

the mitfords letters between sisters

The Intimate World of the Mitfords: Letters Between Sisters

the mitfords letters between sisters open a fascinating window into one of Britain's most famous and controversial families. Known for their sharp wit, distinct personalities, and polarizing political views, the Mitford sisters' correspondence reveals not only their personal relationships but also the complexity of their times. These letters offer readers a rare glimpse into the intimate dynamics of sibling rivalry, affection, ideological clashes, and literary brilliance.

The Mitford family, consisting of six sisters—Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity, Jessica, and Deborah—were born into an aristocratic household in the early 20th century. Each sister carved a unique path, with some embracing far-right politics and fascism, while others championed communism and social justice. Their letters serve as a living document of this ideological diversity, making them invaluable for historians, literary enthusiasts, and anyone intrigued by family bonds tested by turbulent times.

The Historical and Cultural Context of the Mitford Correspondence

Before diving into the content of the letters, it's important to understand the backdrop against which these sisters wrote to each other. The Mitfords lived through World War II, the interwar period, and the post-war reshaping of British society. Their correspondence reflects not only personal matters but also reactions to historical events, political upheavals, and social changes.

Aristocracy and Social Expectations

The Mitford sisters were born into privilege, with a strict upbringing that emphasized social standing and public image. However, their letters often reveal a rebellion against or a negotiation with these expectations. For example, Nancy Mitford, an acclaimed novelist and biographer, used her letters to express frustrations about societal norms and even poke fun at the aristocracy itself.

Political Divides and Personal Struggles

One of the most compelling aspects of the Mitfords' letters is the way political beliefs strained their relationships. Unity Mitford's infatuation

with Adolf Hitler and fascism contrasted sharply with Jessica Mitford's commitment to communism and activism. Their letters to each other, when they existed, were rare and fraught with tension, showing how ideology can create chasms even within families.

What the Mitford Sisters' Letters Reveal About Their Personal Lives

Beyond politics and history, these letters are deeply personal documents. They convey the sisters' humor, love, jealousy, and vulnerabilities, painting a fuller picture of their characters than public biographies often allow.

Affection and Rivalry: The Dual Nature of Sisterhood

The Mitford letters are full of teasing, playful banter, and sometimes sharp criticism. This mix of affection and rivalry is typical in many sibling relationships but is especially vivid here due to the sisters' strong personalities. For example, Nancy often wrote witty and sometimes sarcastic notes to her sisters, blending humor with genuine care.

Love, Loss, and Family Tragedies

The letters also document the personal hardships the sisters faced, such as the death of their brother Tom, the difficulties in their marriages, and the consequences of political choices. These writings humanize the Mitfords, showing that despite their public personas, they dealt with heartbreak and uncertainty much like anyone else.

The Literary and Historical Significance of the Mitford Letters

Many of the Mitford sisters were accomplished writers, and their correspondence stands as a testament to their literary talents. The letters not only provide historical insights but also reflect the sisters' command of language and narrative.

Nancy Mitford: The Novelist's Pen in Private Correspondence

Nancy's letters are often praised for their wit and elegance, embodying her style as a novelist. Her correspondence offers readers a chance to see how she crafted her humor and social commentary, skills that made her novels enduring classics.

Jessica Mitford's Activist Voice in Letters

Jessica's letters reveal her passionate commitment to justice and activism. Through her writings, one can trace her journey from aristocratic origins to becoming a fierce advocate for civil rights and social reform, adding layers of depth to her public persona.

How to Access and Appreciate the Mitford Letters Between Sisters

For those interested in exploring these letters, several collections and biographies provide curated selections, often accompanied by insightful annotations.

Recommended Collections and Biographies

- **The Mitfords: Letters Between Six Sisters** – a comprehensive anthology of their correspondence.
- **The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family** by Mary S. Lovell – offers context and excerpts from their letters.
- Nancy Mitford's published letters, which often showcase her humor and interpersonal dynamics.

