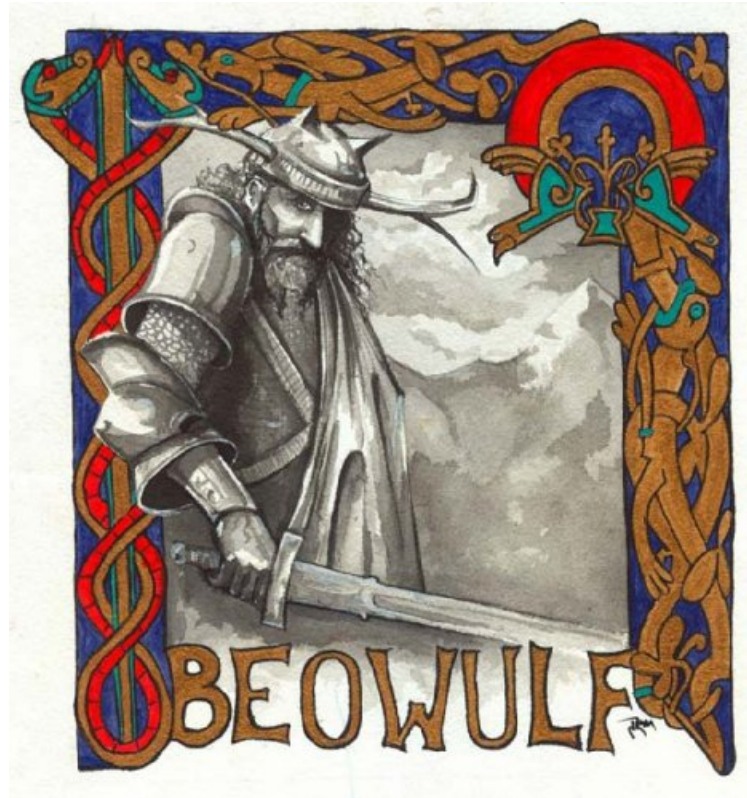


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BEOWULF (non illustrated) (English Edition)

Von Anonymous

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Von Anonymous : BEOWULF (non illustrated) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised BEOWULF (non illustrated) (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen
Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen
2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Epic read, slightly difficult language
Von Thorben Krger***DISCLAIMER*** I am not a native English speaker, so I might not have been able to fully appreciate this work in all its subtleties.
ORIGIN:The Beowulf epic survived as a single manuscript written in a confusing mixture of old English dialects, dating from between 800 and 1100 AD. It is disputed how much of it is merely transcribed from earlier, oral legends and which parts are original fiction. The story carries many elements of (retroactive) "christianization" although the depicted heroes and south Scandinavian people(s) were pagans to begin with. (The translator (foot)notes that the author of the manuscript was most probably aware of the heathen lifestyle of his heroes but chose to redeem them in the eyes of a Christian reader by having them call upon the "one true god" from time to time.)
SETTING:The epic is set in the southern parts of Scandinavia, including today's Denmark, southern Sweden (and Norway) and mentioning northern Germany. Most of the kings, clans, tribes and peoples described in Beowulf have historically existed and many of the battles and feuds the story refers to have actually taken place. Most of the core narrative however is probably purely fictional and/or derived from legends.
STORY:The story is a first-class epic in many respects. It centers around the protagonist Beowulf, a warrior ("thane") and his various heroic deeds. In the course of the story, he voluntarily but successfully fights three major

antagonists before he is finally mortally wounded and dies. LANGUAGE: This translation of Beowulf is probably slightly dated, since the price of the ebook suggests that the copyright has already expired. As such, many unfamiliar words when looked up in the (Kindle version of the Oxford Advanced Learners) dictionary are marked as "archaic". Some familiar words like "boss" have different/additional meanings, such as denoting the "hub or central metal part of a shield". Due to these difficulties, I only give 4 out of 5 stars. If you don't mind the difficult language, feel free to consider this a 5 star review instead. PERSONAL NOTE: I was startled to find many parallels between the final part of the epic and Tolkien's "The Hobbit". I suspected that Tolkien had at least known the story but later research revealed that Tolkien is actually considered a Beowulf scholar.

Kurzbeschreibung King Hrothgar, the ruler of the Danes, is troubled by the rampages of a demon named Grendel. Every night, Grendel attacks King Hrothgar's wealthy mead-hall, Heorot, killing Danish warriors and sometimes even eating them. Hrothgar was a great warrior in his time, but now he's an old king and can't seem to protect his people. Fortunately, a young Geat warrior named Beowulf travels to Heorot Hall from his own lands overseas to lend a helping hand literally. After explaining that he owes Hrothgar a favor because Hrothgar helped out his father, Beowulf offers to fight Grendel himself. King Hrothgar gratefully accepts his offer. The next time Grendel attacks Heorot Hall, Beowulf is waiting for him. Choosing to fight Grendel in hand-to-hand combat, Beowulf wrestles the demon into submission and eventually tears off his arm at the shoulder. Mortally wounded, Grendel flees into the wilderness and dies. Beowulf, Hrothgar, and their followers throw a wild party to celebrate. Hrothgar also gives Beowulf many presents and treasures to reward him for his heroic defeat of the demon. Unfortunately, Grendel has an overprotective mother who decides to avenge her son. While all the warriors are sleeping off the party, she attacks Heorot Hall. But when the warriors wake up, she panics and flees back to her lair, a cave underneath a nearby lake. Beowulf, his Geatish warriors, and some of Hrothgar's Danish warriors track her there. Beowulf dives into the lake and finds the cave, where he takes on Grendel's mother in another one-on-one battle. Seizing a nearby sword from Grendel's mother's stash of treasure, he slays her, even though her poisonous demon blood melts the blade. When Beowulf returns to the surface, carrying the sword hilt and Grendel's severed head, the Danish warriors have given him up for dead, but his own Geatish followers are still waiting patiently. When everyone sees that Beowulf has survived this second challenge, there's even more partying and gift-giving. Finally, the Geats take their leave of the Danes; Beowulf says goodbye to King Hrothgar and sails back to Geatland, where he is a lord in the court of King Hygelac. Eventually, Hygelac and all his relatives are killed in different blood-feuds, and Beowulf becomes the King of the Geats. Beowulf reigns as king for fifty years, protecting the Geats from all the other tribes around them, especially the Swedes. He is an honorable and heroic warrior-king, rewarding his loyal thanes (warrior lords) and taking care of his people. But one day, Beowulf finally meets his match: a dragon, woken by a thief stealing a goblet, begins attacking the Geats, burning villages and slaughtering people. Beowulf takes a group of eleven trusty warriors, plus the thief who knows where the dragon's lair is, to the barrow for a final showdown with the monster. When they see the dragon, all but one of the warriors flee in terror. Only one man, Wiglaf, remains at Beowulf's side. With Wiglaf's help and encouragement, Beowulf is able to defeat the dragon, but he is mortally wounded in the process. (non

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