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Hill, Rebecca

Reimagining Valkyries in Fantasy Fiction: The Legacy of Brynhild

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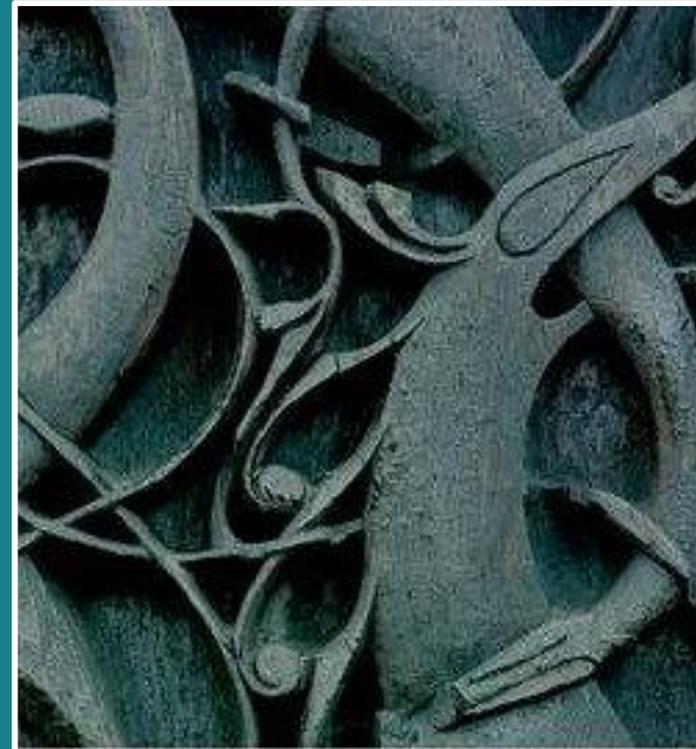
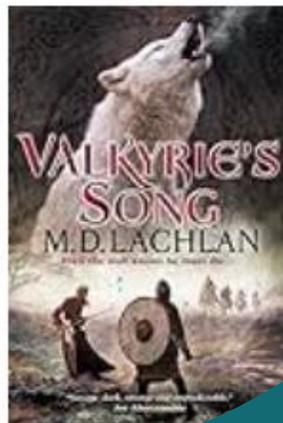
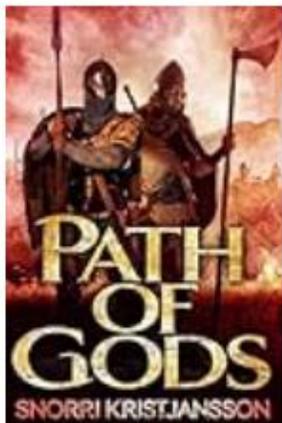
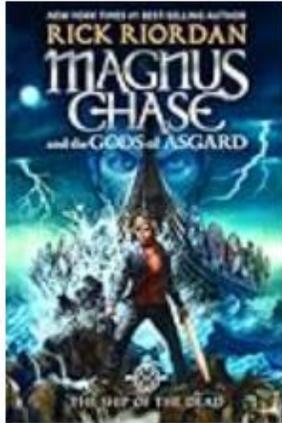
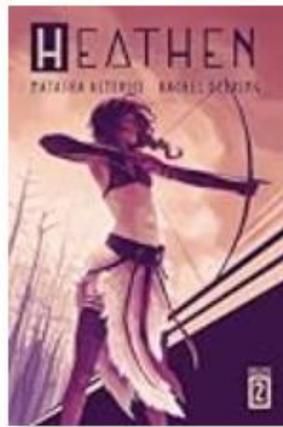
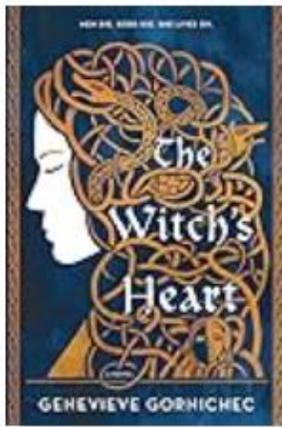
The background of the slide is a photograph of a night sky featuring a vibrant aurora borealis. The aurora displays a spectrum of colors, including purple, green, and yellow, against a backdrop of numerous stars. Below the sky, a dark, rocky landscape is visible, possibly a tundra or a high-altitude environment. The overall scene is atmospheric and evokes a sense of mystery and wonder.

