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Erik Sukin



Father Erik Sukin is a middle-aged man with kind face, shoulder-length hair, and a short beard and neckbeard. His quiet demeanor seems at odds with the sparkle in his eyes. He seems thoughtful but not distant--scholarly yet approachable.

(I found [a drawing](#) of a 19th-century Finnish preacher in Wikipedia to use as an example, but apparently cannot upload it as my Character Portrait in this website. So I picked something close.)

He is neither short nor tall, and although not very muscular has the worn hands of a man used to the physical tasks of rural living.

When alone frequently seems distracted or thoughtful, and mutters to himself the Lutheran catchphrase "Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura".

He carries an old Bible. His front left coat pocket is full, and from how it moves must contain something puffy but not heavy (his daughter's doll).

Anguished cries from his room during the night reveal he has frequent nightmares. He avoids other people in the early mornings. Those who have seen him before he emerges from his room for breakfast say he then looks distressed, even haunted.

He has spent much of his time in Castle Gyllencreutz looking unsuccessfully for the building's chapel or libraries.

RELATIONSHIPS:	
Anna (Vagabond)	?
Alvar (Private Detective)	Einer's willingness to marry "below" the gentry makes me like them both.
Rikard (Officer)	He also carries so many relics of his past, physically and in his spirit.

BACKSTORY

Until recently Father Erik Sukin was the priest of a one-respectable Protestant country parish. He grieved as the rural villages under his care seemed to wither as young men and women emigrated to the growing cities, and as mining companies encroached on the land. (The parish was too distant from any cities to attract logging companies.)

Erik lived with three great sources of happiness: helping his parishioners, his wife Liza, and his daughter Lydia. But now all are lost to him.

He met Liza when gathering firewood. She was new to the parish, but would not share where from where she had traveled. She and Erik fell in love. Once, during their days of courtship, she told him, "I can be your fairy wife. But you must promise me something. Twice a year, on the evening of each solstice, I must go into the woods. You must not follow me, or you will lose me and everything mine or of me." Erik promised, not understanding the doom in those words.

They were a lovely couple for many years. The parishioners, initially wary of Liza because she was a stranger, quickly grew to appreciate how she and Erik seemed to bubble with joy and cheer when together. She was a devout Christian, although her foreign upbringing was revealed in certain ways she spoke about good and evil, devils and possession, or grace and hope. They had a daughter, and life seemed very good in their home.

