

**Name: Mahatma**



## The Quest for Erna

Erik watched as an Ernish soldier pushed his father towards the executioner. The executioner was a man with black Inorite armour. Inorite was the only material which was unbreakable on the earth. It was found only deep in the mines of Erna, and nowhere else. The executioner had a six inch axe, which was gripped tightly by both his hands, destroying every plan that Erik had to yank it away from him. It was happening in the town square, where everyone was watching. King Erna himself sat on his throne, with an angry look on his face, glaring at Ragnar Aaberg, Erik's father. Erik had a tear running down his cheek when King Erna spoke the words "Kill him." Erik closed his eyes as he heard the swing of an axe and the loud roar of his Viking father. His eyes were still closed until he heard a few more words, this time surprisingly from his father again. He said "If I can't take you down, my son will."

Sam had woken up early to go to the royal stables to tend to Felix, his horse. Sam was a 14 year old boy with unruly blond hair and light green eyes who was very scrawny and thin. He was also the son of King Erna, making him the Prince of Erna. He was wearing a red wool jumper with a white mink fur coat, khaki cotton trousers and polished brown leather shoes. Felix, his horse, was a white stallion who was a colt, not fully grown. He had a blonde mane and was well fed. "Don't eat too much there Felix, It might slow you down," Sam said, while handing over the hay to the horse. He whinnied, like he understood but gobbled down all the hay anyway. Sam laughed and started grooming the horse. After he'd finished, he popped Felix's saddle on, got on him and rode off into the warmth of Cottage Colony.

He had to go left from the castle and galloped into Cottage Colony, counted out 14 identical looking houses until he reached his friend Kevin's house, made out of cobblestone with a wooden roof and two glass windows at the front. Same as all the other ones in Cottage Colony, except for a huge banner that hung over the door that said "TRY THE ARKZTOL'S SOUVENIR SHOP: THE BEST SOUVENIRS THERE ARE!" Sam had put Felix in the nearby stable and went in. He was then blasted by Ernie Arkztol's shouting. "Ay, Kevin! Yer stupid mate's come to get you, so just come down here and

leave!" Sam knew that Ernie felt he could get away with some insults about Sam and his family, and Ernie was also openly against King Erna and the royal family because they wouldn't allow him to sell weapons that Ernie's great grandfather had collected many years ago as they were scared he might unknowingly sell a few of them to the Vikings. As Sam was deep in his thoughts, he didn't notice Kevin running down the stairs and grinning at Sam. He was a short boy but was very muscular and had brown eyes and curly brown hair. He usually wore an emerald green tunic with a red cape pinned by a rusty steel crest. "Why so early, Sam?" Kevin asked. Sam grinned and said "My father has an assignment for us!". King Erna, Sam's father had asked Sam, Kevin and one more friend of his choice to go on a classified assignment that he would only explain once Sam got his two friends. King Erna rarely gave assignments to him, let alone his friends, so Sam decided to be nice to his father by actually attending his archery training (which he never did, since he was so bad at archery,) till the assignment was complete. "Us?" Kevin asked. Sam explained to him that King Erna told him to get people he trusted and that they would get further details later. "What's the pay check?" Kevin's father asked. Sam frowned. "Um, there is no pay check Mr. Arkztol." Sam replied. Mr. Arkztol's face suddenly turned angry. "I'm not letting my son do your father's dirty work without a pay check!" He exclaimed. Sam suddenly looked at his feet and said "I'll discuss a pay check with my father once we get to the castle." Mr. Arkztol grinned and said, "You'd better."

Sam was galloping out of Cottage Colony on Felix with Kevin holding on tight behind him when Kevin asked, "So, who is the third friend going to be?" Sam thought for a moment and said, "Elizabeth Gerd." Elizabeth Gerd was the girl whose father owned majority of the shops in Retail Road. Retail Road was a street lined with shops that sold everything you could imagine. Food, furniture, tools, armour, souvenirs, anything you think of, Retail Road had. They had to take a left from Cottage Colony to enter Retail Road. The Gerd family decided that they were too rich to live in Cottage Colony, so they had built themselves a mansion in the middle of Retail Road. The mansion was made out of quartz, crystal and polished mahogany wood. Elizabeth was busy coating her lips in lip gloss on the steps up to the house when they arrived. Sam put Felix in the Gerds' personal stables and walked up to her. She was a tall but thin girl with smooth blond hair and cyan blue eyes. She wore neatly cleaned red robes with a cyan blue tunic underneath. "We need your help." Sam said. She glanced at him and said, in a bossy tone, "I'm busy." Then Kevin mumbled, "When are you not," in a grumpy tone. Sam ignored him and said, "My father has an assignment for us." Right when Sam said the word assignment, she jumped up and said, "I'm in!" Kevin snickered and Sam told her to get her horse and that they would be leaving right away. When he turned towards the stables, he saw a glimpse of a man leaving the stables. He shook his head and figured he was just imagining things and headed for the stables. Then he saw a black horse with a black mane. Elizabeth stood beside it, feeding it hay. After she had given all the hay to the horse, she said, "This is Bethany, my horse." Then she strapped a saddle to Bethany and joined Sam and Kevin, galloping off into the distance.

