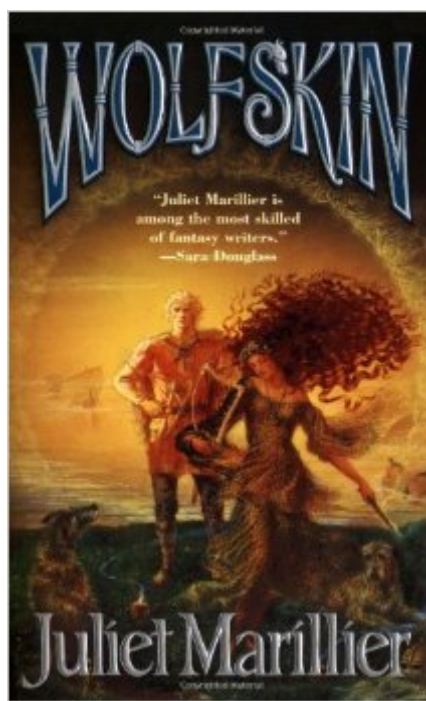


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Wolfskin (The Light Isles)



Synopsis

Wolfskin is the first of a fantasy duet in The Light Isles series from Juliet Marillier, weaving history and folklore into a saga of adventure, romance, and magic. All young Eyvind ever wanted was to become a great Viking warrior--a Wolfskin--and carry honor out in the name of his father god Thor. He can think of no future more glorious. The chance to make it happen is his when his chieftain Ulf is brought the tale of a magical land across the sea, a place where men with courage could go to conquer a land and bring glory to themselves. They set out to find this fabled land, and discover a windswept and barren place, but one filled with unexpected beauty and hidden treasures... and a people who are willing to share their bounty. Ulf's new settlement begins in harmony with the natives of the isles led by the gentle king Engus. And Eyvind finds a treasure of his own in the young Nessa, niece of the King, seer and princess. His life will change forever as she claims his heart for her own. But someone has come along to this new land who is not what he seems. Somerled, a strange and lonely boy that Eyvind befriended long ago has a secret--and his own plans for the future. The blood oath that they swore in childhood binds them in lifelong loyalty, and Somerled is calling in the debt of honor. What he asks of Eyvind might just doom him to kill the only thing that Eyvind has ever truly loved. Will the price of honor create the destruction of all that Eyvind holds dear?

Book Information

Series: The Light Isles (Book 1)

Mass Market Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: Tor Fantasy; Reprint edition (August 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0765345900

ISBN-13: 978-0765345905

Product Dimensions: 1.1 x 1.1 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #231,187 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Norse & Viking](#) #1600 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Fantasy](#) #4678 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic](#)

Customer Reviews

This book surprised me. People told me that, yeah, it was decent, but nothing to the Sevenwaters

trilogy. I walked around it at the book store for nearly a year, thinking, I'll get it in paperback. I mean, I don't *really* want to read it. Finally, I gave in, got it. I've been reading some crappy books, lately. I was not expecting much here, either. Stupid, stupid me. I re-read the Sevenwaters books every few months, at least in pieces. It shocks me now that I could have expected anything but excellence from Wolfskin. The story is set in Norway and in Orkney, in the days of Vikings. The main character is, in fact, one of these northern warriors - the very best. He is a very simple man, is Eyvind. All he wants is to be a brave warrior for three, maybe five glorious years, and then to die a brave and glorious death. He is, for lack of a better word, wholesome. Despite the fact that he basically kills people for a living. When Eyvind is a boy, his brother brings home another boy child - Somerled - and asks Eyvind to teach this boy to be a man. Somerled is as complicated a person as Eyvind is simple; as unhappy as Eyvind is content; as brilliant as Eyvind is strong; as strong as Eyvind is brilliant - which is to say, not much. Nobody likes Somerled. Spending time with him loses Eyvind all his friends for the few months each year when Somerled is visiting. And yet... They become brothers, in more ways than one. Eventually, they grow up. Eyvind is the warrior he intended to be. Somerled seems to have a brilliant future at court. Everything seems right and just as it should be, except for some things that Somerled does - some things that are less than humane, less than conscionable - some things that are beyond Eyvind's ability to believe of his friend.

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