

## Chapter 124 : Daniel Westling (1973-2011) – Low-Born Husband.

While in America, Victoria had not exercised. At her return her remaining friends tried to get her started on something. In the summer of 2001 it was a diving certificate. In the autumn it was workouts at the member club Master Training, Regeringsgatan 65. To be accepted you had to be recommended by two former members. Victoria was recommended by Madeleine and Caroline Kreuger. Her personal trainer at MT was future husband Daniel Westling. Let's start from the beginning...

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Olof Daniel Westling was born in Örebro September 15, 1973, the day of CG's accession. His parents were the social worker Olle Westling (1945-), head of social services in Sandviken & postal clerk Eva Westring (1944-). He also had an older sister, Anna. The family moved to Falun in 1974 and to Ockelbo in Gästrikland in 1978.

He attended primary school in Rabo school in Ockelbo, secondary school in Perslundaskolan in Ockelbo and (after some persuasion) the high school two-year social line at Hammarskolan in Sandviken some distance away. The grades were average. In primary school he dropped both German and French and got a 2 in English. His best grades were 5:s in mathematics and sports. On graduation June 7, 1991, the average was 3.07. His best grades were 4:s in social sciences, natural sciences and sports. His worst grades were 2:s in typing and office skills. The remaining nine grades were 3:s. His personal profile during his studies was so low that the teachers and classmates had trouble remembering him. He was sporty, social and cheerful. Eventually, it became clear that the amnesia was due to Daniel urging his acquaintances to blackball the journalists.

Some things are difficult to hide, however. During a football match at the age of 16, he fell so badly that he suffered a concussion. In connection with this, he was X-rayed and underwent a thorough medical examination. It was discovered that his kidney function was impaired with the prognosis of dialysis or kidney transplantation.<sup>1</sup> The symptoms were later described as congenital but not hereditary - maybe due to an infection. They are said to be the reason why he from then was strikingly careful with his habits. The right food and no booze or smoking.

Daniel's parents read a lot but it wasn't an intellectual home. His father was interested in history, hunted, and was a former amateur actor and motorcycle racer. His mother was interested in dancing, family and nature. Daniel's active hobbies were football, golf and ice hockey. There was also some motocross through his father, soccer on the sidelines and watching theatre when he moved to Stockholm. He trained in Ockelbo athlete club located in Gäverängeskolan and competed for Ockelbo IF. Manager of Ockelbo IF Ove Söderlund: "I have trained him in football and ice hockey. He is a loyal team player, technical and a fighter. Central defender in football and outer forward in hockey. A good player."<sup>2</sup> Börje Hallin, neighbour and chairman of Ockelbo IF: "Daniel was foremost a hockey guy. He quickly switched from soccer to golf. When he was 15 he always stood on the football field below the house and hit golf balls."<sup>3</sup> 1993-2005 he was a member of Högbo golf club. The clerk there: "He was active and played in quite a few club competitions. I think his handicap quite quickly

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<sup>1</sup> Lindqvist, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Popova 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Katarina Sternudd. [Intervjuer med Daniels grannar.] Aftonbladet, 2002-07-14.

fell [to 4.1].”<sup>4</sup> Daniels interest in basketball seems to be from a later date when Ockelbo BBK 2003-2006 competed in the Swedish Basketball League. He has trained a boys team but information about when and in what sport is missing.

From the season of 1987/88 he played ice hockey for Hofors IF. The teammates were long after interviewed about his aptitude for the sport. Friend Andreas Nylin: “He has a winner instinct. You don't want to stand in his way.”<sup>5</sup> Manager Johan Käme: “He was fast and strong. He started quite weakly. But he was one of the few who went all the way to the top team and spent some time there. He was a forward.”<sup>6</sup> International player Andreas Johansson: “Daniel was okay, but as a hockey player he had more grit than talent.”<sup>7</sup> Coach Timo Kuismin: “He was good at training, technical and a good shot. In addition, he was a perfectionist when it came to sticks, he could work his way through a whole box to find the best. It was a shame that he left the sport so soon.”<sup>8</sup> The Father was very committed to the son's ice hockey and helped out at the hockey rink. There are many amateur films of Daniel frenetically chasing the puck. Daniel: “As a child, I played four times each week in a hockey team at a place some 60 kilometres from home. My dad was training a team there at 20-21 o'clock in the evenings. He and I had dinner and then he waited until 21-22 o'clock when I was finished playing.”<sup>9</sup>

