

Rune Warriors: Shield of Odin

James Jennewein & Tom S. Parker

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This book was very entertaining and funny. I would recommend it for mostly boys because it contains flatulence jokes and other humor along those lines. There is also reference to alcohol consumption and much violence. This book is recommended either as a gift or a book to be borrowed from the library. I liked the humor and the plentiful action a lot, and there were interesting references to Vikings and Norse mythology.

The protagonist is Dane, a young man who has recently gone on his first hunt, a rite of passage. The very beginning of the book is about Dane growing up and the influences on his, as well as the love and care given to him. However, the story takes a turn after that. There is an evil king named Thidrek who likes to execute people and rule them by fear. He obviously is not liked by his people, and everyone is afraid of him. In Dane's village, there is an annual competition for Viking sports like axe throwing and archery. One year, Thidrek comes to this celebration and humiliates Dane's father and the rest of the village as well.

Then things get worse. Dane's girlfriend, Astrid is kidnapped by Thidrek, and his village is razed to the ground and many people are killed. Dane's father is killed, and the Shield of Odin is stolen. This shield is given from Odin, the Norse god of tactics, and this shield blocks all attacks to the holder. The rest of the story is about the voyage that Dane and his friends have to embark on to save Astrid and the Shield. On the way, they encounter a troll that might be a dwarf, a frost giant, big hammers, Berserkers, and dangerous people.