Stilton Literary Agency



Red Zone

Original title: Rød sone Publisher: Vigmostad & Bjørke 2014 Fiction / Crime English material available

1980s: British pilots on extremely hazardous missions under the radar in Northern Norway. 2010: A former fighter pilot is found dead in a hotel room in Tromsø. The former fighter pilot Peter Barrow is found dead in a hotel room in Tromsø. Journalist Alexander Winther, of the Nordlys newspaper, becoming embroiled in the case, discovers that several of Barrow's former squadron colleagues have also died in mysterious circumstances. Is there a connection? Delving into the pilots' past lives revives Alexander's memories of his time as a soldier in Afghanistan and this destroys his relationship with his girlfriend, Vivi. The journalist finds out that a terrible incident during the Cold War in Northern Norway lies behind it all. When an attempt is made on the life of his source in NRK, the national broadcasting company, Alexander understands there is someone who would go to any lengths to keep the past concealed.

Against a backdrop of the Cold War and the threat of atomic attack at the beginning of the 1980s, Asbjørn Jaklin weaves historic events into his crime novel Red Zone. For what really happened on 11th March 1982 when a Twin Otter with fifteen civilian passengers on board plunged into the sea outside Gamvik? Was a NATO fighter plane involved in the accident?

Red Zone was shortlisted for the Riverton Prize for best crime 2014: «NATO's activities in North Norway in the 1970s and -80s are still kept in the dark. What was behind the tragic plane crash in Mehamn? How close were we to a nuclear war? Asbjørn Jaklin merges historic facts with fiction and creates something that may well be an unpleasant truth.» FROM THE JURY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Foreign rights Suhrkamp Verlag, Germany



Asbjørn Jaklin

Asbjørn Jaklin (b. 1956) is a bestselling, highly acknowledged non-fiction author from Norway. During the last decade he has specialized on war- and postwar history, stories with a strong narrative drive and a thorough and reliable research. His previous publications include titles such as "A history of Northern Norway", "The Northern Front", "Ice Front. The cold war in the north". His books have been translated into several languages. For "The Northern Front" he gained a nomination to the Brage Prize for best Norwegian non-fiction book in 2006.

His crime series is set in Tromsø and Northern Norway with journalist Alex Winther as main character. Jaklin's fiction shows the drama and tensions that always envelop this rough and vulnerable region of the north, both in our time and in times of war, cold and "hot". WHITE LIES is the fourth novel in the series.

Other titles

Churchill -- obsessed with Norway (2023) The Great Norwegian Gold Escape (2021) The Battle of Narvik. 62 Desperate Days (2018) White Lies (2017) Scorched Earth (2016) Black Frost (2012)