



The Broken Sword

Poul Anderson

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The son of a Norse warlord, kidnapped at birth and raised by elves, and the bitter changeling who replaced him clash in a monumental war of trolls, elves, and man in this acclaimed classic of fantasy fiction

Published the same year as *The Fellowship of the Ring*, Poul Anderson's novel *The Broken Sword* draws on similar Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon sources. In his greed for land and power, Orm the Strong slays the family of a Saxon witch—and for his sins, the Northman must pay with his newborn son. Stolen by elves and replaced by a changeling, Skafloc is raised to manhood unaware of his true heritage and treasured for his ability to handle the iron that the elven dare not touch. Meanwhile, the being who supplanted him as Orm's son grows up angry and embittered by the humanity he has been denied. A pawn in a witch's vengeance, the creature Valgard will never know love, and consumed by rage, he will commit a murderous act of unspeakable vileness.

It is their destiny to finally meet on the field of battle—the man-elf and his dark twin, the monster—when the long-simmering war between elves and trolls finally erupts with a devastating fury. And only the mighty sword Tyrfing, broken by Thor and presented to Skafloc in infancy, can turn the tide in a terrible clashing of faerie folk that will ultimately determine the fate of the old gods.

Considered one of the masters of golden-age speculative fiction, along with such notables as Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Robert Heinlein, multiple Hugo and Nebula Award winner Poul Anderson proved himself equally adept at creating epic fantasy with *The Broken Sword*, a masterful tale of men, elves, and gods that is at once breathtakingly exciting and heartbreakingly tragic.



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