



Brobyggarna

Jan Guillou

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När havet tog deras far och farbror fick de tre gossarna på det norska Vestlandet utanför Bergen söka familjens försörjning inne i staden. Av en tillfällighet upptäckte man att de tre små repslagarlärlingarna var ovanligt tekniskt begåvade och med hjälp av välgörenhet utbildades pojkarna till järnvägs- och brobyggare.

De tre fiskarsönerna utexamineras många år senare som diplomingenjörer vid universitetet i Dresden. Det är 1901 och mänsklighetens tekniskt mest avancerade århundrade har just inletts. Meningen var nu att de skulle återvända till

Norge för att bidra till det mest storartade norska ingenjörprojektet någonsin, att bygga järnväg mellan Oslo och Bergen.

Men kärleken vände upp och ned på planerna. Den ene flydde, bedragen och skamsen, till Tyska Östafrika, men hamnade likväl på ett av tidens största järnvägsbyggen, det mellan Dar es Salaam och Tanganyikasjön.

Den andre flydde också på grund av kärlek, men till London.

Bara äldste brodern Lauritz återvände till Norge för att kunna återgälda brödernas storartade utbildning genom att ansluta sig till järnvägsbygget på Hardangervidda.

Tre bröders öden i ett sekel som ännu var ungt. Där framtidstron överskuggade världens alla orättvisor. Med teknikens stora genombrott skulle alla krig vara utrotade. Föga anade man att man stod inför det mest dramatiska och blodiga århundrade någonsin.

Med romanen Brobyggarna inleder Jan Guillou sin nya romanserie Det Stora Århundradet.

Brobyggarna Details

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Selma says

Nisam baš dobra u pisanju recenzija pa evo ovako, ukratko :).

Ja sam oduševljena, kao da gledam film, slike lete pred očima. Knjiga ima oko 550 strana i mogu reći da mi je možda desetak njih bilo naporno. Ako otkujete neku ljubavnu priču slobodno odmah odustanite :).

Iako se na svakom osvrtu na radnju knjige spominju tri brata, u prvom dijelu priča prati živote samo dvojice njih (Oscar i Lauritz) od 1901 do 1919 godine. Nakon završetka školovanja za inženjere trojica braće kreće svako na svoju stranu, Oscar razočaran u ljubav odlazi u Afriku da radi na izgradnji željeznice, a Lauritz se vraća u Norvešku da pomogne u izgradnji željezničke pruge između Bergena i Osla. U prvom dijelu knjige sve što se zna o najmlađem bratu Sverre je da odlazi u London jer se tamo slobodnije gleda na njegovu seksualnu orijentacija.

Nakon višegodišnjeg rada na izgradnji željeznica Oskar i Lauritz osnivaju svoju firmu, postaju uspješni poslovni ljudi, ali 1914 godine sve se mijenja jer počinje Prvi svjetski rat.

Sinoć sam završila prvi dio trilogije "Graditelji mostova" i odmah krenula sa čitanjem drugog dijela "U visokom društvu" i sve što za sad mogu reći o njoj je da, kako mi se čini, cijela knjiga posvećena trećem bratu Sverre :).

Billy says

Splendide !

Rebekka Steg says

This week I've been reading a book by the wonderful Swedish author Jan Guillou. I read a Danish translation of the Swedish original "Brobyggarna" (Brobyggerne in Danish, meaning The Bridge Builders). The book was published last year, and there is no English translation yet, but I assume there will be, as most of his books have been translated.

The Bridge Builders is the first book in a new series about the 20th century, and it follows the fate of three Norwegian brothers. They're from a small fishing community near Bergen, northern Norway, and they lose their dad in an accident. By chance, their incredible intelligence and skill for technology is discovered, and the lodge "The Good Purpose" decide to give the best education within engineering in Dresden, Germany. This is done with the understanding that they will return to Norway, to help build the rail road between Oslo and Bergen. However, love gets in the way.

This might make it sound like a romance novel, I assure you, it is not. It is a novel about the hopes and the dreams at the turn of the century. About technological advances used for both good and evil. About war, about ideologies and the collapse of societies, which were thought to be eternal.

I really enjoyed it, both learning about things I had no idea about - such as the very different, but equally strenuous circumstances of the building of rail roads in Norway and Africa. Imperialism as seen from different perspectives (in this case German against British).

If you like historical novels, or are fascinated by technology, or just love learning about other cultures, I

greatly recommend it.

Zorka Zamfirova says

Lep jezik, lagani ritam. Ne žitam, slušam, što je pravo uživanje. Preporučujem audioknjigu, ukoliko je moguće, deluje kao bajka kad ti neko lepo žita.

Orvokki says

Románom nad 500 strán sa už niekožko mesiacov vyhýbam. Na nožnom stolíku mám Kvítek karmínový a bílý rozžítaný tak dlho, že by som mohla zaža od zažiatku. A hne vedža Slavné pžbžhy anglických džjin. S tými tlstými kniškami je to žažko. Preto netuším, prežo som na letisku zažala žita? 560 stranový historický román Staviteľé most?. Možno som podvedome tušila, že žo je v Kindle, to dožitam. Že tie štyri dni dovolenky mi budú staži?. Že ten román je tak dobrý, že hne po návrate si kúpim žalší diel a ke? pár dní na to zistím, že Velké století nie je iba trilógia, kúpim si aj ten štvrtý. A to som si myslela, že historické romány nie sú vežmi pre mža.

Viac na orvokki.sk .

