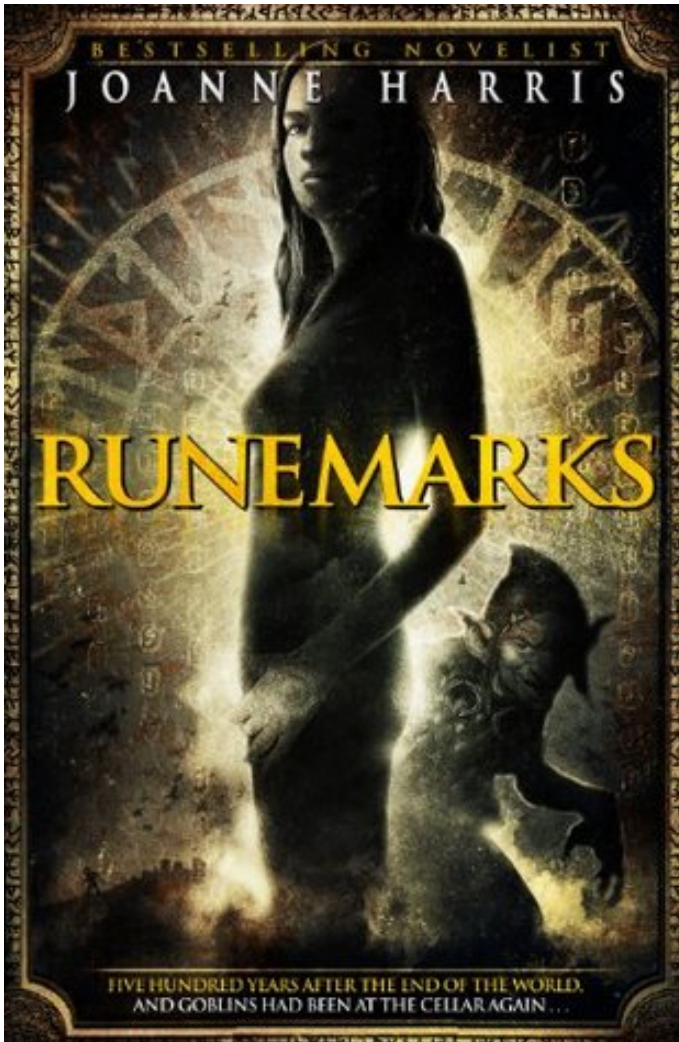


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**Joanne Harris**

**Runemarks (Runemarks #1)**



Title: Runemarks (Runemarks #1)

Author: Joanne Harris

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## Description

Pet stotina godina posle Propasti sveta, a u podrumu ponovo goblini...

Medi je dodirnula poslednju runu.  
Izgovorila je vradžbinu.  
Brdo se uz tresak otvori...

Medi je oduvek bila neprilagođena. Rođena sa runom boje rde na ruci – koju su seljani nazivali ružnim belegom – obeležena je tim znakom starih bogova, znakom magije.

A svi znaju da je magija opasna. Osim Medi, koja misli da je magija zapravo zabavna. Sve dosad. Jer odjednom joj njen prijatelj Jednooki, skitnica iz Tušine, traži da otvori Brdo crvenog konja i da se spusti u Donji svet – u kome sve vrvi od goblina i mnogo gorih stvari – i donese relikviju starih bogova...

Pune varki, magije i čarolije nordijskih mitova, „Rune“ su izuzetno dovitljiva i neverovatno maštovita epska fantastična avantura.

## Insightful reviews

Cassandra: This was a pretty good book. Not amazing, but not half bad either--the kind of rollicking adventure, with themes of self-esteem and rebellion against intolerant, controlling leadership, that seems to have taken the world of young adult literature by storm. I had already fallen in love with the subtle overtones of fairy-tale in 'Chocolat,' so when I discovered this, Joanne Harris' first excursion into YA fantasy lit, I picked it up and devoured it eagerly.

To say that I was disappointed with the book would be an unfair exaggeration--but there's no denying it didn't hook me quite as much as Chocolat. Perhaps this is partly due to my utter lack of familiarity with the Norse myths that are the basis of the the story; but Runemarks' plot seemed loose and wandering, with new characters and plot twists introduced with such frequency, and so little explanation, that their significance was often lost on me.

That said, Harris' characterizations are delightful. The Trickster Loki in particular is a deliciously cheeky, wickedly mischievous, roguish, irreverent, and impertinent scoundrel who, in true Joanne Harris style, single-handedly redeems the book from any plot pitfalls and keeps readers, like his cohorts, simultaneously laughing at him and wanting to strangle him, and unsure whether he is set to save the world or bring it crashing down into Chaos (which, despite Loki's family connections there, is NOT at all a nice place).

