



The Girl with the Sturgeon Tattoo: A Parody

Lars Arffssen

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Arguably the funniest novel to emerge from Northern Europe since the Black Death

A reindeer strangler has struck again; the world's leading authority on Baltic sturgeon has been filleted, and the head of Sweden's only unpublished thriller writer has been discovered some meters from his body.

Just a typical day in Stockholm's crime log? Or are the murders the works of a single killer? Chief Inspector Svenjamin Bubbles has a suspect: Lizzy Salamander, Scandinavia's most heavily tattooed girl-sociopath and hacker extraordinaire.

Mikael Blomberg believes Salamander has been framed. But if Salamander is innocent, who is the 4'10" girl ninja captured on a surveillance camera decapitating the failed novelist? And what has become of the unpublished manuscript that claimed to connect Sweden's most eco-friendly corporations to the twentieth century's greatest tyrant?

A shocking story of corruption and perversion that reaches to the highest echelons of the world's largest producer of inexpensive ready-to-assemble wooden bookcases, *The Girl with the Sturgeon Tattoo* delivers a hilarious—and gripping—parody of the best-selling novels by Stieg Larsson.

The Girl with the Sturgeon Tattoo: A Parody Details

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Author : Lars Arffssen

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From Reader Review The Girl with the Sturgeon Tattoo: A Parody for online ebook

melydia says

Start with every Scandinavian stereotype you can think of, blow them all out of proportion, mix them up, and throw in a few new ones just for spice, and layer them generously around the vague outline of Stieg Larsson's *Millennium* trilogy. Here, we have reindeer stranglings and diabolical modular furniture companies and a whole heck of a lot of coffee and overly detailed high tech electronics. Funny, absolutely ridiculous, and a very quick read. In short, a great parody.

Deborah says

Brilliant, particularly if, as I, you thought The Girl with the Random Whatever was so much overhyped bad writing. This hysterically lampoons every aspect of that novel, from the unnecessarily detailed descriptions of technology used by the protagonists to the plodding dialogue to the vagaries of the plot itself, while adding in some explanatory quips about Swedish culture. Nordic Dullness Syndrome FTW. I'd imagine even people who enjoyed the novels would enjoy this parody, but it's best for those who roll their eyes at the originals.

John says

A parody of the strangely popular Nordic murder mysteries. Of course parodies are exempt from copyright and libel actions, hence the insistence of the word in the title by the publishers.

The novel covers most of the Nordic stereotypes : the cold, the obsession with fish (particularly herring), Nordic Dullness Syndrome, mobile phones, animal rights, open marriages and women's rights, creepy Nordic xenophobia, the buckets of coffee sold in cafes, and of course IKEA.

The novel is about the mysterious slaying of reindeer and the decapitation of two novellists, one a successful author of a book about sturgeons, the other an unsuccessful writer of pot boilers.

Chantel says

Yes, it had some laughs that you will get if you've read the *Millennium Trilogy* but they weren't really LOL. There are a few good parts and it played off Stieg Larsson's "Millennium Trilogy" characters and scenes while still having its own crackpot plot. However, I found much of it tedious, some meme's overdone, very repetitive and the entire plot couldn't hold its own with or without the parody aspect. Avoid this one whether you love or hate Larsson's series or the movie.

Ellen says

I like parodies. (I'm not judging you.)

Ed says

Humor - This is a parody of Stieg Larsson's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2008). This is actually a sequel to the entire Millennium trilogy, being set two years after the events of Larsson's novels. Journalist Mikael Blomberg is hired to find out who's responsible for the death of Twig Arssen, an unpublished writer of bad thrillers. Meanwhile, computer hacker Lizzy Salamander is accused of murdering several reindeer and a prominent expert on sturgeon. The book is full of weirdly funny stuff, like an ominous connection between Adolf Hitler and a Swedish chain of furniture stores.

Emma says

I was so excited for this book when I read a short blurb about it in the New York Times. The book doesn't come out until September of this year, but apparently the advance copies are out and making their rounds. I found mine in a used bookshop. There were a few typos in my edition, but for the most part it seems to be a complete work. (I hope I'm not getting the marketing team in trouble by reviewing this now!)

The book is fun and a quick read. I really enjoyed the Millennium Trilogy (the books that this book blatantly parodies). I'm not sure that this book would appeal if you weren't familiar with the characters/plots from those books as well as Stieg Larsson's writing style. The plot is hilarious (reindeer murders! unpublished author decapitations! Ikea!) but there really isn't much of substance here, at least relative to the original novels or the standards for mystery novels in general.

Dewayne Stark says

So funny. Never stopped laughing. This book is an excellent addition to the trilogy. (posted using a Panatech P9070 with 32 gigabytes)

Särah Nour says

As a devoted fan of Stieg Larsson's The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo and its sequels, I picked up this parody not knowing what to expect. Author Lars Arffssen, who allegedly also wrote A Popular History of the Swedish Meatball, certainly had a good time writing this one. While the original series deals with domestic violence, serial killers, sex trafficking and wrongful conviction, The Girl With the Sturgeon Tattoo contains evil twins, Nazis, ninjas, and many, many boxes of Twinkies.

At the forefront of the crime scene is a reindeer strangler, whose crimes are somehow connected to the decapitation of two men: failed crime novelist Twig Arsson and the world's leading authority on Baltic

sturgeon, Dr. Jerker Ekkrot. Framed for this crime is the heavily tattooed, Twinkie-obsessed computer hacker, Lizzy Salamander (Arffssen's spoof of the famous Lisbeth Salander). With the help of her friend, journalist Mikeal Blomberg (originally Mikeal Blomkvist), Lizzy sets out to prove her innocence and, in the process, uncovers a conspiracy involving a furniture company and its ties to Adolf Hitler.

