



Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them

By Nancy Marie Brown

Download now

Read Online →

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown

In the early 1800's, on a Hebridean beach in Scotland, the sea exposed an ancient treasure cache: 93 chessmen carved from walrus ivory. Norse netsuke, each face individual, each full of quirks, the Lewis Chessmen are probably the most famous chess pieces in the world. Harry played Wizard's Chess with them in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Housed at the British Museum, they are among its most visited and beloved objects.

Questions abounded: Who carved them? Where? Nancy Marie Brown's *Ivory Vikings* explores these mysteries by connecting medieval Icelandic sagas with modern archaeology, art history, forensics, and the history of board games. In the process, *Ivory Vikings* presents a vivid history of the 400 years when the Vikings ruled the North Atlantic, and the sea-road connected countries and islands we think of as far apart and culturally distinct: Norway and Scotland, Ireland and Iceland, and Greenland and North America. The story of the Lewis chessmen explains the economic lure behind the Viking voyages to the west in the 800s and 900s. And finally, it brings from the shadows an extraordinarily talented woman artist of the twelfth century: Margret the Adroit of Iceland.

↓ [Download Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Ches ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Ch ...pdf](#)

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them

By Nancy Marie Brown

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown

In the early 1800's, on a Hebridean beach in Scotland, the sea exposed an ancient treasure cache: 93 chessmen carved from walrus ivory. Norse netsuke, each face individual, each full of quirks, the Lewis Chessmen are probably the most famous chess pieces in the world. Harry played Wizard's Chess with them in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Housed at the British Museum, they are among its most visited and beloved objects.

Questions abounded: Who carved them? Where? Nancy Marie Brown's *Ivory Vikings* explores these mysteries by connecting medieval Icelandic sagas with modern archaeology, art history, forensics, and the history of board games. In the process, *Ivory Vikings* presents a vivid history of the 400 years when the Vikings ruled the North Atlantic, and the sea-road connected countries and islands we think of as far apart and culturally distinct: Norway and Scotland, Ireland and Iceland, and Greenland and North America. The story of the Lewis chessmen explains the economic lure behind the Viking voyages to the west in the 800s and 900s. And finally, it brings from the shadows an extraordinarily talented woman artist of the twelfth century: Margret the Adroit of Iceland.

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #113503 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-09-01
- Released on: 2015-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.62" h x 1.00" w x 6.38" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

 [Download Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Ches ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Ch ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them* By Nancy Marie Brown

Editorial Review

Review

"Intriguing." *?New In Chess*

"Full of exciting detective work, along with absorbing excursions into the history of the Vikings, of chess in the Middle Ages, and of walrus ivory (known as "arctic gold")." *?The New Yorker*

"A fascinating tale of discovery and mystery." *?The Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"The absorbing story of long-ago links between the British Isles and Scandinavia that puts the Lewis chessmen into a vivid and much broader cultural context of Viking trade, plunder and sophisticated gift-giving...an engaging, accessible tale." *?The Economist*

"A delight...for gamers of all sorts as well as anyone interested in the intricacies of the provenance of art and in endlessly fascinating minutiae-the strength and uses of walrus skin, how to carve walrus ivory, and so much more." *?Booklist*

"Fascinating ... Brown successfully crafts an Icelandic history of chess while tracing the possible movements of 92 remarkable carved figures found in the early 19th century on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland...."
?Publisher's Weekly

"Even if you've never played a game of chess in your life, this book is bound to fascinate." *?Matthew Driscoll, senior lecturer in Old Norse philology, Arnamagnæan Institute, University of Copenhagen*

"Nancy Marie Brown's book is a true cornucopia, bursting with delicious revelations. Whether your passion is chess, art, archeology, literature or the uncanny and beautiful landscape of Iceland, *Ivory Vikings* offers rich and original insights by a writer who is as erudite as she is engaging." *?Geraldine Brooks, author of CALEB'S CROSSING*

"*Ivory Vikings* is an erudite and accessible treatment of the world of the Vikings. Focusing on the famous Lewis chessmen, it suggests they might have been created in Iceland by a woman. Fascinating history for lovers of Old Norse society and chess." *?Marilyn Yalom, author of BIRTH OF THE CHESS QUEEN and HOW THE FRENCH INVENTED LOVE*

"A lively introduction to the world of the Vikings and medieval Scandinavia, seen through the story of the Lewis chessmen. Brown does a superb job of exploring the personalities and personal connections that underpinned political and cultural relations across the North Atlantic and the North Sea. Her informed, even-handed reassessment of the origin of the chessmen certainly changed my mind." *?Elizabeth Ashman Rowe, FSA, Reader in Scandinavian History, University of Cambridge*

"I enjoyed the hell out of *Ivory Vikings*. Renowned Norse scholar Nancy Marie Brown follows the Lewis chessmen's trail back to a 12th century master named Margret the Adroit. Piece by piece, Brown also peels back a millennia of history to explore the Norse world's interlocking social facets -- kings, queens, berserkers, nobles, bishops and poets -- that populated Viking society much as these carved ivory pieces populated a chessboard. The result is part mystery, part history, and wholly engrossing." *?Scott Weidensaul,*

author of *THE FIRST FRONTIER*

“Nancy Marie Brown has used skillful writing and her deep knowledge of the medieval Viking world to bring us a mysterious tale of the most appealing game pieces ever made, the Lewis chessmen.” ?Pat Shipman, author of *THE INVADERS: How Humans and Their Dogs Drove Neanderthals to Extinction*

“A wonderful read. Brown knows how to hold the reader’s attention as she digs deep into Icelandic sagas, archaeology, forensics, and art history to solve a mystery about the Lewis chessmen, the North Atlantic's most famous medieval treasure.” ?Prof. Jesse Byock, author of *VIKING LANGUAGE: Learn Old Norse, Runes, and Icelandic Sagas*

“Always lively, engaging, thoughtful, humorous, and to the point, ... She draws a colorful picture of what life may have been like at the time and brings the fate of known but long-gone men and women close to the heart of the modern reader.” ?Gisli Sigurdsson, The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies

“With obvious linguistic skill and respect for historical detail as well as a passion for travel to unearth the truth, Brown offers a tantalizing trail of plausibility.” ?Patrick J. Stevens, Librarian/Curator, Cornell University Library

“An intriguing work that should find a readership among history lovers.” ?*Library Journal*

About the Author

NANCY MARIE BROWN is the author of highly praised books of nonfiction, including *Song of the Vikings*. She is fluent in Icelandic, and spends her summers in Iceland. She has deep ties to the Scandinavian cultural institutions in the U.S. Brown lives in East Burke, VT.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Victoria Williams:

This *Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them* tend to be reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this *Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them* can be one of many great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you actually with information that possibly will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed versions. Beside that this *Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them* forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Mary Oropeza:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the publications. But also they write

about the information about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write with their book. One of them is this Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them.

Jean Parks:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them reserve written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one publication that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

William Delacruz:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list is definitely Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upward and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown #VP1YQHRNU50

Read Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown for online ebook

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown books to read online.

Online Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown ebook PDF download

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown Doc

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown Mobipocket

Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown EPub

VPIYQHRNU50: Ivory Vikings: The Mystery of the Most Famous Chessmen in the World and the Woman Who Made Them By Nancy Marie Brown