

The Girl Who Played with Fire - Book Club Questions

1. What does Blomkvist learn about Salander in *The Girl Who Played with Fire* that he does not know about her by the end of the first book, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*? Does he understand her better?

2. 'She's not in the least bit dangerous to people who leave her in peace and treat her with respect.'¹

Is Salander's lawyer's assessment of her accurate (in your view)?

3. To what extent is Salander motivated wholly by revenge, and does the thrill of punishment play any part in her actions? In total, do you approve of Salander's decisions in *The Girl Who Played with Fire*?

4. If you suddenly developed the hacking skills of Plague or Wasp, what would you do with them?

5. A review of the Swedish edition of *The Girl Who Played with Fire* described the book as:

"Both funny and exquisite. In a time where tabloids flood the world with pretend news from reality shows or intensify reality to the discordant levels of pollen terror or Eurovision shock, Stieg Larsson's 'reality thriller' comes across as a counter movement."²

Do you agree with this?

6. So you find Berger's career choices satisfactory? What do you think motivate them? What would you do in her position?

7. To what extent does Larsson suggest that characters are products of their upbringing? Is their destiny fixed by their past experiences?

8. When the book is made into a Hollywood film, who would you like to see playing the lead characters?

9. Was the ending satisfying to you?

10. Give a brief summary of how you expect the narrative to develop in the third volume of the Millennium trilogy, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*?

Notes:

1. As given by Holger Palmgren, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, p 502

2. Jenny Tunedal, *Aftonbladet*

Further Reading:

Gorky Park by Martin Cruz Smith; *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* by Peter Høeg; *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* by Kate Summerscale; *One Step Behind* by Henning Mankell

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