The 1991 high school graduation party was held at Hotel Princess in Sandviken. Daniel kept himself 100 percent sober which was perceived as somewhat extreme. He then worked as a care assistant at the service home Uret in Ockelbo before he started his military service as petty officer (?) at I14 in Gävle. After a while, he switched to truck driver to keep up with his ice hockey training. He later found it difficult to explain himself and called it shared training. His ratings were 10-9-8.<sup>10</sup> In order to make the training he bought a car. Something as odd (and cheap) as the Russian brand VAZ. The truck driver training lasted 10 months 1992/93. In June 1993 he got drunk with friends at Cyprus feting the end of their military training - the only documented time. He then spent a year at a school and recreation centre for children with special needs while continuing with the ice hockey. The season of 1993/94 was his last with the verdict that he was not promising enough for an international or professional career.

In 1994 he took Swedish scholastic aptitude test with the implausibly bad result of 0.1, meaning that he didn't try very hard. Probably he had intended to apply to the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences. Instead he underwent a two-year sports leader and consultant training at Lillsveds folkhögskola, Värmdö, and in 1996/97 an approximately 8 week further training as personal coach at Safe-Education, Sundbyberg, combined with work as a couch at a sports club owned by Per-Anders Dagborn. Personal coach (PT) is not a protected title but a course diploma from Scandinavian Academy of Fitness Education (Safe) and is as close as you can get to a license.

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One of the teachers at the PT-training was Benny Johansson, who was 12 years older. Benny became a personal trainer at Master Training. He and Daniel had got along well and when the workload on MT increased Benny suggested Daniel to join him. The chronology is

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<sup>4</sup> Cecilia Uhler. Blivande prinsen – en golfnörd. Golf.se, 2009-02-25.

<sup>5</sup> Olle Häger. Kronprinsessan och kungariket. SVT1, 2010-06-14.

<sup>6</sup> Olle Häger. Kronprinsessan och kungariket. SVT1, 2010-06-14.

<sup>7</sup> Hans Abrahamsson & Tomas Ros. [Intervju med Andreas Johansson.] Aftonbladet, 2008-02-08.

<sup>8</sup> Josefin Hammarstedt. [Intervju med tränaren Timo Kuismin.] Arbetarbladet, 2009-02-26.

<sup>9</sup> Popova 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Daniel Nyhlén. Skilda världar. Aftonbladet, 2005-10-23.

uncertain but it should have been in 1998 when Daniel registered as sole proprietor of a firm with the business masseur and personal trainer.

MT had been founded already in 1986 as a private gym for the business elite but went bankrupt in 1991. The estate was bought by Leif Zachrisson who continued running it as New Master Training AB (1993), as Master Training AB (1997) and together with other business ventures as Leif Zachrisson Consult AB (2000). At most he had 5-6 instructors including himself. The premises were 300 m<sup>2</sup>. In 1998 the number of members was about 150. Benny and Daniel shared PT-duty for about 100. It was 12-hour working days but well paid. Daniel was able to get an Alfa-Romeo and a girlfriend - the gymnast and model Maria Ekman. The business relationship ended the following year when Benny and Daniel took over the gym. The two put their savings into the pot, received a bank guarantee and drew up an instalment plan. Benny owned 70 percent of the shares. Daniel the rest. The gym appears to have included shares in the company PT horseinvest AB. In 2004, Daniel bought out Benny who took over the premises under the name Exclusive Training AB. Daniels's company was named Master Training Holding AB but is now called Lapada AB. Lapada's parent company is Fornwij AB owned by the jack-of-all-trades Eric Conny Karlsson.

