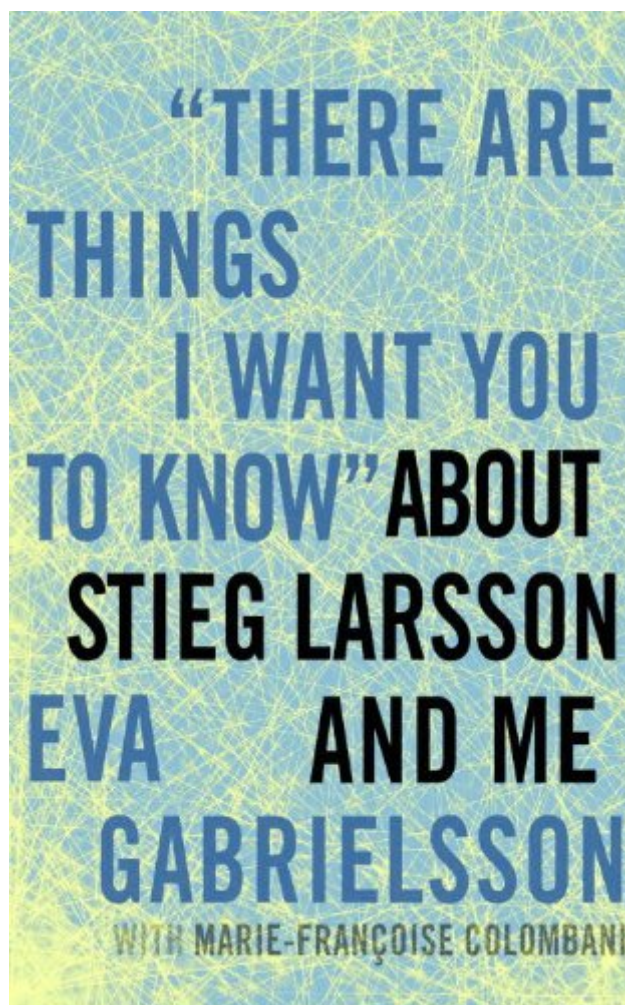


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"There Are Things I Want You To Know" About Stieg Larsson And Me



Synopsis

Here is the real inside storyâ€”not the one about the Stieg Larsson phenomenon, but rather the love story of a man and a woman whose lives came to be guided by politics and love, coffee and activism, writing and friendship. Only one person in the world knows that story well enough to tell it with authority. Her name is Eva Gabrielsson. Eva Gabrielsson and Stieg Larsson shared everything, starting when they were both eighteen until his untimely death thirty-two years later at the age of fifty. In *There Are Things I Want You to Know* about Stieg Larsson and Me, Eva Gabrielsson accepts the daunting challenge of telling the story of their shared life steeped in love and sharpened in the struggle for justice and human rights. She chooses to tell it in short, spare, lyrical chapters, like snapshots, regaling Larsson's readers with the inside account of how he wrote, why he wrote, who the sources were for Lisbeth and his other charactersâ€”graciously answering Stieg Larsson's readers' most pressing questionsâ€”and at the same time telling us the things we didn't know we wanted to knowâ€”about love and loss, death, betrayal, and the mistreatment of women.

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Customer Reviews

Its too bad that life seems to disfavor the good people and grants favor to the bad. I don' think much of greedy and selfish people, meaning the Father and Brother of Stieg Larsson. But well waits with relish those of a devious nature their karma lies in exception of fulfillment from which there is no escape. Eva Gabrielsson should just take comfort in that. I enjoyed getting to know Eva and Stieg through her writings as it brought me closer to an understanding of the writer Stieg Larsson. Write what you know and he certainly did that when writing "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" trilogy. It is too bad that he did not live so that he and Eva could have enjoyed it together.

