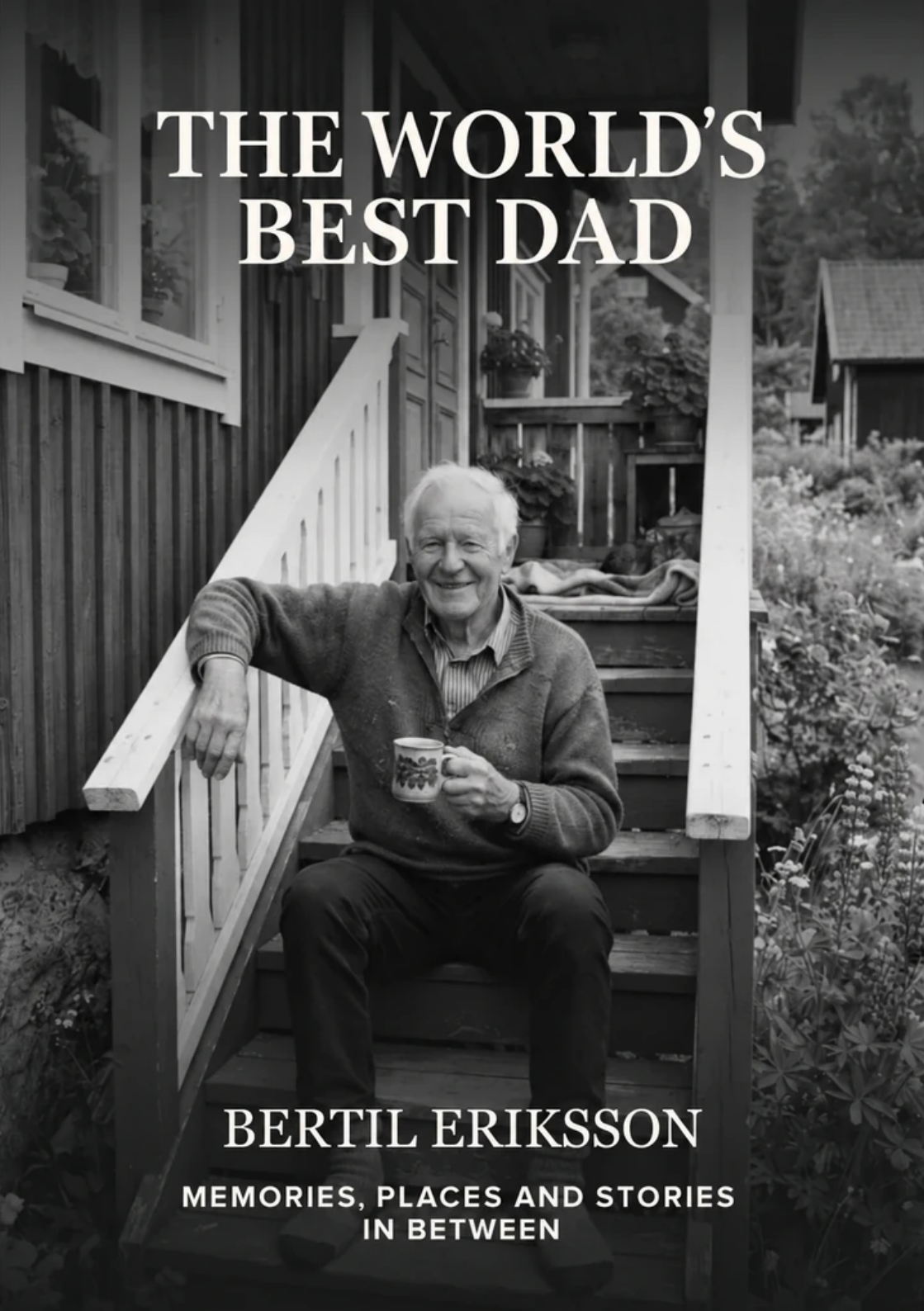
THE WORLD'S BEST DAD



BERTIL ERIKSSON

MEMORIES, PLACES AND STORIES IN BETWEEN

The World's Best Dad

The World's Best Dad

MEMORIES, PLACES AND STORIES IN BETWEEN

Bertil Eriksson

Created on 1 November 2026

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Acknowledgments

To my family and friends. Thank you for the memories, conversations, and moments that have shaped my story. Thank you for being part of my life and for helping me preserve what matters most.

