



## **VIKING: The Green Land**

*Katie Aiken Ritter*

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**VIKING: The Green Land** Katie Aiken Ritter

ICELAND, 982 A.D. A SHIP OF OUTLAWS. A WOMAN, ALONE. Dangerous seas...and even more dangerous secrets on board.

Iceland's powerful Althing Council has convicted seafarer Tiller Thorvaldsson of murder - to force him on a ship for a perilous quest in search of a legendary land, said to lie in uncharted western seas. Who is the mysterious, beautiful woman aboard, called Fishgirl? A skilled liar, she tells Tiller that her life is in danger and that she is in desperate need of an ally...but do they dare trust one other?

Based on the Saga of Erik the Red and evocative of Jean Auel's CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR, THE GREEN LAND is a sweeping epic novel of murder, passion, love, and courage in a battle for survival between the dark forces of intrigue and the redemptive power of the human spirit.

Fast-paced action with complex, strong-willed characters and meticulously researched, authentic storytelling – with plot twists to keep you guessing until the last page - you'll love the experience of reading VIKING: THE GREEN LAND!

Will finding land offer hope...or bring them even greater danger? ADVENTURE AWAITS! Buy VIKING THE GREEN LAND now to set your sails for excitement.

2016 AWC Novel Award Winner

A POWERFUL, STAND-ALONE NOVEL WITH PLANNED SEQUELS

Cover image courtesy Richard Benning at Behance.net

## VIKING: The Green Land Details

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# From Reader Review **VIKING: The Green Land** for online ebook

## **Michele Frazier says**

Quite a nice read! Super details! Thank you for giving us this history!

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## **AliV says**

I am a big fan of Michael Crichton's work, and if he wrote about Vikings, it would probably be much like this novel. Like Crichton, Ms. Ritter writes with a richness of detail that not only lends credibility to her research, but also puts the reader inside the story. With respect to the plot, a ship full of Viking outcasts and criminals, along with their female talisman of sorts, known as "Fishgirl," are forced by the governing council to set sail and find new land to settle. Several of the ship mates have been assigned a secret task that will either bring them great fame and glory or tear them and the voyage apart. Fishgirl carries her own secrets which ultimately link her fate to that of one of the other crew members. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy this read.

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## **Alice Keiller says**

What a lovely surprise. I have read many books about the vikings since I am Swedish and enjoy their history. This book is quite different. Well written and interesting and showing that not all viking history was about raiding and killing. The people of Iceland ha one enormous problem. Food. And so they had to find a way to get men to sail (row) the seas in order to find land where they could farm. After much suffering they found land but also a unique race of humans who with kindness and love actually managed to change the Icelanders attitude and thinking. Is this even possible? No idea but I felt this was very positive, I loved seeing how Erik and Thio slowly changed and became better people. I hope for a sequel where Leif follows in his parents footsteps.

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## **Clare says**

I loved this story. Interesting characters and you didn't know what was going to happen next, would they make it, would they get over their demons, would they stay or go? You could genuinely feel how lovely some of the greenlanders were and the warmth and love they exuded. I love being able to read about characters that actually existed, it makes the story go on even when you've finished reading. A really lovely book. I'm now reading tors tale...wish there were more!!

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## **N.B. Williams says**

Absolutely riveting. The author weaves a carefully crafted, historically accurate tale with such skill that you are surprised by the twists and turns, even if you're familiar with the history. Her characters are raw, highly

detailed, and believable and the story slowly, but surely, recreates the long-ago world of Nordic explorers so accurately that you can just about feel the icy wind on your face. Can't wait for the next volume!

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### **Frances Delahanty says**

Viking was a thoroughly engaging book, from beginning to end. I read the first half in one reading - about 5 hours worth till 3:30 AM, and the only reason I stopped was because I was dead tired! On the second reading I finished the book - another 4 hours of enchantment! - Katie's writing is powerful and compelling from beginning to end. Viking was a thoroughly engaging book, from beginning to end. I read the first half in one reading - about 5 hours worth till 3:30 AM, and the only reason I stopped was because I was dead tired! On the second reading I finished the book - another 4 hours of enchantment! - Katie's writing is powerful and compelling from beginning to end. It develops what starts out as a voyage of desperate outlaws on a journey that seemed almost certain to end in disaster, into an incredible tale of personal transformation of the main characters in surprising and inspiring ways. -Weaving historical fact about the Viking explorers into this work of fiction that lives and breathes with intense human emotion and experience, this novel is a masterful piece of writing - and it's only the author's first novel! Can't wait to read the next episode! I give it 5 stars!!

