

Stilton Literary Agency



Imperial Mercenary

Original title: Keiserens leiesoldat
Publisher: Gyldendal 2019
Fiction / Historical
70000 Words
English synopsis of all five volumes available

In Byzantium, the centre of the mighty Eastern Roman Empire, the Emperor's bodyguards in the 1000s were viking mercenaries, the legendary Varangian Guard. With the support of the Varangians, the emperor's young son Michael recaptured the eastern regions of Sicily. After the bloody campaign, Michael wants to go to Jerusalem to pray at Jesus' tomb for his forgiveness and eternal life. The Holy City is no longer under the control of the empire, and Michael must travel in secret with a small escort. Only a select few bodyguards accompany him. They are led by a Norwegian Varangian Leader named Harald. In the midst of this comes a message from Norway assigning Harald to a new command. But is he willing to give up his independent warrior life to fight for the king's power?

Foreign rights

Heyne Velag, Germany
Perseus, Bulgaria
Tukan Förlag, Sweden

Ekeberg is a thoroughly professional suspense writer, with an impressive ability to bring to light ah historical period and figures we really know very little about. (...) This novel is incredibly well-composed, and seasoned with the most amazing depictions of environment and milieu; methods of warfare and lion fighting, Franks and Bedouins, pockmarked monks and merciless prioresses, love, hatred and revenge.

Cathrine Krøger, Dagbladet, Five of Six Stars

Jan Ove Ekeberg

Jan Ove Ekeberg (b. 1954) lives in Fredrikstad, journalist and till recently; head of TV 2 Financial News, today a full time author. Ekeberg's debut was a biography on former PM, Gro Harlem Brundtland (1996). Since then Ekeberg has written several non-fiction books, children's books and novels. Ekeberg reached a large audience with his first historical suspense series IN TIMES OF SWORDS (2011-2013), set in the 12th century.

His new series featuring the Viking king Harald Hardråde, was launched in spring 2016 to marvellous reviews. He aims to deliver the sequels The Devil's Horseman and Imperial Mercenary by 2020.

Other titles

The Viking Age in 200 Pages (2022)
Death's Commander (2021)
Enemy of Peace (2020)
The Devil's Horseman (2018)
Apprentice of War (2016)
The Merciful Terrorist (2015)
The Holy Shrine (2013)
Regicides (2012)
The Era of Swords (2011)