



## Witches' Rings

*Kerstin Ekman , Linda Schenck (Translator)*

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Set in a Swedish village about to enter the modern age, the story begins in the 1870s, as an excited and suspicious citizenry await the first train to arrive at their newly constructed station. We're introduced gradually to a townful of hardy and endearingly eccentric souls, who are instantly brought to life and involved in the story's several ongoing actions. We see Ekman's characters join, part, recombine, and change as years pass; trains begin to appear routinely, and the new century proves no more inclined than the old to free common people from their repetitive rounds ("witches' rings") of toil and discouragement.

## Witches' Rings Details

Date : Published November 1st 1997 by Norvik Press (first published 1974)

ISBN : 9781870041362

Author : Kerstin Ekman , Linda Schenck (Translator)

Format : Paperback 358 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, European Literature, Swedish Literature, Fiction, Scandinavian Literature

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## From Reader Review Witches' Rings for online ebook

### Joe Shoenfeld says

A lovely novel. Swedish village life starting in the nineteenth century just after the railroad is built. Several generations. Loved it.

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### Angela Woodward says

This novel from 1974 (published in English in 1997) follows the lives of three generations of extremely poor women in a little town in 19th century Sweden. It pays meticulous attention to the material condition of their lives, while leaving mysterious and unexplained some of the larger forces that move them. Whether they are forced to have sex or fall in love, they have no choice but to deal with pregnancy and birth. Ekman takes the reader really close in to negotiations for shoes, the baking of bread, the cleaning of a floor. Masterfully written.

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### Ben says

This was Sara Sabina Lans:

grey as a rat, poor as a louse, pouchy and lean as a vixen in summer. No one called her by her given name. He was hardly ever at home. He had his orders, his regiment at Malmahed and his drills with the officers on Fyroe island, strutting like a pheasant cock in his uniform. She had her children and the croft with its potato patch, a cottage nearly smothered in lilacs as the years passed, but where happiness had no place, at least not before 1884 when the train chopped the legs off soldier Lans.

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### Betsey says

fantastic fantastic series of 4 books. It's the story of a small Swedish town told from the perspective of the women's lives. This is the first book and starts around the industrial revolution. The 4th book ends in present day.

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### Rebecka says

I enjoyed this book, but I wish it could have been more engaging. It's mostly a rather sad story, but in that way Nordic sagas are sad - people die and in the next sentence you move on. Perhaps because people die all the time. For anyone interested in Swedish history and life at the turn of the 20th century (i.e. history as in how people lived, not big events), this book will be of interest no matter what.

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### **Mike Smith says**

I liked this much more than Under The Snow. I suspect the different translator had something to do with it. I will definitely read more from Ms. Ekman.

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### **Celeste says**

I found Witches' Rings while browsing at the downtown branch of the San Francisco library. I'm having such satisfaction from finding an amazing book that way. Can't wait to read the rest in the tetralogy. This is a very special book.

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### **Bettie? says**

1 of: Witches' Rings (Series B: English Translations of Works of Scandinavian Literature) [Paperback:]  
By: Kerstin Ekman, Linda Schenck  
Condition: Used - Good  
Sold by: greener\_books £2.65

Begins mid 1870 and ends 1904 ...

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### **Susann says**

Interesting for the portrait of society changes, but sometimes a bit jumpy and without purpose.

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### **scarlettraces says**

This is a beautifully fluid account of late 19th-c Swedish rural life with some very smart writing (Ekman gets from sublime to ridiculous and back again in very few chess moves all through the book), and nos. 2-4 in the series are practically impossible to get hold of.

Norvik Press (which has the \*best\* branding) is still listing print versions of these on its website, isn't it about time to join the modern e-world? But keep the 90s covers, please.

Oh yes, also seemed like a very nice translation job.

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### **Enna says**

Re reading for second time after finishing the tetralogy (ok I admit to having to look that up, after getting

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stuck at trilogy) over two years. Worth taking time over and enjoying the tiny details as well as the main story lines (of which there are many). A review I read somewhere described the author as having a "sly eye" - I certainly agree with that observation. I adore this book.

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## **Jill says**

Start with this one. Then Spring, Angel House and then A City of Light

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