

Model Query for Streaming Proposal

Set in 11th century Greenland and North America, *THE KING OF VINLAND'S SAGA*. [*The King of Vinland's Saga*: Amazon.co.uk: Mirsky, Stuart W: 9780738801520: Books] follows the trials and exploits of a fictional grandson of Leif Eiriksson seeking to regain his heritage. The novel, told in the saga style, easily lends itself to cinematic presentation.

Description of Proposed Project:

The story commences in the medieval Norse colony in Greenland (a rather timely locale, because it's so politically fraught these days) and rapidly shifts to North America as a group of Norse Greenlanders attempt to establish a foothold on North America's shores.

Synopsis for Pilot "Inheritance" (in two parts) Episodes 1 & 2:

Sigtrygg, an outcast of mixed Norse/Inuit (Eskimo) blood, returns to his family's Greenland home after years of exile, and seeks the return of his father's abandoned Greenland farmstead at the urging of his half-cousin, Thjodhild Gunnarsdottir. But when his uncles deny him this, he consents to take the rights to his grandfather's long-lost land claim in the distant country of Vinland across the sea instead, much to the dismay of his Thjodhild. Seeking to raise the needed crew for the journey, he falls in with an old man of suspicious background and some local ruffians in another Ketilsfjord who will eventually form the nucleus of that crew. But, on returning to his kinsmen, he discovers his father's half-brothers have had second thoughts about their "deal" and are seeking to change its terms. Now wedded to the idea of re-claiming Vinland, Sigtrygg refuses compromise and, with help from a still reluctant Thjodhild and another of his cousins, Girstein Eiriksson, he absconds with the promised ship, only to be pursued in a desperate and bloody race down the length of the fjord to open sea – a race in which he will inadvertently harm another of his kinsmen and set in motion a bitter blood feud that will follow him all the way to Vinland.

Story Outline for the Overall Series:

Consisting of several seasons, with multiple episodes, Vinland opens in the medieval Norse colony of Greenland as Sigtrygg Thorgilsson (half-Inuit grandson of Leif Eiriksson) returns from lonely exile to reclaim his birthright. Thwarted and betrayed by his own, he must flee that country's ice-clad coastal waters, just ahead of his greedy kinsmen who would keep his inheritance from him, to seek his own in the distant and unexplored lands last glimpsed by his grandfather more than 40 years before. Following the events in Episodes 1 and 2 above, Sigtrygg and his hastily gathered crew of somewhat unsavory men, makes his way to Vinland where they run head on into reality, that the new country they'd hoped to settle is already occupied and the people there are anything but enthusiastic about their arrival.

Episodes 3-8

Completing the hazardous crossing with his hastily assembled crew proves the least of their trials when, on arrival in the new land, they learn it's not just there for the taking. Taken captive by a native tribe, Sigtrygg must find the means to convince these people of their value to them. When the chief's own daughter is taken by a stronger tribe, Sigtrygg convinces the chief to rely on him and his men to return her to her people. It's a risky gamble but, despite a series of bloody confrontations, they pull it off and Sigtrygg finds love with the native chief's daughter. Yet, even as the gamble they'd undertaken pays off, with Sigtrygg and his men accepted into the tribe as equals, their situation will only worsen again when his angry kinsmen arrive in his wake, still smarting over the damage he'd inflicted on them when he fled Greenland.

Episodes 9-14

With the appearance of his aggrieved kinsmen, intent on avenging the wrong they hold him accountable for, only the shrewd counsel of a "retired" viking in his rag-tag crew, and the passion of Thjodhild, the woman he left behind in his initial flight from Greenland who has sailed with the others to find him, offer a way out—if he can bring himself to take it despite the ties he has now forged with the native tribe he aided—while storm clouds gather ominously in the west and a previously defeated foe prepares to seek his own revenge.

"VINLAND"

(Game of Thrones Meets Last of the Mohicans)

A Multi-Season Series for Streaming Television

Adapted from The King of Vinland's Saga by Stuart W. Mirsky

This story will find its audience, as many historical epics in this vein have before it (though none have yet focused on the Norse encounter with native Americans) as it blends the narrative power and epic resonances of the Norse saga tradition with the action and adventure genre set in historically colorful eras.

Some successful streaming shows of this type, that have tapped into the same audience demographic, include: ***Shogun***, ***Vikings***, ***The Last Kingdom*** (and more fantasy-oriented fare with a medieval flavor like ***Lord of the Rings*** and ***Game of Thrones***). Other recent entries to the field include the historical epic based in 19th century Hawaii, ***Chief of War*** (starring Jason Momoa) and the just-released BBC series ***King and Conqueror***.

I hope you'll see the potential here that I do and share my enthusiasm for the development of a streaming television series based on this story.