Arffssen especially enjoys poking fun at the quirks of Larsson's characters. While the original Lisbeth is a feminist vigilante, Lizzy Salamander is a rampaging castrator of men who goes by the alias Jane Manhater. While Larsson's Blomkvist is originally a middle-aged womanizer, his overweight alter ego, whose favorite food is fried eel, comically questions the judgment of women who flock to him despite his clear lack of charm. Additionally, while Larsson originally critiqued the Swedish government through his novels, Arffssen takes pleasure in spoofing the liberal sensibilities and social norms of Scandinavian culture. For example, Swedish police carry squirt guns, because real guns are too violent, and a case of jaywalking makes the nightly news.

Some jokes are overused throughout the novel and quickly become repetitive and tiresome, such as the sex jokes involving Blomberg and his lover, Erotikka (originally Erika Berger). Really, there's only so far you can go with jokes about naming body parts before it becomes boring. While Arffssen has no lack of comedic material to work with, at times he gets too indulgent and provokes eye-rolling rather than laughs.

Unabashedly silly, bawdy and bizarre, *The Girl With the Sturgeon Tattoo* makes for good entertainment both for fans of the original series and avid readers of the crime genre. It could be considered the *Police Squad!* of crime novels, as the sheer absurdity of the crimes committed—such as decapitating a man and playing soccer with his head—should ring true for readers for whom contrived pulp novels are a guilty pleasure. I dare say Stieg Larsson himself would have had a laugh at this enjoyable farce.

Ruthmgon says

This is so much fun! Earlier, I enjoyed being in the world of the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, although the sexually perverse sections were pretty unsavory. This *Sturgeon Tattoo* parody turns all of that on its head, and you begin to laugh (at least groan) about so many characters that are all pretty twisted. So much of it is tongue-in-cheek that you get a bit dull to the jokes about it being below zero, dumb Finns, UKEA and giant flagons of coffee.

This novel is the sincerest form of flattery for the *Dragon Tattoo* series!

It is not a novel for the very young...and I noticed some of the other reviewers here on Goodreads were pretty disgusted by the profanity and the use of a particular C*** word. True, it may seem like they go way overboard, but my suggestion is that if you get partway and are disgusted by it, just move on...the joke just doesn't suit you!

Doris says

This parody of *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* was hilarious. It hit all the weak points of Dragon, and added stereotypical slurs, obvious brandmongering, and racial, ethnic and sexual slurs so slanted they were funny.

Others have gone into the most noteworthy points, so I will desist, but I will say, that love it or hate it (Girl With the Dragon Tattoo) then you will enjoy this book. It hits the high points, the low points and the unbelievable, all while keeping a semi-straight face.

The only reason it didn't get a higher star rating was the language, but it's still a 4.5!

Sam says

A pitch perfect parody.

Doug Page says

Swenssen climbed from the bed and closed the curtains, but not before checking the window thermometer. Minus 37 degrees C. Up a degree from an hour before. Spring was on the way.

Naomi says

This book just didn't do it for me. I can't even say it was mediocre. It had its' moments, but not enough to save the book from a poor review from me. I thought the book, based off the title, would play more off the book, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. It didn't. Finally, the language was a bit rough for me, particularly with liberal use of foul language, particularly the slang term used to describe a woman really turned me off.

Anna says

A very entertaining parody. But to get the most out of it, you should have read the Millennium trilogy (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* etc); not seeing them as a movie is not enough. I love Stieg Larsson's writing style. It's detailed, and you can follow the story from the point of view of many of the protagonists. Lars Arffssen takes his writing style to a new level.

There is also an hour + long documentary about Stieg Larssen and the Millennium trilogy (the only place I've seen that in the US was in a Scandinavian movie festival in Austin - I even tried to buy a copy somehow to show to some friends who couldn't make it to Austin that weekend, without success). You should also have seen that to get more of the story.

And you should 'get' a lot of things Swedish and Scandinavian to get the rest.

Instead of staying only on where the *Girl with a Dragon Tattoo* stayed, this story happens after all that stuff in the Millennium trilogy has happened. Mikael Blomberg (who has recently discovered his Jewish roots) tries to help Lizzy Salamander to get cleared of murder charges once again. There's some video footage of apparently her killing Twig, the only unpublished author in Sweden, yet that doesn't ring true. On the same time Svenjamin Bubbles is investigating vicious serial killings of reindeer. Well, without spoiling more than that, there's a lot of laughter in 200 pages. Lots of laughter and lots of fried eel, UKEA's corporate secrets,

herring and rollmop and so on.

I enjoyed all the poking fun of the Millennium stuff and having fun with all the Swedish stuff AND especially with the Swedish stereotypes. There's plenty to that. I love what he'd done with most of the characters, and of course, as a nerd, I also liked Lizzy's Powerbook replacement in this book. Plus he'd managed to bring to life some characters that were mentioned in the Millennium but never really part of the story.

On the same time, some things started to get a bit tiring, like the c-word abused by some of the characters, and Lizzy's calling Kalle F-ing Blomberg, but those were all to some degree even in the Millennium books. But maybe when the amount of those were spread in 1500 pages it seemed a bit less intense than reading the same curses in 200 pages. And the ABC kaffebar, frequented by some or other. But those were only minor annoyances, and I just had to see how the reindeer serial killings would fit to the girl with a sturgeon tattoo.