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### **Di says**

This was a fantastic journey by a new author. I enjoyed the characters and the adventurous story. I must admit I don't know much about this history period and the Viking people. Ms. Ritter told the story of Eric and Thio with such passion and twists and turns. I couldn't wait to read it every night. Anxiously waiting for the next book and the continuing saga.

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### **David says**

I believe in open honesty, and I have always treated my reviews as such. This is a disclaimer, I was asked by the author for an open, fair and honest review.

First of all I am not a fan of historical fiction. I know many of you are however.

This is the story of a set of outlaws (not your Robin Hood-type though) whom are basically banished from Iseland (note the spelling) for various crimes. Some it seems had this thrust upon them on trumped-up charges, or even by mistake.

Iseland is reeling from three straight years of famine, there isn't the farmland or green areas for more to start farming. So the council set it upon themselves to send a crew out upon the seas to find a land than has taken a mythical-like status ion the land. No one knows it's true name, it's just called Gunnbjörn's Skerries. named after the man upon who's crew spied the land, supposedly.

They are a bunch of misfits. But they work well as a crew. Tiller (not his true name) named so because he commands the tiller, steering the craft. Fishgirl - Thio - of whom we learn much of within, and as to why she's on the knorr. Fishgirl is her title, she is to feed the crew, heal them.

Now the difficult part. It is rather difficult to say too much without giving away massive chunks of the plots, and oh yeah, twists by the number. The crew's premise is to find new, fertile land. They are tasked with a three-year sailing to do this.

Now as to the writing, plot and characters. The writing was rather good, she had certainly done an awful lot of research for the book, and it most certainly shows. Descriptively she nailed things down tight. The

language was even done correctly for the time 980 a.d, no modern swearing on board the knorr, or land. This added a very good layer of realism and pulled me in further to the enjoyment.

The storm at sea - not really giving this away, I mean anything at sea in a book: there's a storm, end of. It almost had me crawling to the bathroom. She racks up tension between characters really well, and with some it's always simmering under the surface just waiting for the pot to boil over. The characters I have to say in all honesty were all, with one exception - and no, I am not going to name them - were very well crafted. good back stories, and their interactions within the crew gave them a good human factor.

All things being equal and such I would most recommend this, and would love to see the return of certain characters - names withheld due to spoiler alerts. This was a real treat to read, even though, as I said it's not really my thing. I really found myself back in Iseland 980 a.d. The language, the characters, the setting were thrown into a heady mix of betrayal, love, hope, and trust to create something that comes along rarely.

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### **Nicole McMann says**

I enjoyed this read. There were a few parts that I thought "ehhh" but overall not bad. I was looking for the least smut containing Viking story on kindle unlimited and this was a good match. Zero smut and an interesting plot. 9/10 would recommend.

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### **Kimberly says**

Tiller is an outlaw in Iceland who is going on what is surely a suicide mission with several other outlaws: to sail west to the unknown looking for land that can be colonized. The ship and its crew will surely encounter storms and unknown dangers, but that prospect is preferable to the doomed life as an "outlaw." There is also a "fish girl" on the mission who clearly doesn't fit the norm, as Tiller understands it. And so this group of Vikings sets sail, with the colonists of Iceland depending on their success for their continued survival. Historical fiction is my favorite genre, and this story is a superb example of blending the known facts of history (in this era, very few) with colorful threads of imagination. I was enthralled from the very first chapter and satisfied and delighted by the ending. Tiller, whose real identity is skillfully revealed later in the story, partners with the fish girl to begin a fresh life in the newly discovered Greenland. Ritter imagines a meeting between the Vikings and the native people of Greenland that is riveting and intriguing. At the end of the book I was googling and researching because this story had whet my appetite for more information about the Viking exploration of the 10th century! I believe there is a sequel in the works, and I can't wait to read it!

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### **Amalia Gavea says**

\*Disclaimer\* Katie Aiken Ritter is one of my friends in Goodreads, but I added the book long before we became friends and this is an honest and objective review.

I am obsessed with everything that has to do with the Viking era. I have read a significant number of non-fiction books concerning the culture, the journeys on distant shores, the beliefs, the myths and the religion of this extraordinary corner of the world that has offered so much to the later generations, was vastly misinterpreted by monks and bishops (not that they were angels, obviously, they were conquerors and savage ones, but horned helmets? Always pictured as rapists, slaughtering without mercy, humanoid animals? Please...) Whatever they may have been, they still fascinate and intrigue our imagination, centuries after the

peak of their power.