If ever there were anyone who had an excuse to grind axes, it would be Eva Gabrielsson, who lived with author Stieg Larsson for thirty-two years but who, through a loophole in Swedish law, inherited nothing upon his death at age fifty in 2004, his entire estate going, by law, to his estranged brother and father. Gabrielsson has often said that she is not personally interested in the enormous sums which his Millenium Trilogy sales have generated. As dedicated to social causes as Larsson was, she is fighting, instead, for control of his literary legacy, especially alarmed because, she fears, that if present trends continue, she could even see his name on beer cans. Remarkably objective and straightforward for most of the book, Gabrielsson describes Larsson's early life in the remote north of Sweden, where he lived with his grandparents from infancy until the age of nine, absorbing his grandfather's stories and pacifist political views. After his grandfather's death, Larsson rejoined his mother and father in the city, six hundred miles to the south. Though Larsson felt comfortable with his mother, he never formed a strong bond with his father or younger brother, according to Gabrielsson. In 1972, just after his eighteenth birthday, he met nineteen-year-old Eva at a rally in support of the Front National de Liberation in Vietnam (FLN), a Trotskyite group. Soul-mates, she says, they simultaneously supported communist causes and a strict, old-fashioned morality, believing in justice but also in vengeance. Later, when Larsson began to write for a series of newspapers, he was a crusader for human rights for those suffering from discrimination, and often received death threats, especially from neo-Nazis. Gabrielsson does not really tell much about their lives together, except within the context of their shared beliefs, and neither of them truly comes alive here. Gabrielsson's descriptions of her grief at his sudden death certainly ring true, but much of this grief was also connected to their devotion to causes, some of which began to languish after his death. She is passionate about what she regards as the complete violation of Larsson's wishes after his death--that the profits from his books should serve causes in which he so strongly believed, not personal greed. Despite her obvious grief, Gabrielsson still comes across as rather cold,

single-minded, and uncompromising about all aspects of Larsson's legacy. Though his father and brother have been incredibly selfish, to say the least, she sometimes seems equally tunnel-visioned, equally close-minded. And as the wrangling between Gabrielsson and the Larssons plays out, I cannot not help feeling that parts of this saga have been left out. Does Gabrielsson, in fact, really hold the "ace" in this high-stakes game of Larsson's legacy--the mysterious computer with an outline and part of a fourth book? That is never clear. Though she says the computer was returned to Expo magazine the day Larsson died, Expo denies that they have it. She has also said that she is determined that the fourth book, if it exists, not be completed--she wants no ghost writers involved. Gabrielsson's own co-writer, Marie-Francoise Colombani, says in the Foreword, however, that if Eva's request for legal control of Larsson's literary estate is granted, that "she will clear up the mystery shrouding the fourth novel," then adds, "Let [her enemies] tremble...Eva, tempered in the fires of adversity, is poised to write the final words of their fate and lead a dance on their graves." You decide. Mary Whipple

If you, now and then, think about Lisbeth Solander as if she is alive, read this book. If you know about Noomi Rapace versus Rooney Mara and want to discuss them, read this book. Stieg Larsson, the author of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* and the other two books died just as his 3 books were being printed he left no will that had been witnessed and therefor legal. His wife was denied inheritance because she and her husband neglected making their thirty odd years together legal. Instead, Stieg's father and brother inherited assets worth mega bucks. Eva Gabrielsson wrote this account of her life with Stieg because people like me wanted to know who created *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* and who, like me, feel we want to know more about Lisbeth and we never will. Eva may or may not have the means to offer one more installment but the Larsson boys are enthralled with their unearned money and are too mean, too greedy and too ungracious to even acknowledge Eva because the law does not acknowledge her. The Swedish legal system is so out of touch with the simple idea that, for many, life is not based on the stereotypical middleclass endeavor "a progress of love and marriage that go together like a horse and carriage (and buggy whips and buttonhooks)" that it occurs as we seek and create and always improvise in a complex, increasingly urban and urbane reality. This is not an examination of these lofty notions but an account of a life where a woman who shared her life with a man for some thirty years tells the reader about it. She outlines with some fairness and restraint how little these two men had to do with her husband's life from start to finish. Then she outlines why she feels she would be a better arbiter of the three books that are the legacy of Stieg Larsson, and gently indicts the job his brother

and father have been doing since his untimely death. For me, the fact that had they been married legally she would be in control without question is enough to call out the Larsson boys as greedy bastards. I also am reinforced in my conviction that greed is as pathological as pedophilia and far more destructive; both arise from impulses that are compelling and indifferent to the effects on those who are not able to defend themselves. More destructive because the impulse is a seemingly near universal and these impulses are seen as normal and even as good and natural. If you do not know about Lisbeth, Bloomkvist, Erika Berger, Armansky, Zala then this book will not be meaningful.

I read this book after seeing the American version of "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." I wanted to know more about the author of such an intense story. The book shed its light on the author and his life partner of 32 years who lost nearly everything after Stieg Larsson died because they weren't legally married. This book is an eye-opener, highly recommended.

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