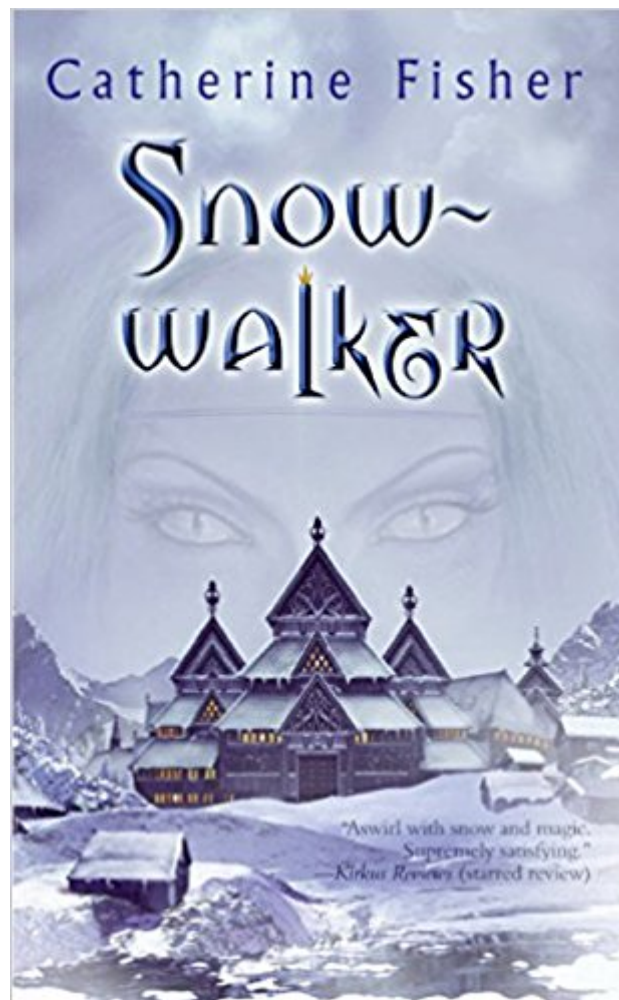


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Snow-walker



Synopsis

Since Gudrun came from the frozen mists beyond the edge of the world, the Jarl's people have obeyed her in hatred and terror. But the enchantress has one weakness: a son, Kari, banished to a forbidding fortress in the north, never seen by the Jarl's people. In secret they wonder: Are the rumors true? Was he born a monster? Now Jessa and her cousin Thorkil have been exiled to the north, and if they survive the journey, they will find the truth: Is Kari a beast? Or the means to stop the sorceress?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I have never read a fantasy book quite like this one. It took quite a bit from Norse mythology and some of it reminded me of Beowulf. It takes place in a very cold country in the north. In the first book, Jessa and Thorkil are banished to Thrasirshall because their parents were not loyal to the present Jarl (ruler) and his evil Snow-walker bride from the north. The snow-walker, Gudrun, banished her monster son, Kari, to Thrasirshall with only one man to look after him. When they arrive, they find Kari to be the mirror image of his mother. (This theme recurs over and over in the book; the same, but opposite, etc.) He hates his mother as much as the rest of the country does. Soon the Jarl dies and Gudrun sends assassins to kill Kari. He escapes with his few friends and heads back to the Jarlshold. At the end of this book, he defeats his mother and she goes back to the land of the Snow-walkers, beyond the end of the world. In the second book, a strange monster begins terrorizing the Jarlshold and surrounding countryside. Thorkil is dropped as a main character. Now the 6 main characters are Jessa, Kari, Brochael (Kari's guardian), Wulfgar (the new Jarl), Skapti (a poet) and Hakon (a servant or slave). This book takes place at the Jarlshold for the

whole book and is mainly about how no one, not even his friends, will trust Kari because he has power to control people and looks like his mother. At the end of this book, the monster is neatly disposed of, though it had a satisfying ending. In the third book, Wulfgar is about to be married when Gudrun sends a soul-stealing spell and takes his bride. It soon begins to affect the whole Jarlshold and the friends, except for Wulfgar, journey to the land of the Snow-walkers to try to defeat Gudrun once and for all.

Welsh author Catherine Fisher strikes gold in an icy, shimmering new fantasy, "Snow-Walker." With likable characters and vivid writing, Fisher demonstrates her talents in the arena of Norse mythology, filled with shapeshifting wolf-men, soul-stealing ghosts, and icy witches. Jessa is horrified when she learns that the Jarl (a sort of king-chieftain) has exiled her to Thrasirshall -- where Kari, the son of the Jarl and his cold, evil wife Gudrun, lives in complete isolation. He's rumored to be a monster. But when Jessa arrives, she finds that Kari is not a monster -- but a lonely young boy who has the power to destroy his scheming sorceress mother, and has been sent away because of that. After the death of the Jarl, Gudrun vanishes, and a new Jarl, Wulfgar, is chosen. And Kari vanishes back to the north for a few years, honing his magic abilities. But with power comes greater fear. Kari fears becoming like the evil Gudrun, and others fear his dark magic. Even Wulfgar begins to doubt him, especially when Kari is accused in a prophecy by a priest. But Kari and Jessa have more than just accusations to deal with. A monstrous, bearlike creature is coming to the Jarlshold, with Wulfgar as its target. And Wulfgar's bride's soul is stolen by Gudrun. Kari and his loyal friends band together to defeat the evil Snow-Walker -- but is the good in Kari enough to keep him from becoming like Gudrun? The first book by Catherine Fisher, "The Oracle Betrayed," was a tepid mix of Greek and Egyptian cultures. She fares much better with the rich Norse mythology, against a backdrop of monsters, snow, ice, and sorcerous people with eyes like bits of ice.

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