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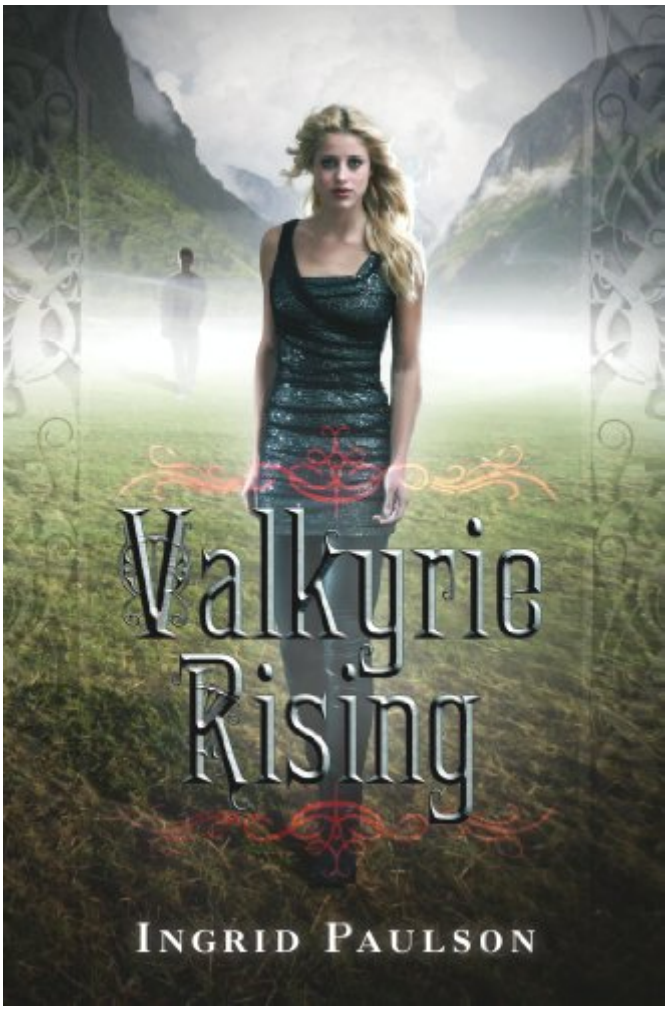
Valkyrie Rising



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Synopsis

Nothing ever happens in Norway. But at least Ellie knows what to expect when she visits her grandmother: a tranquil fishing village and long, slow summer days. And maybe she'll finally get out from under the shadow of her way-too-perfect big brother, Graham, while she's there.What Ellie doesn't anticipate is Graham's infuriating best friend, Tuck, tagging along for the trip. Nor did she imagine boys going missing amid rumors of impossible kidnappings. Least of all does she expect that something powerful and ancient will awaken in her and that strange whispers will urge Ellie to claim her place among mythological warriors. Instead of peace and quiet, suddenly there's a lot for a girl from L.A. to handle on a summer sojourn in Norway! And when Graham vanishes, it's up to Ellie—and the ever-sarcastic, if undeniably alluring, Tuck—to uncover the truth about all the disappearances and thwart the nefarious plan behind them.Deadly legends, hidden identities, and tentative romance swirl together in one girl's unexpectedly epic coming-of-age.

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Customer Reviews

** This is closer to a 3.5 for me but since we can't do half ratings in , I'm going for the 3**I decided to take a chance on this book even though it had a small number of reviews (but the ratings were high). In retrospect, I wonder if I'd have given this book higher ratings had I not just read two really fantastic YAs back to back (Libba Bray's "The Diviners" and Kresley Cole's "Poison Princess"). But it is what it is.What I Liked:- With so many fairy tales and myths being mined for story content, I give this author big kudos for finding something fresh and relatively untapped to write about. As far as I'm aware, there just isn't much out there talking about Norse mythology and valkyries in particular. Take note future YA writers....Greek and Roman myths aren't the only ones out there! Why not try on something Northern European for size?- Once Elsa (Ellie), the lead, hits her stride...she's a great role model. Loyal, honest, courageous....all things any young woman should be proud to emulate. But let's not forget all the other "girl power" (or is that grrrl power? I get so confused....) going on in this novel. There's Hilda, Ellie's grandmother, a woman who clearly didn't get the memo about how senior citizens are supposed to behave...Astrid and her gang...and a young village woman (names hidden to protect the innocent..) who more than shows her mettle when push comes to shove.- Of all the relationships going on in this book, none struck me as so real as the one between Ellie and her brother, Graham. It was clear they loved each other deeply....and in spite of Graham's overbearing demeanor towards his sister, the reader knew all along he behaved that way out of protectiveness and respect. I like how the relationship was forced to change and how Graham takes it in stride.Now...for the not-so-great....- I never really felt that into Ellie. In the beginning, it seems like we're supposed to see her as a wall-flower, caught in her brother's shadow and resenting it. But then based on some early comments from Tucker, we are also left to conclude she's drop-dead gorgeous and alluring. Yet, as with almost 90% of YA heroines....she's totally clueless about her appearance and its effect on guys. Oh, and she does like to read...so I suspect we are supposed to gather she's a smart cookie. BIG SIGH. Just for once, how I'd love to come across a heroine who doesn't seem like a nincompoop when it comes to how she looks. I get this is all part living in Graham's shadow, etc....but girlfriend has a mirror!!! She can't be that oblivious. Also, there were a lot of very obvious hints thrown about Tucker's feelings for her as well as her place in the larger mythology of the book...but again, she comes across as either dense or not terribly engaged with what's happening around her. I did enjoy Ellie a lot more when she was able to embrace her family legacy....but to me, the transition from wallflower Ellie to butt-kicking Ellie wasn't a smooth one and, as a result, it made her seem a bit two-dimensional.- Without giving anything away, the big reveal about one of the male leads fell flat to me...and a bit too contrived. I was disappointed at how it all unfolded.- I felt like Ellie and Graham's back story was touched on only very briefly. I eventually

