



## Lord of Raven's Peak

*Catherine Coulter*

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Merrik Haraldsson, the younger brother of Rorik, the Lord of Hawkfell Island, embarks on a journey that begins in Kiev where he comes away with two slaves-- Laren and her younger brother. Laren wants to tell stories to earn enough silver and gold to buy her and her little brother from Merik, only he refuses to sell her. And now that she's his, he must protect her when she's accused of murder, then save her yet again when he discovers her secrets.

## Lord of Raven's Peak Details

Date : Published (first published 1994)

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Author : Catherine Coulter

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical

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## **From Reader Review Lord of Raven's Peak for online ebook**

### **Karen says**

This got boring about half-way through so I don't even want to finish it.

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### **Juana "Darkness" Duran says**

The future seemed bleak to Laren and her brother Taby. Until one day their savior came and whisked them away from the tortures of slave life. Their savior was Merrick, a viking from Norway that was both fair and just or as close to that as it was possible. After Merrick saved Laren from the person she was sold to, his men and Taby plus another slave were taken on his long boat to sale away to their home town. When Merrick sees the pain and hatred in their eyes he just wants it to stop. He takes care of them through the whole ride their. But the problem is that Laren and Taby do not trust his men and him, not completely. Until they grow closer together, through the trials that they face their destinies seem intertwined. When they get to their destination Merrick has to keep the identity of Laren a secret because if his people knew that Laren was a woman it would be disastrous. The people would use her body, rape her, beat her. But Merrick can't allow that even if they do discover his secret, that he is in love with Laren. They go on like that for a while before everything is found out and he marries her, because nothing matters to her except that they are together. Nothing will get in Merricks way of claiming Laren for his own. And with Taby, Merrick sees that he has a family with both of them.

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### **Ana T. says**

After posting the list of Viking romances to the ERT group I discovered I had Catherine Coulter's Lord of Raven's Peak in the TBR pile and decided to read it.

It was not as bad as I thought it be, I must say Merrick was quite a civilized and non violent viking which surprised me. I thought the story could use more depth and somethings we a bit odd but in general it was entertaining and a bit surprising. As to the story Merrick, a viking, is in Kiev to buy slaves when he sees a little boy of six teriified because his older brother has just been sold and he is alone. Merrick buys the little boy and is oddly attracted to him (like father and son, not sexually!). To keep him happy he descides to steal the boy's brother from his new master, which he does but ends up discovering said boy is a girl and another slave escapes and comes with them. It is odd that not only he would feel as strongly about a boy he just met but also that he would return from the slave market without having bought the slaves he was intending to and running not to be discovered but the man he stole the boy/girl from from.

Laren, the boy/girl slave, doesn't seem to know when to shup up, even after being rescued and reunited with her brother she keeps a proud attitude and answers back to Merrick. She makes an enemy of his Skald when she decides to continue a story he started and soon they all realize she is better than him. When they reach Merrick's farm his parents are dead and his brother is the new Lord. Erick is the stereotype of the ruthless, mean viking. Hits his wife, keeps mistress and feels like can use any slave he feels like it. And of course he wants Laren... Merrick doesn't want him to have her because that would bring pain to Taby (weird how many times he speaks of not painning Taby) so he pretends she is his mistress which she eventually becomes.

I think the worst part of the book is that one really doesn't see how they fall in love. Laren does feel a pain in her chest every time Merrick says she is only important because of her brother but other than that we really don't feel why should they fall in love. And Coulter's first sex scenes between characters always leave with a mix of frustration and amusement. They are generally bad for the woman (but this one wasn't as bad as some I've read by her...) and her heroines always end up saying something too naive and ridiculous like Laren telling Merrick that he must needs practice because another woman has told her it only hurts the first time, so if they practice it won't hurt anymore. It should be amusing but sometimes it's just silly.

Eventually someone gets killed and Laren is blamed. To save her from certain death Merrick decides to marry her. I never understood how he came up with such punishment. And Laren finally tells him she is a princess of Normandy, the niece of Rollo and Taby is an important piece of the dynasty as he is heir. Merrick tells everyone such and they stop believing in Laren's guilt because such pure blood couldn't lie (such logic reasoning this is). So they both go to Normandy and look for Rollo who welcomes his niece back and they decide they must discover who kidnapped and sold both Laren and her brother to slave traders.

I felt the book changed in tone here. If before with had a viking setting of a farmstead and the way of life in a long house, here we are in a palace and surrounded by court intrigues. Several people could be the guilty ones, including Laren's two half sisters, and I think Coulter does a bit too thorough a job to send us in one direction. Having Merrick respond to his wife's sister kisses was a bit odd...