While they were making their way back towards the castle, they ran into Bloodrayne Ralphine. Bloodrayne was Sam's worst enemy, which was surprising, because being the prince of Erna, a lot of children his age were scared of him as he could have their whole families arrested in seconds. Bloodrayne was fat and short with shabby black hair and evil grey eyes, just like her father. She dressed like him too, from the black tunic to the red cape and even the red hat. "How did you get an assignment? You guys are so stupid!" she exclaimed. Sam gulped. Only his friends and their families were supposed to know about it. "How do you know that? It's supposed to be classified information!" Sam said. Bloodrayne snickered. "Do you think all of the citizens would miss this stupid

Arkztol's father screaming his head off about his son doing King Erna's assignment?" she said, while pointing at Kevin. Sam put his hands on his temples. He forgot to tell Mr. Arkztol that the assignment was classified. He would have told the whole of Erna by now. He was angry with himself but he galloped away, ignoring Bloodrayne's taunts and teases. He had to go back to the castle and finish the assignment, even if that meant he was in trouble.

He reached the castle, looked at the big Ernish flag, a navy blue flag with a golden star at the centre. It was meant to represent a bright glow in a dark world, because that is what Erna is. Sam was suddenly filled with patriotism, making him more eager to do the assignment. Sam and Elizabeth went to the royal stables to put their horses in. Sam tripped by a horse's sudden whinnying. It had been so sudden it had sent a shiver through his spin. Elizabeth snickered and mumbled something about incompetent people being handed assignments. They both put their horses in the stables and went to join Kevin, who was knocking at the castle's gigantic doors. "These people are saying that they will attack me no matter how much I try to explain that I am on an assignment!" He said. "Vladimir! It's me, Sam, and these are the friends for my assignment." The doors opened and an embarrassed soldier with full battle armour stood, staring at his feet. "I am sorry I failed you, Prince Samuel. "Its fine, you don't have to be sorry. And also, just Sam is fine." He said. "Okay Prince Samuel," he replied. Sam sighed and walked past him. He and his friends then ran into the Great Wizard Melvin. He was one of the most ancient wizards there ever was, and also happened to be his father's advisor. He also was in charge of telling Sam a bedtime story since Sam was five years old. He learned that Melvin's ancient wizard life was not filled with dragons and beasts and adventures like Sam thought it was. It was just him trying to learn boring incantations and spells to impress people. He was a man with a slender body, with navy blue robes filled with golden stars and a pointy hat with the same design. He also had a dark brown wooden staff with a white orb at the top of it. "It's nice to bump into you, as I have been thinking of sharing a new story with you. It's about another interesting incantation I learned when I was 365 years old. It would be kind of you to listen" he said. Sam sighed and went around the 753-year-old wizard saying, "Maybe later Melvin." He headed through to the throne room, where his dad promised to give him "further details." His father sat on his throne as usual. Sam cleared his throat. King Erna suddenly turned towards the children and said, "Yes, about the assignment. It's not really an assignment, it's a quest." His face turned sad when Sam frowned. "There is a person called Ragnar Aaberg," he continued. "He was a Viking and tried to pillage Erna, but my soldiers put a stop to that. He had a son and he is now the leader of the Vikings. He is 25 and one of the youngest Viking leaders ever. His name is Erik Aaberg. He is raising an army to ambush Erna, and it is your responsibility to at least slow him down." Sam bit his lip. Could he and his friends really stop a war? If so, then how? Millions of questions swarmed his head but he decided to ask, "Why can't you send soldiers?" Then King Erna said, "You'll know when you reach his base camp."

Sam was given a map to the base camp. The path was very crooked and was filled with dense forests; it looked like it would take a lot of time to reach. The map also looked like it was on mainland, quite far away from Erna. His father commanded his soldiers to get him and his friends top-quality inorite armour and weapons and three smooth, lightweight saddles for the horses. "Three?" Sam asked. "Yes, we are giving one horse to Kevin, so that Felix doesn't get the burden of two people." Kevin started jumping up and down with excitement. "I really get to ride a horse? Wow, that's amazing! I'll name him Ash!" King Erna smiled sadly and turned away. "So, how do you

**Comment [RP1]:** Divide this sentence into two sentences. Also, add some details about the map, what the route looks like, where they have to go, how they will travel. Done

know where their base camp is anyway?" Sam asked, trying to change the topic. King Erna simply said, "We have our sources."

