



# Aufruhr im Gemüsebeet

*Sven Nordqvist*

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## **Aufuhr im Gemüsebeet** Sven Nordqvist

Es war ein Tag wie im Bilderbuch. In allen Büschen sangen die Vögel, das Gras wuchs und die ganze Luft war so voll von Frühling, dass der alte Pettersson und sein Kater endlich ihren Gemüsegarten bestellen konnten. Der Alte grub und harkte und säte, während Findus, der Gemüse nicht ausstehen konnte, Fleischklößchen pflanzte; das heißt, wenn er nicht gerade herumflitzte und Käfer erschreckte. Alles war wie jedes Jahr - bis ein Haufen wild gewordener Hühner, ein Schwein und sechs Rindviecher für Aufuhr im Gemüsebeet sorgten ...

## **Aufuhr im Gemüsebeet Details**

Date : Published February 1st 1991 by Oetinger Verlag (first published 1990)

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Author : Sven Nordqvist

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# From Reader Review *Aufbruch im Gemüsebeet* for online ebook

## Abigail says

A Rumpus in the Garden, 2005 Opal translation of Kackel i grönsakslandet.

In this fifth title devoted to the humorous antics of grouchy farmer Pettson, and his feisty feline companion, Findus, Swedish children's author Sven Nordqvist is at his zany best, setting up a series of madcap misadventures involving a newly planted vegetable garden. Nothing ever goes quite as planned at Pettson's place, of course, and as the long-suffering old man tries to plant his potatoes and carrots, Findus attempts to cultivate meatballs, the hens (always defiantly insistent on joining in on the fun, despite efforts to keep them locked up) get constantly underfoot, neighbor Gustavsson's runaway pig goes potato-hunting, and neighbor Andersson's herd of cows runs amuck in Pettson's yard. It is, in short: a total rumpus in the garden!

Available in two different English translations - an American version, Festus & Mercury: Ruckus in the Garden, put out in 1991, one year after the original; and this edition, released by Bokförlaget Opal, the original Swedish publisher - this delightful story only confirms my feeling that Nordqvist is a comic genius, and a brilliant practitioner of picture-book art. With detailed illustrations that will draw the reader in, and an entertaining cast of quirky characters (I'm really starting to be fond of those crazy hens!), these books are just such fun to read! This Opal edition, A Rumpus in the Garden, is definitely the superior, of the two English versions available (see my review of the American edition, for a detailed comparison), as it presents a more complete translation, with many humorous details and dialogue omitted from the other.

In short: a wonderful addition to a marvelous series, A Rumpus in the Garden is a book I recommend to any reader who appreciates madcap humor, Swedish style, and especially to those readers who have read and enjoyed other *Pettson and Findus* titles.

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## Fatma Akyürek Aytekin says

Muhte'em resimler ve muhte'em bir hikaye daha :-)

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## Abigail says

Festus & Mercury: Ruckus in the Garden, 1991 American translation of Kackel i grönsakslandet.

First published in Swedish as Kackel i grönsakslandet, this fifth picture-book chronicling the humorous adventures of farmer Pettson and his cat Findus (Festus and Mercury in this edition), has been translated into English twice: in this American version, Festus & Mercury: Ruckus in the Garden; and also in a 2005 edition, A Rumpus in the Garden, put out by the original publisher, Bokförlaget Opal. The story of a fine spring day, and Pettson's seemingly doomed attempt to get his potato and carrot garden started for the season - between Findus' desire to grow meatballs, the hens' mania for worms, and various neighbors' animals getting loose, could anything *else* possibly go wrong? - it is an engaging entry in an amusing, and much-loved series.

I have to say that, as has been the case with a number of other *Pettson and Findus* titles - [Pancake Pie / The Birthday Cake](#), [Festus and Mercury Go Camping / Pettson Goes Camping](#), and [The Fox Hunt / The Fox Hunt](#) - I greatly preferred the fuller translation available from Opal, as opposed to the more limited American version, after reading both, and comparing the two. It isn't just that the names of the main characters have been changed (for no reason that I can think of) from Pettson and Findus to Festus and Mercury, or that the text has been shortened, although those things are rather irksome; but that the specific bits left out of the American versions tend to be the more pointedly political, and humorous bits.

This wasn't quite as pronounced here, with [Festus & Mercury: Ruckus in the Garden](#), as with some of the examples given above, but there were still some omissions, particularly as it concerned those troublesome hens, that were disappointing. The hens' accusation that Pettson has cheated them, after Findus tricks them into going back into their yard, for instance, is missing from the American version. There is this way, with these seemingly small changes, that the hens (and it seems most often to be the hens, as opposed to anything else) are flattened out, and made less interesting as characters. One wonders if gender, and differing constructions of gender, in Sweden and America, plays any role in this? Still, I don't want to overstate the case: this is any engaging story, and if it's the only version one can obtain, it's definitely worth reading. But there's simply no doubt that the Opal edition is (as always) to be preferred...

