



The Gospel of Loki

By Joanne M. Harris

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“A surprise from the author of *Chocolat*,” *New York Times* bestselling author Joanne M. Harris, “this pacy adult fantasy is narrated by Loki, the Norse god of fire and mischief” (*Vogue*).

This novel is a brilliant first-person narrative of the rise and fall of the Norse gods—retold from the point of view of the world’s ultimate trickster, Loki. A #1 bestseller in the UK, *The Gospel of Loki* tells the story of Loki’s recruitment from the underworld of Chaos, his many exploits on behalf of his one-eyed master, Odin, through to his eventual betrayal of the gods and the fall of Asgard itself.

Using her lifelong passion for the Norse myths, *New York Times* bestseller Joanne M. Harris has created a vibrant and powerful fantasy novel that the *Sunday Sun* recommends “to her long-standing audience with wit, style and obvious enjoyment;” *The Sunday Times* claims it “lively and fun;” and *The Metro* adds that “Harris has enormous fun with her antihero...this mythical bad boy should beguile fans of Neil Gaiman.”

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Editorial Review

Review

a fun read, and a nice new slant on the old tales Fortean Times Allan Corduner's charming voicing of our antihero makes us sympathise with him more than we ought to; imaginative accents for the huge cast of gods, giants and demons, and splendid musical effects add to the fun" -- THE TIMES

A chatty, cheeky style that works a treat SFX Moves at a cracking pace and it's a lot of fun -- Jonathan Hatfull, SciFiNow

A beautifully written darkly fun fairy tale which breathes new life into the Trickster -- GEEK PLANET ONLINE

An ingeniously skewed retelling of Norse mythology. It's fun and you'll keep going to the end. -- Callum Shephard, Starburst Magazine

A surprise from the author of *Chocolat*, this pacy adult fantasy is narrated by Loki, the Norse god of fire and mischief. -- Violent Henderson

Vogue quirky, amusing throughout, with an undercurrent of darkness and menace. This is a lot of fun...A must-read for all fans of Norse legends, fantasy and great writing. -- Stefan Fergus, Civilian Reader

The type of book where you've gone through fifty pages and are still hungry for more...a joyous, terrifying, tumultuous ride. And there's undoubtedly more to come. -- Chris Nickson. Chris Nickson Harris is an expert of Norse mythology

...she makes it into a compelling subject matter that encourages the revisiting of these historic tales. -- Joe Warren, Fantasy Book Review

Loki's unique narration brings the myths to life with a grounded and modern take on the traits of the gods of Asgard -- Daniel Liscombe

Utter Biblio Fun, witty and wholly entertaining, this is a neat retelling of classic legends which maintains their ancient roots without diminishing them in any way through the use of a modern filter -- Matt Adams, Herts Advertiser

It could have been a stuffy book about the myths and legends of Scandinavia, but with a brilliantly clever twist of Loki as the narrator, and his wonderful sense of wit, it both teaches and entertains Rinn Reads Harris narrative is witty and nicely-paced...The book will appeal to fans of folklore and mythology, but also, I'm sure, to fans of Loki from the marvels movies Nicki J Markus Blog Loki's voice is engaging, witty and likeable...Loki's famous exploits are conveyed with humour and verve -- Lucy Hounsom Blog

It has the right amount of epic fantasy and tongue-in-cheek humour...Harris skillfully weaves the stereotypical evil Loki into a self-aware but misunderstood antihero...a wonderful piece by a wonderful author, Well worth your time. The Tempered Pen Joanne is a natural storyteller who knows a few things about comedy timing...I was snorting with laughter in a most unladylike manner before even emerging from the cast list -- Ani Johnson, THE BOOK BAG

Joanne M Harris brings her fascination with Norse mythology from her previous children's literature foray to her long-standing adult audience with wit, style and obvious enjoyment...For lovers of myth, legend and Game of Thrones Sunday Sun utterly compelling and well worth a read -- BURY FREE PRESS

dark, quirky, occasionally grim, often hilarious and gloriously bold Booktopia This book is about playfulness and trickery and their darkside...there is a sly humour to this novel - both the narrator's and at his expense -- THE INDEPENDENT

a rich, sexy and entertaining tale of Loki...an imaginative retelling of the old myths, as seen through the eyes of the bad guy, and Harris (she reads Old Norse) handles it brilliantly! SAGA the first foray into adult fantasy fiction by the author of *Chocolat* is lively and fun -- THE SUNDAY TIMES

Harris has enormous fun with her antihero...this mythical bad boy should beguile fans of Neil Gaiman -- THE METRO

retells the sagas for adults, in all their wintry, saucy, grandiose, melancholy glory -- THE FINANCIAL TIMES

An ingenious and funny retelling of the rise and fall of the Norse gods -- CHOICE

fantasy fans and those who like to read Norse myths will appreciate the *Gospel of Loki*. I speculate that Joanne Harris's regular readership will enjoy the book too -- GEEK NATIVE

The *Chocolat* writer moves into the adult fantasy world...we loved it -- BELLA

The *Gospel of Loki*, a retelling of Norse myths, is hilarious -- GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

mixing of ancient myth with cracking modern story telling alongside wonderful prose and pace -- FALCATA TIMES

