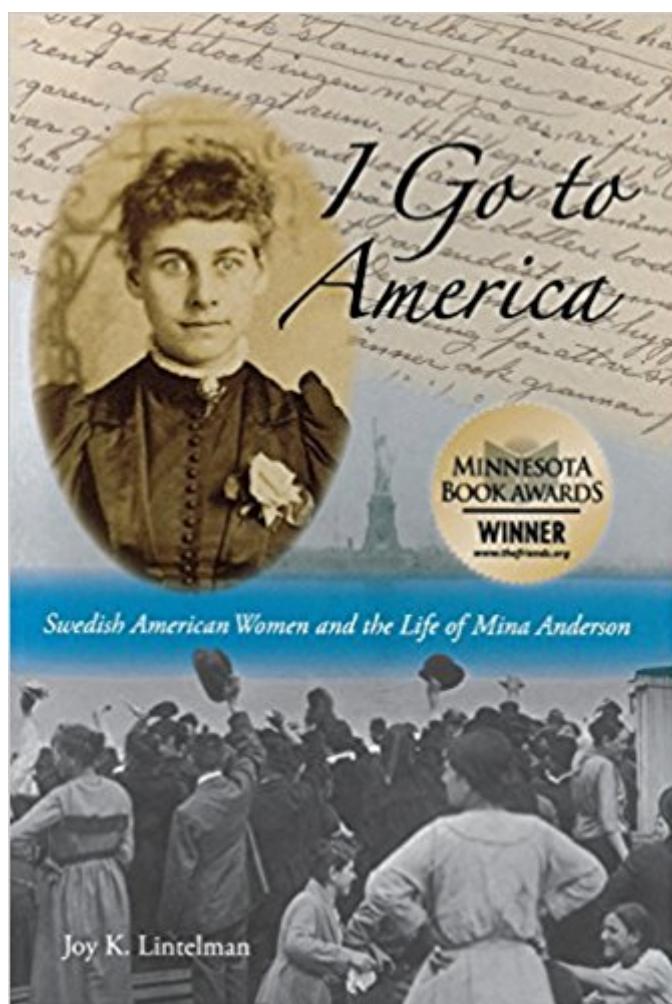


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I Go To America: Swedish American Women And The Life Of Mina Anderson



Synopsis

Winner of the Minnesota Book Award for NonfictionNear the end of her life, Mina Anderson penned a lively memoir that helped Swedish novelist Vilhelm Moberg create "Kristina," the central female character of his beloved emigrant novels, a woman who constantly yearns for her homeland. But Mina's story was quite different. Showcasing her previously untranslated memoir, I Go To America traces Mina's trip across the Atlantic to Wisconsin and then the Twin Cities, where she worked as a domestic servant, and her move to rural Mille Lacs County, where she and her husband worked a farm, raised seven children, and contributed to rural Swedish community life. Mina herself writes about how grateful she was for the opportunity to be in America, where the pay was better, class differences were unconfining, and children—girls included—had the chance for a good education. In her own words, "I have never regretted that I left Sweden. I have had it better here." Author Joy Lintelman greatly expands upon Mina's memoir, detailing the social, cultural, and economic realities experienced by countless Swedish women of her station. Lintelman offers readers both an intimate portrait of Mina Anderson and a window into the lives of the nearly 250,000 young, single Swedish women who immigrated to America from 1881 to 1920 and whose courage, hard work, and pragmatism embody the American dream.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A beautifully researched book by historian Joy K Lintelman on the bravest of the brave: the single immigrant girl during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. On leaving Sweden and its

traditional patriarchal society women faced for the first time in history an alternative in the world's first money economy, the United States. It is not the point of this book to emphasize the blessings of it even if one is constantly reminded of its importance. Earning enough money on her own to send money back to Sweden was an unheard of success for a single woman. None of them knew the language on arriving yet were better prepared than they knew from the Cinderella life they had known as despised servants in Sweden. In America the pay was different not the least for those arriving with a proper education such as teachers nurses or physical therapists. The single girls did so well that some preferred never marrying treasuring their independence. Much more needs to be told of the ways American society freed the immigrant women - the book does not for instance mention the revolution which was the right to divorce. Swedish married immigrant women did in fact divorce as early as in the 1860's as can be seen in the archives of the county courts in even tiny Minnesota communities. I much regret the silence surrounding divorces, after all the rights bestowed on women are no small thing, but the pride of American history.

I read about this book on a Facebook link called Swedish Passport. It said if you had a relative who immigrated from Sweden to the US between 1880-1920, this book would pretty much describe what life was like. I was curious and have a new admiration for my grandparents and their siblings. This is a history book, not a novel.

This is a great book about one woman's experience in immigrating to America from Sweden in the late 1800s. It helps the reader better understand what things were like for those who left homes and families, many never to see them again, for a better way of life. If you are studying your own family history, this is a must read!

A wonderful book that resonated with me because of my grandmothers' experiences. I learned so many new facts about laws and conditions in Sweden during The 1800s that impacted their decisions to come to America. I heartily recommend this book.

I saw so much in this book that reminded me of my grandparents. Farfar and farmor took separate paths to America, met up in western Montana, married and raised a family on a homestead. This book cleared up many questions I had about their early life in the new land.

I have almost finished reading this book and I absolutely loved it! It gave me a glimpse into the life

my swedish immigrant grandmother might have lived.

I gave this book as a gift along with the book 'Swedes in Minnesota'. The person really enjoyed these two books. Especially this one.

I really enjoyed this book. I had no idea so many single women left Sweden in the 1880's to come to America to do domestic work.

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