

I Can Read!™

READING

3

ALONE

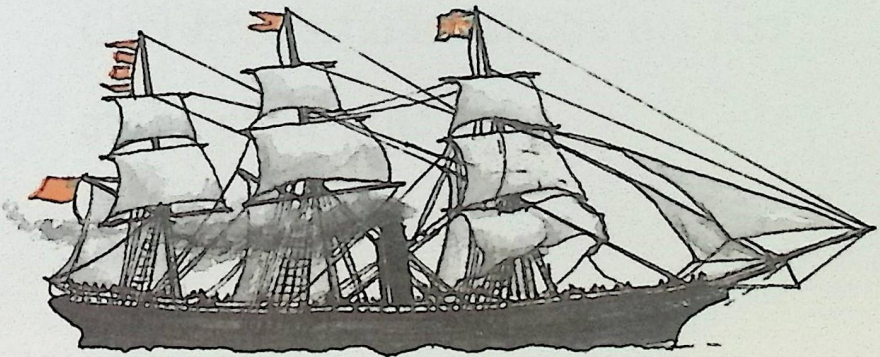
# THE LONG WAY TO A NEW LAND



JOAN SANDIN

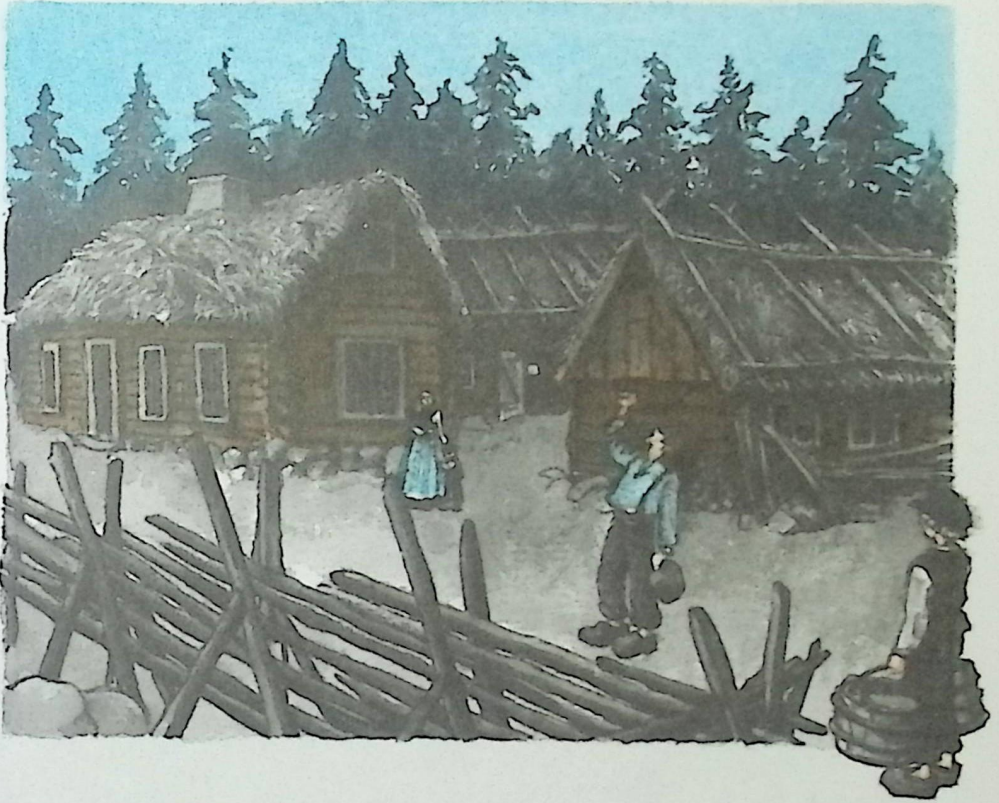
## CONTENTS

I.	The Letter from America	7
II.	Good-bye to Sweden	18
III.	Four Days to Liverpool	30
IV.	Storm and Fever	44
V.	America at Last!	54



*For Sigfrid*

# I. THE LETTER FROM AMERICA



Carl Erik's father shook his fist  
at the clear blue sky.