An entertaining story skillfully written as if it was simply told by Loki himself sitting right next to the reader -- FANTASY FACTION

Fun, witty and wholly entertaining, this is a neat retelling of classic legends which maintains their ancient roots without diminishing them through the use of a modern filter -- HERTFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER

Funny, sometimes poignant and always entertaining - don't miss Loki's lesson on life -- SCI-FI BULLETIN

inventive and absorbing...I look forward to Harris' next foray in to fantasy, especially if she applies her love of Norse mythology again Fantasy Book Review Joanne writes this story with panache and skill, infusing it with humour and wry smile throughout -- SFF WORLD

About the Author

Joanne Harris (MBE) was born in Barnsley in 1964, of a French mother and an English father. She studied Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Cambridge and is the author of fourteen novels, including *Chocolat* (1999), which was made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp.

Since then, she has written fourteen more novels, two collections of short stories, and three cookbooks. Her books are now published in more than fifty countries and have won a number of British and international

awards. She is an honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and has been a judge for the Whitbread Prize, the Orange Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, and the Royal Society Winton Prize for Science. She works from a shed in her garden, and lives with her husband and daughter in a little wood in Yorkshire.

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The Gospel of Loki



LESSON 1

Fire and Ice

Never trust a ruminant.

— Lokabrenna

All of us came from fire and ice. Chaos and Order. Light and dark. In the beginning — or back in the day — there was fire coming out of a hole in the ice, bringing disruption, turmoil, and change. Change isn't always comfortable, but it is a fact of life. And that's where life as we know it began, as the fires of World Below pierced the ice of World Above.

Before that, there were no Middle Worlds. No gods, no Folk, no wildlife. There was only Order and Chaos then, pure and uncorrupted.

But neither Order nor Chaos is very hospitable. Perfect Order is immovable — frozen, unchanging, and sterile. Total Chaos is uncontrolled — volatile and destructive. The middle ground — basically, lukewarm water — created the perfect environment for another kind of life to emerge among the frozen Wilderlands and volcanoes erupting under the ice.

The Authorized Version goes like this, supported by the Oracle. From the meeting of Order and Chaos there came a giant being called Ymir, the father of the Ice Folk, and a cow, Audhumla, which licked at the salt that was in the ice and brought out the first man, Buri. From this I think we can all conclude that the cow was the primary instigator of everything that followed — War, Tribulation, the End of the Worlds. Lesson One: Never trust a ruminant.

Now the sons of Buri and those of Ymir hated each other from the start, and it didn't take long for them to go to war. Buri's three grandsons, the sons of Bór — their names were Odin, Vili, and Ve — finally killed old Ymir and made the Middle Worlds from what was left of him: the rocks from his bones, the earth from his flesh, the rivers from his steaming blood. His skull became the Firmament; his brains, the clouds; his eyebrows, the division between Inland and the Outlands.

Of course, there's no way of proving this — let's face it — rather unlikely hypothesis. All of the possible witnesses have disappeared, except for Odin, the Old Man, the only survivor of that war, architect and chronicler of what we now call the Elder Age and, as it happens, the only one (except for me) to have heard the fateful prophecy, delivered to him by Mimir's Head when the Worlds were fresh and new.

Call me cynical if you like. But it all sounds a bit too convenient. The Authorized Version of events leaves out a number of details, which Creationists seem content to ignore. I personally have my doubts — not least

about the giant cow — although even now you have to beware of how you express these sentiments. At one time, even to suggest that Odin's account of things might have been metaphorical instead of literal would have resulted in cries of heresy and a good deal of personal discomfort for Yours Truly, which is why, even then, I was always careful to keep my scepticism to myself.

But that's how religions and histories make their way into the world, not through battles and conquests, but through poems and kennings and songs, passed through generations and written down by scholars and scribes. And that's how, five hundred years later or so, a new religion with its new god came to supplant us — not through war, but through books and stories and words.

After all, words are what remain when all the deeds have been done. Words can shatter faith, start a war, change the course of history. A story can make your heart beat faster, topple walls, scale mountains — Hey, a story can even raise the dead. And that's why the King of Stories ended up being King of the gods, because writing history and making history are only the breadth of a page apart.

Not that there was much of that when Odin was fighting the Ice Folk. There were no runes to write with then, and nothing but rock to write upon. But metaphor or otherwise, this is as much as I believe: that the world came into being through Change, which is the servant of Chaos, and only through Change has it endured. Much like Your Humble Narrator, in fact, adapting to suit the circumstance.

The snow hare changes its coat to white to go unseen in winter. The ash tree drops its leaves in the fall, better to survive the cold. All of life does the same — even gods — turning their coats to suit the turning seasons of the world. There should be a name for that kind of thing — in fact, it should be one of my names. Let's call it Revolution.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Best:

Throughout other case, little persons like to read book The Gospel of Loki. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Providing we know about how is important a book The Gospel of Loki. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, simply because from book you can understand everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple thing until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we can open a book or maybe searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's go through.

Dorothy Cropper:

Why? Because this The Gospel of Loki is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Laura Buscher:

The Gospel of Loki can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing The Gospel of Loki but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

Nancy Maxfield:

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