After they solve this mystery they go back to Merrick's farm accompanied by Laren's father to pick Taby up. There they find that all is not what it seems and soon another man is attacked the same way as Erick and there's a new mystery to unravel and the conclusion was, to me a surprising one. So as you can see there are many plot twists that kept me entertained, maybe too many in fact. I think that it probably the result of it being written 15 years ago. Too many things happening and not enough depth, but entertaining nonetheless!

Grade: C

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### **Heidi says**

I liked the historical references but the plot was weak and lacked cohesion.

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### **Mary Rad says**

Fun, fast read.

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### **? BookAddict 🗡️ La Crimson Femme says**

I tried to get into Vikings and I realized, they do not do much for me. It is Ms. Coulter so the story is very well written. The slave part is what attracted me... hoping for some dirty sexy loving. For back in 1999, it was maybe a bit risqué.

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## **Maureen Feeney says**

3.5 stars

Merrick Haraldsson,(younger brother of Rorik) while trading in Kiev rescues a young boy Taby(5) and his brother and their friend Cleve(20) from slavery and takes them home. He soon finds out that Taby's brother is a girl in disguise called Laren(18). They settle in and Laren tells storys for money hoping to buy their freedom to return home. When she is accused of murder and Merrick wants to marry her to protect her she tells him her background. She is the niece of Duke Rollo and Taby is his heir, they were kidnapped and sold into slavery 2 years previous. They marry and Merrick brings them home and try's to find out who wanted them dead.

A compassionate Viking? Well if there is such a thing Merrick is it. He is not abusive but WTF was going on with his relationship with the boy Taby??? Even Cleve says that Merrick will love his brother-in-law Taby more than he will love his own sons! Laren's storys were no great contribution to the book, I found myself skimming them. Laren was also annoying, didn't she know when to shut up? Even after being rescued by Merrick after 2 years in slavery she was mouthy to him, TSTL Heroine. I loved the story and Cleve and apart from the above gripes I enjoyed the book most of the series.

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## **April says**

What a great story! I laughed and cried many times! Such wonderful writing and really engaging characters!! I love this authors work!!

I am currently on a Regency kick and this one was terrific!!

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## **Jessica says**

loved it. off to read the next one.

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## **Crystal says**

I enjoyed the story and all the characters. I couldn't put the book down. It was interesting how the author made all the bad things that happened to the heroine before the start of the book, well most of them.

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## **Le Anne says**

A wonderful job by Catherine Coulter. A must read.

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## **Ana says**

November 2016

Lord of Ravens Peak devolved from something magical to something nightmarish. The story branched out so much it was irritating to read in the end.

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## **Diane Wachter says**

Lord of Raven's Peak, Viking Bk 3, Catherine Coulter, PB-B @ 1994, 1/08. Merrick rescues a small boy in a slave market after the older brother is sold. Then he rescues the older brother, who turns out to be Laren, an older sister. Okay.

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## **Regan Walker says**

Intriguing Viking Tale with a heroine who is a Skald, a teller of stories

This is the third in Coulter's Viking series (see list below) and the second in her Viking trilogy. As with the others, it's a good one. And, it's rather unique. The heroine is a skald (a storyteller), so there are stories within the story and very cleverly done, too. I admire Coulter's ability to do that so smoothly. She gives us a feeling for how important storytelling was to the Viking culture while weaving it into an intricate plot and a great romance. I loved it.

Set in 916, beginning in Kiev (and thence to Norway and Normandy), this is the story of Merrik Haraldsson (younger brother to Rorik from Lord of Hawkfell Island), a Viking who stops at the slave market to buy his mother a woman to help with the weaving. What he gets instead are two young boys he saves from a fate worse than death. And, as it turns out, one of the boys is actually a girl—18-year-old Lauren. A girl with beautiful breasts and a sharp tongue—and a mysterious past she won't speak of.

Lauren has some ability as a skald, a teller of stories, and holds Merrik and his men spellbound with her tales. Lauren's purpose is to gain their silver to buy her freedom and that of her younger brother, Taby. The two of them were abducted from her home and sold into slavery two years ago and they have barely survived. Merrik finds her enchanting, no matter her red hair and her skinny body (from near starvation) and he loves Taby and has no intention of letting him go.

Richly drawn characters and meticulous research are blended with the Viking culture, treachery, murder, cruelty and lust—a superb job. It's going on my best Viking Romances list along with the others in the series I've read. I recommend it!

Viking Series:

SEASON OF THE SUN (related but not a part of the trilogy)

LORD OF HAWKFELL ISLAND

LORD OF RAVEN'S PEAK  
LORD OF FALCON RIDGE

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**Karen Boruff says**

Coulter is an excellent writer, so her stories are enjoyable. This was the final story in the trilogy for me....read out of order. And for some reason, the story just didn't grab me. I couldn't get into the characters. I did enjoy the other two books...so suspect this was just one of those....not quite a hit, thing. It was an enjoyable, easy read.

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