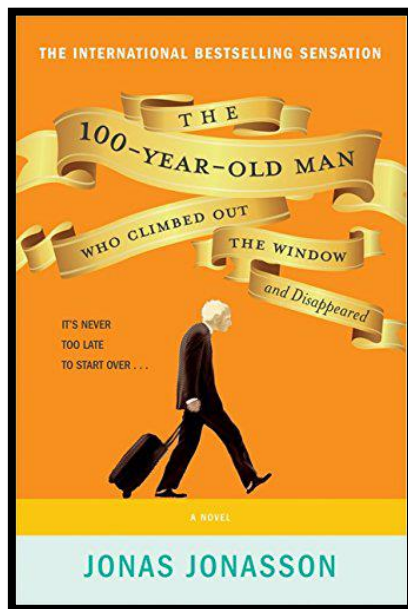


Through the Eyes of Allan

July 27, 2022.
Malmö, Sweden

Everything I know about Sweden I learned from a one-hundred-year-old man, who climbed out the window and disappeared. His name was Allan.



“Allan woke up and wondered whether it wouldn't soon be time to go to bed.”

“People could behave how they liked, but Allan considered that in general it was quite unnecessary to be grumpy if you had the chance not to.”

“Never try to out-drink a Swede, unless you happen to be a Finn or at least a Russian.”

“The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.”

“You should beware of priests, my son. And people who don't drink vodka. Worst of all are priests who don't drink vodka.”

Jonas Jonasson speaks these truths through Allan Karrlson, a comedic fictional centenarian who literally climbs out the window of his care home and embarks on a grand adventure.

Allan is the Forrest Gump of Sweden, except that he has a century of experience, while Forrest Gump only participated in about three decades of world events. Allan is on a first name basis with President Harry Truman, and with Joseph Stalin. An explosives expert with a thirst for vodka, Allan was a key figure, and sometimes unwitting catalyst of world events of the past century.

We didn't spend much time in Sweden while in Scandinavia, but I feel like I have already been there. It is pure fiction, but I can't think of a better way to learn Swedish philosophy and world history than to witness it ...

... through the eyes of Allan.