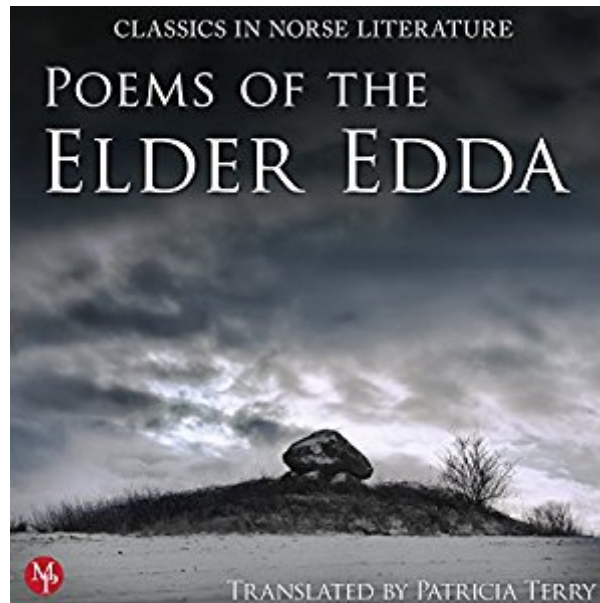


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Poems Of The Elder Edda: The Middle Ages Series



Synopsis

The great poetic tradition of pre-Christian Scandinavia is known to us almost exclusively through the Prose Edda, a collection of narrative literature, and its companion, the Poetic Edda. The poems originated in Iceland, Norway, and Greenland between the ninth and 13th centuries, when they were compiled in a unique manuscript known as the Codex Regius. The poems are primarily lyrical rather than narrative. Terry's fine translation includes the magnificent cosmological poem, "The Völuspá", didactic poems concerned with mythology and the everyday conduct of life, and heroic poems, of which an important group is concerned with the story of Sigurd and Brynhild. Poems of the Elder Edda will appeal to students of Old Norse, Icelandic, and Medieval literature, as well as to general readers and listeners of poetry. This audio version presents each poem followed by the translator's notes.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 24 minutes

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Customer Reviews

I facilitate a monthly bookclub where we compare various translations, stanza by stanza, of the Poetic Edda. The point is to notice the differences in translation and discuss what they might mean in order to more completely understand the verse. THIS is the book I refer to when I want to be sure what the heck a particular verse REALLY means! If I am confused or want to double-check that I've properly understood something, it's where I turn. When someone asks me which translation I would recommend to beginning lore scholars, I usually suggest this one, because it is easy to understand. It might sacrifice flowery language, or not make the attempt to re-create the poetic rhythm of the original Old Norse that other translations do, but it is uncompromisingly direct. (I call it the "No Bull"

translation.)

This translation was not what I expected. I have read the Elder/Poetic Edda before, but the copy I had previously was electronic. I bought this translation so I could have a hard copy that was a new translation. What I wish I had known was the translator edited her translation based on what she thinks was added by Christian monks who transcribed the Edda. I have spent quite a bit of time studying the conversion of the Scandinavian people to Christianity and I know that was a problem, but I still would have liked to see it in its entirety and been able to judge for myself what was added and not added. I am currently looking for a better translation to add to my collection.

I have ran across some of these poems and other reading but never took the time to concentrate on just reading them by themselves. This was an experiment well worth it. Translations can make a difference and I am working on a collection however this is my starting point. This is the revised edition of *Poems of the Vikings* by the same author. Each of the poems have useful notes at the end that might be worth reading before reading the poem themselves. There is an excellent glossary and a small bibliography in the book to carry us forward.

Bought the audible edition, content is OK, but am annoyed by the use of scottish and irish accents when the poems were being read. I would expect from the time period to hear swedish accents but not scottish, very distracting

I think Patricia Terry's translation of the Poetic Edda, is without a doubt the best I have read. Even though she leaves out two stories, it STILL should be read. Easy, fun and entertaining. Loved It!!!!

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