

# KARL HAU AND THE MURDER OF JOSEFINE MOLITOR

By Paul Lindau

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## INTRODUCTION

Page 1: With what we have learned about the murder of Mrs. Josefine Molitor and about Karl Hau as the sentenced murderer through newspaper articles and the reports from the trial, the case cannot be labeled as being without loopholes.

Hundreds of thousands of people followed the case with feverish interest from day to day and reached their own judgments. They followed the case each day and due to the changing influences and occurrences, the public opinion would swing against the accused and then once again back for him. The process jumped wildly back and forth. No system could be determined as to how they witnesses were called to the stand. It is difficult to see how any clarity or overview was possible in the mass confusion. One thing is clear, however: seldom has there been a trial in which the most important facts remained so unexplained and which ended with the public opinion so divided as in Hau's trial.

Page 2: I myself realized that after my first hasty reading of the material that I had jumped to a conclusion. Later, as I studied the material more closely and compared newspaper articles covering the same incident. These articles differed significantly, even on important points.

I attempted to reenact the trial, hopefully clarifying some of the vague areas. One thing I noticed was the contrast between Olga Molitor and Karl Hau.

During the trial Olga never said a word against Hau. Hau did the same in order not to compromise his sister-in-law's integrity

or to cause suspicion to be cast upon her because of their relationship. Olga was the only one in the family that said she never suspected Hau of the murder. In the same manner, Hau explained that Olga was absolutely correct and his wife had confused the facts in her jealous rage.

This harmony, however, became discord. Those who cursed Olga, loved Hau; those who didn't sentence Hau to death, insulted Olga's honor. The respective supporters of Olga and of Hau viewed each other as bitter enemies.

Page 3: I understand this discord so little, that I view Olga as the witness, who under oath said nothing but the pure truth, even though that put her in total opposition to her family.

Miss Olga Molitor let her lawyer Dr. von Pannwitz explain (when she was attacked in the Hau-literature following the trial) that she would give no other answers than what she gave during the legal proceedings: the only correct answers.

Dr. Bischer, the examining magistrate in Hau's trial and a representative of the "New Free Press" explained his interpretation of Hau's case in detailed manner. He protested, via his acquaintance to Mrs. Lina Hau, the right to her harsh, unforgiving critique. His friendliness was also acknowledged by Lina herself. His making public of her private letters and of the deepest, darkest family secrets brought a change to her previously favorable opinion of him.

Page 4: Dr. Bischer viewed his actions as legally acceptable because he viewed Lina as an accomplice. According to §257 of the

book of statutes for punishment (penal code?), one is punishable for knowingly helping the accused to avoid punishment.

In §97 of the penal code it is stated that written communication between the accused and his next of kin, when found in the possession of the latter and who is not suspected of participation, aiding and abetting, or receipt of stolen goods, is not subject to confiscation.

Whether or not to confiscate letters between husband and wife, for example, is essentially based on the judgment of the examining magistrate. The question that arises from this is: How many close relatives can there be that escape any suspicion?

Page 5: Dr. Bischer appears to have assumed that letters in Lina's possession -- possibly letters from Hau -- could be found which would link her mother's murder to Hau and prove his guilt. Above all, however, Dr. Bischer must have realized the effect such an investigation and suspicion would have on Lina and the pain and confusion it would cause her. Even clearer it would seem that Lina viewed Dr. Bischer as a purely "evil-seeing man," and that her anger over the forced intrusion into her shameful, hidden secrets haunted her until her final hour.

Also in his remarks, Dr. Bischer describes the relationship between the sisters Lina and Olga and the motive for murder: greed. Another possible motive, according to Dr. Bischer, was Hau's dishonest desire to possess Olga. The mother was seen as the biggest obstacle to be overcome. Other things discussed include the criminal psychology, etc.

I will explain all of these points later, as well as the questions that led me to completely different results, but I do not wish to jump ahead now.

Also to be taken into consideration is the third sister, Miss Luise Molitor -- a painter in Munich.

Page 6: Miss Luise Molitor fought with decisiveness the claims of Dr. Dietz, whose claims about the reasons for Lina's suicide were based on his last hours-long conversation with Lina. In total contrast to Dr. Dietz, Luise blamed him for driving Lina to suicide by convincing her unhappy sister that Hau and no other was the murderer. Dr. Dietz stated, however, that the motive for Lina's suicide was her pain over her husband's turn to another woman and that her family's deepest secrets would be made public in the ensuing trial. She could not live through this, even if Hau had been acquitted, because a reunion between Hau and Lina was no longer possible after she discovered how her husband had deceived her, and that he had taken the 60,000 Marks from her account in Washington, had speculated with them and lost it all; after learning how he had lied and deceived her about important business deals in Germany, when in fact, it was nothing more than a cover-up for his meetings with her sister; and after she discovered, that while she was writing her husband letters telling of her deep love for him while he was in Vienna, Constantinople and Frankfurt, he was running around with prostitutes and spending her money on them. They could never live together again; they could only die together. For this reason she prepared the poison for Hau, who refused it.

