

### **Kris Swank**

#### **The Voyage of the Dawn Treader & the Voyage of Roverandom**

C.S. Lewis' *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* has been called as a modern-day *immram*, heir to the spiritual sea-voyage tales of medieval Ireland. The most famous example of this genre is the legend of Brendan, the 6th century Irish saint who sailed across the sea, encountered marvelous islands and fabulous creatures, and completed a quest to find the fabled Land of Promise of the Saints. In the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien, the voyages of Ælfwine, Eärendel, Frodo and Brendan himself are also recognized as *immrama*. What has not, as yet, been acknowledged is that Tolkien's children story, *Roverandom*, is also an *immram*. Largely underrated as merely a juvenile adventure story, critics have paid *Roverandom* little scholarly attention. But a close reading reveals that, in both form and content, *Roverandom* shares numerous characteristics with the medieval *immrama* as well as Lewis' *Dawn Treader*.

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