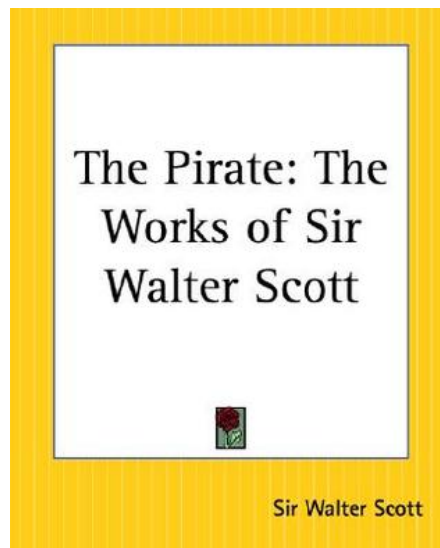




The Pirate: The Works of Sir Walter Scott

Walter Scott

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The Pirate: The Works of Sir Walter Scott Walter Scott

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The Pirate: The Works of Sir Walter Scott Details

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Author : Walter Scott

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From Reader Review The Pirate: The Works of Sir Walter Scott for online ebook

Marsali Taylor says

This is set in Shetland (my home) and I've been meaning to read it for a good long time. However my edition was a solid brown-covered 1920s one, and it took resolution to open it, knowing that I was in for a hard 50 pages before the story began. I was wrong - for Scott, the story began pretty briskly, and once I was in, I was hooked - great characters, mystery, twists, everything that made him a great novelist. Except for the ending, I'd rate it as one of his good ones. I might even have another go at The Heart of Midlothian now ...

I won't spoil the plot but it involves a night and day pair of sisters, dark, romantic Minna and sunny Brenda - Norna the seer and wise-woman who can command the elements - our hero, Mordaunt, and his strange father - Magnus Troil, the Foude and archetypal Norse Shetlander. The first half is set in Shetland, then the story moves to Orkney.

It was set in the late seventeenth century, and some of the language creaked a bit, especially when the characters got worked up - they went off into a 'high style' prose which smacked of Victorian melodrama.

From a Shetland point of view, it was really interesting. A lot of the 'old customs' he mentions I've heard of too - did they really survive until modern times, or was it just that Victorians here read it, and that revived the customs? One that was new to me was the use of ponies - you just grabbed one from a passing herd, rode it to where you were going, and then loosed it to make its own way home.

The edition I eventually read was a modern Shetland Times one - I hope it'll encourage more folk to read this neglected classic.

Bettie? says

The link: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42389>

Alasdair Peterson says

Despite slow and winding parts, The Pirate remains a cracking read, especially for those with an interest in Shetland!

Michel Van Goethem says

The Pirate by Walter Scott

Scott is a son of the Enlightenment where he reveals the false pretensions of people 'working' with

'supernatural', 'magical' or 'mystic' powers as in The Pirate. A good story but too long and too many digressions for the common reader of today.

Emily Wilson says

I'm very happy with how the story concluded.

Gloss says

I never thought I'd read anything by Scott, but in researching Shetland pirates, I came across this. The style's digressive and urbane, and I like it a lot already. It's certainly not a challenging read, but it is interesting.

I'm reading the digitized 1872 edition on Google Books [here](#).

Alexander Rolfe says

Scott throws together the most interesting ingredients-- pirates, the Dwarfie Stone, Norna of the Fitful Head, bland, the Stones of Stennis-- and this fearlessness covers a multitude of sins. Not that I find a multitude of sins; I like Scott and I don't think he deserves his ignominy. He's got panache, he's got poetry, and he's got a friend in me.

Ange says

Enjoyed it. Lots of interesting things in it. Took place mainly in Shetland. When people needed to get to one part of the Island to the other, they'd catch a pony, ride it, and let it go.

Steve says

A very pleasant tale of a young man, Mordaunt Mertoun and his rather eccentric father, who take up residence in Yarlshof, a ruined habitation on a deserted piece of the coastline in Zetland - nowadays known as Shetland, a group of islands off the northeast coast of Scotland. The title character - whom it is not revealed is a follower of this buccaneering profession until well into the novel - (the first use of the word 'pirate' comes on page 443) is rescued by Mordaunt from a ship which is dashed to pieces on the rocks. He then makes his way to Burgh Westra, the home of Magnus Troil and his lovely daughters Minna and Brenda. They are polar opposites: the former dark, melancholy and intellectual; the latter, light, cheery and somewhat frivolous. They are close friends with Mordaunt, who is also always welcomed by their father. This changes during the stay of Clement Cleveland (the pirate) with the Troils, and is slowly becomes apparent to Mordaunt that their positive feelings for him have significantly altered. A major character throughout the novel is Norna of the Fitful Head, generally regarded by the island's inhabitants as a witch who can use spells to alter the weather. Minor characters - and real delights they are - are Triptolemus Yellowley and his haridan of a sister Barbara. He was sent to study religion, but only paid attention during lessons dealing with

