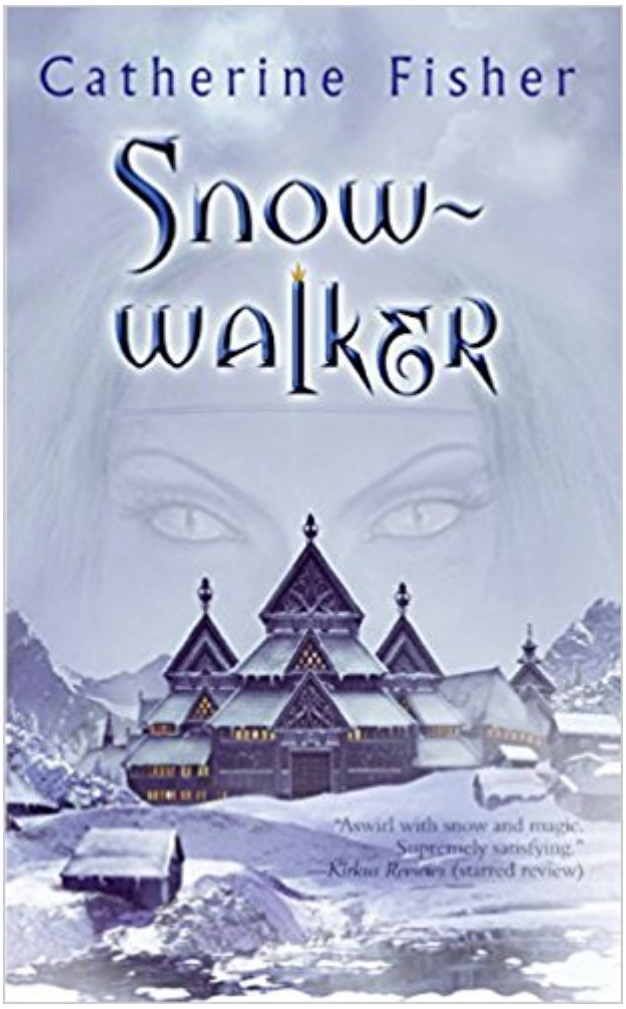
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Snow-walker



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Synopsis

Since Gudrun came from the frozen mists beyond the edge of the world, the Jarl's people have obeyed her in hatred andterror. But the enchantress has one weakness: a son, Kari, banished to a forbidding fortress in the north, never seen by the Jarl's people. In secret they wonder: Are the rumors true? Was he born a monster?Now Jessa and her cousin Thorkil have been exiled to the north, and if they survive the journey, they will find the truth: Is Kari a beast? Or the means to stop the sorceress?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9Ã¢â ¬â œSnow-walkers drift across great plates of ice, through sleet and snow, in the farthest north, where nothing else lives. When these terrible beings come into contact with humans, they can freeze people with a touch or enmesh them in dreams and steal their souls. The story of a protracted conflict between the Snow-walker witch, Gudrun, and her half-human son Kari, her mirror image, is told mostly from the point of view of Jessa, the daughter of a dispossessed nobleman. With her two knives and equally sharp wits, she makes a satisfying heroine, the only female in a group of companions who resist Gudrun's efforts to conquer their realm and draw Kari under her spell. Their adventures, steeped in Norse mythology and Old English epic poetry, unfold in three books, published separately in England and bound together in this edition. The middle tale, "The Empty Hand," with its monster created by Gudrun's spells, recalls Beowulf. Fisher is a skillful storyteller, using clear language and plenty of action to keep the plot moving. She is at her artistic best when she evokes the northern landscape, with its green pastures, vast haunted forests, and icy reaches where the northern lights glow. Her characters are painted with broad strokes, their

conflicts and relationships simple and direct. However, patching together the three titles into one continuous narrative leaves some rough spots. A character from the first book is dropped without explanation, and the second book offers unnecessary retelling of previous events. Still, fantasy readers will happily follow the adventures of Jessa, Kari, and their brave companions.Ã¢â ¬â œMargaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-9. Drawing on Celtic and Norse mythology (chapter headings are taken from Beowulf and Norse poems), Fisher spins a fantasy quest with all the classic elements. Long ago, the evil sorceress Gudrun the Snow-walker banished her powerful son, Kari, to a distant castle, then seized control of the Jarl’s people. Now, the Jarl’s subjects Jessa and Thorkil seek to restore the kingdom to its rightful ruler. Gudrun exiles them to Thrasirshall, where Kari is imprisoned. Clever Jessa, Kari, and a small band of friends, including writer-storyteller Skapti, set off on a hero’s journey to the far north for a showdown between the wicked ruler and her son. Originally published in Britain as three separate books, this newly melded story suffers from occasionally awkward pacing and narrative shifts that will demand a dedicated, sophisticated reader. In addition, the bard Skapti, who rarely tells any stories, could have been used more effectively to share the unfamiliar mythology. It’s the description of the icy backdrop and the mythological beings in the cast, most notably the predatory rune creature, that reveals the beauty of Fisher’s prose. For larger fantasy collections. Cindy DobrezCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Welsh author Catherine Fisher strikes gold in an icy, shimmering new fantasy, "Snow-Walker." With likable characters and vidid writing, Fisher demonstrates her talents in the arena of Norse mythology, filled with shapeshifting wolf-men, soul-stealing ghosts, and icy witches.Jessa is horrified when she learns that the Jarl (a sort of king-chieftain) has exiled her to Thrasirshall -- where Kari, the son of the Jarl and his cold, evil wife Gudrun, lives in complete isolation. He’s rumored to be a monster. But when Jessa arrives, she finds that Kari is not a monster -- but a lonely young boy who has the power to destroy his scheming sorceress mother, and has been sent away because of that.After the death of the Jarl, Gudrun vanishes, and a new Jarl, Wulfgar, is chosen. And Kari vanishes back to the north for a few years, honing his magic abilities. But with power comes greater fear. Kari fears becoming like the evil Gudrun, and others fear his dark magic. Even Wulfgar begins