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## Storywraps says

I simply adore Sven Nordquist's books. The quirky stories and amazing, humorous, and detailed illustrations are just the best in my opinion.

Pettson and Findus star again in a classic tale that will have kids laughing. This time they decide to plant a lovely spring garden. Pettson plants seed potatoes so his crop will yield five to ten new potatoes each come harvest time, carrots, onions, peas and beans. All lovely vegetables for sure, but his cat Findus is determined to plant a meatball, which he eagerly does. He runs over ever few minutes to see if it is growing... oh my, he discovers that meatballs take forever to sprout.

Then a series of disasters strike the precious newly planted garden! At first hens descend upon the garden patch and totally devastate it. Oh noooooo!! Time to replant. Next Pettson finds out that a herd of pigs have escaped from his neighbour Gustavsson's farm, and they trample and eat everything in sight too. Oh dear... well he gives it one last try.

He sets brave Fendus up in his treehouse as a midnight watchman. His cat will be able to keep a watchful eye out and protect their garden domain. Low and behold disaster strikes once again. Can this be the last straw for these poor victimized gardeners? Has all this mayhem and devastation been too much and will they finally give up their dream?

The illustrations are truly amazing. Full of action, detail, and emotion they take the text to a whole new level. They almost come across as animated pulling the reader into the action on each page.

This fantastic quirky tale will delight kids of all ages (adults too)! I highly, highly recommend this book and the complete series!

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## **Ilana says**

A classical children story, told with a lot of humour and a little bit of animal mystery. Although it might be an unusual topic, especially for the nowadays kids used with a different kind of approach of children books, with an emphasis on technique and hi tech and gadgets, it succeeds to catch the interest of the young reader. You can learn a lot of things about agriculture and country life in general, which is a welcomed break from the usual youngsters' screen staring. The illustrations also have a classical touch, not necessarily my kind of visual expectations in a children book but pretty fine anyway.

Disclaimer: Book offered by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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## **Jill says**

I like gardens. And I like children's books. So what is there not to like about Sven Nordqvist's A Ruckus in the Garden? It's a charming picture book with a fun story and another thing I really like: a cat.

Farmer Pettson is trying to plant his garden. He plants seeds for carrots and onions, peas and beans, and he plants seed potatoes. Findus the cat isn't very interested in any of that, so he tries to plant a meatball instead, to see if it will grow him more meatballs. But then the chickens come and dig up the garden, trying to find worms.

Pettson and Findus decide to replant. But again, the garden gets dug up. This time it's the neighbor's pig who does the damage.

So Pettson and Findus build a fence around the garden and replant. But before they go to bed, Pettson asks the cat if he'd like to stand guard over the garden. Findus isn't very excited about that idea, but the farmer comes up with a plan where Findus can watch from the tree house. They set up an alarm so that Findus can wake the farmer if there is any trouble. and the cat is set to keep watch over the garden all night long. But the night is dark, and cats get sleepy.

And then the neighbor's cows can get in. It takes a clever cat to get the cows back to their own field, so that Pettson and Findus can fix the garden once again.

A Ruckus in the Garden is an adorable and fun read for kids. With themes of perseverance in the face of challenges and using clever ideas to solve problems, it teaches kids not to give up, but instead to come up with new ways of looking at their problems to make solutions easier. And there's a cat. What more could you ask for?

Galleys for A Ruckus in the Garden were provided by North South Books through NetGalley, with many thanks.

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## **Sharon says**

NorthSouth Books and NetGalley provided me with an electronic copy of A Ruckus in the Garden: The

Adventures of Pettson and Findus. I was under no obligation to review this book and my opinion is freely given.

Old Man Pettson was looking at his vegetable patch one day and decided it was time to plant seed potatoes and other vegetables. Findus, his cat, had a different idea. He planted a meatball and was determined to get it to grow. Too bad the chickens had another plan! Once the ruckus in the garden started, it was hard to get it to stop.

A Ruckus in the Garden: The Adventures of Pettson and Findus is a very charming book, filled with great illustrations and a wonderful story. I really like the message regarding perseverance, in that it is sometimes very difficult to do your best when someone else comes along and messes it up. Older readers will enjoy reading the story for themselves, while younger children will marvel in the story about a cat wanting to plant a meatball in the garden and all of the ruckus that ensues. Although the book ended a little too abruptly, I would definitely recommend A Ruckus in the Garden to children from the very young to school age.

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### **Critterbee✱ says**

An adorably quirky tale of a farmer, his cat friend, unruly chickens and more. Findus the cat tries to grow meatballs while Pettson plants more conventional seeds, only to have their hard work undone by hungry, inquisitive animals.

Though a bit wordy for a picture book, the story is funny and surprising. I would recommend this for young readers.