agricultural practices, which he tries - with absolutely no success - to reform on the island. Pacolet, a repulsive dwarf, lives with Norna in her habitation among ruins by the promontory of her title. There is also a fiddler, rhymester and interminable story-teller Claud Halcro, who once met John Dryden ('Wonderful John') and must be actively discouraged from recounting the tale ad nauseum. An itinerant peddler, Bryce Snailsfoot, was more concerned with looting Cleveland's chest while Mordaunt was trying to save the pirate's life and is in fact the one responsible for spreading scurrilous rumours about Mordaunt among the Troil family. Eventually, Cleveland and Mordaunt come to blows over the young ladies and the manner in which this is sorted out is complicated by the arrival of Cleveland's sister ship in Kirkwall harbour and the intercession of his crew, which upset his plans to leave pirating behind in order to pursue his love for Minna. At least two relatively shocking revelations of unknown parentage - the first, I'd figured out long before; the second, I never would have seen coming -, one happy marriage, a return to the true religion and a glorious death in battle tie up a novel in which Scott had all his juggling balls nicely balanced through his adroit handling of plot, character, humour, love and geography.

Michele says

This book further cemented my prejudice against blond females in books.

Fernando Endara says

Publicada originalmente en 1821, la novela está parcialmente basada en John Gow un célebre pirata mencionado por Daniel Defoe. Este libro es una adaptación juvenil e ilustrada bastante corta y sencilla de leer editada por Ariel, en su colección "Juvenil Ilustrada". Las supersticiones y las intrigas amorosas de Escocia y sus mitos nórdicos, son el marco en donde se desarrolla esta trama y no altamar como me imaginaba. Un relato que tiene costumbrismo, romanticismo, y aventuras.

Un barco naufraga cerca de las Islas Shetland en el punto más septentrional de Reino Unido, un lugar rústico, con tradiciones isleñas y supersticiones arraigadas. El capitán Cleveland es rescatado por el joven Mordaunt, habitante predilecto de las Islas y favorito del udaller, Magnus Troil y sus hijas Minna y Brenda. Durante el rescate aparece también la vieja Norna, de quién se cuenta, posee poderes sobrenaturales.

El amor y la magia se mezcla en los acontecimientos. Minna y Brenda se enamoran de Cleveland y Mordaunt pero no está muy clara la conformación de las parejas. Entre el pirata y el isleño surge una rivalidad por el corazón de una de las hijas del udaller. Nos enteramos que Norna tuvo un hijo que le fue arrebatado y que provocó su locura. Los personajes protagónicos y secundarios están muy bien logrados; el recurso narrativo que separa las historias de los personajes por capítulos dotan de riqueza a la trama al brindar detalles de la vida de cada uno de ellos.

El ritmo empieza algo lento y va creciendo hasta un final trepidante y repleto de emoción. Además de la interesante trama, es materia de análisis el contexto socio-político-cultural lleno de bellas pinceladas y pormenores históricos. Un clásico de la literatura de piratas.

Lucy says

"The sexton had found her lying on the pavement in a swoon, and when she recovered, her mind for the time

had totally lost its equipoise."

This is Norna of the Fitful-Head. No wonder she lost her equipoise with the plot twist that Scott had just come up with.

I thoroughly enjoyed this farrago of nonsense. It's totally unlike any other Scott I've read, and I'd recommend it for anyone with sufficient ability to suspend disbelief.

Laura says

Free download available at Project Gutenberg.

Kirsty Keddie says

It took me nearly a year to read this book. I made the error of buying a copy of the original first edition which made the text difficult to read. Despite skimming over some sections of overly indulgent verses I did enjoy the read. Some great characters stride across the pages. Melodramatic in places and with a slightly annoying ending it nevertheless is a good read. Particularly if you are familiar with the wild setting of Shetland and Orkney where it is set. Scott wrote the book whilst travelling around these islands on an inspection duty with the lighthouse Stephensons. He certainly accurately captures the wild and superstitious nature of these beautiful islands.
