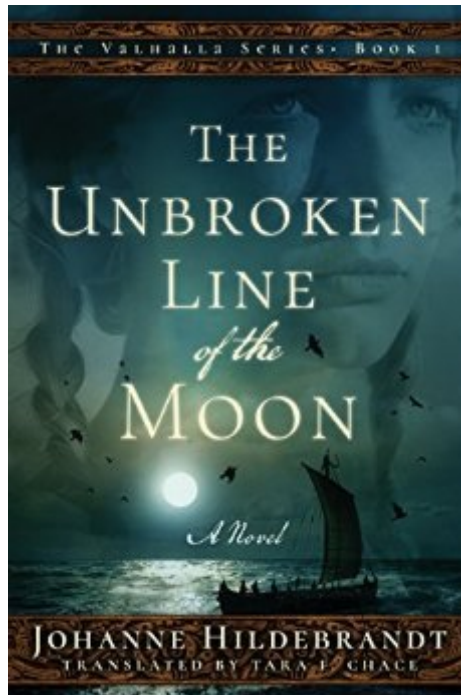


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The Unbroken Line Of The Moon (The Valhalla Series Book 1)



Synopsis

In this savage saga of love, war, lust, and magic set in the tenth century, young Sigrid is destined to be the mother of the king of the Nordic lands that would become Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and England. A devout believer in the old Nordic gods, Sigrid is visited regularly in her dreams by the goddess Freya, who whispers to her of the future. Though Sigrid is beautiful, rich, arrogant, and matchlessly clever, her uncanny ability to foresee the future and manipulate the present guides her through dangerous politics as a bloody war between Vikings and Christians rages on. Sigrid's father wants her to marry Erik, a local king, to secure the peace between the Goths and the Swedes. Thinking she is doing Freya's will, she accepts the marriage offer, only to find that her destiny lies not with Erik but with Sweyn, a warrior who dreams of dethroning Harald Bluetooth, the legendary ruler of Denmark. Will Sigrid sacrifice her will for the greatest Viking kingdom of all time, or will she follow her heart at the risk of losing everything?

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Customer Reviews

This novel is an interesting weaving of the stories of Sigrid the Haughty, a semilegendary Viking-age queen of Sweden, and Sweyn, the illegitimate son of King Harald the Bluetooth. The

author is an award-winning Swedish war correspondent, and she masterfully covers the ambitions of the story's myriad Viking warriors in a sober and sobering style, in all its brutality and humanity. It's almost like we were getting war bulletins from a journalist embedded at the Battle of Fyrissvellir in ca. 900 AD. But that is only the backdrop. Unfolding parallel to it is the story of Sigrid, who starts the tale as a silly, naive teenager but grows over time to become a queen ruling in her own right. That journey is told very lovingly and with sweeping scope. Despite the authenticity of Viking brutality, this book I think is first and foremost a sort of feminist bildungsroman, reminiscent of other sweeping sagas like *Clan of the Cave Bear* or *Mists of Avalon*. This is in no way some Harlequin romance, however. The author applies the same bluntness and frankness in talking about war as she does in talking about Sigrid's experience as woman very much in a man's world. She doesn't shy away from topics like rape and menstruation and infidelity etc. With this blunt sensibility, the novel really is typically Scandinavian (other reviewers seem surprised at the Scandinavianness of the book, which is what surprises me—it's a story set in the brutal Viking age written by a Swedish war correspondent, for goodness' sake!). This is a Swedish novel set over a thousand years ago about Sigrid becoming a queen regnant (i.e., not merely the wife of a king), so you might think the course of Sigrid's life to feel unfamiliar. But author writes a Sigrid who is extremely relatable to us today.

**** ** ****WARNING**** This translated book has graphic scenes of violent sex that many readers may find revolting. To be fair, I believe the author has provided images true to the times and of the society depicted. Nonetheless, readers must be forewarned — I wish the book description had provided just such a disclaimer. I am concerned that many review readers are going to be exasperated by this review, but this story has scratched my soul in ways that demand that I pour out my gut feelings, for whatever they might mean. I also feel that this review may be of more importance to many people than most reviews, due to the moral effect of certain passages. Quick Overview If, like me, you find yourself wishing to learn more in regards to your Viking heritage by reading historical fiction set in the time of your roots, I have this advice: Be careful what you wish for, because the truth of your heritage may be revolting. I had an incredible challenge in selecting my Kindle First book this month. Each of them had an inkling of promise, but also seemed likely to disappoint. Honestly, I think I picked precisely the wrong book for my tastes. Still, I look at it as a growth experience. You see, every autumn a Nordic festival is held in Minot, a town not far from my home. I get a chance to seek camaraderie with my Viking roots at the Norse Hostfest. Well, of course, that led me to choose an historical fiction novel about the Norsemen at the turn of the first

millennium. There are some things secrets buried in my heritage that, for me at least, are best buried and left undisturbed.

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