Tips for Readers New to Historical Letters

- Approach the letters as narratives rich with emotion and context, not just as historical documents.
- Pay attention to the language and tone, which reflect the era's social customs and the sisters' personalities.
- Consider the broader historical and political backdrop to fully appreciate the nuances of their correspondence.

The Enduring Fascination with the Mitford

Sisters' Correspondence

The Mitford letters continue to captivate readers because they offer a rare blend of personal insight, historical context, and literary flair. Their correspondence exemplifies how family dynamics can mirror broader societal conflicts, and how letters serve as intimate bridges connecting people across time and distance.

Whether you are drawn to the literary genius of Nancy, the political passions of Jessica and Unity, or simply the candid and sometimes scandalous family stories, the Mitfords' letters are a treasure trove worth exploring. They remind us that behind every public figure are private stories, and sometimes, the most revealing tales are found in the letters we write to those we love.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were the Mitford sisters?

The Mitford sisters were six British siblings known for their aristocratic background and diverse, often controversial political and social views in the early to mid-20th century.

What are the Mitford sisters' letters about?

The letters between the Mitford sisters reveal their personal relationships, political opinions, family dynamics, and the historical context of their times, offering insight into their complex personalities and the era they lived in.

Why are the letters between the Mitford sisters significant?

The letters provide a unique, intimate glimpse into the lives of a prominent family, reflecting broader social and political issues of 20th-century Britain, as well as the contrasting ideologies within one family.

Are the Mitford sisters' letters published?

Yes, many of the Mitford sisters' letters have been published in collections such as "The Mitfords: Letters Between Six Sisters," edited by Charlotte Mosley.

What themes are commonly found in the Mitford

sisters' correspondence?

Common themes include politics, love, war, family conflict, social commentary, and personal reflections on their experiences and beliefs.

How do the letters illustrate the differences between the sisters?

The letters showcase the sisters' diverse political views, ranging from fascism to communism, their varying social attitudes, and their individual personalities, highlighting both affection and rivalry.

Which Mitford sister was known for her fascist sympathies?

Diana Mitford was known for her fascist sympathies and married Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists.

What can readers learn about British history from the Mitford sisters' letters?

Readers can gain insights into British society, politics, and culture during the interwar period and World War II, as well as the impact of global events on private lives through the sisters' correspondence.

Additional Resources

The Mitfords Letters Between Sisters: A Window into 20th Century Aristocratic Life

the mitfords letters between sisters offer an extraordinary glimpse into the private lives, personalities, and historical contexts surrounding one of Britain's most famous aristocratic families. Spanning several decades, these correspondences provide rich material for historians, literary scholars, and readers fascinated by the intertwining of personal relationships with the turbulent political and social landscapes of the 20th century. The Mitford sisters, known for their varied and often controversial political views, social circles, and literary achievements, communicated candidly through letters that reveal not only familial bonds but also the complexities of loyalty, ideology, and identity.

Exploring the Historical Context of the Mitford Sisters' Correspondence

The Mitford family, consisting of six sisters—Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity,

Jessica, and Deborah—emerged as prominent figures in British society from the 1920s through the post-war period. Their letters, compiled and published in various collections, serve as invaluable primary sources that document the era's social mores and political upheavals. The Mitfords' aristocratic background allowed them access to influential circles, yet their personal letters often disclose tensions between their public personas and private beliefs.

The sisters' divergent political allegiances—ranging from fascism to communism—are a focal point in their correspondence. For example, Unity Mitford's infatuation with Adolf Hitler and fascist ideology contrasts sharply with Jessica Mitford's commitment to communism and activism in the United States. These ideological splits did not sever familial ties but rather added layers of complexity to their exchanges, illuminating how ideology influenced personal relationships during a period marked by global conflict.

