



Before They Are Hanged (The First Law)

By Joe Abercrombie

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Before They Are Hanged (The First Law) By Joe Abercrombie

The second novel in the wildly popular First Law Trilogy from *New York Times* bestseller Joe Abercrombie.

Superior Glokta has a problem. How do you defend a city surrounded by enemies and riddled with traitors, when your allies can by no means be trusted, and your predecessor vanished without a trace? It's enough to make a torturer want to run -- if he could even walk without a stick.

Northmen have spilled over the border of England and are spreading fire and death across the frozen country. Crown Prince Ladisla is poised to drive them back and win undying glory. There is only one problem -- he commands the worst-armed, worst-trained, worst-led army in the world.

And Bayaz, the First of the Magi, is leading a party of bold adventurers on a perilous mission through the ruins of the past. The most hated woman in the South, the most feared man in the North, and the most selfish boy in the Union make a strange alliance, but a deadly one. They might even stand a chance of saving mankind from the Eaters -- if they didn't hate each other quite so much.

Ancient secrets will be uncovered. Bloody battles will be won and lost. Bitter enemies will be forgiven -- but not before they are hanged.

First Law Trilogy

The Blade Itself
Before They Are Hanged
Last Argument of Kings

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Best Served Cold
The Heroes
Red Country

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Northmen have spilled over the border of Angland and are spreading fire and death across the frozen country. Crown Prince Ladisla is poised to drive them back and win undying glory. There is only one problem -- he commands the worst-armed, worst-trained, worst-led army in the world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. This grim and vivid sequel to 2007's *The Blade Itself* transcends its middle volume status, keeping the reader engaged with complicated plotting and intriguing character development. As savage Northmen invade Angland, the northernmost province of the unwieldy Union, honorable, hard-working Union soldier Colonel West watches his notions of civilized warfare erode in one horrible battle after another. In Dagoska, a southern city threatened by Gurkish soldiers and left undefended as Union troops head to Angland, dreadfully maimed Inquisitor Glokta employs tortures and deceptions to ferret out conspiracies against the king. Ignoring these worldly concerns, disreputable magus Bayaz of Calcis drives a squabbling little band through a wasteland in search of a relic that can open a gate to the realm of demons. Abercrombie leavens the bloody action with moments of dark humor, developing a story suffused with a rich understanding of human darkness and light. (Mar.)

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Review

"Pointed, driven, and sharp." **Locus on Red Country**

"Magnificent, richly entertaining" **Time on The Heroes**

"Imagine *The Lord of the Rings* as directed by Kurosawa." **Lev Grossman, Wall Street Journal on The Heroes**

"[Abercrombie has] begun breaking his own rules. And succeeding wildly at it. ... Rarely has Abercrombie had so much fun while rollicking through his colorful cast's foibles and witty dialogue - and rarely has he dished out so much straight-for-the-heart poignancy." **The A.V. Club**

"New, fresh, and exciting." **The Independent (UK)**

"Exhilarating... Abercrombie's knack for wit and grit holds your attention throughout, and his eye for character means that there's heart as well as muscle." **SFX (UK)**

About the Author

Joe Abercrombie is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Country* and the First Law trilogy: *The Blade Itself*, *Before They Are Hanged*, and *Last Argument of Kings*. He is a full time writer, and occasional freelance film editor, who lives in Bath, England with his wife and three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sylvia Johnson:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is

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Deborah Young:

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Ruth Ford:

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Lettie Perez:

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