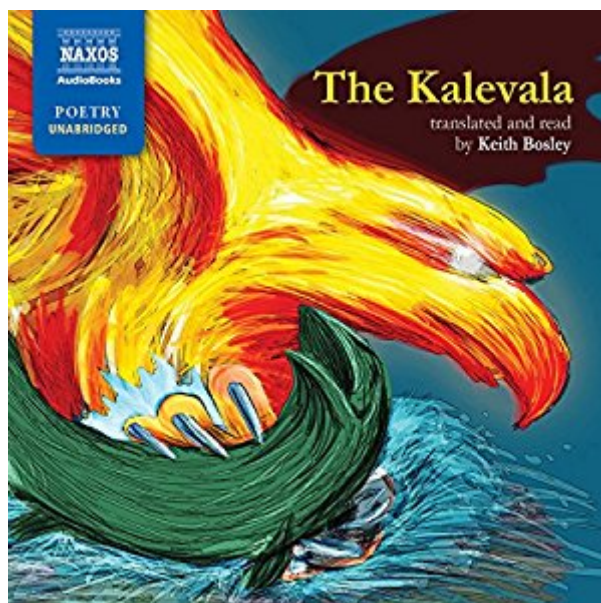


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The Kalevala



Synopsis

The Kalevala provides a compelling insight into the myths and folklore of Finland. Compiled by Elias Lönnrot in the 19th century, this impressive volume follows a tradition of oral storytelling that goes back some 2000 years, and it is often compared to such epic poems as Homer's Odyssey. However, The Kalevala has little in common with the culture of its Nordic neighbors: It is primarily poetic, it is mythical rather than historic, and its heroes solve their problems with magic more often than violence. This version uses the acclaimed translation by Keith Bosley, who is one of the acknowledged experts on The Kalevala. Highly popular and accessible, his is widely regarded to be the authoritative text.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 23 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: February 5, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00BAZPD0G

Best Sellers Rank: #61 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > Scandinavian #143 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Poetry #366 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Criticism

Customer Reviews

The Kalevala is the reason why most of the metalheads love Finnish folk metal bands. Beginning with the creation of the world and universe until the greatest hero's departure at the end, it is overflowing story filled with fantastic images. While I was reading, I could almost hear the sound of kantele playing or faint smell of forge when the great artifact is created. The translation I believe is quite good and satisfactory. I recommend it to anyone who's interested in Finnish culture and mythology.

Translation: I started the Kalevala by reading the free public domain translation available on Kindle, and quickly found myself losing motivation to read it. This version is much more readable, and is overall a good translation. I don't know Finnish, but I do have some doubts about the translation. The

issue of using "wench" has been brought up, but my bigger concern is the inconsistency in translating proper nouns. Sometimes, these are translated, and other times left untranslated. The -la suffix has been translated as -land in some places, but not others (Kalevala and Tuonela, but Vaino-land and Northland). Some names are translated into English where it would seem better to leave them as Finnish names (although this is useful with the bear's epithet, translated as "Beastie"). This works well for the epithets of Lemminkainen (e.g. Far-Mind instead of Kaukomieli), but with true names, it seems odd.

Content: While this is still certainly an epic, don't expect it to fit your expectations of what the epic tradition is meant to be. There are some action-packed episodes in it, but it has just as many depictions of day-to-day life. Since it is cobbled together from various sources, there isn't necessarily an over-arching narrative. It's closer to the *Metamorphoses* than the *Aeneid* or *Odyssey* in its structure, but still very interesting to the philologist or historian.

I have always felt proud of my Finnish roots - I appreciated the morals and values my mother taught us, and admired how her siblings remained close throughout their lives. They were all very proud to be Finns. Only recently I decided to learn more about Finland and its history. I had read reviews about the different translations/authors of *The Kalevala* and wasn't sure which one to get. I first purchased the Eino Friberg version and soon after purchased the Magoun book. Little did I know that it would become interested in all things *Kalevala*. I went about reading with pen in hand, multiple books and laptop in front of me. It helped me to read a bit at a time, looking up characters and places and taking notes. I am no scholar, but I am definitely a hands on, multi-sensory learner. I didn't want to just read it. I wanted to understand the importance, symbolism and humor in the runos before moving to the next. I was happy to get the book translated by Keith Bosley and the audio CD narrated by Keith Bosley (Naxos Poetry). I have not had the chance to read this version of *The Kalevala*. After I do, I will look forward to sitting in my rocking chair, popping in the CD and having someone read the book to me. It has been fun getting to know the Finn in me :)

I really dislike this translation. The meter is all wrong and it's lost all of its lyrical qualities. This translation reads like a story as opposed to a poem and if this is your first exposure to *Kalevala* you're really not experiencing it properly, this is like the black and white version of something that in a better translation would be like technicolor 3D.

GOOD STORY!

I've just started reading it . It's very good!

Part of a research project. Excellent book.

As advertised - thanks.

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