The Role of Letters in Documenting Political Divides

The Mitfords letters between sisters also serve as a case study in how political convictions can coexist with familial loyalty. Their epistolary exchanges often reveal a careful navigation of disagreement and affection. For instance:

- Jessica's letters express passionate critiques of fascism, reflecting her engagement with left-wing politics and civil rights.
- Diana's correspondence reveals her involvement with British fascist movements and her marriage to Oswald Mosley.
- Unity's letters, though tragically curtailed by her attempted suicide and mental decline, provide insight into her fervent ideological commitment.

This interplay of correspondence underscores the unique nature of epistolary communication as a medium for negotiating ideological fractures within a family unit.

Literary and Personal Dimensions of the Mitford Sisters' Letters

Beyond politics, the Mitfords letters between sisters capture the literary talents and personal idiosyncrasies that made each sister distinctive. Nancy Mitford, the most prolific writer among them, used her letters to discuss her

novels, social observations, and personal dilemmas with wit and candor. Her correspondence is often laced with humor and literary references, providing context for her celebrated works such as **The Pursuit of Love**.

Jessica's letters, by contrast, often detail her experiences as a journalist and activist, offering a more grounded and pragmatic tone. Deborah, later Duchess of Devonshire, frequently wrote about aristocratic duties and familial responsibilities, showcasing the contrast between public expectations and private emotions. The letters reveal the rich tapestry of their personalities:

1. Nancy's sharp wit and literary flair
2. Jessica's political activism and journalistic precision
3. Diana's social climbing and ideological passion
4. Unity's tragic idealism
5. Deborah's sense of duty and grace under pressure
6. Pamela's quieter, less public persona

This diversity of voices enriches the letters as a source for understanding not only individual lives but also the broader cultural currents of their time.

The Epistolary Style and Its Impact on Readers

The Mitford sisters' letters are notable for their vibrant and often candid tone. Their style ranges from playful banter to serious political debate, making the letters compelling reading beyond historical interest. The use of humor, sarcasm, and affectionate teasing reflects the closeness of the sisters despite their differences. This dynamic correspondence format allows readers to witness the evolution of their relationships and worldviews over decades.

The letters also serve as a reminder of the importance of letter writing as a form of communication in the pre-digital age. They document the way in which personal and political lives were intertwined through written words, offering a level of intimacy and immediacy that modern forms of communication often lack.

Comparing the Mitfords Letters to Other Aristocratic Family Correspondences

When placed alongside other collections of aristocratic family letters—such as those of the Bloomsbury Group or the Cavendish family—the Mitfords letters stand out for their intersection of glamour, scandal, and political extremism. Unlike more uniformly progressive or conservative families, the Mitford sisters embodied a spectrum of ideologies, making their letters a microcosm of 20th-century ideological conflict.

In comparison to other aristocratic correspondences, the Mitfords' letters are distinguished by:

- Their frankness in discussing controversial political views.
- The intertwining of personal tragedy with public ideology.
- The presence of literary and journalistic talents that elevate the letters beyond mere personal communication.

These factors contribute to the enduring fascination with the Mitfords letters between sisters as a resource for both historical and literary scholarship.

Pros and Cons of Using the Mitfords Letters as Historical Evidence

Like all personal correspondence, the Mitfords letters have strengths and limitations as historical documents:

- **Pros:** Provide first-person perspectives, reveal private thoughts, and showcase interpersonal dynamics within a historically significant family.
- **Cons:** Subjectivity and potential bias, selective preservation of letters, and the influence of self-censorship or performative writing for posterity.

Despite these limitations, the letters remain a vital complement to traditional historical sources, enriching our understanding of the interwar and post-war eras through the lens of one family's experiences.

The Enduring Legacy of the Mitford Sisters' Epistolary Exchanges

The continued publication and study of the Mitfords letters between sisters underscore their cultural and academic significance. They provide a rare, unvarnished look at the complexities of family, politics, and identity in a changing world. For contemporary readers and researchers, these letters offer a compelling narrative that challenges simplistic notions of loyalty and ideology.

Moreover, the letters have inspired numerous biographies, documentaries, and dramatizations, extending their influence beyond literary circles. Their appeal lies in the vivid personalities of the sisters themselves and the dramatic historical backdrop against which their lives unfolded.

