

“Inga Arvad – the Scandalous Scandinavian” – Full review in the B.T. daily. Sunday edition, November 2 2008.

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Danish Inga heiled Hitler and slept with Kennedy

By Bjørn Westergaard

Danish born journalist and beauty queen Inga Arvad became notorious and famous for her connections to Adolf Hitler and John F. Kennedy. A new book reveals the truth about Inga's fabulous life and her appetite for men.

Was Danish Inga Arvad a Nazi spy? J. Edgar Hoover, the dubious FBI chief, was convinced she was. When the Danish beauty queen and journalist Inga Arvad Petersen in 1942 became the girlfriend of young Navy ensign, John F. Kennedy, Hoover put Arvad under surveillance and wiretapping. Indeed, Danish Inga was the girl on friendly terms with Adolf Hitler and other horrible bigwigs like Hermann Göring and Joseph Goebbels. Inga's sensational 1935 interview with Adolf Hitler for *Berlingske Aftenavis*, a Danish newspaper, had been published all over the world. Everybody had read her account of her meeting with Der Fuehrer in Berlin:

When Adolf Hitler suddenly appeared in front of me, I couldn't resist greeting him with a Heil. He is immediately likable. He appears to be lonely. His eyes are tender-hearted and look right at you. They shine forcefully. In my confusion I repeat my Heil and a large smile appears on the fuehrer's face. He asks me to sit down.

The Kennedy clan listened to Hoover's warnings that “Inga Binga”, as young JFK called her, posed a threat to both the young man's future and to the security of the United States. John F. Kennedy, who later became the President, was yanked out of Inga's passionate embrace in Washington, D.C. First he was transferred to the naval base in Charleston, S.C. and then later to serve in the Pacific, even further away from Inga. That finished the romance off, and it was only revealed several decades later when the FBI files were opened.

“They kicked my ass out of the country because I was seeing a Scandinavian blonde and they thought she was a spy”, John F. Kennedy later told a friend.

So what actually happened to Inga, the Danish girl who forever was branded as a spy?

Journalist and author Ann Mariager presents Arvad's story in her book, “Inga Arvad – the scandalous Scandinavian”. In it she writes about Inga's adventurous life, with the help from Arvad's two sons, Ronald and Terry McCoy. An adventure that sets out in Copenhagen in 1931 when Inga becomes Miss Denmark at the age of 17 and concludes in 1973 when Inga dies from cancer in Nogales, Arizona.

Ann Mariager has gained access to Inga Arvad's personal papers and writes a fascinating portrait of the Danish blonde who, by order from President Roosevelt, was kept under a surveillance so intense that her case takes up more than 1200 documents in FBI archives. Thousands of articles about Inga and John F. Kennedy have been published in newspapers the world over but nobody has come so close to the truth as Ann Mariager.

Among the recollections that professor Ronald McCoy, Arvad's older son, share with the author is how his mother's thoughts often were with Kennedy and how she reacted when she learned that Kennedy had been assassinated. She spent the day alone in her room. She never forgot her great love. But she rarely spoke about Kennedy during her marriage to Tim McCoy, the former Western actor.

As her younger son, Terry McCoy, puts it: “My mother never let the wake rock her boat”.

Inga's third and last husband, the Western actor Tim McCoy, rejected any speculation that his wife had been a Nazi spy.

“Her political insight was not impressive”, McCoy writes in his memoirs. “After her successful interview with Hitler, she was asked whom she wanted to interview next, and she

immediately replied: “Lenin”. She had no idea that Lenin for years had been dead in his Moscow marble mausoleum”.

On several occasions American newspapers offered Inga money to write about her relationship with John F. Kennedy. Inga always declined politely. She took that part of her life with her in her grave. And yet! Ann Mariager’s book is a scoop. Through Arvad’s sons she has had access to Inga’s personal love letters to Kennedy, her diaries and her notes for a book, Arvad herself planned to write about her life.

In her often passionate letters to Kennedy, Inga writes about her wish to have children and create a family life, however, she lowers her expectations by pointing to the insurmountable problems that the young couple are facing. Kennedy is a Catholic, Inga is still married (second husband was the Hungarian-American film director Paul Fejos), she is rumored to be a Nazi friendly spy and the head of the Kennedy clan, Joseph Kennedy, finds her unworthy of his son.

For the first time ever we read the whole truth about Inga Arvad’s life and her three marriages. Plus a string of lovers. Inga was true man-eater and everybody fell for her incredible beauty and charm.