



In love with Adolf

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POWER & PASSION

It overstretches our imagination to see him as the perfect husband or as a talented lover. Physically he was far from attractive, and socially he was often immature and aloof.

Motherly women liked to look after him:

Carola Hoffman earned the nickname 'die Hitler-Mutti' by putting her house at the disposal of party members and taking care of many domestic tasks.

Helene Bechstein, the wife of a wealthy piano-manufacturer from Berlin and the woman who educated him in the rudiments of good manners, introduced him into German society.

Winifried Wagner became one of his important patrons. She provided him with the paper upon which he wrote 'Mein Kampf' when he was in jail in Landsberg.

Hitler was deeply impressed by female creativity. He ardently admired women like Leni Riefenstahl, who started as an actress and later became a film director, also doing some projects for the Führer. He was also a big fan of Marian Verne, an American dancer, Renate Mueller, a movie actress and Inge Ley, a stage actress.

Contradictory to his admiration of these and other extraordinary women, he could say terribly disparaging and derogatory things about women and marriage in general. For example: "For a man the world is everything, for a woman the man is everything, she never thinks of anything else!" and "Women don't need intellect, that's what men are for!"

There is mention of his "Viennese charm, his entertaining and sometimes humorous wit" but it was most of all his power and status that excited the interest of the fairer sex to such an exaggerated degree.

However, several of his 'friendly' relations with women ended unhappily: no less than three women killed themselves when Hitler did not reciprocate their love. After all he was already married; married to his beloved Germany.

In "POWER AND PASSION" four women tell the story of how they became involved with Hitler. They paint a picture of the period in which they became especially attracted to the Führer who was at the same time responsible for the cold-blooded butchering of millions.

Each of these four widely different characters share with us the tale of their passion for the brilliant monster Adolf Hitler.

Despite complicated modes of conduct, strict rules of behaviour and furious outbursts of anger on the part of their loved one, each one of these women tried to fulfil his desires and comply with his sometimes peculiar wishes.

Their time with the Führer was particularly marked by the ever-present suspicion and jealousy of Adolf Hitler. He had no scruples about using his associates to spy on his girlfriends.

Power was the attraction for some, for others it was pure passion, and for some the combination of the two was what made it exciting.

No one was in any position to look as deeply into his soul as these four women. For neither Martin Bormann, Hitler's shadow, nor Albert Speer, Hitler's golden boy, had the opportunity to see and hear him as did Maria Reiter, Geli Raubal, Unity Mitford and Eva Braun.



Maria Reiter

"Why must men always discuss politics?! It always ends in arguments and stupid talk. I want nothing to do with it, with all those promises or, rather, lies that do no one any good!"



Geli Raubal

"Germany, Germany at last, finally we are gone from small-minded Vienna with its so-called class.....here is where my life begins, this is where I belong, my future is here in Munich with my dearest uncle.....I'll do anything for him, nothing is too much."



Unity Mitford

"Those poor Germans, they haven't a clue about the ways of the world! But maybe they are sensible enough to listen to him.....only then do they have a chance, do they have a future. Adolf Hitler. That's the kind of man we need in England!"



Eva Braun

"I have seen it in his eyes, from now on everything will be different! I have a task to accomplish, I haven't survived two suicide attempts for nothing! I have finally convinced him of my sincere love, of my fidelity. I will always be there for him! Maybe I am the only one who understands him!"

Maria (Mitzi) Reiter

is 17 years old when she meets Adolf Hitler.

The year is 1925,

Hitler was released from Landsberg jail just a couple of months earlier and some good friends have put him up at the Berchtesgadener Hof in Berchtesgaden. He and Maria Reiter meet when he's taking his German Shepherd Prinz for a walk in the Kurpark.

At the invitation of Hitler, Maria Reiter attends a meeting of party members in Hotel Deutsches Haus. It doesn't take long before it is public knowledge in Berchtesgaden that Maria is involved in a more than friendly relationship with Adolf Hitler. Maria's father has a prominent position in the Socialist Party in Berchtesgaden and the situation in the Reiter family becomes tense. Maria's brother Johann, a police officer, also wants nothing to do with Hitler or his friends from Munich.

Maria will not be swayed; she is convinced of her friend's good intentions. Great times are ahead for Germany and she is determined to be part of them!

Even when Hitler, due to hectic political activities, doesn't have much time for her she remains faithful to him.

People close to her try in vain to make her face reality, sometimes lovingly and sometimes with threats, but all efforts only make her more determined. Maria remains steadfast and openly speaks of a future wedding.

When she receives an invitation to visit Haus Wachenfeld, the large house Hitler has rented by now, Maria feels this is the decisive moment. Now she will be able to show the world she is right, Adolf Hitler will ask her to marry him!

Wearing a beautiful dress which had belonged to her dead mother, she enters the magnificent home of her lover, supremely confident.

However, Adolf Hitler is nowhere to be seen, and Maria is met by his associates.

A remarkable scene unfolds, after which Maria will never be the same.