In tracing the Mitford sisters' correspondence, one recognizes the power of letters not only to convey information but also to preserve the nuances of human relationships amid ideological conflict. This epistolary legacy continues to resonate as a testament to the enduring intersections of history, literature, and family.

[The Mitfords Letters Between Sisters](#)

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the mitfords letters between sisters: The Mitfords Charlotte Mosley, 2008-10-28 The Mitford sisters were the great wits and beauties of their time. Immoderate in their passions for ideas and people, they counted among their diverse friends Adolf Hitler and Queen Elizabeth II, Cecil Beaton and President Kennedy, Evelyn Waugh and Givenchy. The Mitfords offers an unparalleled look at these privileged siblings through their own unabashed correspondence. Spanning the twentieth century, the magically vivid letters of the legendary Mitfords constitute a superb social and historical chronicle and an intimate portrait of the stormy but enduring relationships between six beautiful, gifted, and radically different women.

the mitfords letters between sisters: The Mitford Girls' Guide to Life Lyndsy Spence, Joseph Dumas, 2013-08-01 'Touched with genius' - The Spectator What's the best way to get the upper hand in an argument solely through letters? How should you liven up a dull night at Buckingham Palace? When, exactly, is the best time to run away to the Spanish Civil War? The Mitford sisters - Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity, Jessica and Deborah - knew the answers to all these questions and more. Perhaps the most remarkable family of the mid-twentieth century, their exciting and varied lives, from communist to fascist to aristocrat, mean that there's no problem they can't solve.

the mitfords letters between sisters: The Mitford Murders Jessica Fellowes, 2018-01-23 A

real murder, a real family and a brand new crime fiction heroine are woven together to make a fascinating, and highly enjoyable, read. I loved it. —Julian Fellowes, creator and writer of *Downton Abbey* and *Belgravia* The first in a series of thrilling Golden Age-style mysteries, set among the Mitford sisters, and based on a real unsolved murder, by Jessica Fellowes, author of the New York Times bestselling *Downton Abbey* books. It's 1920, and Louisa Cannon dreams of escaping her life of poverty in London. Louisa's salvation is a position within the Mitford household at Asthall Manor, in the Oxfordshire countryside. There she will become nursemaid, chaperone and confidante to the Mitford sisters, especially sixteen-year-old Nancy, an acerbic, bright young woman in love with stories. But then a nurse—Florence Nightingale Shore, goddaughter of her famous namesake—is killed on a train in broad daylight, and Louisa and Nancy find themselves entangled in the crimes of a murderer who will do anything to hide their secret... Based on an unsolved crime and written by Jessica Fellowes, author of the New York Times bestselling *Downton Abbey* companion books, *The Mitford Murders* is the perfect new obsession for fans of classic murder mysteries.

the mitfords letters between sisters: Generations of Women Historians Hilda L. Smith, Melinda S. Zook, 2018-07-11 This collection focuses on generations of early women historians, seeking to identify the intellectual milieu and professional realities that framed their lives. It moves beyond treating them as simply individuals and looks to the social and intellectual forces that encouraged them to study history and, at the same time, would often limit the reach and define the nature of their study. This collection of essays speaks to female practitioners of history over the past four centuries that published original histories, some within a university setting and some outside. By analysing the values these early women scholars faced, readers can understand the broader social values that led women historians to exist as a unit apart from the career path of their male colleagues.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Bookseller's Secret* Michelle Gable, 2021-08-17 For fans of *All the Light We Cannot See* and *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*! “*The Bookseller's Secret* is a delight from start to finish, a literary feast any booklover will savor!” —Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of *The Diamond Eye* ARISTOCRAT, AUTHOR, BOOKSELLER, SPY—A THRILLING NOVEL ABOUT REAL-LIFE LITERARY ICON NANCY MITFORD FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *A PARIS APARTMENT* In 1942, London, Nancy Mitford is worried about more than air raids and German spies. Still recovering from a devastating loss, the once sparkling Bright Young Thing is estranged from her husband, her allowance has been cut, and she's given up her writing career. On top of this, her five beautiful but infamous sisters continue making headlines with their controversial politics. Eager for distraction and desperate for income, Nancy jumps at the chance to manage the Heywood Hill bookshop while the owner is away at war. Between the shop's brisk business and the literary salons she hosts for her eccentric friends, Nancy's life seems on the upswing. But when a mysterious French officer insists that she has a story to tell, Nancy must decide if picking up the pen again and revealing all is worth the price she might be forced to pay. Eighty years later, Heywood Hill is abuzz with the hunt for a lost wartime manuscript written by Nancy Mitford. For one woman desperately in need of a change, the search will reveal not only a new side to Nancy, but an even more surprising link between the past and present... Don't miss Michelle Gable's stylish new novel, *The Beautiful People*, set among Palm Beach's dazzling inner circle in the sunny 1960s. More from Michelle Gable: *The Lipstick Bureau* *The Beautiful People*

