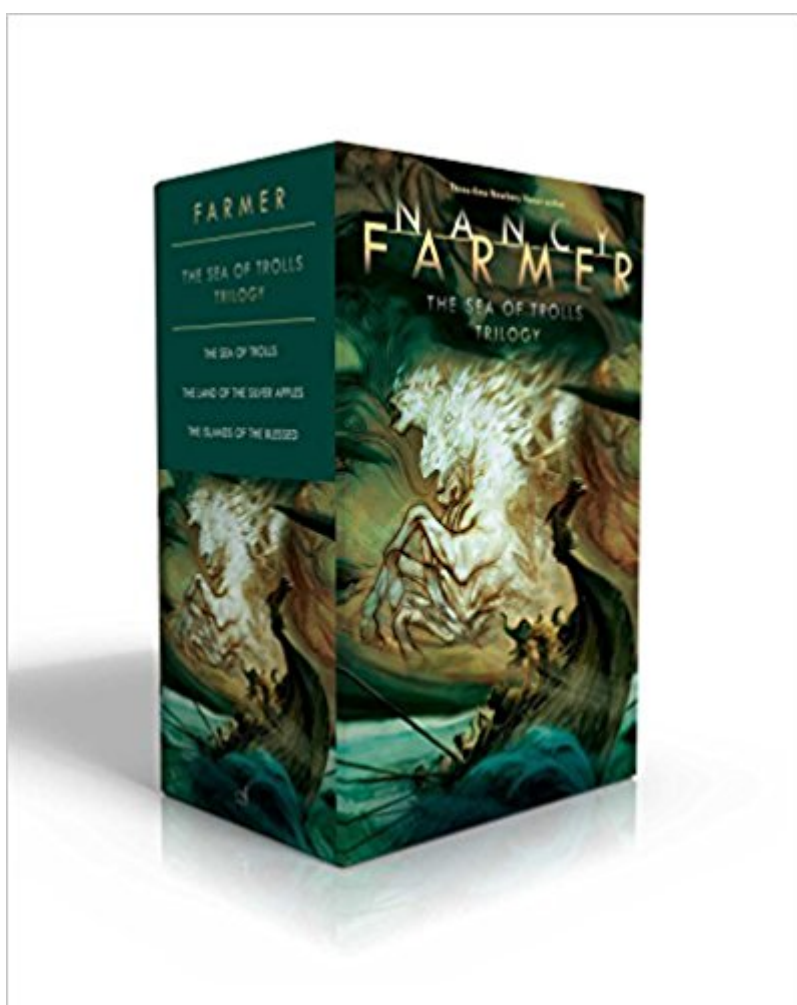


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# The Sea Of Trolls Trilogy: The Sea Of Trolls; The Land Of The Silver Apples; The Islands Of The Blessed



## Synopsis

Three-time Newbery Honor author Nancy Farmer's thrilling adventure trilogy that combines magic with comedy and high drama is now available in a collectible boxed set! This paperback boxed set includes all three volumes of The Sea of Trolls Trilogy: The Sea of Trolls, The Land of the Silver Apples, and The Islands of the Blessed. Jack and his little sister, Lucy, have been captured by Vikings! Enslaved by Olaf One-Brow and his fierce young shipmate, Thorgil, and befriended by a mysterious crow named Bold Heart, they are swept up into an adventure-quest in The Sea of Trolls. Lucy is carried off by the Lady of the Lake, and Jack and his companions set out to rescue her. With the world caught between belief in the Old Gods and Christianity, their quest will decide the fate of both religions in The Land of the Silver Apples. A tornado has destroyed the fields of Jack's village, the winter ahead looks bleak, and a monster has invaded the forest outside of town. So Jack, Thorgil, and the Bard set off on a quest to right the wrongs in The Islands of the Blessed.

## Book Information

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Myths & Legends

## Customer Reviews

Three time Newbery honor author Nancy Farmer's epic fantasy, The Sea of Trolls, is gigantic in every way. There are big Vikings and bigger trolls. There are big themes--hope, despair, life and death. At a substantial 450+ pages, the sheer size of this hefty tome is impressive. But, like all of Farmer's fine work, the large scale has room for enormous quantities of heart and humor. At the

center of this massive adventure is a small Saxon boy named Jack, who's never been much good at anything until the Bard of his medieval village makes him an apprentice. Then, just as Jack is learning to tap into and control his power, he is kidnapped (along with his little sister, Lucy) and taken to the court of King Ivar the Boneless and his half troll queen Frith. When one of Jack's amateur spells causes the evil queen's beautiful hair to fall out, he is forced to undertake a dangerous quest across the Sea of Trolls to make things right, or suffer the consequences--the sacrifice of his beloved sister to Frith's patron goddess, Freya. Along the way Jack faces everything from giant golden troll-bears to man-eating spiders, yet each frightening encounter brings wisdom and understanding to the budding young Bard. No quester who enters these pages with Jack will go away unsatisfied. Farmer's skillful melding of history, mythology, and humor, is reminiscent of both Tamora Pierce and Terry Pratchett's medieval fantasies, and will no doubt be HUGELY enjoyed by fantasy readers of all ages. --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-9. In Farmer's latest, a battle-ax-size fantasy-adventure, rampaging Northmen (the polite term for Vikings) pass through a Saxon village and enslave two of its residents: an 11-year-old apprentice mage and his 5-year-old sister. When Jack offends the Northmen's touchy queen, she threatens to kill his sister unless he reverses a misfired spell--a task that requires a journey deep into icy troll country. The subsequent bouts with troll-bears, giant spiders, and dragons are thrilling, and boys in particular will delight in Farmer's portrayal of the initially terrifying Northmen as tellers of fart jokes and singers of rowdy songs. Lighthearted moments notwithstanding, Jack's archetypal quest is a dense one, heavily draped in Norse mythology, Old English lore, and ponderings about the differences between Christian and pagan cosmologies. In addition, many readers may find it difficult to accept Jack's deepening affection for his frequently barbaric kidnappers, not to mention the oft-repeated message, "All beautiful things attract destruction"--a worldview that comes to Jack straight from the bloody saga of Beowulf. Readers captivated by slash-'em-up Viking culture will happily plunge into this celebrated author's sixth novel, but many members of Farmer's traditional audience will emerge from the experience feeling alternately dazzled and dazed. Jennifer MattsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is one of those rare books that you look forward all day to reading in the evening, and when you're getting close to the finish, you wish it had at least twice as many pages. Fortunately, there

