



The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared
by Jonas Jonasson

About the author:

Jonas Jonasson was born in the city of Växjö in southern Sweden in 1961. Jonas first started writing when he was working as a journalist for a number of Swedish newspapers. He subsequently went on to start his own production company. After several years in the media industry, Jonas felt the urge to do something else. That was when the character of Allan Karlsson came to him and he started to write his first novel "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared".

"The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" is a huge international success and has been published in 35 countries, selling more than six million copies worldwide. Jonas Jonasson's second novel "The Girl Who Saved The King Of Sweden" will be released worldwide in 2013/2014.

The Girl who Saved the King of Sweden was the most sold book in Czech Republic in 2014. The hardback of *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window And Disappeared* was the fifth most sold book in the country, and # 16 on the list is the paperback edition of the same book.

We are happy to announce that Jonas Jonasson is shortlisted for the International Author of The Year 2014 at the National Book Awards!

International Author of the Year is awarded to an author (outside of the UK) for a new book; an outstanding literary and commercial achievement, combined with a high profile and strong sales. Jonas is in great company among the other nominees, including: Eimear McBride, Hannah Kent, Jeff Kinney and Karen Joy Fowler.

Source: Author's website (<http://jonasjonasson.com/>)



About this book:

A reluctant centenarian much like Forrest Gump (if Gump were an explosives expert with a fondness for vodka) decides it's not too late to start over ...

After a long and eventful life, Allan Karlsson ends up in a nursing home, believing it to be his last stop. The only problem is that he's still in good health, and in one day, he turns 100. A big celebration is in the works, but Allan really isn't interested (and he'd like a bit more control over his vodka consumption). So he decides to escape. He climbs out the window in his slippers and embarks on a hilarious and entirely unexpected journey, involving, among other surprises, a suitcase stuffed with cash, some unpleasant criminals, a friendly hot-dog stand operator, and an elephant (not to mention a death by elephant).

It would be the adventure of a lifetime for anyone else, but Allan has a larger-than-life backstory: Not only has he witnessed some of the most important events of the twentieth century, but he has actually played a key role in them. Starting out in munitions as a boy, he somehow finds himself involved in many of the key explosions of the twentieth century and travels the world, sharing meals and more with everyone from Stalin, Churchill, and Truman to Mao, Franco, and de Gaulle. Quirky and utterly unique, *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* has charmed readers across the world.

Source: HarperCollins Canada (<http://www.harpercollins.ca/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. *Publishers Weekly* called this book, a "gentle lampoon of procedurals and thrillers." With a detective, a band of criminals and escapees on the run, it seems a valid description. Are these the terms in which you would talk about this novel? How else would you describe it?
2. What do you consider justice for Allan Karlsson?



3. Many readers have spoken about the humour and optimism of Allan Karlsson. How do these characteristics weave through the novel? What parts do you find particularly funny...and what makes them funny?
4. *The One Hundred Year Old Man* is a novel with the topic of ageing at its core. What are society's expectations of how the elderly should act? Talk about the ways—obvious and not-so-obvious—in which Allan defies the usual stereotypes. What are your own experiences, either as an older person yourself...or as someone who worries about an older friend or family member? Does society do a good job in terms of how we treat our older population? Have you read other novels that explore (and shatter) a strongly held societal belief?
5. History and politics sit lightly within the framework of this novel. When it comes to international relations, what worldview would you say the author seem to hold?
6. A definition of "satire" is "a literary composition in which vices, abuses and follies, etc are held up to scorn, derision or ridicule" (*Macquarie Dictionary*). Do you think this novel is a satire—and what is being satirized?

(LitLovers adapted these questions from Allen & Ulwin, the book's Australian publisher.)

Source: LitLovers (<http://www.litlovers.com/>)

Other formats available at Halifax Public Libraries:

- Audiobook (on CD and as digital download)
- DVD (Adaptation)
- eBook
- German