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Other Mitford* Diana Alexander, 2011-11-30 Pamela Jackson, née Mitford, is perhaps the least well known of the illustrious Mitford sisters, and yet her story is just as captivating, and more revealing. Despite shunning the bright city lights that her sisters so desperately craved, she was very much involved in the activities of her extraordinary family, picking up the many pieces when things went disastrously wrong – which they so often did. Joining her sisters on many adventures, including their meeting with Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany, Pamela quietly observed the bizarre, funny and often tragic events that took place around her. Through her eyes, we are given a view of the Mitfords never seen before. 'Loyal to the core,' she possessed 'the constancy and kindness that underpinned the wilder exploits of the Mitford family.'

Indeed, innocence, along with courage and kindness, was one of her remarkable qualities. But it was the innocence of a woman who had lived and suffered, loved and lost, and overcome adversity'. Journalist Diana Alexander, who was Pamela's friend for many years, here reveals the unknown Mitford, or, as her lifelong admirer John Betjeman described her, 'Gentle Pamela'.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *Hitler's Court* Heike B. Görtemaker, 2022-01-12 This revelatory history examines the loyal inner circle that followed—and enabled—Hitler's rise to power and continued on after WWII. Hitler was not a lonely, aloof dictator. Throughout his rise in the NSDAP, he gathered a loyal circle around him, and was surrounded by people who celebrated, flattered and intrigued him. Who belonged to this inner circle around Hitler? What function did this court fulfill? And how did it influence the perception of history after 1945? Using previously unknown sources, Heike Görtemaker explores Hitler's private environment and shows how this inner circle made him who he was. Hitler's inner circle, the Berghof Society, was his private retreat. But the court was more than that. It provided him with the support he needed to take on the role of "Führer" at all, while at the same time allowing him to use its members as political front men. Most of all, it represented a conspiratorial community whose lowest common denominator was anti-Semitism. In this book, Heike Görtemaker asks new questions about the truth behind Hitler's inner circle and, for the first time, also examines the "circle without leaders"; the networking of the inner circle after 1945.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Mitford Affair* Marie Benedict, 2023-01-17 Plunges readers into a world of glamorous, charismatic young British debutantes and then turns that shiny world on its head...the most delicious storytelling. —Allison Pataki, New York Times bestselling author of *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* From New York Times bestselling author Marie Benedict comes an explosive novel of history's most notorious sisters, one of whom will have to choose: her country or her family? Between the World Wars, the six Mitford sisters—each more beautiful, brilliant, and eccentric than the next—dominate the English political, literary, and social scenes. Though they've weathered scandals before, the family falls into disarray when Diana divorces her wealthy husband to marry a fascist leader and Unity follows her sister's lead all the way to Munich, inciting rumors that she's become Hitler's mistress. As the Nazis rise in power, novelist Nancy Mitford grows suspicious of her sisters' constant visits to Germany and the high-ranking fascist company they keep. When she overhears alarming conversations and uncovers disquieting documents, Nancy must make excruciating choices as Great Britain goes to war with Germany. Probing the torrid political climate in the lead-up to World War II and the ways that seemingly sensible people can be sucked into radical action, *The Mitford Affair* follows Nancy's valiant efforts to stop the Nazis from taking over Great Britain, and the complicated choices she must make between the personal and the political. Also By Marie Benedict: *The Other Einstein* *Carnegie's Maid* *The Only Woman in the Room* *Lady Clementine* *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* *Her Hidden Genius*