Reimagining Valkyries in Fantasy Fiction

The Legacy of Brynhild

By Rebecca Hill (Huddersfield)

Stories begetting Stories



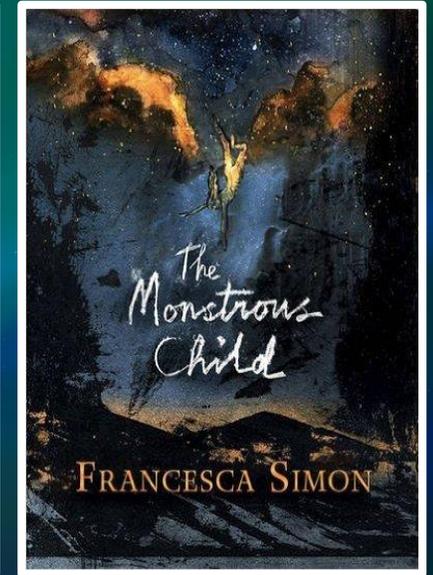
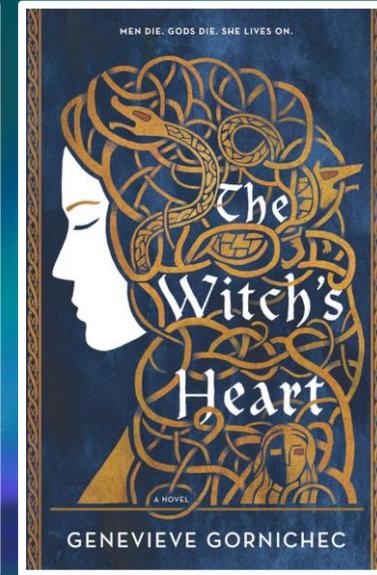
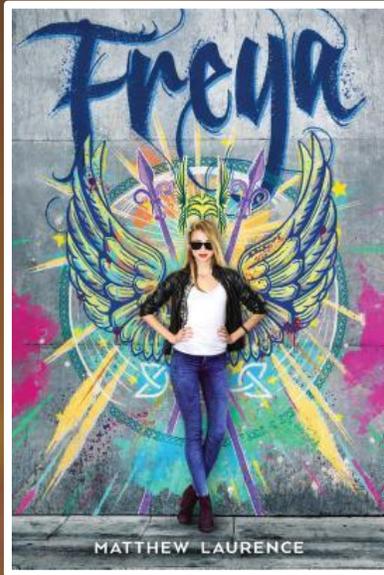
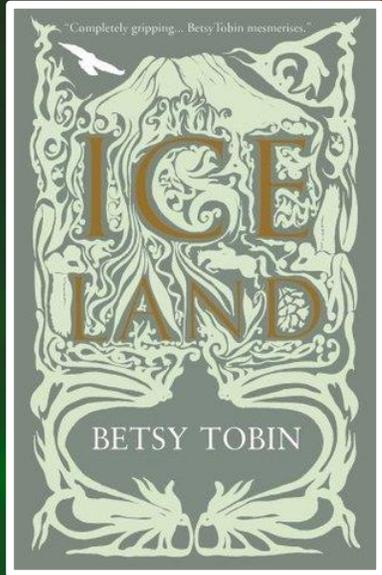
The Poetic Edda

