



The Runes of Elfland

Ari Berk , Brian Froud (Illustrator)

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The Barnes & Noble Review

Award-winning illustrator Brian Froud (*Faeries, The Faeries' Oracle, Good Faeries/Bad Faeries*, etc.) has teamed up with folklore and mythology scholar Ari Berk to create *The Runes of Elfland*, an exploration of sorts into the narrative and artistic interpretations of mystical Celtic runes.

Featuring 24 new full-color, rune-inspired paintings and dozens of black-and-white sketches by Froud, as well as more than 100 pages of the folklore and mythology surrounding each rune, this book is packed with notable legends, such as the Birch Mother, the Woman of the Marsh, the Ever-Living, the Green Girl of the Birches, and the Day-Child.

* * *

The Runes of Elfland is a perfect gift book for anyone who enjoys Celtic folklore and mythology, as well as for those interested in faeries and fantasy. Froud fanatics will treasure this offering, which is both art book and folklore collection. "A single word can be a world and every letter a land. A rune drawn upon the ground can have curious consequences, might invite adventure, may open ancient doors. Here are the Runes of Elfland. Here are the songs of the shining lands. Here are signs of crossing and threshold. Here are stories of fate and illumination. Chant the charm, tell the tale, and step across " *Paul Goat Allen*

- From School Library Journal:

"If runes are the keys to Faery, this book is an Open Sesame."

The Runes of Elfland Details

Date : Published October 1st 2003 by Harry N. Abrams

ISBN : 9780810946125

Author : Ari Berk , Brian Froud (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 112 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Art, Mythology, Fiction, Paranormal, Fairies

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From Reader Review The Runes of Elfland for online ebook

Carrie Viscome-Skinner says

I love working with Runes and this book brought their meaning more alive with Brian's lovely artwork.

The Elves says

how could we not love this book?
dear lovers of Elfland,

... We've been reading tarot cards since we were eight years old and love everything having to do with Divination: cards, runes, pendulums, the whole works. And Brian Froud ... how can one not love his faery art? And Elfland, we love everything about elves and faeries that isn't totally corny. So how could we not love a book involving all three of our favorite things? If you love Froud's art, you'll love this book. If you are fascinated by the Norse Runes, here's another interesting interpretation. And if you love all things Elfin, as we do, then here is fine addition to modern Elven Culture. How can you go wrong?

kyela,
the silver elves
authors of The Book of Elven Runes: A Passage Into Faerie

Amy says

I guess I would buy anything that involved Froud and fairies. I was a little disconcerted by the intro from Professor Ari Berk, however (it's almost like he believes this stuff!). But his vignettes of each rune were really cool. I think I prefer Froud's earth-tone sketches of fairies and goblins more than some of his 80's paintings in this book, but overall, I enjoyed them.

Vicky says

I want to buy this book and keep it. The illustrations are unique and the text is magical. There is wisdom and mystery in each story.

Brooke Gilley says

My favorite artist, Brian Froud does the artwork, need I say more.

T.L. Wood says

This is a Rune book with information about each symbol told in a little detailed Faery stories and poetry told by Ari Berk with beautiful illustrations from Brian Froud. It made for some really enjoyable reading.

Elliot Schott says

A brilliant interpretation of the Norse Rune alphabet, with each individual rune revealing a hidden charm and portal to a specific aspect of what artist Brian Froud and writer Ari Berk call "Elfland." Froud's intensely varied senses of the mystical are displayed well here, and are given excellent and moving interpretations by Ari Berk, a well-spoken and masterful storyteller in this day and age.

Jess says

Who wants to learn the runic alphabet!? Oh, and look at *amazing* Brian Froud artwork and learn some genuine kick-tail folklore?

You too?

Nomad says

Froud's artwork is always second to none, but it's usually accompanied with more text than the paintings in this book. Or maybe it's because the whole thing is set up like a tarot card like thing and tarot is not something I take seriously at all.

So buy it for the art, don't buy it for the text, because the text isn't that great, but the paintings are.

Melanti says

This is a wonderful presentation of the runes. Each rune is given one full page illustration, two to three smaller illustrations, a one to two page fairy tale about the rune, and a half page or so of explanation of the rune's interpretation.

My only real complaint is that some of the interpretations don't entirely match with my favored Futhark handbook. But, there is room for debate when it comes to the meaning, so it's a question of artistic license, not accuracy.

I wish I'd found this a few years ago when I was interested in this sort of thing. Now, I'm liking it mainly for the short fairy tales and lovely artwork - which is great, but I feel like I'm skipping the main point of the book.

Larissa says

There are many doors and pathways to Faerie, even a window will do if you can open it wide enough to fit through. However this guide takes you by the hand and leads you willingly to a place where faeries exist, a place where they play, dance and dream. Anywhere you find nature, the wind, the sky, a puddle of water, you will find a story and a gateway into Faerie.

The Runes Of Elfland are a set of twenty-four runes known collectively as the Elder Futhark. Each individual rune represents more than just its sound or letter, there is a meaning behind each symbol and a story behind each meaning. Between the pages of this book are charms, stories, gifts and symbols that will amuse, delight and enlighten all those who venture along pathways and through doors opened within these pages. A beautiful book for lovers of faeries, art, fairytales and magic.

GypsyBookworm says

This book was captivating for me. This book came into my possession in a period of transition when I was in the midst of moving after having travelled half-way around the world. I was sitting in the strange house that would become our new home, surrounded by boxes and paraphernalia with movers milling through the house. In such a highly stimulated environment I needed a retreat and this book was it. I spent much of that morning curled up on the bare mattress of my sister's bed devouring and being absorbed by this book. Its funny how some of the simplest things in life are some of the most beautiful and profound. Something as simple as going to the library and picking up this book really nourished my turbulent spirit. This book will always have fond memories for me. I would love to be able to give this to someone else so they can experience it too.

Charlotte says

As beautiful and enchanting as you'd expect from an artist who designed much of the cult film Labyrinth.