the mitfords letters between sisters: *She Who Dares* Lyndsy Spence, 2019-05-13 HISTORY has seen many women make their mark by defying the limits set against them, stepping out of the boxes they had been put in and forging their own path. *She Who Dares* is a collection of pen portraits of ten extraordinary women who dared to defy the norm. They were often witnesses to or participants in key events in the last 100 years, including abdications, the rise of fascism and two world wars. Their lives were dramatic and vibrant, usually involving tangled webs of relationships, heartbreak and scandal. From influencing politics to being accused of witchcraft, from glamorous society beauties to nonconformist tom-boys, each of these women deserves to be described as trailblazing.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Churchills: In Love and War* Mary S. Lovell, 2012-05-14 Lovell presents the epic story of one of England's greatest families, focusing on the towering figure of Winston Churchill.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Mitford Scandal* Jessica Fellowes, 2020-01-21 In the third book in the Mitford Murders series, lady's maid Louisa Cannon accompanies Diana Mitford into a turbulent late 1920s Europe. The year is 1928, and after the death of a maid at a glamorous

society party, fortune heir Bryan Guinness seizes life and proposes to eighteen-year-old Diana, most beautiful of the six Mitford sisters. The maid's death is ruled an accident, and the newlyweds put it behind them to begin a whirlwind life zipping between London's Mayfair, chic Paris and hedonistic Berlin. Accompanying Diana as her lady's maid is Louisa Cannon, as well as a coterie of friends, family and hangers on, from Nancy Mitford to Evelyn Waugh. When a second victim is found in Paris in 1931, Louisa begins to see links with the death of the maid. Now she must convince the Mitford sisters that a murderer could be within their midst . . . all while shadows darken across Europe, and within the heart of Diana Mitford herself.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Mitford Trial* Jessica Fellowes, 2021-01-19 A timeless murder mystery with the fascinating, glamorous Mitford sisters at its heart, *The Mitford Trial* is the fourth installment in the Mitford Murders series from Jessica Fellowes, inspired by a real-life murder in a story full of intrigue, affairs and betrayal... It's lady's maid Louisa Cannon's wedding day, but the fantasy is shattered shortly after when she is approached by a secretive man asking her to spy on Diana Mitford—who is having an affair with the infamous Oswald Mosley—and her sister Unity. Thus as summer 1933 dawns, Louisa finds herself accompanying the Mitfords on a glitzy cruise, full of the starriest members of Society. But the waters run red when a man is found attacked. Back in London, the case is taken by lawyer Tom Mitford, and Louisa finds herself caught between worlds: of a love lost, a family divided, and a country caught in conflict.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Secret Shire of Cotswold* Steve Ponty, 2017-08-11 Steve Ponty researched the topography of the Cotswolds and unearthed J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Shire' by comparison between the maps of Middle- and Mother-earth. Apart from the secrets of geography hidden in the epic story, there are allusions, never revealed before this brand new perspective, to personalities contemporary with Tolkien's writings.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *American Lady* Caroline de Margerie, 2013-09-24 The fascinating story of one of the grand dames of Georgetown society and a true Washington insider Henry Kissinger once remarked that more agreements were concluded in the living room of Susan Mary Alsop than in the White House. A descendent of Founding Father John Jay, Susan Mary was an American aristocrat whose first marriage gave her full access to post-war diplomatic social life in Paris. There, her circle of friends included Winston Churchill, Isaiah Berlin, Evelyn Waugh, and Christian Dior, among other luminaries, and she had a passionate love affair with British ambassador Duff Cooper. During the golden years of John F. Kennedy's presidency—after she had married the powerful journalist Joe Alsop—her Washington home was a gathering place for everyone of importance, including Katharine Graham, Robert McNamara, and Henry Kissinger. Dubbed “the second lady of Camelot,” she hosted dinner parties that were the epitome of political power and social arrival, bringing together the movers and shakers not just of the United States, but of the world. Featuring an introduction by Susan Mary Alsop's goddaughter Frances FitzGerald, *American Lady* is a fascinating chronicle of a woman who witnessed, as Nancy Mitford once said, “history on the boil.”

