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Astrid Lindgren , Ilon Wikland (Illustrator) , Barbara Lucas (Translator)

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From the author of Pippi Longstocking comes a story of Lotta, a charming five-year-old, who cannot imagine Easter without the chocolate eggs that the Easter bunny always brings. But, since the only candy store in town has closed for good, that is what may happen. Unless, of course, Lotta can save the day....

Lotta's Easter Surprise Details

Date : Published June 1st 1998 by R & S Books (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9789129598629

Author : Astrid Lindgren , Ilon Wikland (Illustrator) , Barbara Lucas (Translator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Cultural, Sweden, Holiday

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From Reader Review Lotta's Easter Surprise for online ebook

Andre says

- 1) Deutsche Rezension
- 2) English Review

1) Deutsche Rezension

Oh Mann, ich erinnere mich nicht mehr viel an dieses Buch. Ich bin mir ziemlich sicher, dass es ein empfehlenswertes Buch für Kinder ist, aber für Erwachsene ist es vielleicht ziemlich vergesslich.

2) English Review

Oh boy, I don't really remember much of this book anymore. I am pretty sure that it is a recommendable book for kids, but for adults it might be quite forgettable.

Justin Bloch says

I love the Lotta books, but parents beware: there are some Easter Bunny/Santa Claus spoilers for young children. Pretty easy to skip over though, if you know it's there.

Manny says

Lotta, whom you may already have met in *Barnen på Bråkmakargatan*, has a foul temper and a total unwillingness to do as she's told. But she's an extremely resourceful five year old, and she's used to sorting out little family crises; just as well, since her father is utterly disorganized and often forgets essential items. Last Christmas, he arrived too late to get the last tree, but Lotta found one that, literally, fell off the back of a truck. Now it's Easter, and Lotta is not surprised at all when she overhears him telling Mom that there are no eggs for their Easter Egg hunt.

Lotta goes down to the candy store on the corner, and her luck is in again. Though the owner, nice Mr. Vassilis, isn't feeling so lucky. In fact, he's almost in tears. He's closing down his store and moving back to Greece. Lotta asks why.

"Damn Saturday candy," mutters Mr. Vassilis bitterly. (The tradition in Sweden is that kids only get candy on Saturday). "What's *wrong* with this country? How can a candy store survive if kids only get candy once a week?"

Lotta feels sorry for Mr. Vassilis, but she also guesses that there might be something in it for her. She asks about his Christmas assortment. Amazingly enough, Mr. Vassilis has already got his collection of chocolate angels and Santa Clauses. "You might as well have them," he says. "No way I'll sell them now." He gives Lotta the whole box.

Lotta has such a terrific secret! She drags the box home without anyone noticing her and goes out in the

garden, where she strategically distributes the candy. Then she sneaks in. The bad news is now generally known, and everyone is blaming each other for not buying eggs in time.

"Why not check the garden anyway?" asks Lotta innocently. In the end, they go out to humor her.

WTF?? No one can figure out what's happened. There is candy, but from the wrong time of year! They beg Lotta for an explanation.

"I can do almost anything!" says Lotta proudly.

My kids loved this story when they were Lotta's age.

Patricia says

Swedish Easter folklore. According to the folklore, witches go to dance with the devil during Holy Week in Christianity. Children dress up as witches and go house to house seeking candy treats. Sinister or harmless? It reminds me of Halloween in the United States. Sinister or harmless? Paganism blending with Christianity in celebration of Easter is definitely a part of this children's Easter holiday story.

Nayla says

A beautiful little secular Easter book with lots of lovely stories and messages.

Luisa Knight says

I feel like Astrid Lindgren is hit and miss, which is really sad because when I like a book of hers, I really like it! This one has aspects that are sweet but there's an occasional grumpy attitude making the characters not entirely likable and children dressing up like Easter witches, asking for candy around the neighborhood - an old Swedish tradition like Halloween - that I personally find just a little odd.

Ages: 6 - 10

Cleanliness: There are Easter witches, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny in this story. Three of the kids have grumpy attitudes a few times.

#easter #eastereggs #geography #europe #sweden #culture

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Kinga says

Jak myślicie, co się stanie, gdy wielkanocny zajączek przyniesie czekoladowe bałwanki zamiast jajeczek? No i najważniejsze, dlaczego w ogóle nastąpi taka zmiana?

