

"Thoroughly imagined and vividly described... "Fans of Madeline Miller and Natalie Haynes will relish how Lindbergh weaves fact and fiction to craft a convincing portrait of a time and people lost to history."

—Christina Baker Kline, #1 bestselling author of ORPHAN TRAIN and THE EXILES

AKMARAL

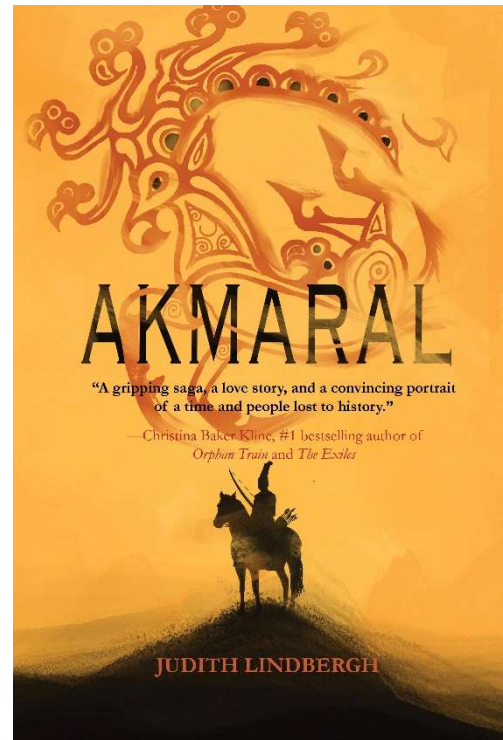
— a novel —

by Judith Lindbergh

a nomad woman warrior of the ancient Asian steppes
must make peace with making war
— coming May 7, 2024 from Regal House Publishing —

Before the Silk Road had a name, nomads roamed the Eurasian steppes and women fought side by side as equals with men.

Like all women of the Sauromatae, Akmaral is bound for battle from birth, training as a girl in horsemanship, archery, spear and blade. Her prowess ignites the jealousy of Erzhan, a gifted warrior who hates her as much as he desires her. When Scythian renegades attack, the two must unite to defeat them. Among their captives is Timor, the rebels' enigmatic leader who refuses to be broken, even as he is enslaved. He fascinates Akmaral. But as attraction grows to passion, she is blinded to the dangerous alliance forming between the men who bristle against the clan's matriarchal rule. Faced with brutal betrayal, Akmaral must find the strength to defend her people and fulfill her destiny.



From the author of THE THRALL'S TALE, praised by Pulitzer Prize winners Geraldine Brooks and Robert Olen Butler, comes a tale inspired by Greek legends of Amazon women warriors and modern archaeological discoveries.

More EARLY PRAISE for AKMARAL

"Meticulously researched, deeply imagined AKMARAL brings the joy and hardship of a nomad woman warrior to vibrant, often aching life."

—Cathy Marie Buchanan, New York Times bestselling author of DAUGHTER OF BLACK LAKE and THE PAINTED GIRLS

If you love Madeline Miller's CIRCE, you must read AKMARAL. Lindbergh delivers a breath-taking story filled with vivid characters, haunted landscapes, powerful battle scenes, and a love story you will not soon forget."

—Laurie Lico Albanese, award-winning author of HESTER

"Magically immersive.... You will smell the sweat of the horses and feel the ache of a warrior who is also a mother and a lover. Akmaral transported me, night after page-turning night, to a world I would never have been able to experience otherwise."

—Barbara Quick, author of VIVALDI'S VIRGINS and WHAT DISAPPEARS

"Akmaral may be one of the most fascinating warriors in literature.... Written with a wild poetry, the author brings to life a strong woman and her unforgettable story amid stark cliffs and green pastures. Akmaral is pure literary magic."

—Stephanie Cowell, American Book Award recipient and author of CLAUDE & CAMILLE and THE BOY IN THE RAIN



AKMARAL

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Learn more at <https://judithlindbergh.com/> or email laura@lauramariepr.com.

AKMARAL Selling Points

BELOVED, BESTSELLING CATEGORY: As shown by the popularity of novels including Madeline Miller's *CIRCE*, books by Natalie Haynes, Pat Barker, and *KAIKEYI* by Vaishnavi Patel, readers adore feminist retellings of the ancient past, especially those that cross into a mystical reality. But Akmaral is more than a mythological character. She is based on true archaeological discoveries and history.

PERFECT FOR BOOK CLUBS: Raising provocative questions about matriarchy and misogyny, the nature of love, cultural allegiance, violence, warfare, and other urgent issues, *AKMARAL* will keep book clubs talking long after their meeting time is done.

FIERCE FEMALE PROTAGONIST: Narrated by a powerful woman warrior, this novel gives full voice to the complex role of women in leadership, present and past, and to questions of life and death, motherhood, love and loyalty.

FULL OF HISTORICAL FACT AND MYSTICISM: Rooted in the stories of ancient Amazon warrior women, this novel digs deep into the true history of women who rode the ancient Asian steppes and fought side by side with men. It reveals ancient beliefs and mystical practices that reflect a rich spiritual relationship between humans and the natural world.

RESPECTED HISTORICAL NOVELIST: Judith Lindbergh's acclaimed debut novel, *THE THRALL'S TALE* about women in Viking Age Greenland, was praised by Pulitzer Prize winners Geraldine Brooks and Robert Olen Butler. Lindbergh returns with a new novel that reveals forgotten history and brings a powerful woman's story to life.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Judith Lindbergh's debut novel, *THE THRALL'S TALE*, about three women in the first Viking Age settlement in Greenland, was an IndieBound Pick, a Borders Original Voices Selection, and praised by Pulitzer Prize winners Geraldine Brooks and Robert Olen Butler. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *Newsweek*, *Next Avenue*, *Zibby Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, *Literary Mama*, *Edible Jersey*, *Archaeology Magazine*, *The World & I*, *Other Voices*, and *UP HERE: The North at the Center of the World* published by University of Washington Press. She contributed to the Smithsonian Institution's exhibition *Vikings: The Norse Atlantic Saga* and was an expert commentator on the History Channel's documentary series *Mankind: The Story of All of Us*. Judith is the Founder/Director of The Writers Circle, a New Jersey-based creative writing center where she regularly teaches creative writing to students from ages 8-80.

FOR REVIEWERS, RETAILERS & PRESS

ADVANCE READER COPIES: Digital ARCs are available upon request and forthcoming on NetGalley and Edelweiss. A limited supply of hard-copy ARCs available upon request.

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PUBLICIST: Contact Laura Marie PR at laura@lauramariepr.com for interviews, speaking engagements, book clubs, conferences, and creative writing workshops.