Helene Jeppesen says

A very interesting story centered around 3 Norwegian boys and their destinies during the first 20 years of the 20th century. The writing was standard, the stories were at times amazing, at times trivial. I can't wait with continuing with the next book in the series immediately :)

Dobriła Bozic Novak says

U ovom romanu pratimo život dvojice braže Lauritzen od početka 20.st. do kraja drugog svjetskog. Jedan od boljih povijesnih romana koje sam prožitala.

Lars Sønderskov says

Dette er en af de bedste bøger jeg har læst. Pageturner uden lige. Der ligger en kæmpe research bag denne historie. Jeg kan ikke vente til jeg kommer i gang med bind 2 "Dandy".

Hans says

My oh My!

This was fun and totally unexpected. A Swede writing a book about one of the most difficult engineering

challenges done in Norway, or Europe for that matter. I am of course talking about the build of the high mountain railroad between Oslo and Bergen, Bergensbanen, completed in 1907, with tools from 1907. The technology itself is not very advanced, but to build it 1300 meters above sealevel in arctic climate is an achievement of major proportions. And since I have worked at the railway station at Finse for one year, I really can vouch for Mr. Guillous way of describing a blizzard and how fast the weather changes. And without giving away to much; In real life 19 out of 20 people would have perished on the two engineers way back from the tunnel to the engineers cabin.

And yes, I have seen the bridge with my own eyes. It is a masterpiece set in an unimaginable scenery.

I come from an island just outside Bergen. I see this book as a documentary of my own past. The story fits other stories I have heard or read. It is also a story of Bergen, growing from a mere village to a real city. If you find this interesting I would recommend the four volum "Hellemyrsfolket" by Amalie Skram and Gunnar Stålesens trilogy of Bergen "1900-Morgenrød, 1950-High Noon, 1999-Aftensang".

But back to Brobyggerne! This is the first volume of a trilogy where we follow tree brothers from being poor kids to educated engineers. And it is a very interesting and vivid story told by the master, Mr. Gouillou, set in a time where changes both in society and technology happen very fast. Actually a bit like our time :-)
Enjoy!

Maria Lundahl says

nej du Janne, detta var ganska platta karaktärer, han var stark och hon var skön etc. Dock intressant ur ett historiskt perspektiv.

Ole says

great read. i am a big fan of jan guillous and the subject in his new series is very exciting and interesting, and is about love, life and great entrepreneurs, cant wait until book 2 is ready.

Ash Gawain says

In 2010, Ken Follet published Fall of Giant, the first part of his historical trilogy on the 20th Century. Swedish author Jan Guillou certainly believed that Ken Follet's book sucked and decided to write something better, bigger and smarter.

The Bridge Builders is the First book of the Guillou's The Great Century series. To my knowledge, it is not available in English yet. You can find it in German, French, Norwegian, Danish and of course Swedish. If you don't speak any of these languages and wish to read the book, then I can only advise you to learn Swedish (It's the easiest of these languages. I come from France and I learnt it in less than five months. I met Americans who learnt it even faster).

The book starts at the end of the 19th Century. In Bergen, three young Norwegian orphans are spotted as extremely gifted by the local Bourgeoisie. They decide to finance their education so as to dispose of Norwegian engineers to build a railroad between Bergen and Oslo. The three brothers are sent to Dresden University, in Germany, where they become engineers. Except that only one comes back to Norway. One has moved to England to pursue his love affair with an English lord, while another has gone to Tanganyika to

plunder the German African colony.

I can't help comparing Jan Guillou's book series with Ken Follet's. While Ken Follet only offers commonplace stories about the start of the century, Guillou takes the reader to the unknown construction of the railroad between Bergen and Oslo in Norway, to the German colony of Tanganyika, neighbor of Belgian Congo, and to the upper society of imperial Germany. Even when the Great War breaks out, Jan Guillou does not have the reader waste their time in trenches on the western front, but instead focus on the life in neutral Norway and Sweden, where supply is scarce due to the allied blockade as well as the fighting between German guerillas and British and south-African troops in Eastern Africa.

Even if two of the brothers are irritatingly 'Marry Sue', this is forgiven, since this is an essential element for the rest of the series.

Michaela says

Znovu som sa sama seba pýtala, prečo som nedožítala túto knihu hne?. No, asi preto, že sa toho udialo veľa a prenášať hrubú buchlu sa dá len doma. Na žítanie vonku uprednostním žítaku a túto knižku som mala len v papierovej podobe. Jednoducho som nestíhala a tak som ju odkladala zas a znovu.

Príbeh troch bratov začína koncom 19. storočia a kniha končí 1. svetovou vojnou. Stavba železníc v Afrike ma až tak nezaujala, ale zato na severe - tam to bolo skvelé. Páčila sa mi realita práce robotníkov a inžinierov, ich vzťahy navzájom, poľasie a celá tá studená atmosféra, rovnako aj húževnatosť a verná láska k milovanej žene, pre ktorú bol príliš chudobný a nádejný svokor ho odmietal. Stavba lode a pletenie svetrov (biznis jeho matky) bolo úžasný bonus. Príbeh brata v Afrike - domorodci, ťažba dreva, choroby, lov levov, slonov a nosorožcov a nakoniec vojnové roky - táto časť bola tragická a krvavá.

Monika Havlasová says

Co lepšího na dovolenou než dlouhý historický román? Téma stavby mostu v těžkých norských nebo afrických podmínkách, zkušenost s první světovou válkou, nešťastné lásky a trocha té erotiky. Perfektní mix. A překvapení, že existují další 4 pokračování :)

Patrizia says

Gar nicht meins, musste es abbrechen. Die Protagonisten waren mir zu fern, die ganze Architektur Sache eher was für Männer. Mich konnte es nicht begeistern
