

# Barbarian Lord

*By Matt Smith*

"A sword untried is a sword untested," says one raven to another as they set out to witness the fate of the finest farm in Garmrland and its owner, Barbarian Lord. When he is cheated out of his lands and banished, Barbarian Lord begins a quest for allies and for justice, encountering monsters, ghouls, gods, and mediocre poets along the way.

Combining the rich traditions of the Vikings and Nordic lore with sword-and-sorcery-and slyly understated humor-this graphic novel introduces an original hero with classic flair, brought to life in Matt Smith's beautifully drawn, detailed, and action-filled black-and-white illustrations.

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## Barbarian Lord Summary Details

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editorial:

From School Library Journal

Gr 7–10—Smith's debut graphic novel has guts, gore, and glory set against a harsh, Viking-influenced backdrop. After being exiled from his home and stripped of his lands by his enemies, the Barbarian Lord has but one goal: revenge and victorious return to his kingdom. He's got the anger and the muscle to take back his territory, but to get there, he'll have to go through snowstorms, face down trolls, and outwit skull-faced poets. With furrowed brow and clenched jaw, the Barbarian Lord is a scowling, merciless warrior of a bloodthirsty era. Interesting callbacks to Norse mythology will make this graphic novel an easy pleaser for fans of Rick Riordan's books and K. L. Armstrong and M. A. Marr's "Blackwell Pages" series (Little, Brown). Clean, blunt lines and unapologetic vicious (if mostly bloodless) fight scenes make for a unique art style choice, but the illustrations often seem out of sync with the narrative. An easy summer reading pick for middle-grade graphic novel aficionados and reluctant readers.—Clair Segal, Horace Mann School, New York City

Review

"This plot is nothing if not action-driven, the multitudinous battle scenes and abundant swordplay (and excellent sound effects) making this an excellent choice for readers interested in *Game of Thrones* but who perhaps aren't quite ready for some of its more mature subject matter."

—*Kirkus*

"All bend knee and hail! *Barbarian Lord!*"

—*Previews*

"An easy summer reading pick for middle-grade graphic novel aficionados and reluctant readers."

—*School Library Journal*

"An accessible, memorable thrill of a graphic novel."

—*Bulletin*

About the Author

Matt Smith drew his first Conan the Barbarian adventure when was eight years old. A children's book illustrated fascinated by traditional lore and comic-book heroes, Matt lives with his wife and their dog in Lexington, Massachusetts. Visit his website at [www.barbarianlord.com](http://www.barbarianlord.com), find Barbarian Lord on Facebook, or follow him on Twitter (@barbarianlord).

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