

# LOKI'S ENIGMA

By Richard Paul

Set apart from the Aesir and yet

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A vital part of the Norns' tapestry;

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Loki the jealous, the weaver of nets

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And the most dreadful hand of destiny.

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Scion of Jotun, the Gods' bitter foe,

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Mother of steeds and the Father of Dread;

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Cunning past measure, a bearer of woe,

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Yet was he to blame when the world fell dead?

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Ever the trickster, abhorred and despised

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Yet oft the redeemer, providing such aid

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By the foremost gifts of his singular mind,

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Yet still the betrayer, yet still the betrayed.

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In jealousy's thrall, so the legend goes,

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He guided the hand which loosed the fell dart,

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The blind brother's hand which laid brother low

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And to Hel's cold kingdom thus bid him depart.

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Great was the doom he did suffer in turn,

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Bound by his slain son's own entrails 'neath

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A serpent whose venom would torment and burn,

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That he'd shake all Midgard in his anguish and grief.

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Yet Baldur's grim death wrought his destiny-great

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And that death was needed to herald the end,

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Ragnarök's fire, the great ending of fate

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Ere the new world came for new Gods to tend.

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By evil's urge or necessity

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Did Loki unleash what needed to fall,

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So little is certain of his story,

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The greatest of foes or a martyr for all?

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\*\_ Suggested Stressed Syllables