Page 7: Dr. Dietz stood by his explanation under oath. For us who are not involved, it is difficult to determine which of these contradictions is the truth.

But when Luise points out to us Lina's parting words, we must think of the sentence: "The events of the last few days have driven me to my death." This cannot, however, be linked to Lina's belief in Karl's guilt. This was June 1907. Her letter to Olga from January 1907, which Luise quoted, said "If only he, God be willing, doesn't admit to guilt." Therefore, the "events of the last few days" which led to Lina's demise, can only be the unsatisfactory course of her last meeting with Hau in the Karlsruhe jail: his refusal to die with her.

This last conversation, whose lack of result brought the woman, who was worn down by the long suffering and pain, into doubt occurred June 4. On June 6, Lina Molitor Hau drowned herself.

Page 7: Lina's final statement made clear that her suicide was voluntary and that she in no way wanted blame placed on anyone else -- especially her husband. "Whoever dares to blame anyone else for my voluntary death, I will never forgive."

Among the numerous publications on the trial of Karl Hau which appeared after the completion of my work, the most important are these three: the ones by the examining magistrate, and the sisters Olga and Luise Molitor. Despite the revelations which I have tried to include here, they were not enough to make me significantly revise my original conclusion, although adding some new twists. I have attempted to remain impartial and objective and not to fall victim to the "Hau-followers and Olga-haters" or to the "Hau-haters and Olga-followers," which might have led me to other conclusions

and other goals. As objectively as it was possible for me, I have tried to say only that, which was presented to me as the truth.           Beginning of September, 1907.   P. L.

## 1. THE MURDER BY THE STONE STEPS OF BADEN.

## THE PRESUMED MURDERER.

Page 10: On November 6 of last year, a few minutes after 6pm the 61-year old widow Josefine Molitor was shot in Baden-Baden on the way to the post office from her villa after receiving a phone call from a supposed postal official wanting an explanation of a supposed fraud against Mrs. Molitor.

Immediately suspected was her son-in-law, the 26-year old American attorney and professor Karl Hau. He had been seen that afternoon in an absurdly noticeable disguise with a poorly attached fake beard for hours in the neighborhood around Mrs. Molitor's villa and the scene of the crime. Immediately after the murder was committed, Hau left Baden-Baden on the quickest route back to London, where his wife and child were waiting for him before their departure back to the United States.

The circumstantial evidence seemed strong enough to warrant Hau's immediate arrest. Two hours after setting foot on British soil he was to be extradited to Germany by requisition of the Karlsruhe public prosecutor's office as the suspect in the murder case of Mrs. Josefine Molitor, and was sent immediately upon completion of the legal formalities.

Page 11: A motive for the terrible murder was not difficult to discern. The victim was a notably wealthy, yes rich, woman. Karl Hau's father lived in decent, although not outstanding circumstances, which allowed him to give his son a good upbringing and to support him during his three years of study in America, but



not much more. The Molitor family knew that Hau supported his family mainly from Lina's portion of the family wealth and from subsidies from Lina's mother and Hau's father. As soon as he began to earn some money of his own, he led a wasteful lifestyle, gave out large sums for his almost sick love for rare gems and gave his wife extravagant gifts. It was also widely known that he had experienced financial embarrassment in his youth.

Therein lay the conclusion: Hau murdered his mother-in-law in order to obtain the inheritance as quickly as possible, the amount of which was not known exactly. With this the noose was tightened around Hau's neck.

Hau had to be the murderer; no one other than he could be. This was widely viewed as a simple truth. No name other than his was mentioned. Through newspaper articles released by the prosecuting attorney's office proclaiming Hau's guilt, the public opinion was swayed to public conviction during the eight month trial.

Page 12: But now something else interfered with the previously unheard of high degree of influencing the public of Hau's guilt: Lina Molitor Hau, the beloved, unhappy, stirring wife of the accused, searched for and found death in a Swiss lake.

Now it was as clear as day: even she, wife of her dearly beloved husband and who had previously believed in the innocence of her husband, became convinced of his guilt and couldn't bear it.

Therefore no one wondered that the tragedy of her suicide shook Hau enough to drive him to admit his guilt. The prosecuting

attorney included this in his press releases. This was, however, a lie. As often happens, the lie and the strength of its reaction made the later correction of it irrelevant and more or less forgotten.

Under this burden, when Hau finally appeared in court July 17 in Karlsruhe, the jury as well as the judge already viewed him as guilty of travelling from London with the intention of murdering his mother-in-law, which he also carried out. He was a horrible man, who not only shot his highly respected mother-in-law, but also drove his elderly father to the verge of death.