the mitfords letters between sisters: *Hitler: Ascent* Volker Ullrich, 2017-10-24 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • This landmark biography of Hitler puts an emphasis on the man himself: his personality, his temperament, and his beliefs. “[A] fascinating Shakespearean parable about how the confluence of circumstance, chance, a ruthless individual and the willful blindness of others can transform a country — and, in Hitler's case, lead to an unimaginable nightmare for the world.” —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* Volker Ullrich's *Hitler*, the first in a two-volume biography, has changed the way scholars and laypeople alike understand the man who has become the personification of evil. Drawing on previously unseen papers and new scholarly research, Ullrich charts Hitler's life from his childhood through his experiences in the First World War and his subsequent rise as a far-right leader. Focusing on the personality behind the policies, Ullrich creates a vivid portrait of a man and his megalomania, political skill, and horrifying worldview. *Hitler* is an essential historical biography with unsettling resonance in contemporary times.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *Mosley and British Politics 1918-32* D. Howell,

2014-10-21 Oswald Mosley has been reviled as a fascist and lamented as the lost leader of both Conservative and Labour Parties. Concerned to articulate the demands of the war generation and to pursue an agenda for economic and political modernization his ultimate rejection of existing institutions and practices led him to fascism.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *The Same Man* David Lebedoff, 2008-08-05 One climbed to the very top of the social ladder, the other chose to live among tramps. One was a celebrity at twenty-three, the other virtually unknown until his dying days. One was right-wing and religious, the other a socialist and an atheist. Yet, as this ingenious and important new book reveals, at the heart of their lives and writing, Evelyn Waugh and George Orwell were essentially the same man. Orwell is best known for *Animal Farm* and *1984*, Waugh for *Brideshead Revisited* and comic novels like *Scoop* and *Vile Bodies*. However different they may seem, these two towering figures of twentieth-century literature are linked for the first time in this engaging and unconventional biography, which goes beyond the story of their amazing lives to reach the core of their beliefs—a shared vision that was startlingly prescient about our own troubled times. Both Waugh and Orwell were born in 1903, into the same comfortable stratum of England's class-obsessed society. But at first glance they seem to have lived opposite lives. Waugh married into the high aristocracy, writing hilarious novels that captured the amoral time between the wars. He converted to Catholicism after his wife's infidelity and their divorce. Orwell married a moneyless student of Tolkien's who followed him to Barcelona, where he fought in the Spanish Civil War. She saved his life there—twice—but her own fate was tragic. Waugh and Orwell would meet only once, as the latter lay dying of tuberculosis, yet as *The Same Man* brilliantly shows, in their life and work both writers rebelled against a modern world run by a privileged, sometimes brutal, few. Orwell and Waugh were almost alone among their peers in seeing what the future—our time—would bring, and they dedicated their lives to warning us against what was coming: a world of material wealth but few values, an existence without tradition or community or common purpose, where lives are measured in dollars, not sense. They explained why, despite prosperity, so many people feel that our society is headed in the wrong direction. David Lebedoff believes that we need both Orwell and Waugh now more than ever. Unique in its insights and filled with vivid scenes of these two fascinating men and their tumultuous times, *The Same Man* is an amazing story and an original work of literary biography.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *Travelers in the Third Reich* Julia Boyd, 2018-08-07 *Travelers in the Third Reich* is an extraordinary history of the rise of the Nazis based on fascinating first-hand accounts, drawing together a multitude of voices and stories, including politicians, musicians, diplomats, schoolchildren, communists, scholars, athletes, poets, fascists, artists, tourists, and even celebrities like Charles Lindbergh and Samuel Beckett. Their experiences create a remarkable three-dimensional picture of Germany under Hitler—one so palpable that the reader will feel, hear, even breathe the atmosphere. These are the accidental eyewitnesses to history. Disturbing, absurd, moving, and ranging from the deeply trivial to the deeply tragic, their tales give a fresh insight into the complexities of the Third Reich, its paradoxes, and its ultimate destruction.

