

“Thor: Ragnarok”

By Helen Lutz

Do you have a talisman which you consider lucky? Some folks carry a rabbit’s foot (not so lucky for the poor little bunny). Others make sure they are protected while driving with a St. Christopher’s medal, even though the Catholic Church isn’t sure he ever really existed – he’s still a pretty cool guy. As a little girl I could sit for hours searching for a four leaf clover in our yard – I know, clover is actually a weed but it kept our lawn green (we’d also make neat jewelry out of the flowers). Many times athletes identify with Sampson and don’t want to cut their locks of hair while on a winning streak (or even wash their smelly lucky socks). With life being totally unpredictable, it’s comforting to have something to cling to for luck.



Chris Hemsworth makes his presence as Thor, the God of Thunder, felt again on the big screen in “Thor: Ragnarok” – kind of. As the movie opens our powerful god is hanging in a cage talking to a skeleton who obviously never made it out. Yes, he’s in a true predicament. One would think that his glorious hammer, his talisman, would definitely come in handy – but it is nowhere to be seen. Instead we meet his captor Surtur a big, fiery demonic creature. Ragnarok refers to the apocalyptic end to Thor’s home kingdom of Asgard and Surtur the one to deliver the fatal punch. Of course, our hero frees himself, finds his hammer, and defeats Surtur – end of spoiler, thus a very short movie, hardly.

With Surtur and Ragnarok no longer a threat to Asgard, Thor returns home through the space portal known as the Devil’s Anus only to find trouble brewing on the horizon. His brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) has returned to Asgard (yep, he’s not dead any more) and his father Odin (Anthony Hopkins) nowhere to be found.

And have you ever had “that” family member just show up at the most inopportune time? The troublemaker, rabble-rouser or the “surprise” you have an older sister who just happens to be named Hela (Cate Blanchette) and is the Goddess of Death; bad afternoon for Thor and Loki. With Odin gone, it’s time for Hela to claim her throne and take control of Asgard from which she draws her power. Thor hurls his hammer, but with a one-handed catch Hela shatters it into tiny pieces and throws Thor and Loki into the Devil’s Anus where they get separated. Thor ends up in the psychedelic world of the Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum) on a giant heap of space trash. Being found/captured by Valkyrie (Tess Thompson) Thor is sold to the Grandmaster and nicknamed Sparkles. In true gladiator style, Thor can win his freedom by defeating the current champion – a big green guy who shall remain nameless but has some of the traits of Bruce Banner’s counterpart.

If all of this sounds like just another comic book movie with lots of action, explosions and heroes being heroes, director Taika Waititi has other plans keeping it light-hearted, funny and poking fun at itself. The story is clever, the script is quick-witted and the characters fun and funny – you can never tell about that Loki. Blanchette brings Hela to life as one of the most Goth-type beings we’ve ever met running her fingers through her hair to create a multi-point antler rack that any Texas hunter would love to mount on the front of his hemi.

“Thor: Ragnarok” delightfully ends dark comic stories which take themselves too seriously with its witty banter and problem solving. Our hero remains a hero and learns that he is a whole lot more than long golden locks and a lucky hammer. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats ... I give “Thor: Ragnarok” THREE 1/2 HARTS. This is one movie well worth the trip to your local theater for the big sound, explosions and trips through the Devi’s Anus! As always – be sure to stay through all the credits, until the very, very, very end, it’s fun.