



The White Raven

Robert Low

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The epic and action packed third novel in Low's Oathsworn series, charting the adventures of Orm and his band of Viking brothers

The Oathsworn have itchy feet. Battle-hungry and tired of keeping the homestead fires burning, they are restless for action. And, being the Oathsworn, action is what they get.

When their homestead is attacked by Klerkon and his men, the Oathsworn promise bloody revenge. But they didn't count on having to undertake the most dangerous journey of their lives in order to save two of their number.

Packed with epic adventure and bloody action, The White Raven is Robert Low at his very best.

The White Raven Details

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Author : Robert Low

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Carmen says

Robert Low's books open your eyes to the mentality of life in the dark ages. Not so much exhausting physical and historical detail. He's actually quite minimal when it comes to that stuff. There are no long, tedious descriptions of clothes and homes and furniture. But what he excels at are getting you in the mindset of the peoples. A snowstorm is not just a snowstorm: to the vikings in the book it really is Odin's white raven shaking his wings. These people are superstitious by our definition. By theirs they are alive to the universe. They live in nature and the world that make our own look narrow and myopic. To be in this book is to live with the myths on a daily basis. Joseph Campbell would have bust a nut reading these...

Patricia O'Sullivan says

Viking lord, Orm Bearslayer, has spent the last six years seeking fortune and now he wants to settle down on his farm. But his enemies have heard of a fantastic treasure buried across the steppes and only Orm knows its exact location. In the race to save members of the Oathsworn who have been taken captive and tortured for information, Orm and his men encounter a nine-year-old prince with the mind of a sage, a band of warrior-women sworn to protect Attila's grave, and a host of greedy men who will do anything to claim the treasure.

The White Raven is the third in a series of Viking adventure tales, but stands alone as an entertaining story. I found the beginning of the novel tough as I had little previous knowledge of the setting and had not read the first two novels. Also, the amount of foreign terms, names and idioms the reader has to master is daunting. That being said, the effort I made was well worth it.

It is clear that an incredible amount of research goes into the writing of this series. Mr. Low's historical note at the end is quite thorough. He also has a comprehensive glossary on his website and his blog is full of interesting bits about Viking life. Many of the details in The White Raven are so specific that all of my senses were engaged in each scene.

The best parts of this novel, however, were the stories within the story, particularly those told by Olaf Crowbone, the young prince rescued by the Oathsworn. Through these tales Low weaves Viking folklore into the story and not only do they give it an authentic feel, they are wonderful tales.

William Pontarelli says

Greatale of physical endurance, loyalty to sacred oaths and good old brutal viking warfare.

Dawn says

Another great book in this series.

Orm Bearslayer wants to settle down on a farm and forget about the oath and Attila's treasure but the tale of this fantastic treasure has spread and men start to gather in the hopes of Orm leading them to it. Given no choice, Orm must lead his men back across the steppes and on the way they encounter a child with a talent for telling stories, old and new enemies and a mysterious band of women who will do anything to prevent the treasure from being taken.

This continues to be an action packed adventure series with great characters. Robert Low is a master storyteller and I look forward to the next riveting tale.

Justin says

I've enjoyed Low's Oathsworn series, but this third installment was my favorite. It's got all the hallmarks of a great Viking epic. Every sentence is flavored with the world these men lived in. Low pulls no punches when it comes to the brutality they both endured and dealt out, but the reader nevertheless finds characters to root for and lament.

Orm is as complicated character, something of the reluctant hero. Others, including characters who will one day become living, breathing individuals well-known to history, are well-fleshed out. There are no simple one-dimensional characters, which is as common flaw in Viking novels. Rather, you get the sense that each character is on his own epic quest. Well done. I'd recommend this book to any fans of Norse novels and to anyone with a strong stomach. Very compelling read and narrative.

Terri says

Yet another beauty from the mind of Robert Low. I just can't get enough of his writing style. It just really appeals to me, as do his characters.

I want to ramble on with another long, elated review, but I have been reading the series one after the other and it does not seem so long ago that I waxed lyrical about the first two books. The Whale Road and The Wolf Sea.

I think I covered everything I like about these books in those first two reviews.

Drinking, cavorting, sword wielding, blunt, smelly, masculine male smart asses. What's not to love about that concoction.

