

CHAPTER 3

In Chapter 3 of "The Girl Who Played with Fire," Lisbeth Salander wakes early in the morning, showering and preparing for the day by renting a dune buggy. After paying a deposit, she grabs breakfast while pondering Fermat's theorem. During breakfast, she observes Dr. Richard Forbes as he arrives for his meal, dressed formally. Salander discreetly follows him around St. George's, noting his seemingly aimless wandering.

After several hours and much sweating from the exertion, Salander maintains her patience until Dr. Forbes leaves to visit a restaurant. Here, she observes him reflecting on the harbor while drinking Coca-Cola. Her thoughts shift to his purposes on Grenada; although he appears busy, she suspects that he might be hiding something from his wife. Her investigation deepens as she receives several encrypted emails regarding Forbes from Plague and his acquaintance Bilbo, who provides her with a file containing valuable information about the Reverend Richard Forbes.

Salander digs through photographs and reports, learning that Forbes is a prominent figure within his church and has maintained a controversial public persona. She also discovers he was previously arrested for aggravated bodily harm and embezzlement, but was acquitted. Understanding the implications of such a background, she notes that Forbes is financially dependent on his wife, leading her to question his motives and character.

As night approaches, Salander encounters increasingly intense weather conditions due to an impending storm named Matilda. Despite warnings, she decides to check on a local boy, George Bland, living in a precarious shack. The winds intensify, and she rushes to bring him to safety before bad weather strikes.

Meanwhile, the storm wreaks havoc as she and Bland spot Dr. Forbes, who is physically assaulting his wife, Geraldine. Salander intervenes and, in a struggle, manages to protect Geraldine, ultimately bringing her to safety while leaving Forbes behind. The chapter ends with the aftermath of the storm, revealing both destruction and the unexpected death of Richard Forbes—leaving Geraldine traumatized yet alive, while Lisbeth's actions remain shrouded in ambiguity regarding her involvement.