Sam was exhausted and very sleepy when they reached mainland. It felt like the longest boat journey Sam had ever experienced. Luckily, he wasn't sea-sick, like Kevin was. He took a sip of water from his flask and strapped his Inorite armour on. Ash was the first one to get off the boat, a brown horse with white spots and a dark brown mane. Then came Felix, then Bethany. Sam and his friends got on their horses and rode off into the distance following the map. On the way, Sam could not help but notice the black silhouette of a man following wherever Sam went. They then had ridden for three days straight, only occasionally stopping for rest and food. Once they were almost there, Kevin asked for a little break before entering Erik Aaberg's base camp. They stopped right next to a nearby pond and refilled their flasks with water. They were running out of food so they asked Kevin to pick apples from the nearby apple trees. He did that while Sam and Elizabeth started making plans to sneak into Erik's base camp. "All your plans don't work at all. If they're planning to attack Erna, they'll have men stationed all around the base camp and four towers with two archers on each. That's the main defence strategy of the Vikings. Seriously, why does your father send you on assignments?" Elizabeth asked. Sam then said, "I have a plan, a plan that might just work."

Sam and his friends climbed on top of the highest tree they could find and spotted the tower with two archers on it. Sam took a deep breath. All he had to do was jump on to the tower and stab the two archers. He let go of all his fears and jumped onto the tower. He swiftly stabbed the both of the archers and kicked them down. While kicking them down, one of their heads fell off, revealing cotton underneath. *They were mannequins.* He couldn't believe he was tricked so easily! His friends were watching from the tree and their jaw dropped. Then they heard a big growl. They could hear something coming up the towers. His friends jumped onto the tower, their swords ready. Then they saw a big white wolf, growling at them. Then Sam did one of the craziest things he had ever done. He picked up the bow and a quiver that the fake archers dropped. Then he lunged for the tree. When he was in mid-air, he got the horrible realisation that he wasn't going to make it all the way to the tree. But he got what he wanted. The wolf had jumped off the tower and came for him. He remembered his father telling him that wolves find it easier to hunt a single animal instead of going for the whole herd. That was one part of his plan done. The second part of the plan was to shoot two arrows at once, aiming for both the eyes. His hands were shaking. He had never even hit a bull's eye, forget two at once. Then again, he was falling from the sky at full speed, so he didn't have a choice. He tried to aim the best he could. Then, without thinking, he let go. The last thing he remembered were two other people falling from the sky and stabbing the wolf to death.

"Sam, are you alright?" a familiar voice asked. When Sam opened his eyes, he found Kevin and a soldier dressed in full battle armour looming over him. "Vladimir!" Sam asked, "What are you doing here?" Vladimir smiled and said, "Your clever friends spotted a homing pigeon and told King Erna about the trap. Then King Erna sent us to ensure your safety." Sam got up and looked to his right and spotted a soldier dressed just like Vladimir talking to Elizabeth about plans of sneaking into the real base camp. "Who is he?" Sam asked Vladimir, pointing to the soldier. Vladimir smiled and said, "Magnus is a retired Viking and wants to help Erna fight back. His father had forced him to become a Viking, but he escaped from their base camp and wants an opportunity to stop the war. And," he added "he gave us this." Pointing to another map that led to a different location. Sam smiled. It was good to know that they had two more people on their side and one less person on the Vikings' side.

They had been travelling for another three days and they were only halfway there. They paused when they heard a muffled roar. Then they smelled the trees burning. It was only a second before they saw the big dragon towering over all the trees with big red scales and giant white horns. Magnus' jaw dropped. "It's Erik's dragon! Stay behind!" he shouted. He pulled out some sort of purple elixir from his pocket and gulped it down. Then his whole body slowly turned purple and he leaped. His leap was so strong; he landed on the dragon's head. Vladimir ran his hands through his hair, pulling it back. "Only goblins can survive that elixir, you idiot!" he shouted. "I know!" Magnus shouted back. Magnus started stabbing the dragon with immense speed. The dragon had no chance of survival and died on the spot. Then, Magnus fell down and stood down on his knees and said, "I wish you the best of luck for fighting this war without me, Sam." He said, while handing the map over to Sam. "But you're alive, you're just a bit purple, that's all." Sam said. Then Magnus laughed. His body dissolved away. His skeleton then fell and clattered on the ground.

