

CHAPTER 26

Chapter 26 Summary

On April 6, Inspector Bublanski met Modig in a hospital parking lot, having been woken by Blomkvist. They were soon discussing the perplexing events surrounding Lisbeth Salander, especially the kidnapping of Miriam Wu and the involvement of boxer Paolo Roberto. Despite Bublanski's confusion regarding the intricate case, he noted that Salander's situation was becoming more complicated.

Paolo Roberto claimed to be a good friend of Salander, sparking skepticism from Bublanski and Modig. As they gathered details, Blomkvist pointed out similarities between Roberto's account and the attack on Salander. They deduced that the kidnapping aimed to extract Salander's whereabouts from Wu, indicating that the culprits had been seeking Salander for at least a week prior to the murders. Blomkvist argued that Salander likely wasn't a lone assailant as suggested and suspected connections to a man named Zala, noting a link with a murdered prostitute, Irina Petrova.

Bublanski mobilized police resources to follow up on these revelations, but frustration grew as a warehouse linked to the case had burned down, scattering leads. During a complicated meeting that followed, team members debated over focusing on Salander versus investigating broader links to organized crime, particularly concerning the sex trade.

Modig, facing allegations of leaking information to the press, was eventually asked to leave the investigation, prompting Bublanski to express his confidence in her abilities behind the scenes. Meanwhile, Salander was conducting her own investigation, examining Bjurman's notes and discovering unsettling connections that hinted at a calculated effort to marginalize her and hide the truth regarding her history.

Despite the turmoil, she found significant material implicating figures in her past, such as Teleborian and Björck, suggesting a larger conspiracy against her. The chapter culminates with tense moments as Bublanski confronts lurking threats while Salander's autonomous quest for justice unveils layers of deception surrounding her life, forcing her into dangerous encounters.