"Rain!" he cried.

"We must have rain!"

But the rain did not come.

The whole summer passed  
without a drop of rain.

The grass dried up.

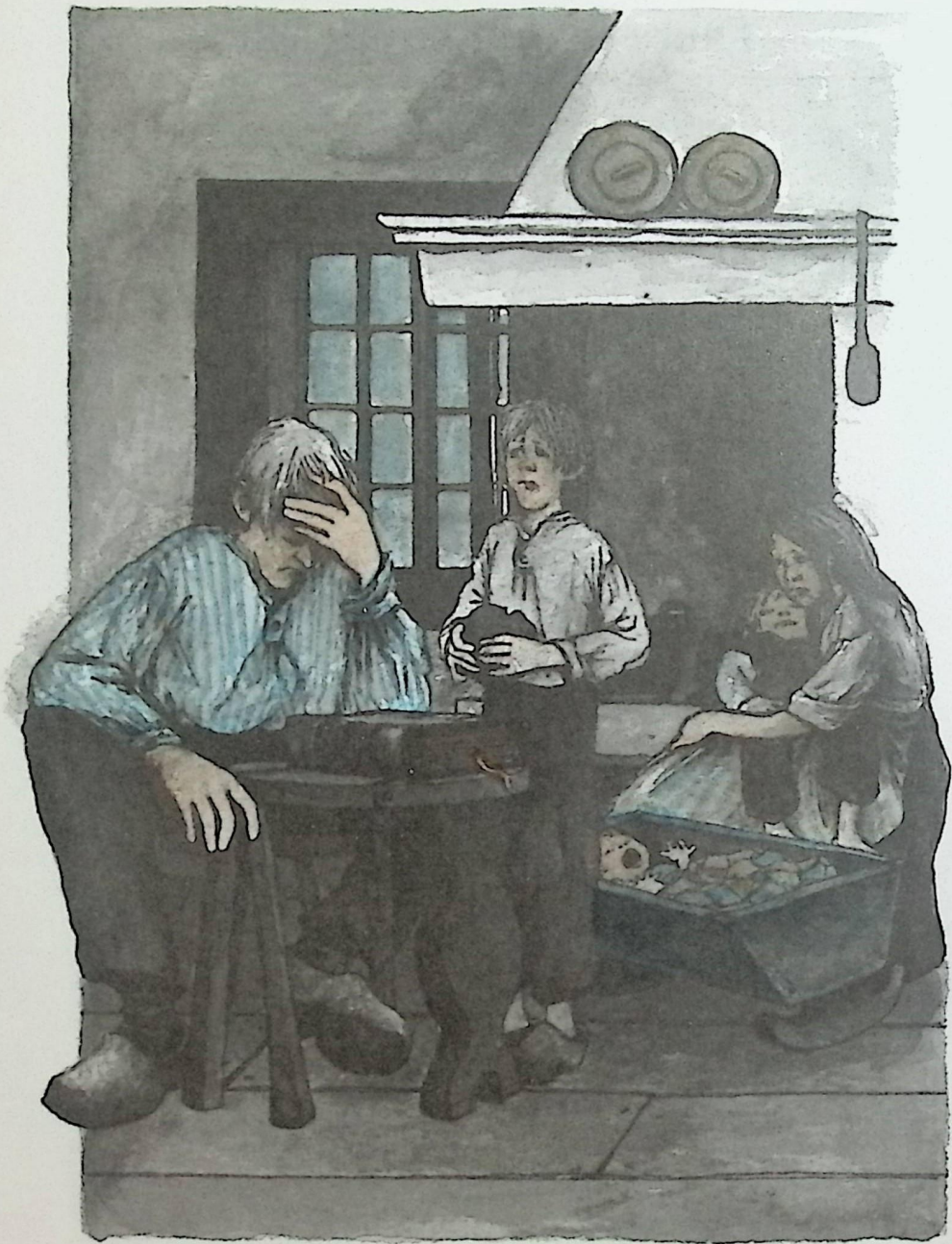
The cow could not give milk.

