

RAGNHILD's monologue from
EINAR'S RAGARNOK

by Nora Louise Syran

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RAGNHILD, the teenage sister of EINAR, has been helping him write down his tales of the Norse gods and goddesses. But he has avoided telling the end of the story which ends in the death of the beloved god Baldr and the end of the world, Ragnarok, and has started again from the beginning with the creation of man and woman from an ash tree and an elm tree. RAGNHILD desperately wants to hear how the story will end but is frightened to write it down.

RAGNHILD

But the end of the story, Einar!? What happens to Baldr? You've skipped it! You've gone back to the beginning! You can't just leave it like this!?

(Pause.) Didn't you say we should understand the stories as poetry? Not literally! We human beings have not literally been carved out of wood, out of an ash tree or an elm tree or any kind of tree! (Pause.) If this is all poetry you've been telling, then I have to believe the end of the world is not literal either! But you've skipped it, Einar! (Pause.) Will there be Ragnarok? Tell me there will be no end to the world, that it's just poetry, a story? Right? I don't want to write that part! (Pause.) Whatever those wise women, those Norns, are carving, I can't...I can't stop them! (Calling to the Norns.) Whatever you're carving ...fate is fate! (To her brother.) But if the stories of our lives are already written, what's the point? (Pause.) Will there be an end? A Ragnarok? I wish to know, I want to see!