



## D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths

By Ingri d'Aulaire, Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

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The Caldecott medal-winning d'Aulaires once again captivate their young audience with this beautifully illustrated introduction to Norse legends, telling stories of Odin the All-father, Thor the Thunder-god and the theft of his hammer, Loki the mischievous god of the Jotun Race, and Ragnarokk, the destiny of the gods. Children meet Bragi, the god of poetry, and the famous Valkyrie maidens, among other gods, goddesses, heroes, and giants. Illustrations throughout depict the wondrous other world of Norse folklore and its fantastical Northern landscape.

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## **D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths** By Ingri d'Aulaire, Edgar Parin d'Aulaire Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Review

"...a mythological tour de force."

— *The New York Times*

"Out of print for many years, *Norse Gods and Giants* has been very handsomely reissued by the The New York Review Children's Collection and retitled *D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths*. Featuring a sturdy sewn binding, the book arguably represents the pinnacle of the d'Aulaires' achievement as storytellers and artists....the prose seems livelier and more robust in the Norse myths than in the Greek...Their retelling of the Greek myths for children had to pull its punches somewhat...but since sex doesn't feature as prominently in Norse mythology, this book is able to stay scrupulously faithful to the Edda and still maintain its PG rating. But not to worry: there's still a lot of drinking, fighting and bad behavior, particularly on the part of fiery Thor, who is forever whacking frost giants on the head with his hammer, and the highly entertaining Loki, who is one of the most complicated and devious characters in anybody's mythology, anywhere. Loki is the Bart Simpson of Norse mythology, forever pulling pranks, forever getting caught and forever talking his way out of the consequences..."

— *The New York Times Book Review*

"[These] works, especially the books of Norse and Greek myths, were and remain crucial to me, and now to my own children. The interest in mythology that was kindled by those two books has endured throughout my life, and has directly influenced my own writing in countless ways...The Norse book was always my favorite, though. I must have read it a dozen times at least by the time I was nine or ten."

— Michael Chabon

About the Author

**Ingri Mortenson** and **Edgar Parin d'Aulaire** met at art school in Munich in 1921. Edgar's father was a noted Italian portrait painter, his mother a Parisian. Ingri, the youngest of five children, traced her lineage back to the Viking kings.

The couple married in Norway, then moved to Paris. As Bohemian artists, they often talked about emigrating to America. "The enormous continent with all its possibilities and grandeur caught our imagination," Edgar later recalled.

A small payment from a bus accident provided the means. Edgar sailed alone to New York where he earned enough by illustrating books to buy passage for his wife. Once there, Ingri painted portraits and hosted modest dinner parties. The head librarian of the New York Public Library's juvenile department attended one of those. Why, she asked, didn't they create picture books for children?

The d'Aulaires published their first children's book in 1931. Next came three books steeped in the Scandinavian folklore of Ingri's childhood. Then the couple turned their talents to the history of their new country. The result was a series of beautifully illustrated books about American heroes, one of which, *Abraham Lincoln*, won the d'Aulaires the American Library Association's Caldecott Medal. Finally they turned to the realm of myths.

The d'Aulaires worked as a team on both art and text throughout their joint career. Originally, they used stone lithography for their illustrations. A single four-color illustration required four slabs of Bavarian limestone that weighed up to two hundred pounds apiece. The technique gave their illustrations an uncanny

hand-drawn vibrancy. When, in the early 1960s, this process became too expensive, the d'Aulaires switched to acetate sheets which closely approximated the texture of lithographic stone.

In their nearly five-decade career, the d'Aulaires received high critical acclaim for their distinguished contributions to children's literature. They were working on a new book when Ingri died in 1980 at the age of seventy-five. Edgar continued working until he died in 1985 at the age of eighty-six.

**Michael Chabon** is the author of several books, including *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, *Wonder Boys*, *The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier and Klay*, *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, *Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son* and, most recently, *Telegraph Avenue*.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Patricia Gagliano:**

This book untitled D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by means of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this publication from your list.

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#### **Laura Thibodeau:**

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#### **Rachel Haley:**

As a university student exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the

library or make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's internal or real their pastime. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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