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**Jan Kjærstad**

**Erobreren (Jonas Wergeland trilogy #2)**



Title: Erobreren (Jonas Wergeland trilogy #2)

Author: Jan Kjærstad

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## Description

Jonas Wergeland, Norges største TV-kjendis blir arrestert for mordet på sin kone. Om jakten på en morders sjel.

## Insightful reviews

Allison: Admittedly, it has been a significant amount of time since I have read a “serious” novel: a novel that takes me more than a week to read; a novel I would consider structurally and thematically challenging (but worth the challenge!); and a novel that has been translated from Swedish, at that.

I think I would deem this book “good” in the thought-provoking, challenging, academic sense whether or not it was translated from another language. The structure is unique—a narrator telling a story being narrated by another storyteller. It creates an interesting “voice” paradox, because the overarching voice was always that of the primary narrator, but in the majority of the chapters that told of the life of Jonas Wergeland, the voice had to “coat” and mimic a second narrator’s voice—that of the character recounting the story to the writer. So the chain was thus: the mysterious woman told the story to the professor, who retold it for the readers of the book he was writing, which happens to be the same book the real-world readers are reading, which is consequently written by the real author (Jan Kjaerstad) and “retold” (i.e. translated) by the translator Barbara Haveland. Complicated, no? And yet tremendously fascinating!

Not only was the narrative *structure* of the novel complexly layered, but the plot of the novel was also arranged in an intricate pattern. The ending was apparent from the beginning—Jonas had killed his wife Margaret, and a professor (the narrator) had been commissioned to tell the tale—but what remained unapparent as the tale unraveled was why it was being told as a mock-defense of this cold-blooded murder. “Is it possible to change a life by recounting it?” asks the first line of the last fifteen or so chapters. That seems to be the mission of the whole novel—to change the reader’s perspective on Jonas Wergeland’s life as he or she reads about it, creating one impression and then altering it slightly with a single anecdote about some other, seemingly unrelated but somehow pivotal event that occurred to him as he matured from a young boy into a middle-aged man.

One of Kjaerstad’s major strengths—or a strength of this novel, at the very least—is the ability to find meaning and importance in the smallest and most mundane details and events. Kjaerstad transforms a simple hockey puck, a silver brooch, and a pearl into poignant thematic symbols that recur throughout the novel and have meaning not only to the reader, but to Jonas himself. Another noteworthy skill is Kjaerstad’s ability to take Jonas’ actions and observations and to internalize them in ways that take on both immediate and long-range meaning so that they apply both to the scene at hand as well as the overarching structure of the novel. Near-car-crashes, snake sightings, sexual intercourse—all of these affect the immediate story being told

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within the chapter as well as the overarching tale being constructed by the novel.

These are all signs of an extraordinary novelist. However, *The Conqueror* would be nowhere near as elegant and refined a novel without its masterly translator, Haveland. The language is exquisite, and whether this is due to Kjaerstad Swedish word choice or Haveland's interpretation, the result is a beautifully crafted, complex novel that will certainly carve itself a place in the world of literature.

Bettie?: [Bettie's Books](#)

Shane Zimmer: The narration was clever and charming but the plot was overly told, leaving me little space to enter the story and consider for myself Jonas and his many episodes. I felt I was being talked at instead of talked with. The main conceit of the plot – the mysterious stranger telling the narrator about Jonas – felt too artificial, further distancing me from the characters. The episodes were numerous with not enough inherent momentum. And finally, I could find no reason to care about Jonas or his wife or the narrator or anyone. The only aspect I enjoyed was the prose; it propelled me along with its well-balanced rhythm.

