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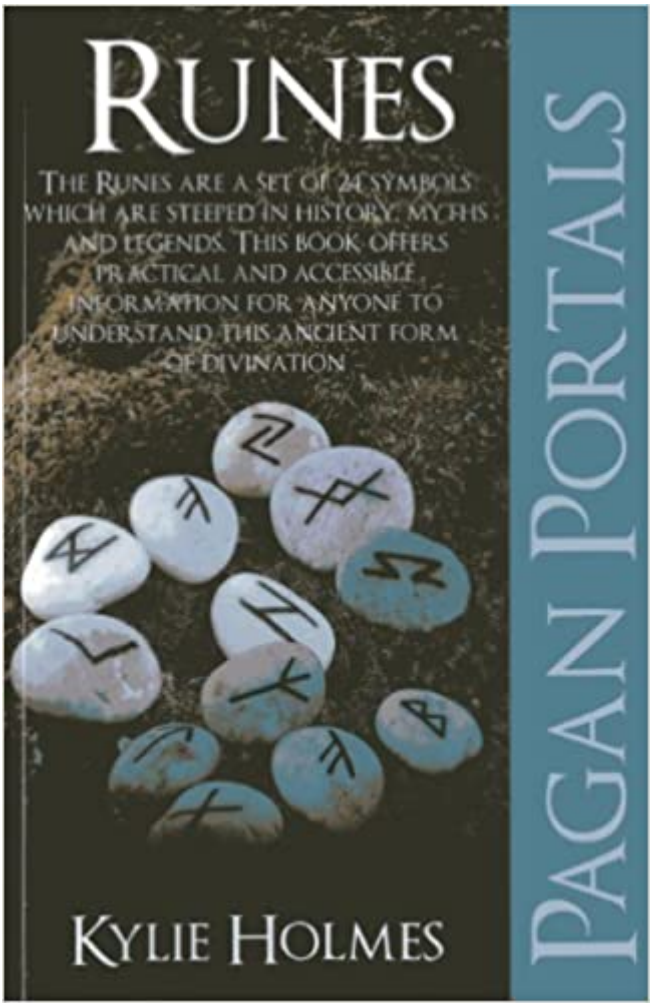
Pagan Portals - Runes



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Synopsis

Runes are an ancient Scandinavian writing system. They have been used for hundreds of years as part of magical rituals, spells and foretelling the future and are steeped in mystery and secrecy. This book contains meanings of the twenty-four Runes, providing a simple and easy to follow guide for any aspiring Rune caster. Discover how to use this ancient form of divination as a tool for your own personal and spiritual growth. Learn how to make your own Rune set, cast and lay them out. This beginnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s guide also encourages you to start a Rune Journal where you can record your ideas, interpretations and castings. Let your intuition guide you as you learn to connect with the energy of the Runes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kylie Holmes is a mother of four Old Souls, she is also a writer, an intuitive Angel Therapist, Reiki Master and Past Life Regression Therapist. She lives in Cambridgeshire, UK.

I have to give this book 3 stars because I didn't feel confident in the writers knowledge. This is the first book on runes I've bought and read, and I feel like the author wasn't entirely sure what she was writing about. I'm not saying I believe the information was false, but, I didn't feel like I was reading a book written by an expert. It's written in a young sounding voice, if that makes sense.It is a short introduction though, easy to read and a nice reference for each rune. There's also some little tidbits

about the sabbats I didn’t know before.Overall, I’d say it’s a good start, but I’ll definitely be looking for more books on the subject of runes.

Informative with great references and historical definitions. Well illustrated and good for the beginner. Translations for all poems. A must have book.

Great

I have a few other books on runes but nothing with so much historical information. I give the book five-stars because it is generally easy to read and contains a good amount of historical information for those who want to explore the runes and have a reasonable grounding in facts and myth without being overwhelmed by an academic treatise.The descriptions of individual runes also include historical references and a general, intuitive interpretation of the meaning of the rune in divination. However, these descriptions avoid absolutes and leave the final interpretation up to the reader. If you want a book that gives a few key words for each rune and makes doing basic rune divination easy (without messing with all that historical stuff), there are probably better books. But if you want to ground your interpretation of the runes in older symbols and then come to your own conclusions about the specific interpretations, this is an option.

There is an old saying that there is only one book about the Tarot and that each writer only publishes a few pages from it. I feel the same way about books written about the Elder Futhark--the so-called Norse runes. (Actually, the runes used by the Vikings were the abbreviated sixteen rune--Younger Futhark.) And just like one encounters the same information over and over again in Tarot books (or for that matter, books about the Golden Dawn), one reads the same material over and over again in books about the runes. Therefore, when one reviews a book on one of these subjects, one tends to only focus on the few pages of unique material that the writer includes (because the base-line is almost always the same--as in if you have read one book on the subject, you have read them all).Pagan Portals--Runes by Kylie Holmes is your typical book on runes--containing historical information on the runes, runic divinatory spreads, how to make your own rune set, basic meanings of the runes, and suggestions of how to use the runes in magic.So ignoring the standard stuff that finds its way into every book on the runes, what sticks out?The book is written in a conversational tone, which is common with all the books that I have read so far from this particular publisher--Moon Books. I will admit that I spent too much time in academia to be

completely comfortable with the style when it comes to regular books, despite the fact that I spend a lot of my time in the blogosphere (both as a reader and a lunatic with a soapbox). Think of the style as a conversation or a letter to a friend--some people will like the tone; others won't.In the historical section, the author includes a diagram that shows the graphic difference between the Long Branch (Danish) and Short Twig (Swedish-Norwegian) Younger Futhark runes. That is a plus. And she mentions a few historical figures who studied and kept the lore of the runes alive--figures in rune history that I was not aware of. That is also a plus.But she also mentions the myth of Odin as if it is historical and not mythical--which touches upon a bugbear that I wish authors would not do, and that is the mixing of mythology with historical fact. And in the section where she talks about the basic meanings of the runes, she mentions on more than one occasion what the Norse ("our ancestors") believed about the runes...without ever stating her source. I suspect that her source is intuition and not a document (because I have never heard of a document covering this information--the field of runelogy is made up of best guesses)--if it is an actual document, I wish that she would have came out and cited it by name and number. The fact that I think that she is playing fast and mixing her opinions with the historical facts is a negative. (Remember that I suffered though a Bachelors in both literature and history--it tends to make me frown at the mixing of personal belief and historical facts without the writer coming straight out and stating which is which.)Holmes also includes the Anglo-Saxon, Norwegian and Icelandic rune poems (both in their original language and their English translation) in the historical section (this is important and/or nice if you are just want to read a single book on the runes, and not have to collect rune books like I do). And I will admit that she is the first writer on the subject of runes that I can remember coming out and stating that we do not have a poem for the Elder Futhark itself (the aforementioned poems deal with the Anglo-Saxon and Younger Futharks.Overall, if you are after one book on the subject of the runes, this book is a four out of five stars. If you are like me and own two boxes of books on the subject, it will depend upon on how important the unique bits are in filling holes in your knowledge base.[This review was based on a pre-publication e-file copy given to me by the publisher for review purposes.]

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