After the purchase, Daniel began to expand. In 2009 he was a partner in five gyms. Two under the Master Training concept: MT-Nybrogatan and MT-Kungsgatan. Three sets of gym with large premises: Balance on Lästmakargatan, Balance in Solna and a gym at the golf complex Bro Hof castle a few miles northwest of Stockholm. He was also involved in a real estate project in Brazil and gave courses and lectures. Prior to the 2010 wedding, he withdrew from operational responsibility. There was a lot of discussion about what help he had received from Victoria and how profitable the investments were in themselves. Since this is a biography and not a thesis in business economics, I will drop that question but in 2008 he had at least a rated income of 488 thousand.

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The relationship between Daniel and Victoria became public on May 21, 2002, and had then been ongoing for two or three months. When asked if he had started the relationship, Daniel said it was Victoria. By the time it started, he had been her PT for about six months. They were often alone in the premises because of Victoria training evenings and weekends.

Daniel: "It didn't take long after you started training with me until you became quite open and personal. I naturally appreciated this confidence."<sup>11</sup> - "I don't know if you can put your finger on when friendship becomes love. But when one discovers more and more sides of one another, get to know one another on a deeper plane and suddenly feel: Oh, what's going on?"<sup>12</sup>

Victoria: "Daniel was there. We became good friends. I felt very safe with him from the first moment. We got to know each other for a year. I liked him. He was grounded and full of energy. Purposeful. Driven. Big heart. Honest. Unaffected and with an odd sense of humour, which I learned to like." - "It wasn't meant to be, I suppose. But somehow our feelings won the day. We started meeting in secret. At first, we were both worried that we would lose the friendship we had for each other. No, I thought,

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<sup>11</sup> Popova 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Annika Sohlander Cassel & Johanna Hellsten. Daniel Westling har gjort en historisk klassresa. Aftonbladet, 2010-05-29.

friendship is so much more worth than having a relationship. So I thought, but it is not always possible to control one's feelings.”<sup>13</sup>

In practical terms, it seems to have been so that Victoria invited him to the cinema and then dinner out at Drottningholm. They then met mainly in Daniel's apartment. Since they kept the relationship secret even for the closest friends, it is difficult to understand how it came out. The only persons in the know were the bodyguards, Daniel's parents and probably someone at Master Training. An unknown source called Expressen journalist Johan T Lindwall and knew when and where Daniel and Victoria last met. Lindwall called another anonymous source to confirm the relationship. Most likely, Benny Johansson disliked the relationship and/or thought it would damage Master Trainings' reputation. Right or wrong, he was soon after excluded from the circle of acquaintances.

The relationship was not as secret as it is claimed, however, since Victoria had already in March talked about it “off the record” with the journalist Catarina Hurtig.<sup>14</sup> Unofficially, Victoria presented Daniel - though without mentioning him by name - as the result of a strategy “to find a guy so good that no one had any objections.” Officially, it was like this: “Certainly I feel pressure to find the right partner, a person who can cope with the profession, its ups and downs. I don't want my man to start regretting the marriage.” - “It is extremely important in this life to have support. At the same time, it is a collaboration. I've seen that collaboration with my parents, how they work as a team. I hope that this will be the case for me, too, quite clearly. It's really important.” - “But right now I have no one that I want to advertise as my boyfriend.”

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Daniel's journey from Ockelbo to Drottningholm is usually described as a Pygmalion saga. The raggamuffin Daniel - barely articulate - is prepared for the salons. Because the couple refused interviews, there were many confrontations, sieges and even ambushes by the press to get a comment or a picture. The first year Daniel acted like a boar - refused to leave the apartment, sprinted to the car, shouted insults, turned his head to make it difficult for the photographers, pretended that the journalists did not exist, etc. Victoria apologized: “He's not used to it yet!” The most notorious episode was when Daniel on his way to Ockelbo with Victoria in the car tried to outrun the journalist Daniel Nyhlén and one of the photographers Per-Olof Sänsnäs or Mattias Carlsson by increasing the speed to 150 km/h and “criss-crossing” through the traffic. Victoria called Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg, who in turn called the editor-in-chief who ordered the team to stand down. There is also a later episode from Ockelbo where a neighbour sprays the photographer with a water hose.<sup>15</sup>

