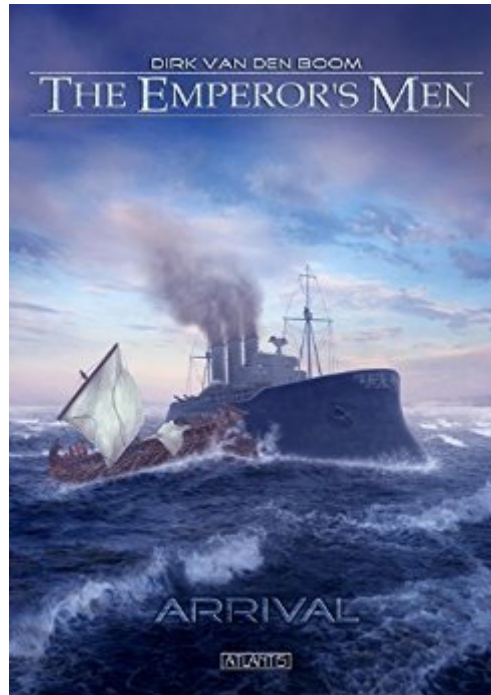


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# The Emperor's Men 1: Arrival



## Synopsis

Shortly before the First World War, the German light cruiser Saarbrücken leaves the port of Wilhelmshaven to make its last big journey before being decommissioned. But near Portugal the old ship encounters a mysterious phenomenon, and the crew unexpectedly finds itself in the Mediterranean, 1500 years in the past, at a historical moment: It's the year 378, the beginning of the end of the Western Roman Empire, the start of Völkerwanderung. The crew of the Saarbrücken decides that to survive they must make friends of the Romans. They had been the Kaiser's men in the 20th century, and now, in the past, another emperor might need their services.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Bremen-class German pre-WW1 cruiser is shifted in time and space to the Adriatic in the second half of the fourth century, thus giving the crew an opportunity to prevent the final split of the Roman Empire and the fall of civilization in Western Europe. For those who like this kind of fiction this novel is very attractive. First, it is the choice of the displaced group: they are not only not Americans or

British, but they are German, soldiers of the dreaded Kaiser! How interesting would it be to see how the modern Huns integrate in the fabric of the late Roman society! Second, they go into one of the most troublesome historical periods of the European civilization, when the lights of science and philosophy and technology were flickering just before they went out for one thousand years, extinguished by the dissolution of economic and social bonds. Third, the book is a translation from German, and therefore promises a more subtle, European, old-worldish take on the culture clash and the adventures of the displaced crew. This is the first volume of a series; nine volumes are available in German, which I cannot read. I hope that they will be translated soon. The book is little less than the initial setup for the series. Characters are introduced, some improbable alliances are announced, and the plot is becoming just about ready to be set in motion; but there is no actual plot, and the ending comes unexpectedly just as the plot showed signs of starting to move forward. Those who want to read an actual story should wait until more volumes are available. The translation is of unequal quality.

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