Czytanie tej niewielkiej książki w grudniu nie byłoby zbyt dobrym pomysłem. Nie poczułabym bowiem całej atmosfery zbliżającej się Wielkanocy. Nie urzekły mnie ani śpiewające czarownice odwiedzające sędziów w Wielki Czwartek, ani chowanie śródyczy w ogrodzie.

Oczarowała mnie natomiast sama Lotta. Jak tu nie lubić tego dziecka? Jej pomysły, poczucie humoru i miłość do rodzństwa zasługują na szacunek. **Takie bohaterki powinny pojawiać się w książkach dla najmłodszych.** Silne, nieco awanturnicze, ale jednocześnie ciepłe i kochane. Takie wprost do przytulenia!

Sheri says

Lotta is gifted a stash of chocolate Christmas candies when the local candy shop closes its doors forever. Although sad that her friend is returning to Greece, she recognizes what a fantastic gift she has been given. Lotta, with her generous spirit, decides to share the treats with her siblings. But when will be the perfect time to reveal her surprise?

Because the candy shop is closed, the Easter Bunny is unable to get his supply of chocolate eggs for the holiday. Lotta comes to the rescue by hiding the chocolates in time for the traditional Easter egg hunt. The family is surprised and tradition is upheld, although with uncommon candies for this holiday. But candy is candy and these kids are delighted!

The village and neighborhood scenes reminded me very much of typical Swedish homes and shops. Both the illustrations and story offer an easy segue into Swedish folklore and traditions.

Be forewarned that the storyline does spoil the legends of Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. However, that part of the story can be easily skipped over if you're hoping to keep those childhood beliefs intact for just a little while longer.

Robyn says

(Read with little sister as part of the "1,001 Children's Books To Read")

That was a very different and cute little story. With a great moral and different characters.

madziar says

Tu? przed Wielkanoc? Lotta obrazi?a si? na starsze rodze?stwo, bo zamiast chodzi? z ni? razem po ulicy i zbiera? s?odycze, wybrali przyj?cie urodzinowe u kolegi, a Lotta zosta?a sama. Snuje si? po okolicy i przypadkowo odwiedza sklep cukiernika Vasilisa, który siedzi za?amany na skrzyni. Vasilis wraca w rodzinne strony - jego sklep splajtowa?, bo ludzie kupuj? zbyt ma?o s?odyczy, a na domiar z?ego tu? przed Wielkanoc? pomylono dostawy i dosta? same miko?aje i anio?ki. Lotta z niedowierzeniem s?yszy, ?e mo?e sobie zabra? ca?? ich skrzyni?. Na kolacji Jonas i Mia-Maria s? smutni, bo rodzice oznajmiaj?, ?e w tym roku wielkanocny zaj?czek nie pojawi si? w ogrodzie, ale Lotta ma sprytny plan...

Warto?? tekstu obni?aj? ilustracje - w tym wydaniu wykonane zupe?nie inna technik? ni? w reszcie ksi??eczek o Lottcie, co zupe?nie zmienia rysy twarzy g?ównych bohaterów i klimat ksi??ki.

Cheryl says

In the English edition, Lotta does not reveal that she is responsible for the surprise. But I'm sure the family finds out soon after the book closes, as this little girl can't be any better at keeping secrets than any other lively 5 year old. (And besides, Christmas was only a few months ago, and it was Lotta who saved the day then, too.) Wiklund used a different medium here, and so the art has a different vibe, and isn't quite as sweet... which is actually a good thing, as it's more vibrant and true, more likely to appeal to children and not just grannies.

But what's this about children dressing as Easter Witches and going door-to-door begging candy? Interesting tradition that I never heard of....

Tú says

en vacker bok som varje påsk kan läsas om och om igen.

Kara says

I don't usually rate picture books, but wanted to let anyone know who might look here that the last few pages of the book are clear that their father plays the role of the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus. So not a great pick if your child believes/your fostering a belief that they are real.

N says

Lotta's brother and sister spoil the identity of Santa and the Easter Bunny for her, but she ends up saving the day on Easter morning when the local candy shop goes under.

This illuminated the Swedish tradition of dressing up as "Easter witches" and begging for candies... sounds

like a good cross with Halloween. I wonder if this still goes on?