Daniel visited his parents once a month. Victoria came along when time permitted. They were not very much in the urban part of Ockelbo but in the parents' summer house in Acktjärna some kilometres south of Bollnäs. The parents' official reaction to the sons arrival with a crown princess in tow - none at all - was so “übercool” even for northern Sweden that it caused some concern. What were they trying to prove? The only alternative description was that the father at work reportedly exclaimed “First he doesn't bring home a single girl and so he comes with this!” The parents showed themselves from their best side - strange otherwise - but there are few details. For example, they took Victoria out into the forest where they

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<sup>13</sup> Lindqvist, 2009.

<sup>14</sup> Hurtig, 2010.

<sup>15</sup> Hansen, 2012.

picked mushrooms and blueberries while Daniel watched. There were ski tracks not far away. Daniel led and Victoria followed. They rooted for Ockelbo's basketball team. They canoed.

CG wanted to avoid Daniel being caught on the same photograph as he, Silvia or Victoria. It could be interpreted as an official recognition. Journalist Daniel Nyhlén describes an attempt on June 10, 2003, to interview Madeleine on her 21st birthday. CG and the rest of the family had invited her to the neighbourhood restaurant Tarantino. Daniel was also there. Nyhlén - one of Sweden's most persistent court journalists - seems strangely ignorant of his reputation:

An evening newspaper is waiting outside and has asked if they can take a picture of the birthday child after dinner. What now happens is strange, not to say remarkable: Sweden's most official family has decided to run away from the journalists. After dinner, the King and Queen rush into the black Säpo car and the Crown Princess shortly disappears into the next one, which jumpstarts the scene. Madeleine, Daniel Westling and Prince Carl Philip remain standing outside the pub holding Madeleine's birthday gifts. Even now, there is no picture. Instead, the trio starts running. Turn a corner at Roslagsgatan and disappear from the scene.

-You've ruined my birthday! I hope you understand that, shouts an enraged princess so it echoes of the walls.

The journalist is amazed at seeing the royals melt away in the night.<sup>16</sup>

Daniel's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party that year was more of the same. Because of the murder of Anna Lindh, it was postponed until October 5. It took place at Stallmästaregården as a combined family and friends arrangement - 84 invited but not CG & Silvia who were elsewhere. After the food and tribute speeches came entertainment. The media interest was quite high. The staff hung sheets in front of the windows to prevent peeping. Daniel and Victoria slept over on the spot but were out-waited. Daniel refused to answer questions but a reporter - probably Johan T Lindwall - was difficult to stop. He claimed afterwards to have a certain source that told him of the following tribute speech: "Daniel, earlier you drove a rotten old Alfa Romeo. Today you drive a pricey Lexus jeep. You used to live in a shabby suburb, now you live at Östermalm. And you're in cahoots with the Crown Princess. Things are looking up."<sup>17</sup> The party hall fell silent and everyone squirmed.

After this, the demand for a personal interview with Daniel increased. It took place but was not as professional as expected. In 2003, the school newspaper "En spänn" at Daniel's old secondary school Perslunda had sent a request to interview him. It had been gathering dust for quite some time. Daniel now asked for all the questions in advance, no questions about Victoria and that he be allowed to read the text before printing. On February 16, 2004, he was interviewed one hour by three eager teenagers under the watchful eyes of their publisher-teacher Ulf Gräsberg. The content was not too exciting - some general information about himself, the profession and the home town. He visited Ockelbo once a month, pushed 120 kilos in bench press and read the morning newspapers and books - most recently "Stupid White Men" by Michael Moore. Daniel corrected individual formulations but seems to have deleted nothing. The issue was published on March 19 and was for a long time the only personal information available.

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<sup>16</sup> Nyhlén, 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Lindwall, 2010.

