

CHAPTER 15

Malm returned home exhausted and disheartened after a challenging day at work. The smell of something spicy greeted him as he entered, and he embraced his boyfriend, Arnold Magnusson. Pursuing small talk, Arnold noted the day's distressing news about a murder investigation linked to their friend, Dag, who worked with them. The atmosphere shifted when Malm shared feelings of grief and shock, having lost a friend.

Meanwhile, Cortez was outside the police press office, frustrated with the lack of information coming from the police regarding an ongoing investigation. He finally caught wind of a suspect identified as Blomkvist's former researcher. He attempted to reach out to Prosecutor Ekström for clarity but was met with evasion.

Holmberg, in a darkened apartment, reflected on the gruesome crime scenes where the bodies of Mia Johansson and Dag Svensson had been discovered, taking note of the unusual amount of blood and the method of the killings. After the bodies were removed, he began a detailed investigation of the apartment, meticulously sorting through personal effects and documenting his findings. Despite finding several personal items, nothing stood out as evidence to clarify the motive behind the brutal murders.

In a separate discussion among investigators, the focus turned to the elusive figure of Salander and her relationships, particularly with a woman named Miriam Wu, who was linked to the case. The officers debated the implications of Johansson's thesis on trafficking and the possibility that her work might have provoked danger for both herself and Salander.

At a press conference later, Prosecutor Ekström announced the search for Salander, describing her as a suspect in the murders. Tension hung in the room as journalists clamored for more details regarding the motives and evidence. Meanwhile, Blomkvist struggled personally with the recent events, reflecting on Salander's role in their previous investigations and his need to understand the truth behind the violence.

As the chapter closed, Blomkvist, plagued by worry for Salander, resolved to seek the truth, convinced that her side of the story was essential before reaching any conclusions about her fate. Exhausted but determined, he aimed to sift through the tangled web of violence, motives, and relationships that had led to this tragic night.