the mitfords letters between sisters: *Germany* Brian Melican, 2013-07-26 German military figures had a certain terrifying glamour,' wrote Patrick Leigh Fermor, recalling views about Germany during the First World War. When, he asked, had the bristling general replaced the 'philosophers and composers and bandsmen and peasants and students drinking and singing in harmony?' The enchanted forest, symbol of Romantic idealism and traditional folktales, had given way to other images of Germany and Germans. By following Leigh Fermor, and over eighty other British and North American literary visitors to Germany, this original anthology shows how different generations of English-speakers have depicted this country. Starting in the sixteenth century with some of the earliest travel accounts in English, Brian Melican presents a wide range of writing about, or set in, Germany. Letters from Johnsonians such as Boswell and Garrick and the Romantic poets Coleridge and Wordsworth; the journals of Herman Melville and Henry James; ante bellum fiction by authors such as D. H. Lawrence and Ford Madox Ford: all of this and more reveals an oft-forgotten richness in encounters with Germany before the horrors of the twentieth century. Work

by Christopher Isherwood, Stephen Spender and wartime reporters through the 1940s exposes the country's darkest moments, while sometimes surprising takes on the conflict emerge from authors inside Germany with unique perspectives such as Christabel Bielenberg and Michael Howard. Post-war writing ranges from the spy fiction of Len Deighton to the writers who dissected post-Nazi Germany. The diversity of writing about Germany today encompasses light-hearted accounts and more searching passages taken from an eclectic selection of authors. Recorded and imagined images of Germany have changed dramatically across the centuries. Yet views on many of its features especially its cities and rivers, customs and cuisine have often remained constant. This anthology, with extensive introductions and annotations, offers a range of opinions, both typical and atypical of their time, and invites readers to venture beyond the usual discussion about this country at the very heart of Europe.

the mitfords letters between sisters: Paris Fashion and World War Two Lou Taylor, Marie McLoughlin, 2020-01-09 Winner of the Association of Dress Historians Book of the Year Award, 2021 In 1939, fashion became an economic and symbolic sphere of great importance in France. Invasive textile legislation, rationing and threats from German and American couturiers were pushing the design and trade of Parisian style to its limits. It is widely accepted that French fashion was severely curtailed as a result, isolated from former foreign clients and deposed of its crown as global queen of fashion. This pioneering book offers a different story. Arguing that Paris retained its hold on the international haute couture industry right throughout WWII, eminent dress historians and curators come together to show that, amid political, economic and cultural traumas, Paris fashion remained very much alive under the Nazi occupation – and on an international level. Bringing exciting perspectives to challenge a familiar story and introducing new overseas trade links out of occupied France, this book takes us from the salons of renowned couturiers such as Edward Molyneux and Robert Piguet, French Vogue and Le Jardin des Modes and luxury Lyon silk factories, to Rio de Janeiro, Denmark and Switzerland, and the great American department stores of New York. Also comparing extravagant Paris occupation styles to austerity fashions of the UK and USA, parallel industrial and design developments highlight the unresolvable tension between luxury fashion and the everyday realities of wartime life. Showing that Paris strove to maintain world dominance as leader of couture through fashion journalism, photography and exported fashion forecasting, Paris Fashion and World War Two makes a significant contribution to the cultural history of fashion.

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