The crops did not grow.



There would be no food  
for the long winter.





Carl Erik and his brother Jonas  
gathered moss in the forest.  
They scraped bark from pine trees.  
Mamma mixed it with flour  
to bake their bread—  
a hard and bitter bread  
that made their stomachs ache.

Pappa tried to buy food.  
“It is hopeless,” he told Mamma.  
“There is nothing to buy.  
People have left their farms.  
I saw children begging.”





One day a letter came  
from Uncle Axel in America.

*Dear ones,*

*The worst is now over.*

*It is a new life for us here.*

*We have built our house.*

*Our land is good.*

*We will have food for the winter.*

*We think of you there in Sweden.*

*We know how hard it must be.*

*Your farm is small and rocky.*

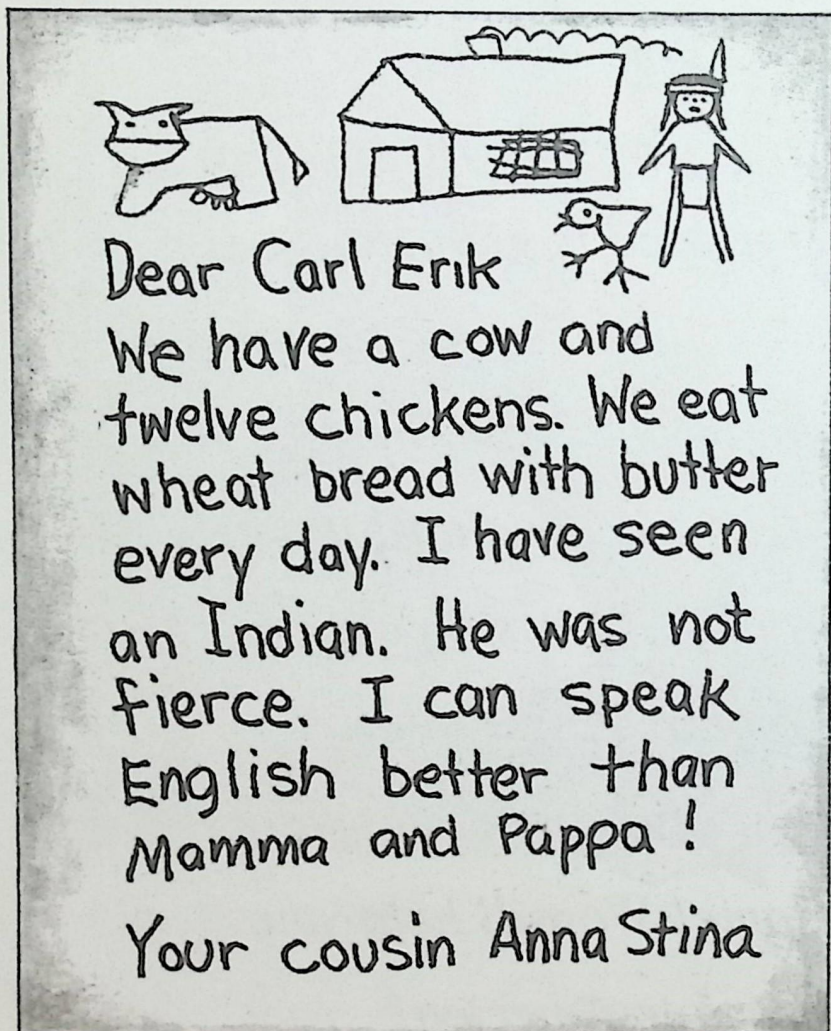
*You have three sons.*

*What future do they have?*

*Come! We will help you.*

*Come to America!*

Carl Erik saw something  
on the back of Uncle Axel's letter:





“I want wheat bread with butter,”  
said Jonas.