Sam, Vladimir, and the rest of his friends continued on. "What did he drink?" Sam asked Vladimir. "A small vial of goblin elixir that make the goblins powerful. It is suitable only for goblins and when other people drink it, they tend to evaporate, like you just witnessed." Sam's next question was interrupted by a loud conch horn. "What was that?" Sam asked. Vladimir didn't answer but his face paled. He saw an army of ogres running towards them. He and his friends turned to Vladimir. Vladimir then said, "If I don't come out of this alive, continue without me." Then the soldier ran into the army of ogres and started slashing and blocking and kicking the ogres which were about twice his size. But Sam watched as Vladimir was caught off guard and was hit in the head with a club. Sam and his friends heard the crack of Vladimir's skull, and Sam then felt like crying. The only soldier he actually liked had been killed. But he was not about to cry. That was not what Vladimir would have wanted. He then closed his eyes, took out his sword, and let his instincts take over. After about one minute, he opened his eyes. He found his one foot on the leader of the ogres and dead ogres spread around him. The leader said, "It is too late, stupid prince, the war will begin at the crack of dawn tomorrow. You don't have enough time." He then crushed his own skull with his club, before anyone could stop him.

They travelled non-stop till midnight as fast as they could. They were right outside Erik's base camp. It had the same defence strategy Elizabeth mentioned, four towers with archers stationed on them and soldiers all around it. They had made a plan before entering, but it was the most absurd plan ever. Kevin took his spot at the far side of the base camp. Sam and Elizabeth hid behind a bush and waited. Then they heard a loud 'BANG!' and one more 'BANG!' All the soldiers left their spots and went to see what was happening. Then Sam and Elizabeth sneakily walked past the archers and went through the doors of the base camp. They went right to the stables and quietly sat on the hay bales. They had told Kevin to leave his horse and hide when he saw soldiers coming. Sure enough, when the soldiers came bursting through the doors, they only had a horse with them. Then Kevin came stealthily through the doors and came directly to the stables. He sat next to Sam and asked, "What next? Now that we're in, what do we do?" Sam thought for a moment and said, "We're too tired to explore, so I think we should get some rest." Elizabeth's eyes widened, "Are you crazy! We don't have time for that!" She whispered. "Only for about one hour, and, one person should be on the lookout while the other two sleep." Sam said. Elizabeth wanted to stay awake, but Sam convinced her to sleep and let him be on the lookout. After about one hour, Sam woke both of them up. "Hey, that looks like where Erik would be sleeping, doesn't it?" Sam said, pointing to a red and blue tent. But all of them froze when they heard the clattering of hooves. Then they heard a man taking out

the hay bales, one by one. No one dared to move. The only hay bale left was the one that was hiding them from the man. He removed the last hay bale.

The man had jet black hair, and full inorite armour. Inorite! No one but the brave soldiers of Erna had that. All Sam could say was, "How..." pointing to the armour. The man grinned and said, "You have a mole on your side." He tied their hands up and got them to go to the red and blue tent. "Hey, Erik!" The man said. "I caught King Erna's son!" Erik was a tall man with long red hair and a red beard. He was very strong and muscular. He was wearing a black eye patch, a grey Viking helmet with white horns, a shaggy brown coat, a grey wool jumper, grey trousers and ripped leather boots. He grinned and said, "Lock them up for now, when the war begins; I'm going to do to him what he did to me many years ago. Kill the only one he loves."

**Comment [RP2]:** "When the war begins" Done

Sam and his friends were locked up in a jail cell. When they tried rattling the bars of the cell, it wouldn't budge. After about one hour, they saw a big blurry creature zip past them. "What was that?" Kevin asked. Sam didn't pay attention. He rattled the bars again. This time it fell open. "I think that creature opened the cell for us." Sam said. They sneaked into the red and blue tent. Erik sat there with his legs crossed, eating juicy fruits and commanding his Vikings. He did nothing but grin when Sam and his friends walked in to the tent. "Hehe, clever children." He said "No one ever broke out of your father's infamous inorite cell. Isn't it ironic for his son to break out of it?" Sam ignored him but still was bitter he didn't recognise the inorite bars in the cell. "I challenge you to a duel, Erik Aaberg." He said, knowing that those few words he said might just be his last. Erik took his axe and showed it to Sam. "Did you know this axe belonged to my father? He got it from pillaging a small town. It is enchanted and never lets its wielder lose. If you challenge me to a duel, there's no way you will win." Erik said, in a menacing tone. Sam ignored him and said "I challenged you to a duel, either you accept it or refuse it. If you accept it, we duel. If you deny it, you will be proven cowardly." Erik cackled and said, "You're going to regret this boy, 'cause I accept."