Angela (Geli) Raubal

is the daughter of Hitler's half sister Angela.

The year is 1929.

Due to financial troubles and an unhappy marriage, Angela Raubal leaves Vienna with her daughters Friedl and the nineteen year old Geli.

In Munich they are lovingly welcomed by Uncle Adi (Adolf Hitler) who has rented a spacious apartment on the Prinzregentplatz 16 for them.

Geli is a natural flirt and freely flaunts her sensuality. It's not long before a special relationship forms between Uncle and niece. Adolf Hitler makes a great impression on the mother and her two daughters by regularly taking them out for lunch or dinner to his favourite restaurant the Osteria Bavaria in his chauffeur-driven Mercedes.

Geli's mother is not blind to the fact that her half brother's interest in her youngest daughter is unnatural and does not appreciate it. Hitler is furious when his half sister tries to tell him off. He expediently packs off Geli's mother and her oldest daughter Friedl to Haus Wachenfeld in Berchtesgaden, where she will be in charge of the household.

Adolf Hitler is no longer restrained by the presence of his half sister and spends as much time as he can with Geli.

They go for walks, shopping, lunches, dinners, parties and frequently visit the theatre.

Uncle Adi is impressed by Geli's voice and arranges for her to be tutored by one of the best voice teachers of Munich.

Hitler enjoys painting and asks Geli to pose for him. His niece, it turns out, is a willing model.

But when Hitler starts accompanying her without her invitation, and more or less forces her to pose nude for him, Geli becomes irritated and anxious.

To escape the excessive attention of her uncle, she starts an affair with Emile Maurice, Hitler's private chauffeur. Her uncle has a blind faith in his employee, and is not suspicious of their friendship. But when Emile informs Hitler of his intention to marry Geli, Uncle Adi explodes in fury and fires him on the spot.

From now on he lets his niece be shadowed by his associates and opens all her mail, what she writes as well as what she receives.

After a while Hitler convinces Geli that she is a very special person for him, and that he desires no

other woman than her. His niece accepts her fate after a long struggle. Yet there are still moments when she rebels; once she flees to Vienna and one night she pours out her grief to Otto Strasser, one of Hitler's faithful associates. A real breach however does not come about.

Only when Geli discovers Hitler is seeing a certain Eva Braun, can she finally make the decision to end things with her uncle.

When Hitler travels to Nurnberg for a meeting, Geli searches his things for love letters from Eva Braun. She ransacks his whole study, his desk is subjected to minute inspection.

Turning over a drawer, a gun falls out.

Geli picks up the weapon and walks to her room.



Unity Mitford

is the daughter of the wealthy Lord and Lady Redesdale and at the age of 23 is already a fanatic follower of Hitler and his Germany.

In England she becomes acquainted at a young age with extremely right-wing political movements. Her brother Tom has a great interest in Adolf Hitler and especially in his book 'Mein Kampf'. Her sister Diana is even more extreme and marries the British fascist leader Oswald Mosley.

After a short study at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, Unity leaves for Munich in 1934 to live with her sister who has a large apartment there with her husband.

Through her brother-in-law, she soon integrates into Munich society. At the house of the Hanfstaengl family she meets several close associates of Hitler; the publisher Max Amann and military aide Julius Schaub.

There is actually only one reason why Unity is in Munich, and that is her adoration of Adolf Hitler. She spends hours on end in the restaurant Osteria Bavaria, where Hitler usually dines with his crowd. One day Hitler finally invites her to join them at their table.

Her wealthy background and noble lineage, as well as the fact that her brother-in-law is the British fascist leader, spark a certain interest in Hitler. But it is particularly her excellent command of the German language and her outspoken views on the relationship between England and Germany that make Hitler want to meet her on a regular basis.

However, Unity does not get the type of attention from Hitler she had so hoped for. A short affair with a high-ranking SS officer changes that though. Hitler invites her to join him on his special train while touring through several cities for Party meetings. He imposes one condition: that she end her liaison with the SS officer. She agrees.

From that moment on, she is nicknamed 'Unity Mitfahrt' in Germany. Unity impresses Hitler as a very politically aware woman. She tells him his ambassador in London is not taken seriously, and that the British Government is not at all representative of the people but that the House of Parliament is under the thumb of the rich Jews.

She also exaggerates the importance of the British fascist movement and their following.

Unity strikes most of Hitler's associates as a rather pathetic figure and they don't understand that their leader is taking her political statements seriously. But no one dares openly voice this opinion.

In 1938 Unity moves into her own apartment in the centre of Munich. Hitler completely furnishes it for her and gives her a golden badge of the Party. Unity has bought a convertible Mercedes and had the doors spray-painted with red swastikas. Flags with swastikas hang over the balustrades.

Unity sees her invitation to accompany him to the Bayreuth Festival as a breakthrough.

More and more often Hitler gets into conflicts with his minister of Foreign Affairs, von Ribbentrop, and his ambassador in London, whenever the name Unity Mitford comes up. They warn the Führer that Mrs. Mitford's information often doesn't coincide with reality. Hitler is infuriated and won't listen.



