

Curse the Cassutt's! They are pushers of great books! So I blogged about *The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo* a few days ago. Now I can talk about *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, the sequel. I read it in, basically, a day. I sat up until 11:00 pm to finish it and this was the night before I had to make the drive back to N.M.

I thought this one ended a bit abruptly, but it was edge of your seat, frantic page turning all the way to the end. Not only does he create compelling mysteries, he created people I really cared about. The good people are decent but flawed and even the bad guys have reasons for what they do. They're complicated -- like real people.

He also had an amazing ability to switch POV, sometimes in the middle of a page, and not make me crazy. It's a very hard thing to pull off, and he did it. The only other writer I've seen who did it even more effortlessly was Georgette Heyer.

There were also a fairly large number of POV characters which I generally don't like. That was one minor drawback to the book, but the story was so compelling I didn't find myself becoming irritated.

The third book isn't available in the U.S. yet, but the Cassutt's scored a British edition. When I return to L.A. I hope they've finished reading so I can start the third one.

Alas there will be no more. The author died at a very young age. He was also one of the good people. He kept track of right wing, and neo-Nazi movements in Sweden, and exposed them. I gather there were many threats and a great deal of stress, but he was determined to sound the alarm about these crazies. Wish we had a greater awareness of that toxic thread in this country because it's on the rise.