“Can we go to America?”



That night Carl Erik  
could not sleep.

He was too hungry.

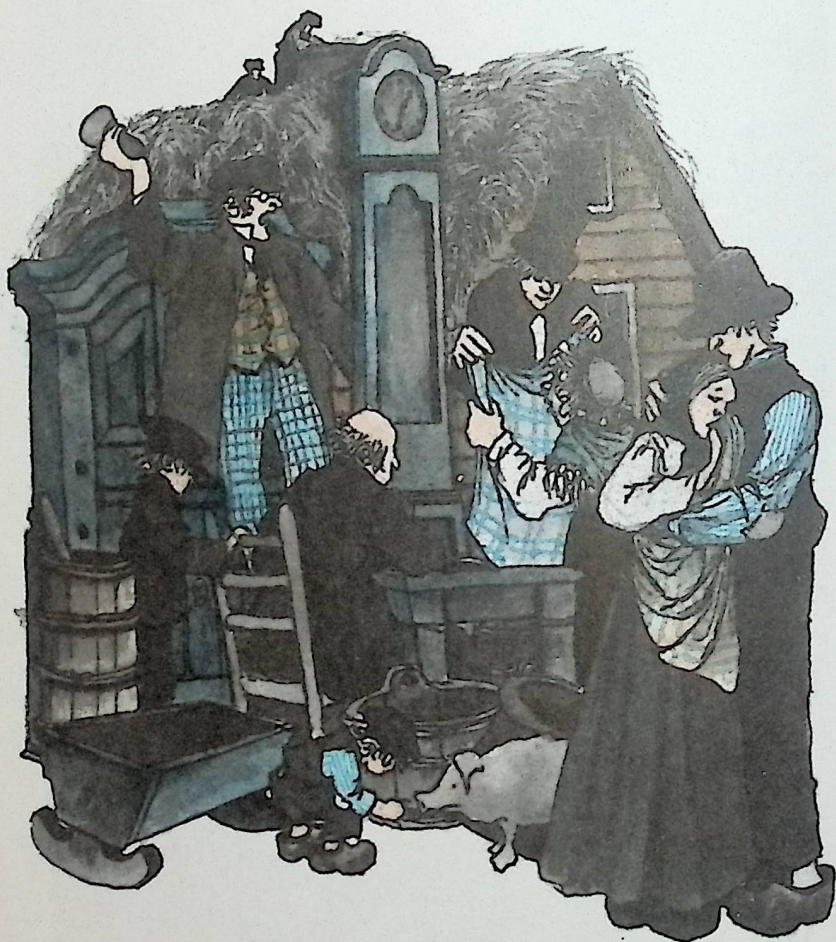
He was thinking  
of Anna Stina's letter.

He could hear Mamma and Pappa  
talking in their bed.

They were still talking  
when Carl Erik finally fell asleep.

The next morning Pappa said,  
"There is no future for us here.  
We will go to America."

## II. GOOD-BYE TO SWEDEN



# I Can Read!

READING

3

ALONE

“We will go to America!”

It is 1868, and Carl Erik’s family faces starvation in Sweden. Can they endure a journey over land and sea to reach a better life in a new country thousands of miles away?



My  
First

Ideal for sharing with emergent readers

1

Simple sentences for eager new readers

2

High-interest stories for developing readers

3

Complex plots for confident readers

4

The perfect bridge to chapter books

**For more information about the  
I Can Read Book® series, see inside!**

GUIDED  
READING  
LEVEL

L

**HARPER**

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

[www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com)

Cover art © 1981 by Joan Sandin

[www.harpercollinschildrens.com](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com)  
BOOK NEWS, GAMES, CONTESTS, AND MORE

USA \$4.99 / \$5.99 CAN

ISBN 978-0-06-444100-1

50499



9 780064 441001

S