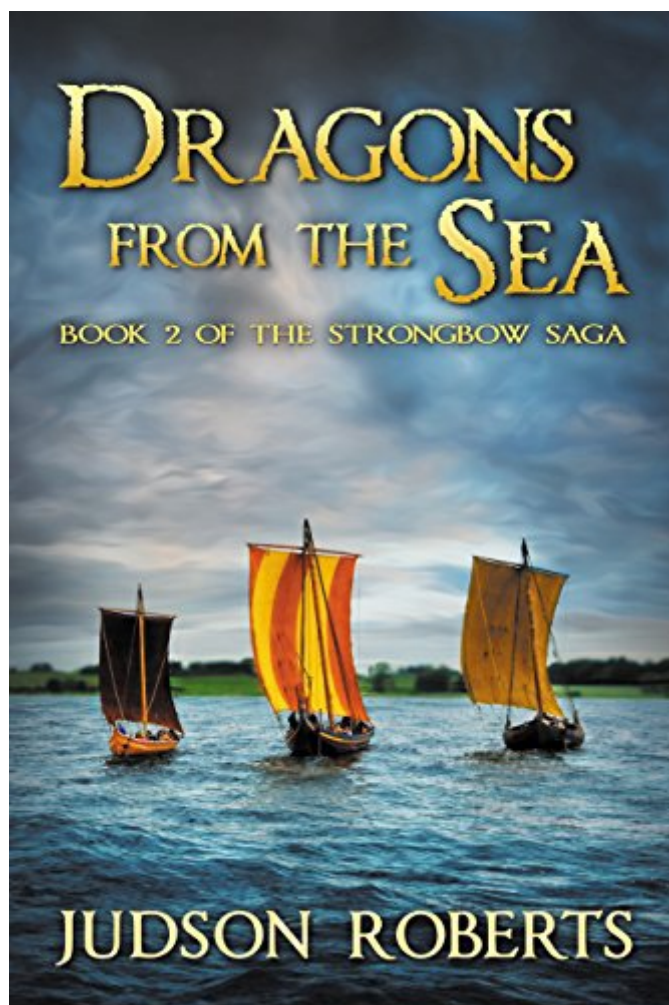


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Dragons From The Sea (The Strongbow Saga, Book 2)



Synopsis

In *Dragons from the Sea*, book two of the Strongbow Saga, Halfdan Hroriksson has escaped the enemies who murdered his brother and seek to kill him, too. Determined to avenge his brother's death, Halfdan knows he must first gain experience as a warrior. He joins a Danish army, led by legendary Viking leader Ragnar Logbrod, gathering for an invasion of Western Frankia, for among its fierce chieftains and seasoned warriors he may find the allies he needs. But first he must prove his own worth in battle, and more importantly, he must survive, for he will face dangers not only from the Frankish enemy, but also from hidden foes within the ranks of the Danes. The Strongbow Saga is an epic tale of one man's unstoppable quest for justice and vengeance that carries him across the 9th century world of the Vikings. This second edition of book two contains new maps, showing Halfdan's travels in this installment of the story and the route of the Viking fleet that invaded Frankia in 845 A.D.

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Customer Reviews

Purposefully widening my historical fiction pursuit to include lands and peoples less familiar and less often included in the plethora of historical fiction written about the English dynasties, I found myself extremely satisfied with this series, the characters and the story line. Most of us with any Anglo ancestry will have some of this lineage in our blood, as well, so it is a well written introduction to those people and those "raiders" who so often visited the English, Scottish and Irish shores in a time when navigating the northern seas was an amazing challenge to most. Good character development, good storyline, good history.

This is a review of the third book in the Strongbow Saga following the trials and tribulations of Halfdan. The story continues on following Halfdan during the Viking raid along the river Seine. In this book Halfdan is distracted from his oath of revenge by both the circumstances surrounding the Viking raid and his infatuation with his prisoner. I stated in my review of Book 2 that I was critical of the book in that some of the plot is a little unbelievable. Halfdan is just a bit too lucky, just a bit too good with the bow, just appears to be in the right place just a bit too often. I felt that in this book that was even more the case and started to push the bounds of reality into the impossible. I don't think that the author needed to make Halfdan exceptional for the story to work. The other point I made with my last review and that is worth making again is that the books are quite short, this one included. When you buy a physical book, you can see the size and thickness of the book. With an e-book, it is a little harder to determine how big the book is. I enjoyed the book to the extent that I felt it wasn't completed before the story ended. In other words I felt the book could have been longer/bigger although I understand from other reviewers that this was written for young adults/teens so that may have some influence on the book length. I was also under the impression that this was book three of a three book series. That doesn't appear to be the case and Halfdan's story will continue in the future. I have thoroughly enjoyed the series to date, but I am disappointed the author is not a prolific writer and we may have to wait some time for Halfdan to continue on his path to exact revenge. Nevertheless, I would like to recommend this book as a worthwhile read and a good yarn.

I enjoyed this series and found it easy to read. I believe the characters were well rounded, but not actually believable. Historical fiction it is, without a doubt. I guess I'm used to reading historical

fiction based on real history.

Ok, now I get it when reviewers said the main character was too much. The one problem I have with this book (and possibly the whole trilogy) is the main character is untouchable! Rather than be in the middle of fighting or with his fellow vikings! Throughout the book he is put up against situations that he miraculously escapes from. Does it get predictable after the first few chapters? A little bit. Honestly Halfdan is beginning to get under my skin. I'm rooting for the Franks! With that being said, the story is really good and fast paced (much faster than book one.) It seems most of the development took place in book one which has left more room for action and adventure, which is nice. (And there is loads of it) Very few (and I stress that) authors, that I have read, can transport the reader as good as Roberts. I felt as if I was there smelling the smoke and tasting the salted pork or hearing the swords strike and arrows fly. Such amazing skill he has putting life into words. Not quite a 4 but better than a 3. So, 3.5 stars. This book reminds me of a summer blockbuster with some over-the-top action that leaves you saying 'really?' But in the end still entertaining enough that you can walk away satisfied. I'm equally as anxious to read book three as I was to read book two.

I read the first of these recently, and really enjoyed it. I believe these are actually classified as books for teens or older teens - clearly targeted at boys and young men. The last time I fell into one of those categories, the Beatles were still together... Nonetheless, I really like these books. This is a book I was wishing wouldn't end so quickly. The storytelling is outstanding, even if the character development is a bit simple. But again, these books are written for young men / teenagers - I'm not sure they'd appeal to that group as much if the author got into more complex character development. This book (and the series) would be one to recommend right alongside "The Three Musketeers" by Dumas for teenage boys. I understand that Judson Roberts has struck out on his own, leaving the publishing company who published his first 3 books. He is preparing to publish his fourth book on his own. I LOVE to see authors doing this - especially authors like Roberts who are good and proven writers. I'd like to encourage readers to support these literary entrepreneurs, who are the equivalent of a small business-person trying to eek out a living among multinational giants. I loved the first 2 books, and have now finished the third. If you like adventure stories, pick these up and read them, and then find ways to stay connected to Roberts as he rolls out his next in the series - his first as an independent.

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