Reggie Kray says

4.5*

David says

An excellent book but one that was quite difficult to follow. It was in a tone you could easily imagine as old Nordic. If you like Viking sagas - this is a really good book but you need to persevere.

Tamara Agha-Jaffar says

The White Raven is the third book in Robert Low's Viking Oathsworn series. Low doesn't disappoint. This book is as exciting as The Whale Road and probably even better than The Wolf Sea. Low picks up the thread where he left off in The Wolf Sea. Orm Bearslayer, leader of the Oathsworn, wants nothing more than to settle down and have a quiet life. But circumstances are against him and he is forced to lead his men on another adventure, this time across the frozen steppes in frigid weather.

Bound by their oath to each other, the Oathsworn set off to avenge an attack on their settlement and to retrieve those taken as hostages. They become embroiled in a cat and mouse chase to obtain the hoard of treasure buried in Attila's burial mound. There is continuity from the previous books even though one doesn't have to be familiar with them to enjoy this book as Low provides brief explanatory paragraphs when necessary.

The White Raven continues the tradition of its predecessors by plunging us into the chest-thumping, sword-thrashing, axe-wielding, womanizing, foul smelling, and vulgar speaking world of Low's Vikings. But our immersion in this very masculine world is tempered somewhat by the presence of two very strong prominent females who are more than capable of navigating in male domain and who give as good as they get. And then there are the fierce Amazonian tribeswomen. They earn the respect of the Oathsworn because, like them, they are bound to each other by an oath of loyalty and are willing to fight to the death to honor their word.

The novel is choke-full of thrilling action. The characters are well-developed and engaging. Amidst the blood and carnage, Robert Low sprinkles references to the Slavic and Norse mythology and folklore embedded in the characters' daily lives. One of the most intriguing characters is a young prince with a talent for telling fables and folktales that capture the attention of this band of burly men as they huddle together for warmth.

Robert Low's extensive research on the era adds authenticity and credibility to the people and events. He is a gifted story-teller who totally immerses the reader into the rough and tumble, full-blooded world of the Vikings in all its vivid, sensory detail.

Highly recommended, especially for lovers of historical fiction.

Geoff says

I have a rule of starting a book series from the start. I'm glad I broke it because this is damn good and I now have another series to look forward to.

Paul says

Definitely a different sort of adventure than most viking tales.

But a very good read, nonetheless.

Felt a touch more detached from Orm in this one.

Very intriguing story, though. Kept my attention.

I do miss the all-out, epic, bloody, gritty battle scenes that some include. The battles in this series are shorter -- bloody, but with less detail; and are less memorable than some.

Already began the next one.

I'm enjoying the series, but might be losing some of my zeal. I'll probably end with The Prow Beast, and not read Crowbone. Not sure.

Marko Vasi? says

As I already declared: If Mr. Bernard Cornwell writes in aristocratic fashion about vikings and their battles, from monarchistic point of view, then Robert Low brings real "smell" of vikings into his novels. And fascinating is Low's knack to mingle Slavic and Norse mythology, not in Hollywood-stage-glam-way, but in raw and original way of their utilization in everyday life.

Al says

Review

Praise for THE WHITE RAVEN: 'Robert Low's Oathsworn trilogy is historical writing at its best and most full-blooded, with its tremendous pacing, black comedy, a wonderfully vivid and rough-hewn prose style like runes hacked into granite, and most appealingly of all, its doomy, pagan sense of comradeship-unto-death between Orm Rurikson and his band of Viking brothers' WILLIAM NAPIER Praise for THE WHALE ROAD: 'A company of warriors, desperate battles, an enthralling read' BERNARD CORNWELL 'A fantastic book, one of the best I have read for years. There's a wonderful earthiness to proceedings and he creates a tangible sense of being there. There's a sturdy, lyrical and epic quality about the writing which makes it feel like the kind of saga a Viking would recount in his old age.' SIMON SCARROW 'A stirring Viking series of blockbuster battles and religious intrigue.' Publishing News 'All the right ingredients are firmly in place!above all there is the storyline itself; told in an earthy, rough-and-ready stylewhich perfectly compliments this saga for the 21st Century.' Yorkshire Evening Post 'A fascinating read' The Glasgow Herald 'The Hangman humour of the band of sworn brothers gives Low's epic but brutal tale real humanity and the detail of 10th century life is wonderfully vivid. The action is fast and furious!shockingly believably so. Low's debut novel hits the mark with maximum impact.' Bridlington Today

Product Description

The Oathsworn have itchy feet. Battle-hungry and tired of keeping the homestead fires burning, they are restless for action. And, being the Oathsworn, action is what they get. When their homestead is attacked by Klerkon and his men, the Oathsworn promise bloody revenge. But they didn't count on having to undertake the most dangerous journey of their lives in order to save two of their number. Packed with epic adventure and bloody action, the third book in the Oathsworn series is Robert Low at his enthralling best.

