

DEFENDERS

KILLING GROUND



TOM PALMER

The past is closer than Nadiya and Seth think ...



DEFENDERS

KILLING GROUND

DEFENDERS

KILLING GROUND

TOM PALMER

With illustrations by
David Shephard



First published in 2017 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Text © 2017 Tom Palmer
Illustrations © 2017 David Shephard

The moral right of Tom Palmer and David Shephard
to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has
been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and
Patents Act, 1988

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be
reproduced in whole or in any part in any form without the
written permission of the publisher

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-729-2

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

*For Newcastle School for Boys.
Thank you for helping me to write Defenders.*

The Vikings invaded Yorkshire in the year 866. They attacked an Anglo-Saxon village at night in a place that sounds just like where we live now.

They slaughtered men, women and children. They made this place into a terrible killing ground of blood and fire.





1

Seth could not forget the face he'd seen in the flames at the Shay Stadium.

Its tangle of long hair, its leathery skin streaked with black. The memory filled Seth with a dread that he was convinced would never leave him.

His heart raced every time the dark and fiery face came back to him.

It was a feeling far worse than when his football team were hammered five nil at home.



Worse than when he broke his leg when he was a kid. Even worse than the day his mum had sat him down and told him she was seriously ill.

Seth didn't understand how he could possibly feel worse than that.

But he did when he remembered the face, the flames and the stench of death that scorched his nostrils.

Seth knew that strange forces were at work in the stadium.

But why?

And who did the face belong to?

Seth had no choice but to find out.

