf's incredible badassery still manages to come through. Some parts of the story read like tropic epic fantasy, but the thing is... THEY REALLY HAPPENED. Olaf is literally the orphan child sold into slavery who is destined to become king and unite the people.

Given that you can find a free ebook of this one just about anywhere, I don't think there's any good reason not to read it. Don't expect high art, don't expect a historical account of the unification of Norway, but do expect to become an unrepentant viking wannabe.

Marilyn says

I enjoyed the storytelling style of this book but ultimately wished that the author had refrained from inserting himself into the story. It's meant to feel like an oral history, so there is a bit of room for that, but, as Leighton tended to use it as a way to put a 1930s moral gloss on a Viking's behavior, it didn't age very well.

The story also underwent a major shift in focus about halfway through, which left the book as a whole feeling a little disjointed. Olaf the avenger gave way to Olaf the evangelist, which COULD have been handled more coherently if there had been more indepth characterization of Olaf--instead he is portrayed the most perfect shining glorious example of manliness and wonderment of all time (unless he gets angry, but that's never his fault, so it's okay).

I guess in the end I would have preferred him either to completely mythologize Olaf and leave off trying to explain away his behavior or to commit to a nuanced portrait. Trying to have both AND make Olaf's actions fit 1930s social norms didn't work at all.

Lieke says

Really liked it, interesting to get a closer look at Vikings and how wide their territory was. Did get a bit harder to keep going towards the end, though.

Alan says

I read this many years ago. It gives a fairly good idea of Viking life, although I would rate "The Long Ships" most highly for that. Olaf gains renown as a warrior, accepts Christianity, and becomes King of Norway -- yet, in proper Viking fashion, the climax of the story is his last battle (and heroic death) against a combined fleet of Danes, Swedes, and outlaw Norwegians. You get the feeling that his spirit could have chosen Asgard over Heaven -- he would have been welcome at either place.

Spectrum Audiobooks says

Fantastic!

Paul Longstreth says

It was free.
