

# The Saga of the Volsungs: Legends from the Ancient North

- **Sigmund:** The patriarch of the Volsung clan. He was a great warrior and a skilled magician. He was cursed by the goddess Frigg, and he died a violent death.
- **Helgi:** Sigmund's eldest son. He was a great warrior, but he was killed in battle by his own brother, Sinfjotli.
- **Sinfjotli:** Sigmund's youngest son. He was a great warrior, but he was killed by Sigmund's wife, Signy.
- **Signy:** Sigmund's wife. She was a powerful and vengeful woman. She killed her husband and her two sons, and then she killed herself.
- **Sigurd:** Sigmund's grandson. He was the greatest of all the Volsungs. He was a mighty warrior and a skilled magician. He killed the dragon Fafnir and took possession of his treasure, the hoard of the Nibelungen. He also married the Valkyrie Brynhild, but she was later killed by Gudrun, Sigurd's sister.
- **Brynhild:** A Valkyrie. She was a powerful and beautiful woman. She married Sigurd, but she was later killed by Gudrun, Sigurd's sister.
- **Gudrun:** Sigurd's sister. She was a powerful and vengeful woman. She vowed to avenge the death of her brother, and she set out to destroy the Volsungs. She married the king of the Huns, Attila, and together they led a vast army against the Volsungs. The Volsungs were defeated, and Sigurd was killed by Attila. Gudrun then killed Attila and herself.

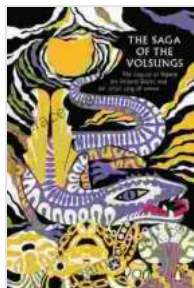
The Saga of the Volsungs is a complex and multifaceted story. It explores a number of themes, including:

- **Fate:** The Volsungs are cursed by the goddess Frigg, and their fate is sealed from the beginning. They are doomed to die a violent death, no matter what they do.
- **Love:** The Volsungs are a passionate and loving people. They love their family and friends, and they are willing to die for them.
- **Betrayal:** The Volsungs are often betrayed by those they trust. Sigmund is betrayed by his wife, Signy, and Sigurd is betrayed by his sister, Gudrun.
- **Revenge:** The Volsungs are a vengeful people. They are willing to kill those who have wronged them, even if it means sacrificing their own lives.

The Saga of the Volsungs has been adapted into countless works of literature, art, and film. Some of the most famous adaptations include:

- **The Volsunga Saga:** A 13th-century Icelandic prose version of the saga.
- **The Nibelungenlied:** A 13th-century German epic poem based on the Volsunga Saga.
- **Wagner's Ring Cycle:** A 19th-century opera cycle by Richard Wagner that is based on the Volsunga Saga.
- **The Lord of the Rings:** A 20th-century fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien that is heavily influenced by the Volsunga Saga.

The Saga of the Volsungs is a timeless classic that continues to inspire and entertain readers today. It is a story that has something to offer everyone, and it is a story that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it.



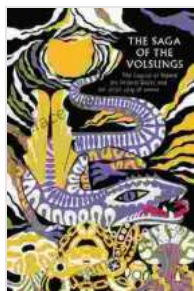
## The Saga of the Volsungs (Legends from the Ancient North) by Annalee G. Good

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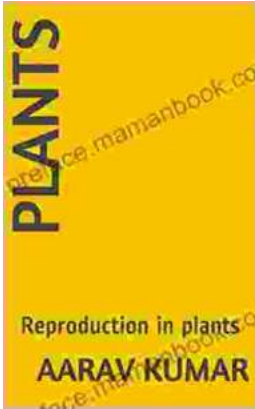
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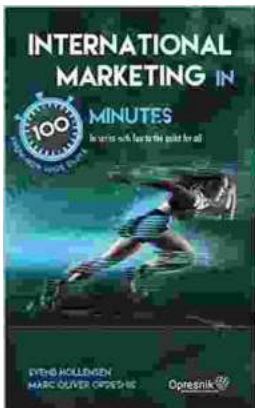
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