

Torggrim Eggen

Blood Blodet

Genre: Fiction
Category: Novel
Publisher: Cappelen Damm
Year: 2025 - Due medio Oct
Pages: 542
ISBN: 9788202769222
English sample translation available

What makes two teenage brothers from a small village in Norway enlist in Waffen-SS?

Oddmund and Sigurd grow up in a small Norwegian village in the 1930s, surrounded by competing ideologies and political tensions. Dark clouds loom over the valley. Europe is on the brink of war, and soon everyone must choose side. The brothers align themselves with the Germans in the fateful struggle against Stalin.

At just seventeen years old, they both become soldiers in Waffen-SS. While Oddmund fights at Leningrad, Sigurd is sent to Finland. They survive the war, but when they return to a liberated Norway, they must face the consequences of their choices. How will their lives unfold? And what marks do they leave on their descendants and family?

In the novel's final part, the author himself steps forward—as their nephew and descendant—in an attempt to understand the legacy of Sigurd and Oddmund. The result is a novel of moral gravity, linguistic precision, and emotional force.

Blood is a story about heroes and traitors, the dream of honour and the nightmares that follow, and it portrays a time that bears an unsettling resemblance to our own.



Photo: Grethe Nygaard

Torggrim Eggen (b. 1958) is a journalist, musician and author. His debut novel *Debt* was published in 1992. In 2019, he received the Brage Prize in non-fiction for *Axel*. He has since written trendsetting and critically acclaimed contemporary novels, and been awarded the prestigious Gullpennen award. Eggen also writes regularly for the major newspapers Klassekampen and Dagens Næringsliv.

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Interview
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