**Comment [RP3]:** Tried or try? Done

**Comment [RP4]:** Do you mean "hey" or "hehe"? Done

**Comment [RP5]:** "You will win" Done

**Comment [RP6]:** "Refuse" is better than "deny". Make the changes wherever "deny" used. Done

They were brought to a dome shaped arena with an open roof. Sam drew his sword. It was hard not to flinch when Erik picked up his axe and started swinging it around. "It's still not too late to run away." Kevin said beside him. A Viking in battle armour said "Let the duel begin." Erik came running towards him with his axe and Sam knew what would happen if he didn't think of something fast. He lunged to the side, Erik's axe barely missing Sam's face. Sam swung his sword at Erik, but the powerful Viking leader was just too fast for Sam. Then an idea suddenly came to him. He bolted directly to his bag and searched for the purple elixir that Magnus had drunk. He found a vial of it somewhere deep inside. "What do you think you're doing, boy?" Erik shouted. But it was too late for Erik to stop him. Sam forced the elixir down his own throat. It was bitter and started burning his throat, but Sam ignored that. If it was going to be a fair duel, he needed to fight magic with magic. He drew his sword and stabbed Erik in the arm. Erik yelped in pain. When Sam was about to chop off Erik's head, he suddenly stopped. His hands started shaking and he dropped his sword. He suddenly felt dizzy. He knew what was happening; he was evaporating away like Magnus. He fell down to his knees and the last thing he remembered was Elizabeth rushing to his side and forcing another elixir into his mouth, this time sweet. He suddenly felt relief pumping through his body. He looked at Erik, smiling when the Viking couldn't pick up his axe. The cut was so deep; he couldn't do anything with his hand. Sam kicked Erik down and pinned him to the ground. But his smile faded when he realised what he was doing. If Sam killed him, all it would do was make things worse. He remembered his father saying that a wise king never fights evil with evil. And he was about to be the future king of

**Comment [RP7]:** Check the meaning of "overpowered". I think you mean "powerful" Done

**Comment [RP8]:** "An idea suddenly came him" is a better way of writing. Done

Erna. "If you swear to never attack or even disturb Erna again, I might consider sparing you." Sam said. "Yes!" Erik shouted "I swear to never attack Erna again! Now please let me go." The innocence in the Viking's grey eyes was unquestionable. But as soon as Sam let him go, Erik yelled, "Charge on the young ones, army!" Then an army of Vikings bombarded the arena and came charging towards them. At the last moment, the same big blurry creature came and swooped them away at the speed of light.

They looked back at the base camp and saw it explode. When they looked at the creature, it came into focus. It was a big, black wolf. At no time they reached Erna, but Sam didn't know how the wolf crossed the ocean. When they got off the wolf, it suddenly transformed into the Great Wizard Melvin. Sam's jaw dropped. "Your father sent me to rescue you. This transformation was from an ancient ritual back when I was five years old. Now, I am not going to tell you the story behind it, judging your expression. And also as your father wants to meet you and your friends. Melvin held his hand out for Sam and his friends to hold onto, muttered an incantation and teleported to Erna's castle. King Erna was waiting for them at the doorway; his eyes welled with tears of joy. He hugged Sam and told him to come in. He explained that he didn't send his army as he thought some of them were working for the Vikings, and it turned out half of them were. So he sent Sam and his friends to stop the war. But he sent two of the soldiers that he trusted after he heard of the trap. "Then who gave the inorite armour to the Vikings? I mean, your soldiers can't go out of the kingdom without your authorization, can they?" Sam asked. "No they can't, so that's where a mole comes in. You see, the soldiers were giving the inorite to the mole, also called Harold Ralphine, and Harold took it to the Vikings via your boat to the mainland. Luckily, we caught him and banished him to the dungeons before he took all our inorite. And, we sent a few soldiers to fetch your horses from that forest. Now, go on, continue your day!" Sam and his friends were on their way to the door when Sam asked "How did the horses survive the explosion?" King Erna smiled and said "Our little wolf friend saved them at the last moment." Sam smiled. He went out into the sweet open air of Erna, took a deep breath, and for the first time, he was happy to be a prince.

15 years later, sadly, Sam's father died. But, more importantly, he had a job to take care of. He was the king of Erna, Kevin was handling his father's shop, Elizabeth went away to somewhere in the mainland to study elixirs, and all of them were living a happy life since then.