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Chapter 1

Origins and Family History

My name is Bertil Eriksson, although my family usually called me Berra when I was young, and Lena has always preferred Bertil.

I was born in Eskilstuna on eighteen February nineteen forty-eight, during a winter that my parents always described as exceptionally cold. Mother said the tram service was disrupted by snow when I was born, so Father walked most of the way to the maternity ward after his shift.

I grew up in Nyfors in Eskilstuna. I have lived elsewhere, but the streets near the river and the old factories are still what I first think of as home.

My parents, Gunnar and Maj, cared for me, and my older sister Inger often watched me after school when they were working. Gunnar grew up in Torshälla in a metalworking family, while Maj came from a smallholding outside Ärla where every pair of hands was needed. Father was a toolmaker at Bolinder-Munktell. Mother sewed for customers at home and later worked in a school kitchen, while both shared the household work.

Inger was four years older and my closest childhood companion. We also spent many summer days with our cousins near Ärla.

My maternal grandmother Alma mattered greatly to me. She listened without rushing and made the

smallholding feel like a place where I was useful.

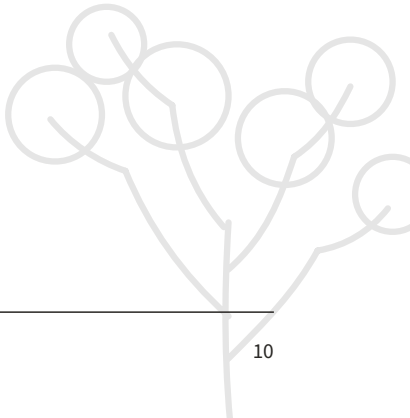
We often heard how Grandfather Oskar saved the smallholding after a failed harvest by repairing neighbours tools at night and accepting help in return.

My mother moved from Ärla to Eskilstuna for work, and Father branch moved between Torshälla and the city as factory jobs became available.

I want to preserve the meeting between soil and iron in our family: the farmers resourcefulness and the metalworkers precision.

Questions and answers

In their own words



Origins and family history

What is your name, and have you had other names or nicknames during your life?

My name is Bertil Eriksson. My family usually called me Berra when I was young, although Lena has always preferred Bertil.

When and where were you born?

I was born in Eskilstuna on 18 February 1948, during a winter that my parents always described as exceptionally cold.

What stories have you heard about your birth or your earliest time in life?

Mother said the tram service was disrupted by snow when I was born, so Father walked most of the way to the maternity ward after his shift.

Where did you grow up, and which places do you consider home?

I grew up in Nyfors in Eskilstuna. I have lived elsewhere, but the streets near the river and the old factories are still what I first think of as home.

Who took care of you when you were little?

My parents, Gunnar and Maj, cared for me, and my older sister Inger often watched me after school when they were working.

What were the names of the people who took care of you, where did they come from, and what do you know about their upbringing?

Gunnar grew up in Torshälla in a metalworking family, while Maj came from a smallholding outside Ärla where every pair of hands was needed.

What work did the people who took care of you do, and what other duties or responsibilities did they have?

Father was a toolmaker at Bolinder-Munktell. Mother sewed for customers at home and later worked in a school kitchen, while both shared the household work.

Were there siblings, stepsiblings, cousins, or other children who were close to you as you grew up?

Inger was four years older and my closest childhood companion. We also spent many summer days with our cousins near Ärla.

Which older relatives or other adults were important to you?

My maternal grandmother Alma mattered greatly to me. She listened without rushing and made the smallholding feel like a place where I was useful.

Which stories about earlier generations have been passed down in your family?

We often heard how Grandfather Oskar saved the smallholding after a failed harvest by repairing neighbours' tools at night and accepting help in return.

Has your family moved between towns or countries? What do you know about why?

My mother moved from Ärla to Eskilstuna for work, and Father's branch moved between Torshälla and the city as factory jobs became available.

Is there anything in your family history that you especially want to preserve or pass on?

I want to preserve the meeting between soil and iron in our family: the farmers' resourcefulness and the metalworkers' precision.

Every life holds so many stories. Of people who become part of us, places we never forget, and small moments that come to mean so much.

These pages bring together memories from across a lifetime — the milestones and the everyday moments that might otherwise slip away. A story to return to, share with the people we love, and pass on to the next generation.