to doubt him, especially when Kari is accused in a prophecy by a priest.But Kari and Jessa have more than just accusations to deal with. A monstrous, bearlike creature is coming to the Jarlshold, with Wulfgar as its target. And Wulfgar's bride's soul is stolen by Gudrun. Kari and his loyal friends band together to defeat the evil Snow-Walker -- but is the good in Kari enough to keep him from becoming like Gudrun?The first book by Catherine Fisher, "The Oracle Betrayed," was a tepid mix of Greek and Egyptian cultures. She fares much better with the rich Norse mythology, against a backdrop of monsters, snow, ice, and sorcerous people with eyes like bits of ice. Werewolves, armies of dead men, villages on lakes, and spirits conjured out of loneliness and misery are only part of this story.It's actually like a trilogy of novellas, each a little over 160 pages long -- "The Snow-Walker's Son," "The Empty Hand," and "The Soul Thieves." With plenty of room to stretch, Fisher's writing is tense, descriptive, poetic, and simple. Her descriptions of magical beasts and phantoms are spellbinding. The main problem is that the climactic battles in "Soul Thieves" and "Snow Walker's Son" seem to finish too quickly and cleanly, although the finale is a satisfying one.Though the strong-willed Jessa is the lead character, Kari is the center of the novel -- a boy who never had a normal life, and has a lingering fear of being turned to evil. The supporting characters like Wulfgar, Kari's loyal guardian Brochael, crippled thrall Hakon and others are well-drawn. Gudrun isn't given much dimension (okay, she's evil and cruel, we got it), but her chilly plotting is well-done.Catherine Fisher is well-suited to the robust Norse legends of the snowy north, and the solid "Snow-Walker" is an excellent fantasy read for adults and teens alike.

I read this series about 4 years ago and loved it. When I found it in the Kindle Store, I just had to buy it--especially since the price was discounted so low and I got all three books in one! Catherine Fisher weaves a plot that will keep you turning pages well into the late night, if you are a bedtime reader. Her characters are larger than life and she brings you to a point where you feel you are there. When Jessa, Kari, Brochael,Skapti, and Hakon are traveling to the "end of the world", Fisher's description of the sub frigid, constant blizzard-like conditions of the wilderness territory they must travel through, felt so real that I had to grab a blanket and snuggle in to keep warm! That is expository writing at its best! You will not be disappointed with this series. Get it and enjoy!

This felt like the bare bones of a story, rather than a fully flushed out plot. There were no noticeable typos or formatting issues, at least, but it still felt unprofessionally written. One-dimensional characters with motivations that were confusing and no real background. The world and back story of the kingdom was likewise too simplistic and unexplained. I regret spending my money on it.

I picked this book up because I wanted to read a story related to Norse mythology and was intrigued by the name Gudrun, the wife of mythology's Sigurd. I was hoping for more mythological crossovers, but though I was disappointed in there only being a few of these, I was so enthralled by the story, I didn't mind.Jessa is a great lead character with spunk and determination. I like how she is trusted by the male characters as an equal, how she is respected by the Jarl as well as by the bard Skapti and Kari who is clearly more powerful than she.The action is non-stop and our heroes are often in peril. This makes for a page-turning adventure I could not put down. I enjoyed The Snow-walker's Son and The Empty Hand so much, I can't bring myself to finish The Soul Thieves. I am putting it off until I have time to read all day and can enjoy its greatness all at once.I especially liked the details about the ginungagap and the world serpent. Additionally Fisher's setting details are vivid and remind me of the winters here in Minnesota.

A skillfully and beautifully written tale. The heroes and villains are complex and compelling. The story is rich, in the vein of a great old fable. The writing style is fluid, just the right amount of prose and no fluff. Very satisfying.

Jessa and her friends brave dark magic and the dangers of the far North in this mix of myth/ magic/ and adventure.

Catherine writes a good book. It took a couple of chapters and then everything came together.

I remembered reading this book years ago and saw it online. I had to have it again just to remember, but I started reading again. It took me back a few years. It was in very good shape with the dust cover still well. Over all a good buy. Thank you :)

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