Thereafter he is said to have undergone some form of media training - perhaps by Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg, perhaps by Victoria herself. He didn't release more information but he became nicer doing it. Still later he felt like being a figment of some reporters imagination: "Sometimes I can read something about me and realize that nothing in the text is true. No fire, just smoke. When I did not answer the media's questions when they initially showed up outside my door, I was described as shy and antisocial. My friends laughed because shy and antisocial may well be the last thing I am."<sup>18</sup>

The relation seems to have been more "touch and go" than the couple afterwards wanted to admit. In the second half of 2003, Daniel butted head with almost everybody. Jenny Alexandersson summarized: "It has been a difficult autumn and winter for the couple; many have views that Daniel is not a suitable princess consort. Discussions about Daniel's lack of social ability, low general education and poor knowledge of English escalated during late winter."<sup>19</sup> Come summer 2004 feelings swung in Daniel's favour, however. Probably it was the interview in "En spänn" that turned the trick. When you are a public or even semi-public person, there are limits to what you can permit yourself. Obstructing the press is not an option.

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Initially there was a lot of talk about Daniel's stubb hairstyle and sloppy clothing. In 2003 he changed his hair to a kind of general business cut.. He is also supposed to have coloured it in some red-blackish tint. The entire wardrobe was replaced. He had been taunted for his baggy sportswear and red VonDutch caps. Now he appeared bareheaded with stylish sweaters, brand jeans and glasses. Sometimes even a suit.

His general suitability was more difficult to remedy: He had met CG & Silvia in the summer of 2003 and apparently they had views about him. He took private English lessons and trained conversation. In 2004 or 2005 he hired the advertising agency JKL, apparently on his own initiative. It seems to have been a business-type PR course and later also social training for a future marriage. The secrecy was extensive. He arrived at JKL via the garage door. What was leaked were his networking dinners at the home of JKL's owner Anders Lindberg with politicians like Göran Högglund, Ulrika Messing and others. In 2010 he also attended a "prince consort school" organized by the court and met the party leaders one by one on special "party leaders lunches".

There was an established tradition from the sports pages to describe the industrial areas in southern Norrland as the epicenter of "social democratic Swedishness". Ocelbo had almost the same status as the royal house. Daniel was even provided with a suitable pedigree of proletarian ancestors. A kind of democratic snobbishness of the 68 model. Popular ancestry instead of noble ancestry. It seems to have had some sort of connection with the internal convulsions of the Social Democrats. Sociologist Irene Wennemo of the LO expressed it after the wedding as the Westling family was middle class but not an old evil submissive bourgeois middle class but a new self-conscious social democratic middle class that accepted Victoria as one of them.<sup>20</sup> This sociological view is not as innocent as it sounds: Daniel and his parents were seduced. They had experience of social hierarchies but not of a real upper

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<sup>18</sup> Popova, 2010.

<sup>19</sup> Jenny Alexandersson. Nu väntar alla på förlovningen. Svensk Damtidning, 2004:16.

<sup>20</sup> Irene Wennemo. Olle Westling är en seger för den svenska modellen. Newsmill, 2010-06-23.

class with their traditions, ramifications and money. Daniel was entrapped with a thousand strings without really understanding what was transpiring. He was corrupted, but in a most pleasant way.

There was much discussion about what Victoria saw in him. However, a comparison with Collert is definitely in Westling's favour: Ambitious, stable psyche, willing to marry her and share sweet and sour. That said, both men were winged renovation objects - perhaps a plus in Victoria's feminist eyes.

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Sometime in January or February 2009 - probably 2009-02-14 Valentine's Day - Daniel took Victoria for a walk. The time for talking was over. He had bought an engagement ring for half a million. Daniel: "It was a lovely, sunny day. The ice creaked as lovely as it does out on Drottningholm occasionally. I was a little nervous, of course. I was hoping for a yes but I wasn't quite sure." According to what is told, they took an old path from when they first got to know each other. At a place where they had nice memories, Daniel tapped her lightly on the shoulder. She stopped. Smiled. He bent the knee and and said something like this, "Will you marry me?" Victoria: "And I said yes, yes, yeees..."

