THE TIMES

An aristocratic German military intelligence officer during the rise of the Nazis, Martin Bora is a good man in a world where evil has been let loose. Since 1999 Ben Pastor has written five Bora thrillers, building an atmospheric picture of Europe in the Second World War, the world in which the cultured, principled Bora and his allies attempt to do the right thing and stay alive. The Horseman's Song, Pastor's sixth Bora book, doubles back to earlier times, sending the thoughtful young soldier detective into the epic tragedy that is the Spanish Civil War, where a troubling encounter with the murdered corpse of Federico Garcia Lorca, which sets in train a dangerous investigation. (In real life, the poet's body has never been found.)