Lorenzo Berardi: I had a short yet very deep romance with Oslo in the summertime of 2005. It used to be my first adventure of lifestyles in a foreign country all on my own and this made it unforgettable although it lasted for under 5 months. I consider how I left the city at the first snowy day of that autumn basically again a 12 months later, yet with out a similar motivations to stay. It truly is now six years because the final time I have been there. And - herregud! - I pass over that position relatively a lot. To me, Oslo is far greater than the capital of Norway and probably the most pricey towns on this planet (but with an grand caliber of life). Oslo capability memories. Which I can't keep in mind here. (Please be prompt that I really deleted the twenty strains of reminiscence Lane I had written down below. fortunate you!) Suffice to assert that I used to be so mesmerized by the point I spent in Oslo that I saved a kind of Norwegian diary whereas there masking up round six hundred pages of notes, impressions, observations, fictional dialogues and a great deal of annoyed romantic impetus. again to Italy, I attempted to make a unique out of these diaries, yet someway the plot overrun me concerning too many stuff I did not understand that a lot about. And drafts after drafts of chapters of a singular titled "Line Three" stumbled on room in a drawer. Now you recognize the explanation why I'll by no means be a very good reviewer of "The Conqueror". simply because Jan Kjaerstad right here wrote what I used to be unable to accomplish. And rightly so. Had I spent 500 months rather than simply five in Oslo, maybe I'll think ashamed. not just Kjaerstad made what I could not make, yet he did it 10 years sooner than my clumsy "Line Three". And finally, he added a singular equipped on adolescence episodes which equals to ensnare me lower than a spell. Curse you, Jan Kjaerstad! You see? I just can't be neutral in taking a look at this book. at the one hand I am very green with envy approximately it and at the different really charmed by way of a unique who introduced again a ton of Oslo-related moments. True, "The Conqueror" is understood to be the second one a part of the so referred to as "Jonas Wergeland Trilogy", yet given the impossibility of placing my palms over the overture of "The Seducer", I will be able to say that

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this booklet may perhaps paintings via itself. attempt it, should you do not believe me. this can be a novel revolving round Oslo and pretty well all you may name regularly and quintessentially Norwegian. From politics to television, from popular culture to geography, from neighborhood conduct to the way in which Norwegians see themselves and Norway during this huge world. I mean, do not be stunned if you happen to do not know a great 1/2 the 20 nice Norwegians that Jonas Wergeland selected for his programme "Thinking Big". And there are a few subtleties that appear to paintings merely in Norwegian like "fra hytte til hytte" which turns into "from hut to hut" in English, yet does not clarify the social and cultural value of this manner of claiming and means of hiking in Norway. And the explanation why the novelist and Nobel Prize winner Knut Hamsun does not should be revealed on any Norwegian banknote (you will locate that half within the book) is that he grew to become a Nazi collaborator in his aged years making him an enemy for his nation. to call simply the 1st references which got here to my mind. Nevertheless, in the event you learn the English translation do not believe the Scottish translator while she calls the district of Bygdøy "an island". Please remember that, as acknowledged through this reader and proven through the Oslo resident Mr Irwan S, Bygdøy is absolutely a peninsula. A key aspect now. Jonas Wergeland right here calls his compatriots "a state of spectators" that means that they are by no means invited on the excessive tables or within the keep an eye on rooms of planet Earth, yet really get pleasure from taking a look at them with ease sprawled out on a settee or on a stressless chair. this type of Peeping Tom perspective signifies that Norwegians also are accused via the protagonist of this novel of in simple terms witnessing dramatic occasions with no making an attempt both to form or to forestall them. i might name those accusations of being lazy and craven a piece too harsh. finally Norway hosts purely five million humans and what those few Norwegians can do in a global situation of seven billion human beings? Norway will be content material of getting had little children like Ibsen, Nansen, Amundsen, Grieg and Sigrid Undset (all of them are given a programme through Wegeland). that isn't too bad, I think, yet now not sufficient for Wergeland - and that i suspect for Jan Kjaerstad too. Uh, I forgot to inform you. "The Conqueror" comprises lots of intercourse in pretty well the entire mixtures you could wonder. And, i have to add, such a lot if no longer all of this sex, ambitions Jonas Wergeland providing you with the effect that Norwegian ladies constantly take the initiative. do not bounce to a similar end too fast! To be honest, greater than a "conqueror" Jonas Wergeland during this publication is "conquered", sexually and wistfully. To make a protracted tale short, this novel isn't really a masterpiece overall, for this reason i will not gift it with a 5 stars rate. yet this can be the type of e-book that suggests a lot to me. Now you recognize why I needed to write this neverending review. A evaluation with a view to now not be very invaluable to you, i am afraid. Apologies for my biased effort!

Lewis Manalo: A Norwegian masterwork untangling the Gordian knot of an ambiguous character's life. My in simple terms genuine objection to it's that it is so lengthy it monopolized my time.

Donna: The trick to studying this wonderful trilogy is a palate purifier among each one one. they're dense as fruitcake, yet now not the doorstopper, disappointing kind. No, this can be the specified recipe takes a 12 months to make stuff. The incidents and tales of Jonas' existence pass round in every kind of orders and repeats, however it all falls into position with no difficulty. many of the not on time understandings are delightful. cannot wait to get into #3, after a bit sorbet of course.

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