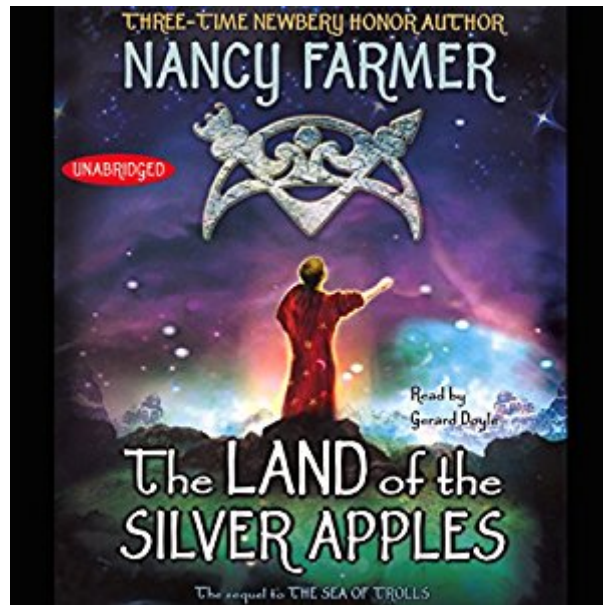


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# The Land Of The Silver Apples



## Synopsis

THE CHILDREN FROM THE SEA OF TROLLS BRAVE THEIR WORST NIGHTMARES -- UNDERGROUND. Jack is amazed to have caused an earthquake. He is thirteen, after all, and only a bard-in-training. But his sister, Lucy, has been stolen by the Lady of the Lake; stolen a second time in her young life, as he learns to his terror. Caught between belief in the old gods and Christianity (790 AD, Britain), Jack calls upon his ash wood staff to subdue a passel of unruly monks, and, for his daring, ends up in a knucker hole. It is unforgettable -- for the boy and for readers -- as are the magical reappearance of the berserker Thorgil from a burial by moss; new characters Pega, a slave girl from Jack's village, and the eager-to-marry-her Bugaboo (a hobgoblin king); kelpies; yarthkins; and elves (not the enchanted sprites one would expect but the fallen angels of legend). Rarely does a sequel enlarge so brilliantly the world of the first story. Look for the conclusion in *The Islands of the Blessed* in 2009. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jack is an apprentice bard who is recently returned to his village after his adventures as a Viking captive. His village, having endured a difficult year, has decided to participate in a need-fire ceremony. All the fires in the village are extinguished and then restarted with new flame kindled from two logs rubbed against each other. This is done so that the misfortunes of the past do not linger into the new year. The ceremony goes awry when Jack's sister Lucy introduces a metal necklace into the ritual. Metal, the village's Bard warns, cannot be used in these kinds of ceremonies because one can never tell where it's been. If metal has been used as a weapon or for

some other evil purpose, it perverts the life force. Believing Lucy has been possessed by an evil spirit, a group of villagers takes her to the nearby Saint Fillian's well, which is believed to cure people of possession. What they find there shocks and horrifies Jack, who inadvertently offends the spirit of the place. He accidentally causes an earthquake and all the water in the surrounding area to disappear. It is finally decided that Jack and the other young companions --- Lucy; Pega, a freed slave so ugly people believe she is cursed; and Brutus, a charismatic descendent of Lancelot -- should travel the Hollow Road to the realm of the elves and request the water's return. Children, the Bard explains, are young enough to resist the lure of elves. "It's a curious thing, but this is one area where children are stronger than adults," he says. "They aren't as easily taken in by illusions, and elves above all else, are masters of illusion." THE LAND OF THE SILVER APPLES is not the first book to set children on a perilous journey underground.

The lady held out her arms, and Lucy ran. Jack tried to catch her and so did Father, but he was too injured to stand. The elf lady swept Lucy up and, with a triumphant cry, leaped into the waters. The last of the stream slithered over the edge like the tail of a snake and disappeared. Jack is a 13 year old boy, who is getting trained by the Bard. He has done miraculous things in his young life, and has been on great adventures. When Jack performs an earthquake out of rage, Lucy who is Jack's sister gets taken by the Lady of the Lake. Lucy is stolen from Jack for the second time in his life. Jack once again has a mission to save his little sister and to get water back to King Yffi's kingdom. The blame was on Jack when all the water has been taken by the Lady of the Lake, and King Yffi sent Jack down the trail to Elfland, to somehow get the water back from her. He never knew that he would encounter many more adventures involving elves, hobgoblins, kelpies and more. Will Jack save his sister, even with the surprising information he received about her? And will he be able to restore the water to King Yffi's Kingdom? The title is another name for Elfland, which is where Jack is for a while in this book. He also is in the Hobgoblin's home and King Yffi's kingdom. Jack is always on the move or trying to escape in this book, so he's in a lot of places traveling to fulfill his missions. The time was a while ago, in about 790 AD. It is written in a debate about Christianity. Jack's family is all Christian, but the Bard doesn't believe in it. Jack is still trying to figure out where he lays as far as religion. The pacing is at a steady pace throughout the book. Nancy Farmer is a great author. I loved all of her books, and think that she has great writing technique.

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