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Icelandic Folk Legends: Tales Of Apparitions, Outlaws And Things Unseen



Synopsis

The Icelandic nation has a long and rich history of storytelling. Throughout centuries characterized by hardship, poverty and dark winters, the Icelanders kept their spirits high and moral values intact by telling each other stories. In this collection of 15 Icelandic folk legends, we get a glimpse of the world-view of the Icelanders in centuries past as they endeavored to understand and cope with the natural phenomena around them. There are stories of malicious ghosts, outlaws living in carved-out boulders, hidden people residing in grassy knolls, trolls that are tripped up by their own stupidity, and much more. In addition, there is one story exemplifying a fairy tale motif that scholars have discovered to be unique to Iceland: that of the good stepmother (The Story of Himinbjörg). Throughout we get a powerful sense of the Icelanders' beliefs, values and fears, as well as their strong need to cling to all that was pure and good.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alda Sigmundsdóttir is an Icelandic-born writer, journalist, translator and blogger. She is author of *Unraveled*, *a Novel About a Meltdown*, *The Little Book of the Icelanders*, *The Little Book of Icelandic*, *The Little Book of the Hidden People*, and *Living Inside the Meltdown*. As a journalist, Alda has written extensively about Iceland for the international media, and she is a frequent commentator on Icelandic affairs in the media.

The book is super small, about 100 pages and smaller than my hand. Would not have paid \$12 if seen in person, maybe \$5. Haven't read it yet, will update when I do

I liked it well enough, but the stories all end sort of abruptly, which is the way they traditionally end according to the author/translator.

Short and simple, but good.

Very good prep for my trip.

Fantastic book--- just what I expected, thanks guys, very interesting about the hx of Iceland's people in their past. Phil

It is good, but many of the legends are repeats from other books I have already read, slightly changed but basically the same stories.

As an Icelandic I enjoyed the way this book was presented and written. Non Icelanders will find this book to be entertaining as well as an insight into the culture.

Nice intro to folklore from Iceland and good intro and insights into the cultural significance within the tales looking forward to reading more soon!

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