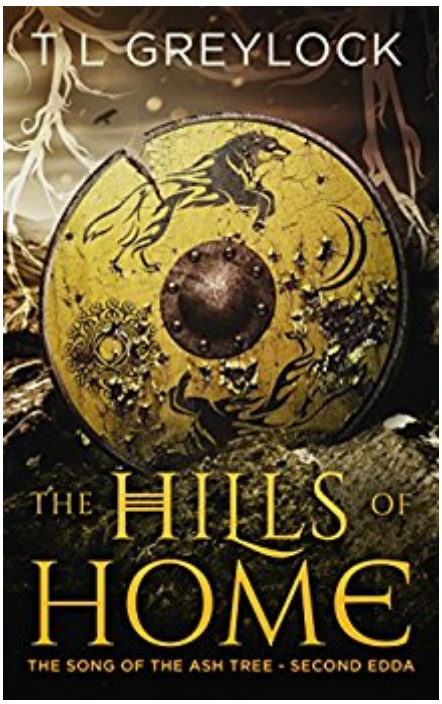
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The Hills Of Home (The Song Of The Ash Tree Book 2)



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Synopsis

A frozen lake raged with fire. The Valkyries descended from the stars, shattering the swords and minds of men. And two kings survived the battle of the burning lake. The war for Midgard will carry on. But a war on a much greater scale preys on Raef SkallagrimÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mind. The rule of the gods is unraveling and soon the giants will unleash their long-festering wrath. Raef, haunted still by the unknown face of his fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s murderer, has forsaken his alliance with Brandulf Hammerling, broken his oath, and looks toward home and his fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hall. He cannot turn back the shadow of oblivion that will soon descend on the nine realms, but he can find justice for his father before the end. But RaefÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey back to Vannheim is interrupted by unseen hands and he is set on a course that will threaten his home and test his will to survive. And yet his own life will matter little if the gods take everything from him.

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Customer Reviews

The Hills Of Home is the ambitious second installment of T.L.GreylockÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s trilogy, which began with The Blood-Tainted Winter and tells the story of a reluctant hero on an unintended

journey. Like the first book, this second novel is intelligent, thoughtful, complex, violent, pensive, and atmospheric. The impressive cast of characters from book one remains but with deeper emotion, stronger friendships, and more treachery.With many novels, what you see on the surface is what you get. The sympathetic hero is in big trouble, and he has to fight many battles in pursuit of his ultimate enemy. The Hills Of Home includes these story components as expected. However, the reader senses that there is something more complex going on beneath the obvious story. As the facade becomes more clear, one is eager to look behind the curtain and see the shape of this larger thing thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hinted at but not revealed until late in the game. When the revelation comes, it is intriguing and satisfying, and it cements the realization that the reader has been in very good hands throughout.As The Hills Of Home opens, protagonist Raef Skallagrim, lord of Vannheim, has been in a brutal war that followed the death of the king. In addition to his involvement in the larger conflicts, Raef also desires vengeance for the murder of his father, the former lord. But as Raef pursues the identity of the killer, he is ambushed and choked into unconsciousness.When Raef awakens, he is all alone on a small ship. The ship is drifting at sea. Land is in view, but it is no land that Raef has ever seen. Raef is starving, and when he makes landfall, his main focus is to find food. During his search, he comes across fantastical creatures - dragon-kin - that can fly. A strange race of people called alfar ride them like horses. There are also giants and an assortment of gods.Having left his own world, Raef becomes a pawn in the conflicts of this other amazing world, and the reader wonders if this place, and RaefÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s involvement in it, are real or metaphorical or a mix of both. It reminded me of the grand mythical stories that are ubiquitous in past cultures around the world. While the allegorical possibilities were many, I soon decided to stop trying to figure out what the author was up to and instead just go along for the ride.In time, as Raef is challenged by death at the hands of giants, he engineers an escape, which leads him to a complex labyrinth. Every move is a puzzle, and false steps are punished by death. Yet Raef eventually emerges to find that he is back in Vannheim.The local warriors, having thought him dead, receive him as a returning hero and crown him king. But all is not well in the kingdom. Other would-be kings and their allies are plotting strategy. Personalities clash, and many battles remain to be fought.The Hills Of Home ends with a cliffhanger, though one that intrigues rather than frustrates. I very much look forward to the third novel in the trilogy.

T.L. Greylock has out done her first work with "The Hills of Home" the second book in the Song of the Ash Tree series. A work of pure fiction woven together in such a way that would be impressive by the standards of the Norns. Her creative blend of Norse history and mythology into a single story

has built a believable world filled with danger, intrigue, and wonder! Her main character becomes relate-able on a human level and will leave you rooting for him at every turn as the odds are stacked ever against his survival. Realms of Norse myth are discovered within this book and are describe with such color and clarity you can see, feel, smell, and taste it. T.L. Greylock is a masterful writer that will leave you wanting more!Magical, Whimsical, and Awe Inspiring!You must read The Hills of Home!David Roach - Author of the Marauder Serieshttps://www..com/gp/bookseries/B019SCYN26/

The second installment of The Song of the Ash Tree series as as much a triumph as the first, if not more so. After Raef's victory against insurmountable odds on the lake of fire he now finds himself thrust into a conflict that extends beyond not only his ultimate goals, but those of his very world. The story masterfully narrows it's focus to Raef as a man just as quickly as it expands to show a much larger picture. The much beloved ensemble cast take on a smaller role as a great deal of the story delves into an astounding amount of character building centered around the protagonist. This is not to say their roles have been diminished. Though less seen, the impact of their interactions only makes them more like-able, and serve as little breaths of fresh air amid a punishing crucible that Raef must navigate. The throne of his father's house, his reputation as a leader and the people of Vannheim only compound the weight settling upon Skallagrim's shoulders. The Second Edda gives us a longing glimpse at what Greylock's trilogy is striving toward and the grandiose conclusion that is surely just over the horizon.

The second book in the trilogy. Once the many, many characters have been thoroughly introduced in book 1, "The Blood-Tainted Winter," "The Hills of Home" explodes into a fury of Norse Mythology of unexpected beings with special powers and descriptive pictures of lands unknown to man. T.L. Greylock's ability to capture the imagination of the reader and build such a brilliant and complex world is quite impressive. I was compelled to keep reading, as, the main character, Raef, is multifaceted, as are we all, being torn in the struggle to maintain balance in his life through war, friendship, honor, family responsibility and even love. Knowing there are surprises yet to come, I look forward to Book 3.

This book continues with the fast pace set in The Blood-Tainted Winter, but, much like the first book in the series, the fast pace is complimented by the author's excellent prose, amazing descriptions, and interesting characters. This book's betrayal/revenge-rich storyline never lets you feel like Raef can have a moment's respite--bad for Raef, but good for us. Raef is a wiser, more reflective

character now in the second book of this trilogy, which helps him traverse the wonderful Odyssey-like first half of the novel. No less enjoyable, the second half takes us back into the chaotic political landscape of alliances and betrayals--done Viking-style. A thoroughly enjoyable read. I can't wait for the conclusion!

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