figured out the dad had died and from what I can recall, we don't ever really get to meet their mom. It's the same for Tucker's parents (although I actually felt like I had more info about his parents than I did about Ellie's). This seems to be endemic of many YA novels...the parents are barely there, dead, or emotionally/physically distant and only thrown into the story to provide the bare bones about the lead characters. As a parent, I'd sure love to see more involved moms and dads...not these self-centered or preoccupied drips who barely make a dent on the reader's consciousness.- Things got a bit muddled once the action started to heat up. I felt as if there were almost too many things happening...and too many characters flitting in and out. I found myself skimming a lot and not really feeling as engaged as I would have liked. Truth be told, while the setting and inspiration for the story were definitely unique, the way things unfolded and the characters themselves (aside from grandma and Loki), were pretty predictable and fairly stock for a YA supernatural.My overall take on this book: It had its moments, especially due to the use of Norse mythology, but overall...it didn't stick with me, nor was able to engage with the book as much as I would have liked. It's clear this is the first in a series and I have noted many series start off with a whimper but end with a bang. My hope is this will be the case with Valkyrie Rising and the author needs some time to hit her stride.

Nice surprise ... as this book begins rather typically and I really had to force myself not to prejudge it. I believe what saved my doing so were the characters banter and development. Once the initial character intros are completed, the true heart of the book takes off and all the Viking fun begins. This played well on Text-to-Speech. Only thing Authors need to know is that when writing "C'mon", it's read back as "See Monday", lol. Anyway, I enjoyed this book, no vulgarities, no sex ... Lots of action and great dialog. Good job, will look forward to Ingrid Paulson's next book.PS Reason for a 4 Star? Just the beginning of the book, could use some work. But I'm certain her next will be a solid Five!!

Goodreads Summary: Nothing ever happens in Norway. But at least Ellie knows what to expect when she visits her grandmother: a tranquil fishing village and long, slow summer days. And maybe sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll finally get out from under the shadow of her way-too-perfect big brother, Graham, while sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s there.What Ellie doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t anticipate is GrahamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s infuriating best friend, Tuck, tagging along for the trip. Nor did she imagine boys going missing amid rumors of impossible kidnappings. Least of all does she expect something powerful and ancient to awaken in her and that strange whispers would urge Ellie to claim her place among mythological warriors. Instead of peace and quiet, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s

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when she gives a command it must be obeyed. She will do anything to protect Ellie and Graham. Astrid - Astrid is the leader of the Valkyrie, she is fast, strong and cunning. She knows her job and does it well, almost too well. On the outside she is cold, fierce and cruel, it is not until Ellie questions her that we as the readers learn what really is going on inside her head. Loki - Loki is the god of mischief, pranks, and misdemeanors. Although he may appear to be on the side of Ellie, he always has his own intentions at heart and will stop at nothing to achieve them. His ultimate goal is to humiliate Odin.What did I think?I really enjoyed Valkyrie Rising and hope that there are more books to come in the future. I think that it is one book that lovers of Norse mythology should definitely read, because of the interesting light that it sheds upon Odin and his Valkyrie and halls of Valhalla. My favorite characters were Ellie and Tuck. I loved how they came through their conflict stronger than how they went in. I also loved the mythology surrounding the character of Tuck and how that played into the story. Everything about Tuck drew me to him, at first he seemed to be one way and then another until his character was a complete contradiction it was not until we learned the real truth about him that his whole character made sense. I liked the tender moments between him and Ellie and the loyalty which he willingly gives to her and Graham. Ellie was awesome. I really loved the intense loyalty and love she felt for her family and Tuck. I sometimes feel that the element of family is often missing in YA books today, but it was clearly present in Valkyrie Rising.

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