Sebastian Janek says

Robert Low powraca jak zawsze z nowymi pomysłami rozszerzając o nowe wątki stworzony przez siebie świat Wikingów. Autor przyzwyczaił mnie do ciągłej akcji, dobrze napisanych bohaterów oraz wyjątkowych przygód, jakie są udziałem Orma i jego paczki. Low, będąc ekspertem w tematyce dotyczącej Wikingów poszedł teraz o wiele dalej, udoskonalił bowiem bardzo dobrze przemyślany obraz brutalnego i prymitywnego świata średniowiecza, który nie ogranicza się tylko do północnych rejonów Europy zwykle kojarzonych z Wikingami. Jest rok 972, Low rozpoczyna trzeci tom z grubej rury, od brutalnego opisu nabicia na pal, ale zapewniam, że to nie jest jeszcze szczyt jego możliwości.

Trzeci tom cyklu "Zaprzysiężeni" przenosi akcję z powrotem na północ, gdzie bohaterowie powieści odpoczywają w domostwach i budują nowy statek. Ale ich spokojna wegetacja nie trwa długo, ponieważ szybko przypominają sobie o nich problemy. Tym razem próbują podjąć się ponownego odnalezienia mitycznego Skarbu Attyli, za którym już podawali w pierwszym tomie, a nie była to wyprawa zakończona sukcesem. Oczywiście sprawa nie jest prosta. Muszą ponownie pokonać tysiące kilometrów, przedrzeć się przez tereny Słowian i nawet Amazonek (których ślady osadnictwa znaleziono na terenie dzisiejszej Ukrainy), a także walczyć ze starym wrogiem. Jednak wielka nagroda wydaje się być już na wyciągnięcie ręki.

Akcja powieści skacze po różnych lokalizacjach, począwszy od Nowogrodu Wielkiego po wielu lokacjach od północnej Europy aż po Morze Czarne. Historia opisana w powieści jest oczywiście fikcją, ale z uwagi na zamiowanie autora do szczegółów dostajemy opowieść powiżaną wątkami z wydarzeniami znanymi z historii i opisanymi przez średniowiecznych kronikarzy. Low czerpie całymi garściami z opowieści i legend szkockich, nordyckich, a także słowiańskich. Postacie m.in. księcia Włodzimierza, Dobrynia, Swendelda, Luta, Olafa są opisane szeroko na kartach historii. Z małymi wyjątkami, gdzie nadał im dodane od siebie cechy lub przypisał czyny, które ich bezpośrednio z Ormem i jego grupą. Trzymając się wiernie znanej historii Low naszkicował polityczne i społeczne aspekty życia w X wieku. Wady ludzi opisuje świetnie przy okazji kreślenia politycznej wojny księstwa ruskich.

Jest się czym emocjonować, ponieważ Low dokonał tego, czego po nim oczekiwałem - po raz kolejny napisał powieść wciągającą, realistyczną na wysokim poziomie. Z każdym kolejnym tomem historia robi się coraz lepsza, z głębszym tłem i wieloma wątkami przeplatającymi się z historią i mitami. Poziom brutalności stał się rośnie, ale jest to w końcu powieść osadzona w realiach X wieku, więc naprawdę tego się tutaj oczekuje. Ta fascynacja barbarzyńskim światem, który na dodatek zostaje zalany kolejnymi fabry zabobonów przyniesionych przez chrześcijaństwo wręcz fascynuje i przyciąga jak magnes. Czekam na więcej.

Debby Kean says

This is one of the few series where it is possible to jump in, read book 3 and enjoy it. I don't feel any great desire to find and read books 1 and 2 though. The characterisation is vivid, the plot intricate and the people who were real historical people are nicely integrated - I like that they are not main characters! The author nicely integrates other types of people as well.