Translated by Carolayne Larrington

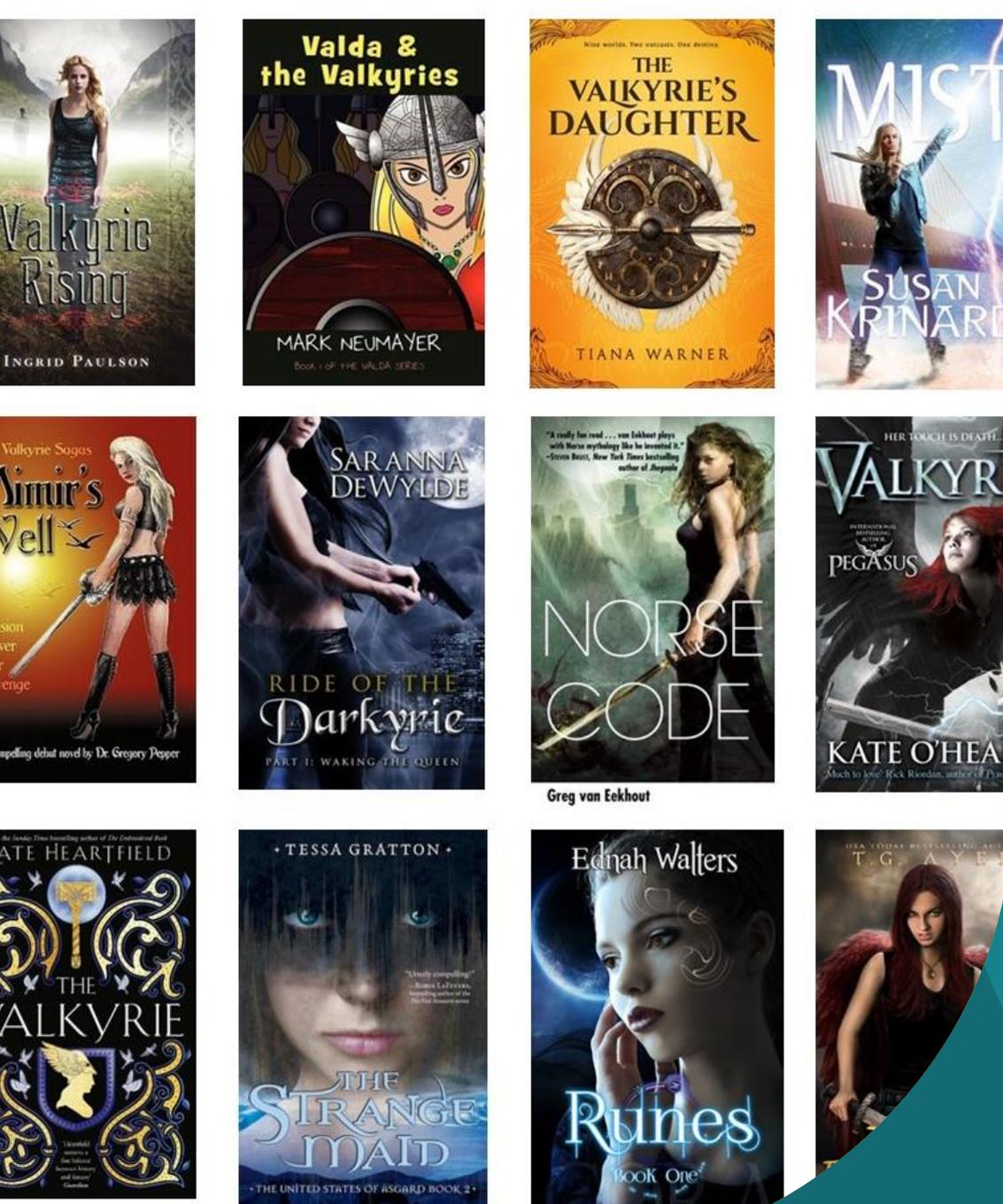
OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



Echoes of Norse Female Voices in Fantasy Fiction



**Freya, Norns, Signy,
Gullvieg/Angrboda & Hel**



Variants of Valkyries

“As different cultures from throughout time interpreted this character, the Valkyrie gained new contexts and attributes, which impacted its future audiences leading to even more variety in interpretations.”

