



The Elves and the Otterskin

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Ivarr had been sold to the witch Birna. But now Birna was dead, slain by the evil sorcerer Lorimer. Ivarr was stranded in the land of the elves. His only chance to return to his own realm was to become a hero for group of outcast, incompetent elves and a wizard of doubtful qualifications. As he discovered, being a hero was a little difficult. First he had to seek out a magic sword concealed somewhere in the land of the fire giants. Then, to seize a horde of gold, he must somehow find and destroy a terrible dragon. And, finally, he would have to overcome the power of Lorimer and an army of dark elves. Ivarr knew nothing about being a hero, and the more he heard, the less he liked the idea. But a hero he'd be--or else!

The Elves and the Otterskin Details

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Author : Elizabeth Boyer

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From Reader Review The Elves and the Otterskin for online ebook

Roseanne Wilkins says

Fantasy. Fun read. It was nice to have a fantasy I could read in a few hours and I felt like I was done. It didn't leave me hanging on waiting for another book to finish. Well written.

Kim says

A nice book with an interesting storyline. A little inconsistant though.

David Sarkies says

An engrossing tale in the Norse tradition

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There are only a few things that I remember about this book, the first being that it was about a group of inept elves who are given a quest to fill an otterskin full of gold. The catch was that every time you put a gold piece onto the otterskin it would grow, meaning that it was impossible to ever complete the quest. I believe they did manage to do it (because, from what I can remember, the book did have a happy ending) but I cannot remember how (and if I did I would probably have to enclose it in spoilers otherwise I am likely to get into trouble).

The other thing that I remember about this book is that I really enjoyed it. Okay, there are probably a number of other books back then that I also really enjoyed but when I look back upon them I ask the question 'why'. On the other hand I guess with many of the books that I read back I never actually considered them to be any good (not that I was rating books back then, I was just reading them and then moving onto the next one, unless I really liked one of them and then I would make a statement about it to my friends, who would probably ignore me anyway because many of my friends did not actually read).

Remember, though, how I have said elsewhere that there are a number of books that I have read that I cannot remember all that much about. Well, as it turns out, this is not one of those books. Okay, I cannot remember huge details (with the exception of the basic story, and also setting based on Norse Mythology, and the fact that I felt the weight of the character's troubles on my shoulders as I read through it, thus developing a strong emphatic touch with them – something I was not able to do in many of the other novels that I had read at the time) but what I do remember is that I really enjoyed the book. I never was able to bring myself to read any of Boyer's other works though. Maybe it had something to do with this book being so good that I didn't want to spoil the delight by reading another one and not liking it at all.

Jenny Schwartz says

I'd probably have given 4 stars if I'd read this a few years ago. A good coming-of-age quest. Vivid world building. A bit of a rambling plot and improbable escapes.

Heather says

Read this whole series as a teenager and loved it! I've been trying to think of the author's name for at least a month and it finally came to me yesterday!

Medieval fantasy with a Scandinavian setting.

Cindy says

This is an old fantasy book that belonged to my dad. Ivarr is tired of being stuck at home, so when he gets the chance to work for a witch, he takes it. He finds that he really enjoys the work, until a powerful necromancer kills his teacher. Ivarr is stuck in the Other World, but he's not leaving until he gets revenge. Then he meets up with a group of elves who need his help. It seems the same necromancer, named Lorimer, has gotten them into trouble too.

Wicked trolls, a disembodied head, an enchanted maze, and a fire-breathing dragon -- this book has it all. It was good fun. I understand that she wrote more, but they might be hard to find. Recommended, and thanks to Dad. 3.5 stars

Brent says

A fun and quirky lighthearted read.

An amusing take on the traditional swords and sorcery of high fantasy. This novel had all the elements of a traditional fantasy novel: elves, dwarves, wizards, dragons and a seemingly impossible quest thrown in for good measure. However it manages to turn it all into an entertaining and comical progression of events (mainly through the help of several inept elves) that I have not really seen in too many other novels in the genre. Augmenting its uniqueness is the Norse themes and language used throughout.

I think this novel may have been written mainly for a YA audience and sometimes comes off a little too simplistic in a number of places but it was one I nevertheless enjoyed discovering having never encountered any of Elizabeth Boyer's works before and look forward to reading more in the future.

John says

This is possibly my favorite story of all time, next to Star Wars. I enjoy Elizabeth Boyer's style of story telling. The sword and sorcery elements are dramatic and engaging. But the best part is the character development of the seemingly useless elves that really caught my interest most profoundly. I recommend this book very highly.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Five stars? Well, I'm usually pretty stingy with them. More than 20 years ago (closer to 30) I came across Elizabeth Boyer. I enjoyed her books immensely. Built on Norse mythology (my favorite of the mythological schools as it was for that Tolkien guy and others.) Fire Giants, Trolls, Dark elves and others I snatched up most anything I could find by her.

Oddly in the proverbial "press of life" I lost track of her work, especially since she stopped writing. Most of her books are still on my shelves, but now I think I'm about to begin a search to be sure I haven't missed any.

Here "Ivarr" (who was sold to a witch) having been "loosed" by the witch's death finds the only way to get out of the lands of the Elves is to become a hero....

Good book.

Simon says

Better and more assured than the first, this has a good strain of humour as well as the adventure.

I first read this sequence about 30 years ago and am happy to rediscover its charms today.

Jonathan says

In which our hero is deceived for his own good.

Pauline says

2nd in the series and a good read.

Rachel says

This was much better than The Wizard and the Warlord, which is a bit of a relief. My teenage self, who bought these books, was not in fact totally without good taste in books. There are fools and incompetents in this story, but they're the mangy group of spies our hero finds himself roped into helping, not the hero himself. This is much more fun. The story draws heavily on classic Norse mythology, which is particularly fun if you're the kind of person with an excessive knowledge of such things. If not, it's all internally logical, so you're still good.

Arwen says

The first book I read by Elizabeth Boyer I couldn't put down. The one wasn't quite as good. The characters weren't quite as believable (as far as fantasy characters go.) And I had a harder time getting into it, once the main character crossed over into the other realm.

Joel Flank says

Another interesting but flawed book from Boyer that is strong on mythic Nordic influences, but lacking in character development. This is not a sequel, except in spirit - with completely different characters and taking place in a different land, but with enough references to the Sword and the Satchel that it's clearly in the same world, with the same rules in place.