My love for all things Viking is so deep that I may even be tempted (and I stress the "maybe"....) to read a Viking romance novel if the plot is remotely interesting. Fortunately, *Viking: The Green Land* is not a romance. One thing I cannot stand is disrespectful innacuracy and misinterpration of people and events that are facts, historically accepted and established (yes, *Vikings* TV series, I am looking at you!) and thankfully, Katie Aiken Ritter's novel doesn't seem to suffer from these problems. What is so interesting in *Viking: The Green Land* is that we are looking into the expedition that supposedly led to the discovery of Greenland, an incident that is rarely mentioned in novels belonging to the genre.

It is very, very difficult to describe the plot without spoiling the numerous twists and turns of the book, so I will refrain from it and write about the characters. Tiller is a hero that we can fully support, he is logical, brave, noble, eager to discover, learn and accept what is different without condemning it. His real identity was a major revelation, I admit I hadn't suspected who he was at first, and then I realised that yes, it was obvious. Thio, the Fishgirl, is such a unique character! She is a brave, intelligent, Viking woman, with great strength and an unflinching will to survive and protect herself from the vipers that surround her. And there are many...The villains of the story are black-hearted and brutal, the rest of the Viking crew upon the ship that carries them to unknown shores are like mirrors of every society. They are realistic characters, not Alpha, all-conquering heroes, but human beings with fears, passions and insecurities like us. The native people of Greenland become a major focus in the latter half of the book, making the story even more interesting and original.

The language is beautiful, sometimes poetic, other times raw, taking us into the thoughts of the characters in a clear and somehow, impressionistic way. I really liked the glimpses into the language of the Greenlanders, although it was a real struggle to grasp the pronunciation of their names or even to tell them apart at first. Perhaps, a character list would be a useful addition in a later edition of the novel. The end is very touching and paves the way for the following installment of the saga. (view spoiler). The author's notes were very informative, as well, and a delight to read.

The reviews about Katie Aiken Ritter's novel are raving and rightly so, in my opinion. It is an exquisite addition, not only in the Viking fiction genre, but in Historical Fiction in general. The research has been meticulous, obviously, but the readers don't feel as if they're present in a lecture. We witness the action in vivid, wild, raw, beautiful sequences. The novel has a Bernard Cromwell touch, and has all the makings to become a showstopper in the genre.

P.S. Michael Hirst, if you are reading this, this is how one writes about the Vikings in a respectful way, okay? Bye...

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## **Ken Fredette says**

This was an amazing book, Katie did a marvelous job of telling a story that in all probability did happen to Erik the Red in finding Greenland. Thio was especially strong as his mate, and Asa as his aipak (kind of like a blood brother). Katie made it believable by all the infighting that you assumed happened during that time both with the men of his boat and the people of the land of Greenland. Can't wait for the next installment.

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## **Bibi says**

Even months after reading “Viking”, it is still “active” in my head! What a debut! Wish we didn’t have to wait to find out what comes next for all the characters who are not easily forgotten.

The book is beautifully written, and the characters, some real and some fictive, from a good 1000 years ago, are “real people”. You can love them, like them, or hate them, but it is hard to be indifferent. Hailing from Viking stock, this book holds a very special interest for me, and it is evident on all pages that an enormous amount of research went into the creation of this volume 1. If you are interested in history, the book is very satisfying. If you just like a great story full of well-developed characters and an exciting plot, you won’t be disappointed. It is so very nice to see somebody make the effort and do the research to portray the people from the Viking Era as something more than the wild and marauding “beasts” that we are used to meeting on screen and paper.

One of the very valuable qualities of this book is that it makes you curious about the people, places and customs that you read about. I have been traveling on Google Earth to find the places mentioned, looking up information about some of the stated facts, and I have studied my family tree which goes back to before the days of the people whom the book is based upon. One person mentioned in the book is on my chart of genealogy!

A few months ago, “Viking – The Green Land” was my pick for my book club, because I knew my fellow readers would also enjoy it. Katie graciously offered to be available via skype for the book club meeting, and that was just an extra treat. I know she will be happy to extend the same offer to other book clubs. Now, when was the last time you actually had a chance for a live line to the author of a book pick??

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## **Ann says**

### **Wonderful Book!!**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's been a long time since I read a book that so captured my attention and kept me interested until the end. It is a well researched and a compelling read. I had trouble putting it down to sleep and finally stayed up to finish it. The characters are still in my head (even a few days after reading it) and I hope we can rediscover some of the Inuit culture in our own (you'll have to read the book to understand what I mean by that). I am looking forward to what comes next.

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## **Niki says**

This book begins as an epic tale of Viking adventure and drama, to what unfolds to a journey of not only new lands, but of self discovery for our adventurers. This book is engaging, dramatic and steers you into adventures that you wouldn’t of thought of. I highly look forward to reading more from this author.

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