\*eARC Netgalley\*

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### **Jane says**

A Ruckus in the Garden tells the story of Pettson, a farmer and his quirky cat, Findus. On a beautiful spring morning, Pettson decides to plant vegetables and seed potatoes in his garden. Findus has a different idea; he wants to plant meatballs. And so Pettson plants vegetables while Findus plants his meatballs.

But Pettson forgot to shut the henhouse and now the hens are wandering around the garden, digging up the seeds and meatballs they planted. The story is fun and lighthearted and the illustrations accompanying the story are beautiful and well rendered. This book will resonate well with young readers and adults looking for a good laugh.

Thank you to Sven Nordqvist, NorthSouth Books, and NetGalley for an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Lisa says**

Sweden and its border problems!

I apologise for my sudden focus on small children's books. I am sure there are reasons for it. I am NOT sure I

want to know them. BUT!

"Findus plants meatballs" strikes me as a perfect political analysis of "what happened in Sweden last night", and a great story explaining the extent of Swedish border problems. Pettson, the VERY Swedish, introvert, nice, grumpy, rural, old man, and his agile cat Findus, are the main characters in the case study American media specialists need to read in order to get the facts right for once. Nothing is as genuinely Swedish as this picture book.

It all starts when spring is FINALLY here (that in itself is something people from more sun-favoured cultures might not celebrate as much as we do!), and Pettson wants to indulge in the Swedish love for homemade food. He wants to PLANT. Potatoes and carrots, mostly - which Findus doesn't like all that much. Findus would rather plant meatballs. Pettson then, very Swedish, first tells him it won't be successful, but then lets Findus sow a meatball anyway. No harm can be done, so then why bother discussing it?

And now the trouble starts!

Findus and Pettson are INVADED! Their land is taken OVER. Who would believe it? There is vandalism, theft, occupation. They have problems they would not have thought possible! Night after night, mayhem on the farm, all because of loopholes in the border security.

First, the hens come.

Then the pigs.

Then the cows.

What a disaster. All work for nothing. So sad.

Border controls do not help, by the way. Those neighbour farms are to blame of course - their fake fences! So dishonest. And Findus, the police cat, sleeps on the job.

But you know what? Pettson is calm about it, really! He does not get into fights with his neighbours, he finds creative solutions, and he goes on trying to get it right, day after day. And he is rather happy. Swedish style happy, that is. As for planting meatballs - well, we're still working on it.

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## **Karis says**

How much work does it take to plant a garden? Or to protect Findus's beloved meatball "seed" from being trampled? Well, on the farm and in the countryside, the answer is a lot more than you can imagine.

I can relate a lot with this hilarious episode of keeping the animals out of the garden, wishing that more than just vegetable seeds could be planted and grown, and the lengths that it takes to fool animals into doing what you want them to.

Findus in this book is so comical and little kid-like in the way he interacts throughout the story, and I love famer Pettson's confrontation with the chickens and the humorous illustrations that add so much to the story—the chickens sitting around in the coop drinking tea with curlers in their “hair.” (Also, I love how eager the chickens are so eager to exonerate themselves from being the ones guilty of ruining the garden!)

I am so in love with this droll and dear picture book series, and they just keep getting better and better.

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### **R.J. Rodda says**

The delightful illustrations with lots of fun features make this a lovely book for children. I enjoyed all the quirky humorous bits, like the staring flowers with one eye and the man tying the rope to his toe. The text was perhaps unnecessarily long and the ending was a bit flat but my children enjoyed me reading it to them.

Many thanks to Netgalley for making this available. My review is given gladly.

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### **Laura says**

'A Ruckus in the Garden' follows the high jinks of Pettson and his mischievous cat, Findus. Pettson wants to plant some seeds in the garden, for potatoes, but Findus has other ideas and wants to plant a meatball. Not only that, but plenty of animals get in the way of Pettson's gardening, and mayhem ensues. The illustrations are lovely and very artfully done, and the story itself is fun and full of mischief. This book would be ideal for young readers who are reading independently.

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### **Cat says**

Silly little tale Kindergarten to grade schoolers will enjoy! Illustrations were fun!  
Netgalley gave me an advance Kindle copy in exchange for a fair review.

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### **Kyra Leseberg (Roots & Reads) says**

Old man Pettson and his cat Findus have a busy day planting their garden with vegetable seeds, seed potatoes ...and a meatball for silly Findus. Soon the hens come scratching and Pettson has to put them in their henhouse with a little help from his clever cat.

It doesn't take long to find the garden has been trampled once again! Follow Pettson and Findus as they try to keep the neighbor's animals out of their garden so they can look forward to vegetables, potatoes, and maybe a meatball or two!

Clever and silly, children will enjoy The Ruckus in the Garden for the funny story and the nice illustrations. Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for a digital ARC to review.

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