



Leverage from
the EU
2014–2020



MIDDLE AGES

Main story: Ingeborg in battle

Ingeborg Tott is the chatelain of Häme Castle. She manages the castle, its military defence and administration.

Danger is lurking everywhere. The abilities of a woman are questioned; some think she is a witch.

Coup leaders are near, and a freezing cold winter lies ahead. The castle is crowded with more and more people coming, as it is rumoured that the enemy is advancing, and beacons have been seen.

Ingeborg Tott needs help to equip the castle for a potential enemy offence and for the harsh winter. They need all sorts of supplies – including good spirits and peace to prevent revolts inside the castle walls. She manages to repel a coup attempt by a former chatelain, Folke Gregersson, with the help of the people at the castle, but worries still abound. Is the castle defence strong enough to defend against enemy attacks? Is there enough food for the people to last through the harsh winter?

Ingeborg is interested in science and theology. Whenever she feels anxious, she turns to the clergy and scientists. What did they predict for Ingeborg, what kind of a life in Tavastia, in the regions ruled by Ingeborg?

Church of the Holy Cross, Hattula: a red-brick robe

Ingeborg was sitting in a rocky boat with the waves of Vanajavesi lake surging water to the bottom of the boat. If only there was no storm... The journey to the Church of the Holy Cross from the castle takes a while. Since her return from Sweden, Ingeborg has waited a long time to see the church. Has it been completed? Someone had explained that the walls had been decorated with paintings and wooden statues by the Master of Lieto. How exciting!

The pilgrims travelled the same waterways in their search for answers. Queen Margaret had encouraged pilgrimages to go to Hattula for the peace of her soul. Ingeborg had offered accommodation and food for the pilgrims, too.

The bow of the boat hits the sand on the shore. The air has cleared, and the sun's rays flicker on the waves. The church on the top of the hill looks imposing, like the castle's sister also dressed in a red brick robe. The altar of the church conceals a relic of the Holy Cross – how on earth did it end up there? It has been said to have miraculous power. Ingeborg walks towards the church slowly.

Church of St Laurence: Ilmari returns

Hard work and long life were reflected in the deep furrows of the 61-year-old man's face. His movements were slow and difficult. Ilmari had wanted to come to the church once more on a Sunday.



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He was sitting in the pew and thought back to 1520 when he, still a young man, had attended the consecration service of the church. Back then, he did not know that he would later receive baptism there and it would become such an important holy place for him.

Ilmari saw the marks of his own hands in the arches of the ceiling. He had also been there to build the sacristy on the north side and the armoury on the south.

Ilmari still shivered when he thought of the fate of the church builder. He had been beheaded in Hämeenlinna even before the church had been consecrated. At a time, Ilmari had been intimidated when he entered the church, and the male figure nailed to the five-foot wooden cross, had looked peculiar.

Now he knew that it was Jesus Christ.

Häme Castle: The mysterious death of the male witch

A long time ago, it was laid down in the law that the most heinous criminals be sentenced to death. That was the case with Esko and Urbanus, sons of Niilo, who had been condemned at the court assembly for a horrible deed of witchcraft!

The brothers, who had made a pact with the Devil, were brought into the Häme Castle in 1665 to wait for their punishment. Their presence terrified everyone.

Finally, something happened that scared the people at the castle out of their minds: Esko was found dead in his cell. Did he die a natural death or did he kill himself? It was common knowledge that restless souls haunted the living, and suicide was the most mortal sin of all, and one that calls for the Devil to come among the people of the castle!

The body could not be buried in sacred soil nor outside the churchyard walls – it might have come back to haunt them. So, they placed the body in a locked box to wait for more instructions from the Court of Appeal.

Finally, the word came: Urbanus should be released and sent away, and he was to take the cursed body with him.

Everyone at the castle was overjoyed: they got rid of both the living and the dead male witches!

The main story continues...

Ingeborg Tott shivers, whether because of cold or fear, when she listens to the stories of what will happen in the future.



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All she wants is peace, peace for her old age. She is happy that churches are being built, but all these witches and murderers sound so horrifying – could they not be over with already? When will wisdom win over the darkness of the mind? She feels cold shivers running all over her body and moves closer to the fire radiating heat.

“Life will become very different,” says Lauri Suurpää, the Bishop of Turku, who is sitting deep in his plush seat. “The end of our time is nearing, and others will emerge and rule in their own ways. No one can predict the future precisely.”

The Bishop’s words are wise, but they cannot dispel my worries for today or tomorrow, Ingeborg thinks to herself.

“I am grateful that you came, it calms my mind more than any prediction”, she says out loud, because she knew the Bishop was a powerful man.

The Bishop would celebrate Mass at the castle the next day and at that moment, at least, everything would be fine.