Stilton Literary Agency

Imperial Mercenary

Original title: Den siste vikingkongen - 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 untill recently; head of TV 2 Financial News. Today he is a fulltime author. He has written several non-fiction books, children's literature and several historical suspense novel series. His first series, IN TIMES OF SWORDS (three volumes), is set in the 12th century. His second series, THE LAST VIKING KING (five volumes) tells the story of Harald Hardrada and is set in 11th century. In his new series, LEGIONNAIRE, the story is set in Scandinavian Roman era, in the 4th century. Jan Ove Ekeberg has recently published a first volume of a graphic novel-series called HARDRADA together with illustrator Nils Axle Kanten.

Other titles
Hardrada: The Devil's Horseman (2026)
Legionnaire. The Cross in Flames (2026)
Legionnaire. The Barbarians from the North (2025)
Hardrada: The Battle at Stiklestad (2025)
Hardrada: Brother of the Viking King (2024)
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)