

Chapter 25

Chapter 25 begins with Paolo Roberto still awake, his mind preoccupied with unsettling thoughts, when he spots Miriam Wu walking alone from Högalid Church around 11:00 p.m. Recognizing her immediately, Roberto's initial instinct is to ensure her safety, so he hesitates, choosing to wait until she reaches her front door. However, his attempt to keep her safe falters when a dark van suddenly pulls up beside her, and a giant of a man swiftly grabs Wu, overpowering her despite her efforts to resist. In a frantic moment, she is thrown into the van, and Roberto, in a panic, races after the vehicle, but the van speeds off so quickly that Roberto's pursuit proves to be in vain. His heart sinks as he realizes he is powerless to stop what is happening before his very eyes.

Determined not to give up, Roberto embarks on a reckless journey through the streets, relentlessly searching for any sign of the van. Eventually, he spots the vehicle from a distance, his heart pounding with urgency. Inside the van, Wu continues to struggle against her captor, who, with ease, overpowers her attempts to break free. Bloodied and handcuffed, she reflects on her situation, realizing just how helpless she is against the brutal man holding her captive. Meanwhile, far removed from the chaos, Mikael Blomkvist is unaware of Wu's abduction. He tries contacting Roberto, hoping to gather information about Wu, but his calls are interrupted by a broken connection, leaving him in the dark about the unfolding events.

Roberto's pursuit leads him to the outskirts of town, where he loses sight of the van, his frustration mounting. As the night wears on, Wu continues to endure a relentless assault, and her mind drifts to grim thoughts, wondering if she will survive the harrowing experience. Meanwhile, Eriksson reaches out to Blomkvist with critical information about a lawyer involved in past criminal activities, offering a glimpse into the deeper web of intrigue that entangles the characters. These revelations only add complexity to the already tangled narrative, providing an undercurrent of mystery and

suspicion that will undoubtedly play a role in the chapters to come.

Eventually, Roberto catches up with the van once more, which has stopped at a nondescript warehouse. The sense of urgency intensifies as Roberto sees Wu being dragged inside, and the weight of the decision to confront her captor overwhelms him. Despite the imminent danger, Roberto knows he must act to rescue Wu. Summoning his courage, he steps inside the building, only to be met by the massive man, who immediately recognizes him as the boxer. What follows is an intense and brutal confrontation, one in which Roberto realizes that his usual boxing skills may not be enough to defeat this imposing opponent, a man built like a tank, far stronger than he ever anticipated.

The fight becomes a desperate struggle for survival. Roberto's traditional fighting methods, while effective in many situations, are no match for the brute strength of his adversary. The battle rages on, with Roberto struggling to land blows that can incapacitate the giant. Just as the situation seems hopeless, Wu, still reeling from her assault, finds a way to fight back, launching a counterattack that shifts the momentum in their favor. This moment of teamwork proves to be pivotal as Roberto lands critical blows on the massive man, their combined efforts finally managing to subdue him.

Exhausted but determined, Roberto and Wu stand over their fallen captor, their hearts pounding with the adrenaline of survival. Despite the physical toll of the fight, they know that the battle is far from over. The tension of the moment lingers, setting the stage for even greater challenges ahead. As the chapter concludes, the two survivors, bloodied but resolute, are left to face the aftermath of their harrowing ordeal. Their triumph over the giant offers a brief respite, but the dangers they face in this complicated web of intrigue and corruption are only just beginning to unfold. With each passing moment, they grow closer to uncovering the truth, but the path ahead is fraught with peril.