Williams, L. K. (2019). *Changing Perspectives: Valkyries in Text and Image*. *Ex Historia*, 11, pg.147

Brynhildr The Valkyrie

“Reading Brynhildr as the archetype of a Valkyrie allows for an expansion of the storyworld in which being a Valkyrie meant more than a shield maiden or a warrior woman. Disallowing this association denies larger parts of what Brynhildr’s character had become...”

Findahl, S. E. S. (2019). *Brynhildr in the Völsung Storyworld: Valkyrie, shield maiden and maiden-killing* [Masters Thesis, University of Oslo]. pg.58.

Josef Albert (1876). Amelia Materna Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Ring_des_Nibelungen#/media/File:Maternagrane.jpg



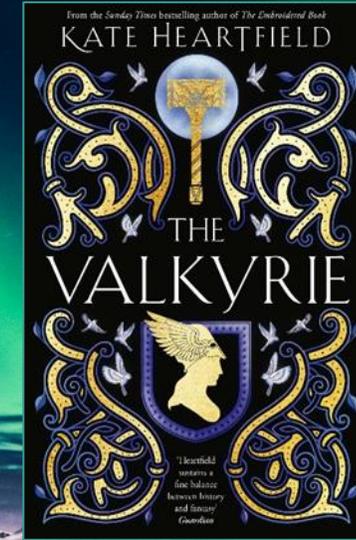
Brynhild in Fantasy Fiction



**Dead
Radiance
(2012)**



**The Strange
Maid
(2014)**



**The Valkyrie
(2023)**

Brynhild 2.0

Dead Radiance, by T G Ayer (2012)

- Tragic lover of Gunnar not Sigurd
- Hybrid Brynhild vs Reincarnated Kara



Brynhild as Cultural Memory

*The Strange Maid (Book 2 of the United States of Asgard) by
Tessa Gratton (2014)*

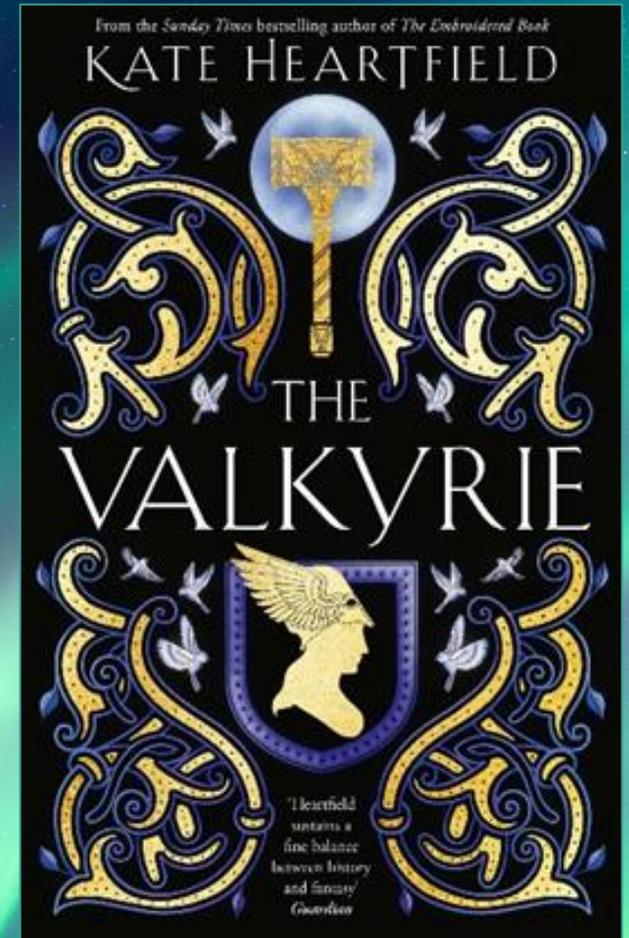
- Brynhild & Volsung Saga retained by Oral Poetic culture
- Kara Neverborn – A Valkyrie punished worse than Brynhild