What is missing, ironically, is that mysterious spark or zing--that flirting with the supernatural--that indescribable, but tangibly present, whiff of otherworldliness that brought 'Chocolat' tantalizingly close to the borders of Faery. Spells and cantrips--not to mention the eponymous runes of power--are as thick as fog in all nine worlds of the World tree, and gods and goblins run amok; but that magical quality in the former sense is markedly lacking. What

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made *Chocolat* so memorable was the way it infused everyday life with a mythical sense of wonder.

*Runemarks*, on the other hand, brings the legendary down into the realm of the everyday. "God's just a word," Loki says, dismissing with a single gesture a world of awe and mystery. "Anyone can be a god if they have enough worshippers... Just words people use for things they don't understand." Within the story, where the gods may turn out to be the enemy, this idea may be reassuring; but once that awe of the divine has been diminished, the world does seem a colder and less colorful place.

Freya: I love reading mythologies, and this was a fun YA take on Norse mythology, taking place in a time and place post-Ragnarok.

While this book was written for a younger audience, I really enjoyed the creativity of the story, the runemarks, their powers, whether they were complete, partial or reversed. The new runes versus the old old runes, and who it identified the Gods as along with the trails they leave that are invisible to most.

It is a story about old and new, the old ways and Gods trying to hold in in a time of new ways and Gods/God. I really liked the allegiances and old or broken allegiances and tensions between the Vanir and Aesir and in amongst those groups too, the plotting and innocent yet outcast Maddy Smith caught up in it all.

I think authors these days seem to have a soft spot for Loki and want him to be good - of course he is his usual Loki-like self, but the way Harris portrays him makes you think that because the world is so different now that perhaps he is as worried as the rest and at times he is actually quite kind to Maddy... but I am not sure that I trust him despite this!

I will be keeping an eye out for the next one :)

Kristen: Imagine that Ragnarok happened, Asgard fell, and in the aftermath the survivors stumbled blindly forward to build a new world on the ashes of the old. Imagine, also, that the ancient runes have power for those that are born marked with them. Five hundred years after the end, much of the world is dominated by the Order, which has done its best to eradicate rune-magic and magical creatures of all kinds - with a thoroughness comparable to the Inquisition at its worst. But on the far side of the mountains from the Order's center of power, Maddy Smith has been allowed to grow up with an unbroken runemark on her palm - a mark that is not one of the old runes, but a new one. With Odin, Loki, and the prophet known as the Whisperer all pursuing their own goals, Maddy has to work out what her goals are - and hope that pursuing them does not condemn the world to another round of destruction This was quite a book, though I found myself a bit distracted by wondering how much was drawn from actual Norse myth and how much from Zelazny's *Amber* (or is it, how much did Zelazny draw on Norse myth?). But it's a fun book, aside from the occasional anachronism in the description or dialogue, with a thorough ending that's still open enough to allow for a sequel. Recommended.

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Polly: I wasn't in any respect certain approximately this for the 1st hundred pages or so, yet after that it received relatively good. it is filled with Norse mythology (which I love), magic, adventure, and has a happy/sad finishing that i will not get out of my mind. the only factor that actually bothers me approximately this ebook is that it used to be advertised as a kid's book, for the undesirable previous cause that it truly is a few kid. except that fact, it's not a kids' book. it truly is too heavy for those that expect a Harry-Potter story. no longer that Harry Potter did not get lovely heavy within the end, yet this can be much more so. Plus there is swearing and sexual historical past and all types of items that are not particularly kid-friendly. that is not to assert it will damage kids, however it will be larger to promote it as grownup delusion and permit the complicated readers locate it for themselves, the place they're going to get pleasure from it more, anyway. Forbidden fruit and all that.

Eowyn: this is often rambling, fascinating event in line with characters and settings from Norse mythology. I beloved it fairly a bit. common sense Media offers it four stars for 10 and up with the caveat that it is for skilled fable readers and that i could accept as true with that. i feel children who've already learn Harry Potter, Rick Riordan, etc. will like this book. younger lady major personality plus many different characters of all types together with a really enjoyable interpretation of Loki, a few violence, no romance at all, will get a bit messy and crazy, yet I enjoyed the second one a part of the publication with all of the characters rushing headlong for a similar position and the inevitable crash that results. i do not supply it five stars since it did not rather flow me, however it definitely entertained me.

Starla: Wow! This tale was once very deep with such a lot of personality to follow. Very creative! i love this book. i am watching for the subsequent one.

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