

The Year of the Horsetails

By R. F. Tapsell



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I chanced upon a novel I read as a child. Re-reading The Year of the Horsetails by R. F. Tapsell (1967), I realized where my interest in nomadic warfare began and, with Bardiya - Tapsell s siege-engineer, outsider hero - something of the origins of Ballista. Tapsell was a superb historical novelist, and some enterprising publisher should put his works back in print for a new generation. Set in an unusual time and place, The Year of the Horsetails creates an exotic, fully imagined world combined with universal themes. Intensely exciting. An inspiration.' --Harry Sidebottom, author of the Warrior of Rome series

Eastern Europe: Early Middle Ages. The nomad warrior Bardiya must flee from the evil empire of the Mongol-like Tugars and their ruthless Kagan. He receives hospitality from the sedentary Slavic Drevich people; but fears that they also might succumb to the might of the Tugar empire. Will he be able to convince them of their danger and teach them the skills necessary to defeat their new enemy?

Now revised and corrected, with a new glossary of names and terms.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A gem for readers interested in military history, military strategy, and the daily life of steppe warriors...massive research and enormous knowledge...historical knowledge shines through every line ...an exceptional literary and historical feat...gradually rising tension...an action-filled page-turner...well-loved, classic historical novel" IP Book Reviewers

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From reader reviews:

Sandra Murray:

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Sam Grimes:

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Catherine Taylor:

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Katie Mueller:

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