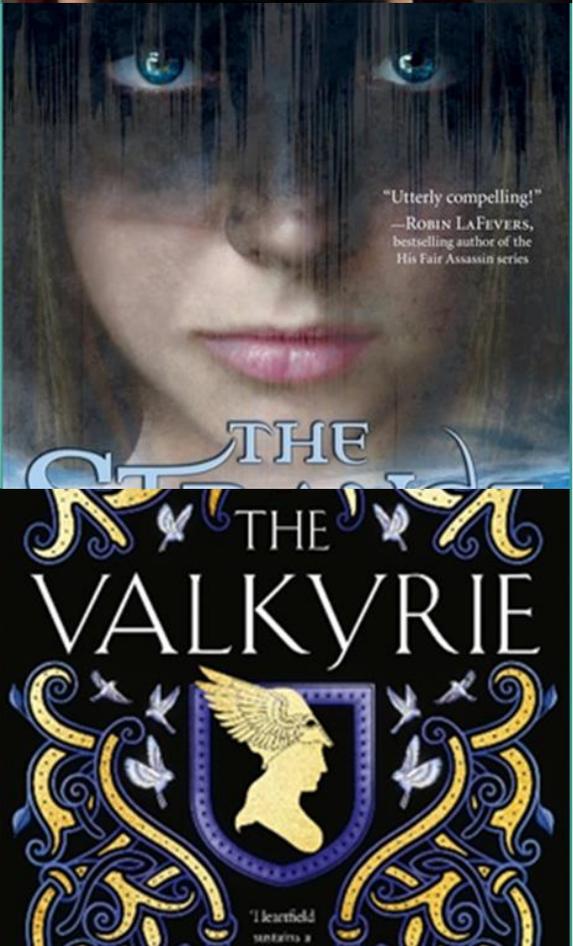
Brynhild the Revolutionary Heroine

The Valkyrie by Kate Heartfield (2023)

- Brynhild vs Odin: Second Act of Defiance
- Valkyries Duty to the Dead NOT Odin



Narrative Worlds & Brynhild



- **Brynhild Displaced** – a modern genetic hybrid reborn.
- **Brynhild Shamed** – a figure of historical shame.
- **Brynhild Defiant** – a supernatural female champion.

Before Brynhild...

There was...

Sigrun/Kara the Valkyrie

And yes, that is me – aged 23...



Bibliography and References:

ANALYSED NARRATIVES:

- Ayer, T. G. (2012). *Dead Radiance*. Infinite Ink Books.
- Gratton, T. (2014). *The Strange Maid*. Random House Books.
- Heartfield, K. (2023). *The Valkyrie*. HarperVoyager.
- Unknown, U. (1999). *The Saga of the Volsungs*. (J . L. Byock, Trans.) Penguin Books. (Original work published 1990).

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- Findahl, S. E. S. (2019). *Brynhildr in the Volsung Storyworld: Valkyrie, shield maiden and maiden-king* [Masters Thesis, University of Oslo].
<https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/handle/10852/69855/1/brynhildr-in-the-volsung-storyworld9.pdf>
- Williams, L. K. (2019). *Changing Perspectives: Valkyries in Text and Image*. *Ex Historia*, 11, 111-148.
https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/media/universityofexeter/collegeofhumanities/history/exhistoria/volume11/Williams_111-148.pdf

WIDER READING:

- Brown, N. M. (2021). *The Real Valkyrie: The Hidden History of Viking Warrior Women*. The History Press.
- Friðriksdóttir, J. K. (2020). *Valkyrie: The Women of the Viking World*. Bloomsbury Academic.
- Larrington, C. (2017). *The Norse Myths: A Guide to the Gods and Heroes*. Thames & Hudson.
- Larrington, C. (2023). *The Norse Myths That Shape The Way We Think*. Thames & Hudson.
- O'Donoghue, H. (2024). *From Asgard to Valhalla: The Remarkable History of the Norse Myths* (2nd ed.). Bloomsbury Academic.



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Email Address:

soulchaserbecky@gmail.com

Book Blog:

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- **Vikings & Valkyries: A Literary Journey** (Book Reviews)