In 1939, towards the end of August, Adolf Hitler summons Unity to Berlin in the middle of the night. He meets her in his suite in Hotel Kaisershof. Hitler is tense and on edge. Unity thinks her moment has finally come and retires to the bathroom. A moment later she reappears in provocative lingerie. Hitler, meanwhile, has left the room and calls her from the lobby.

Nervously he asks her to answer in all honesty this question: If Germany were to invade Poland would England stay out of it or declare war on Germany?

Unity assures him that firstly, England is not prepared for a war of any kind, and secondly, that England would never risk the life of even one British soldier for Poland.

But on September 3rd 1939 England and France declare war on Hitler. After leaving a letter for Hitler at the Bavarian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Munich, Unity Mitford shoots herself in the head in the Englisher Garten. Surgeons are able to save her life.

Hitler visits her one last time in the hospital. Eva Braun wants Unity to leave the country as soon as possible. Against the doctor's advice that their patient is not yet ready to travel, Eva Braun personally arranges Unity's trip back home to England. The only witnesses to her departure on a train platform in Munich are Eva Braun and one of Hitler's military aides.



Eva Braun

comes from a respectable normal middle-class German family.

At a young age she already fantasises about a different life for herself. She dreams about a successful career as a dancer or an actress.

She stands out because of her well-groomed looks. Her clothes are also modern for the times and sometimes even a bit frivolous.

Eva is not interested in study as much as in sports and easy reading.

Seeking to gain independence from her parents as soon as possible, she looks for work. Soon she finds a job at a Photography shop. The owner is Heinrich Hoffmann, a photographer and good friend of Hitler.

Eva Braun and Adolf Hitler meet in September 1929, in Heinrich Hoffmann's shop. He is immediately taken by her. In the beginning they just have a few short and playful dates, but soon he is inviting her to dinner and theatre shows. When his niece Geli kills herself, however, Hitler breaks off all contact with Eva.

After a period of mourning, Heinrich Hoffmann invites his friend to a dinner where Eva Braun is also present. That day marks the beginning of a true bond of affection forming between the young girl and Adolf Hitler who is 20 years older.

And yet the Führer tries to keep the true nature of his relationship with her hidden for as long as possible.

There are many strict rules Eva Braun must abide by. She is never allowed to be present at official occasions and she must always travel separately from her beloved. She does not seem bothered by this as long as she is able to spend enough time with Adolf Hitler.

Politics, however, demand more and more of Hitler, forcing him to take his distance from Eva, making their relationship very insubstantial indeed.

In the spring of 1932 Eva Braun shoots herself in the throat. It is not a fatal shot and Eva survives the suicide attempt.



After this Hitler tries to improve his contact with her. A special phone line is installed for Eva, to facilitate a more intensive communication between them. He also often brings Eva to Berghof and they go on long walks together in the neighbourhood.

Yet it is not long before Hitler's attention is usurped once again by political affairs.

Eva Braun does not plan to give up so easily and she takes an overdose of pills that does not, however, result in her death.

Hitler sees Eva's survival of her second suicide attempt as a sign that this woman is to have a permanent place in his life. The situation between them changes completely from now on. In Bogenhausen, a peaceful stately neighbourhood in Munich, a splendid house is bought and furnished lavishly for Eva Braun.

She also stops working for Heinrich Hoffmann as she regularly accompanies Hitler on his travels, with as high point the visit to Mussolini in Rome and Naples. During this trip she gets to know an Italian Navy Officer, whom she later meets in Venice and in Porto Fino. In the knowledge that Hitler has her under continuous surveillance, she never allows the dangerous situations which develop to escalate. Politically Eva understands very little of Nazi idealism, nor is she very interested in socialist issues. In effect she is very like most Germans who are impressed by the large party conventions and the inflammatory speeches of her beloved. Above all, she knows that Hitler needs her by his side to reach his goal.

The father of Eva Braun writes a letter to Hitler asking for her to be sent back to her parental home. He never receives an answer to his missive though. A while later Frits Braun gives up, and his leniency later brings him a well paid job.

Eva Braun gets to meet all major players in the Party, but there is only one man she truly takes into her confidence; Albert Speer. The architect is a sensitive man and not only displays a great knowledge of many things, but also proves to be a true gentleman.

General von Paulus surrenders in Stalingrad and from this moment onwards Germany is forced to concede ground on all sides, Eva Braun is the only person able to appease Hitler's tantrums and fury, which she does with a smile and a kiss.

After the foiled attempt on Hitler's life in July 1944, Eva also becomes wary and she successfully investigates all the dubious characters in their direct environment. While Nazi Germany is collapsing all around them, the bond between Hitler and Eva seems to become more and more intimate, her only competition being Martin Bormann, Hitler's stand-in. It is mostly the influence of this man that presents Hitler with doubts about marrying Eva Braun.

Yet in the end no one can prevent that on Saturday 29 April 1945 Eva becomes the bride of Adolf Hitler.



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