are two more excellent entries in this trilogy, and each of those is just as good as the first. If you love Norse mythology and are fond of marauding Northmen, trolls, goblins, elves, and dragons, then these books are a particular treat. This is not kid stuff, however—there are occasional strong scenes of violence and killing (especially in the first book), and while they're not so graphic as to earn the trilogy a PG-13 rating, the intended audience is clearly young adults and up. As evidenced by the bibliography at the end of the book, the author thoroughly researched the period and setting. Consequently, she is able to immerse the reader in a vibrant world rich in authentic details and populated with an abundance of fascinating characters full of charm, eccentricities, flaws, and quirks. While you'll definitely come to love or hate some of these people more than others, the philosophical undercurrent woven into the tale never presents any of them—or their actions—as simply good or evil. A valuable lesson to learn, or be reminded of, for young and older adults alike.

As a middle school language arts teacher, I am always looking for books that boys will enjoy, as they are often more reluctant to read than girls. This story of a young boy captured by berserkers, moves quickly enough to keep boys engaged, but I think has enough fairy tale elements in it to appeal to girls as well. This book may not be suitable for students younger than sixth grade, since the descriptions of Viking raids are quite graphic. The story also invites students to grapple with what is true about life and death, as Jack (the protagonist) was raised as a Christian and must measure what he believes against Viking tales of Valhalla. This is definitely a worthwhile read and is ultimately life affirming.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer I liked that The Sea of Trolls was an adventure/fantasy book. If you like the game Skyrim you might like this book because Skyrim is sort of a medieval game that exists in a similar world as The Sea of Trolls. Some similarities are berserkers, thrills, dragons, Nords, and magic. My favorite part was when Jack and Thorgill were at the mountain queens palace and had to survive giant spiders. Jack saved them by playing a melody on the strings of the web and that made the spiders go to sleep. This book was a bit slow to begin but became a great book. Take the time to read it. Sent from my iPad

I am an adult, but I thoroughly enjoyed this book! I read the rest of the series as well.

Thrice honored by whoever awards the Newbery award, Nancy Farmer turns her attention from

Africa to medieval Norway in "The Sea of Trolls." Weaving legends and fact together, Farmer crafts a thrilling, magical, and hugely entertaining story set in the old Norse legends. Jack was thrilled when the Bard took him on as his apprentice, especially when the strange old man taught him to do magic -- or rather, to "use the life force." (Use the Force, Jack!) But his life is suddenly thrown into disarray when an evil Nightmare drives the Bard mad, and a band of berserkers captures Jack and his little sister Lucy. Now Jack is at the questionable mercy of Olaf One-Brow, who fortunately is pleased to have captured a skald (bard). But things go wrong again as soon as they arrive at Olaf's home. The sullen shield-maiden Thorgil gives Lucy as a present to the half-troll queen Frith, who is initially pleased by the pretty little girl. But then Jack accidentally says a spell that reveals the queen's true appearance (and it's not a pretty sight). Now the queen threatens to kill Lucy unless Jack goes to the legendary Mimir's well, and finds a way to reverse the spell. But Mimir's well lies in the middle of Jotunheim, a hideous wasteland full of trolls, dragons, carnivore plants and enormous beasts. It's hard to find a fantasy as textured as this one is. Farmer weaves history (Viking berserkers and the destruction of the Holy Isle) with legends (Jotunheim, trolls, Norse gods and Yggdrasil), and never makes you suspend your belief that it could have been like this. Plus there's a bit of Irish druidry, all wrapped up in the growing friendship between the Bard and Jack. The book is worth reading alone for the Bard's insights into nature and happiness. But unlike many less talented writers, Farmer doesn't make everything simple. The berserkers slaughter or enslave whole villages, yet they can be kind and honorable as well. Same with the trolls. And wrapped up in her grim tale of pillage and slavery, Farmer works in some humor as well. "Just say no to pillaging"? Priceless. Jack evolves wonderfully over the book, turning from an ordinary farm boy into a sensitive, intelligent bard. Thorgil takes a rather long time to become sympathetic, although Farmer creates a realistic background to explain why she's such a pill. Nancy Farmer creates another classic in "Sea of Trolls," a magical blend of history and myth. Remember -- just say no to pillaging.

The tale was unpredictable, yet it made sense. Strands of myth and history, and the strange, contradictory nature of humanity are woven together brilliantly. All the best features of story and adventure were present.

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