

# Swedish Legends and Folktales

John Lindow

*Swedish Legends and Folktales* is a collection, in English translation of some one hundred legends, with variants, from Swedish oral traditions of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The legends deal primarily with the supernatural and are indicative of Swedish folk beliefs in rural areas until fairly recently. Among the subjects treated are the physical environment, fate and portents, disease, nature beings, household spirits, Satan, witches, ghosts, and so forth. The translations are intended to be literal and to give a fair approximation of the oral style of the originals.

A lengthy general Introduction places the tales in ethnographic and folkloristic context, and each tale is accompanied by a note indicating (where known) the source, collector, date and location of the recording, and summarizing the relevant comparative and interpretive data. Bibliographic references are unobtrusively provided throughout and are gathered into a useful Bibliography.

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