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Tore Skeie

The Battle of the North *Ethelred, Cnut and Olaf - Struggle for* *Supremacy Around the North Sea*



The first volume in *The Age of Kings* series.

We are in the region surrounding the North Sea at the beginning of the year 1000. Ordinary people are struggling to survive in harsh conditions. Society's elite – kings, nobles, earls and tribal leaders – are, on the contrary, only concerned with one thing: the pursuit of power.

In a society with crude infrastructure and weak institutions, power can only be obtained by one means: the use of force.

In order to get men to perform acts of violence, one thing is necessary: silver.

And keeping them loyal requires even more silver.

In the year 1000, Æthelred is king of the Anglo-Saxons. He has great domestic problems – every region of his recently united kingdom is simmering – but even greater problems threaten him from beyond: the Danes, Vikings from Denmark and Norway, are plundering his land.

In *The Battle of the North*, Tore Skeie paints a fuller picture and takes the reader along on a tremendous journey through history. It is the rock-solid historical tale of the real Game of Thrones. Here you'll find manipulative warlords, allies joining the enemy, and huge amounts of money changing hands, all while brutality and destruction take hold. At the same time, Christianity is spreading and becoming a new aspect in the struggle for power. With this as its backdrop, who will make the best move and who will succumb, disappearing into the oblivion of history?

Tore Skeie has established himself as an outstanding mediator of our medieval history. This impression is by no means undermined by this tremendously well-written book about a violent man who became a saint. Tore Skeie's language is at once rich and precise. It is masterfully executed.

6 / 6 stars

- Stavanger Aftenblad

This true story is like The Lord of the Rings, only better...Tore Skeie is a first-rate author, the essence of Peter Englund and Sir Walter Scott...What a wonderful story this is!

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6 out of 6 stars

- Dagbladet

Remember this name if you've never heard it before: Tore Skeie. What guts, what talent for writing and storytelling this historian and author has!

5 out of 6 stars

- VG

*If you've never read about Olav Haraldsson before, the thought of him as a saint will seem absurd after reading Tore Skeie's brilliant book *The Battle of the North*...A fresh breeze of a history book, extremely well written.*

- NRK

In his story of Olav the Holy, Tore Skeie lets the sources sprinkle poetic stardust on his down-to-earth prose...The portrayals of the caliphate in Al Andalus and of the Anglo-Saxon realm in themselves are worth the price.

- Klassekampen

Tore Skeie

Tore Skeie (born 1977) is often called Norway's most important young historian and enjoys a wide readership. His books *Alv Erlingsson* and *The Maiden of Norway*, both released by Spartacus Forlag, received rave reviews