Daniel's kidney function had deteriorated throughout 2008, and by his engagement in 2009-02-24, he had an implanted catheter for bag dialysis and was on a blood pressure-suppressant medication that occasionally made him nauseous. A few days later, he passed out during a dinner. In 2009-05-27 he received a kidney from his father and has not had any problems since then, although he must take care. That the engagement was so long coming has been signposted on CG but Victoria denies that. "It's unfair to Dad. I would like to write an article and explain what took place."<sup>21</sup> In the absence of this article, the delay was assumed to have had the same cause as CG's marriage - decision-making difficulties and a conservative court bureaucracy that dragged its feet. Herman Lindqvist was this time often at the castle: "Many of the older employees at the castle that I spoke to at this time were completely aghast, they hoped it would come to nothing, that their love would cool, the crown princess see reason and find a more suitable high-born person as her mate."<sup>22</sup>

The decision-making difficulties can probably be explained by the fact that it took time to get used to the consequences of female succession and that the experiences of the royal consorts were mixed. On his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1997, King Harald V of Norway gave a famous speech that it was against the nature of a man to subordinate himself to a woman, even though she was Queen. Be that as it may, there were several princes who were obviously unhappy and Prince Carl of Holland even had mental problems. (Victoria was invited to King Harold's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. She never commented on the speech though.) The Norwegian court expert Carl-Erik Grimstad revived King Harold's arguments in connection with Victoria's engagement and named Sweden a Chippendale monarchy, an even humbler version than a Bicycle monarchy.<sup>23</sup> Daniel was completely clueless: "I've grown up in a family with total equality, that thing that fathers should decide everything on their own I don't recognize. For me, walking one, two or ten steps behind Victoria - and still having my self-esteem - is no

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<sup>21</sup> Mats Larsson. "Det är orättvist mot pappa." Expressen, 2008-09-14.

<sup>22</sup> Lindqvist, 2012.

<sup>23</sup> Carl-Erik Grimstad. Verldens Gang, 2009-02-26.

problem. That is just the way things are. And look at the Queen, what a wonderful job she has done all these years supporting the king.”<sup>24</sup>

In a poll on the day of their official engagement February 24, 83 percent thought it was absolutely right for Victoria to marry “a man of the people”. On the other hand, because of the cover-up of Daniel as a person, they doubted he was Mr. Right: 60 percent had no opinion on him, 30 per cent were positive and 10 per cent were negative.<sup>25</sup> Thus the situation was very similar to that faced by Silvia. The challenge was to charm the population - which he also did, with a little help. In 2009-2010, the public was treated to a veritable carpet bombing of TV programs, tribute articles and general “media buzz” about Daniel and the upcoming wedding. A French journalist was asked what he thought of it. He replied that he perceived it as a Swedish national project. By its nature incomprehensible to foreigners.

The wedding was a short-lived victory in the opinion polls for the entire royal family. The press coverage was uncritical<sup>26,27</sup>. The SOM Institute's balance measure for the 2010 wedding year rose from 12 to 21 percent. The Demoscope figures from 34 to 52 percent. The following year, the effect was gone. Same for Princess Estelle. In the week after the baptism in 2012, 18 per cent of the respondents stated that their confidence in the royal house had increased and eight per cent that it had decreased.<sup>28</sup> The balance measure of the Royal Institute in that year rose only from 4 to 5 percent which is within the margin of error. Both events polarized the population. The number of members increased in both the Republican and the Royalist Association. In 2012, an essay on Daniel's rhetorical ability was published.<sup>29</sup> The verdict was that by adapting his style to the situation he managed to create a sense of belonging between himself and the audience, “I am one of you”. Perhaps not quite in accordance with the truth.

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<sup>24</sup> Karin Thunberg. Om kärlek och darrande knän. Svenska Dagbladet, 2010-05-02.

<sup>25</sup> David Ahlin. Novus Opinion, 2009-02-24.

<sup>26</sup> Ericsson & Lundqvist, 2010.

<sup>27</sup> Bressler & Hermansson, 2011.

<sup>28</sup> Karin Sörbring m fl. Estelles dop - en vattendelare. Expressen, 2012-05-27.

<sup>29</sup> Hansen, 2012.

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