Page 13: There was not a trace of compassion to be seen in a man who would destroy his family for such a despicably low motive as money. He was not driven to such a deed by insanity, by his desire for revenge for humiliation, or to win his loved one; but rather for money -- only money. The money lured him, his greed put the deadly weapon in his hand. Over his mother-in-law's corpse he intended to climb in order to reach the money that lured him so. This Karl Hau is a person only differing from a common criminal by his origins in a respected family, his advanced intelligence and education, and his privileged social position.

## 2. KARL HAU: THE MOTIVE FOR MURDER.

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Page 14: That is the impression we have as Karl Hau raises himself on July 17 to answer the first question addressed to him (since he often chose *not* to answer many of the questions addressed to him). His behavior during the first hearing did not help to discourage the propaganda by the prosecution convincing the public of Hau's guilt, nor did it arouse sympathy for him. He resisted

imparting any information to the questions asked him which, according to our own feelings, a respectable person, incorrectly accused would answer with a resolute "Yes" or "No". The reluctance to answer is normal behavior when a third person is being protected.

All kinds of details out of this young man's life were revealed to us which make one uncomfortable: sexual excess in his younger years, childish bragging and boasting, mindless waste, and even an apparent attempt at swindling which failed but which doesn't make any sense, given Hau's intelligence. This is just one of many pieces in the unexplained puzzle of this puzzling trial.

Other than this failed attempt at swindle, nothing else was revealed about his early life which could have been viewed as bringing him into conflict with the law or jeopardizing his social position. We can forget this attempted swindle, because had he truly tried to swindle the bank in the stupid manner in which it was described, this does not at all imply that a fool attempting to cheat a bank is also capable of murder.

Page 15: Before the beginning of the trial we knew exactly what motive led to the murder of his mother-in-law: he wanted the inheritance of the rich woman. We don't know anything more.

Hau knew exactly about his wife and child's inheritance from Mrs. Molitor, but this would have only been a trifle to someone with the spending habits of Karl Hau, and therefore, played no role. With this surprising revelation a mild doubt enters, and this doubt grows in a frightful manner during the course of the

trial. The further we go into the trial, the less is the probability that Hau murdered Mrs. Molitor for money, as he was accused. We know that during his several hour stay in Baden-Baden during which Mrs. Molitor lost her life, Hau had been seen in close proximity to the scene of the crime -- a fact to which he admits. This appears very fortunate for the prosecution. The veil covering the motive for murder was never lifted during the course of the trial, however. We cannot believe that money was the motive. But if it wasn't for money, then why? Was there ever a moment in Karl Hau's life which could demonstrate a man capable of such violence? Our search proves futile.

### 3. ENGAGEMENT TO LINA MOLITOR. IN WASHINGTON.

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Page 16: Karl Hau, born February 3, 1881, was a lean young man with large brown eyes of extreme intelligence. When spoken of during his school years, it was often with terms such as "Nietzsche", "Uebermensch (oversoul)", or "genius". He exuded a friendly presence and good heart. No one ever spoke of the slightest inclination towards rawness or violence. His tendency for showing off was demonstrated at this early age, however. He also demonstrated early sensuality and he frequently associated with various women. Many of Hau's close relatives died from tuberculosis, and he had shown some of the symptoms of this deadly disease. As a young student during his first few semesters of study in Berlin, he led an active social life, which began to haunt

him. He experienced some hemorrhaging. Following the advice of the doctors, Hau's father sent him south -- to the Riviera and Corsica.

Page 17: In Ajaccio he made the acquaintance of the widow the Medical Officer of Health, Mrs. Josefina Molitor, and her two daughters: 25 year old Lina and 19 year old Olga from Baden-Baden.

The young student Karl Hau supposedly courted both daughters. A witness, the governess of the Hau family, who also played the role of confidante and was often sought out for advice by family members, was Miss Lerch. From her we learned that Karl Hau was first engaged to the younger daughter, Olga, who was his same age. "I was told that Miss Olga would have gladly married Karl," said Miss Lerch. "But that was simply gossip among the servants," accused the chairman. "Oh, no!" countered Miss Lerch. "Other people told me the same thing."

The young Don Juan turned to the older, 25 year old Lina, who was a beautiful, intelligent and good-hearted woman, who had fallen deeply in love with the six years younger Karl Hau. Hau confided to a good friend of his, Mrs. Neuerburg, that both of the Molitor sisters had fallen in love with him, but that he preferred the older sister because of her spirit. Hau lied often, however. Mrs. Molitor was reluctant to give her daughter's hand to the sickly student in his second semester. Hau, refused, convinced Lina to withdraw 2000 marks from her bank account and they ran away together. As the money ran out, they decided to commit a double suicide, as often happens in romance stories. Mrs. Molitor received the news that Lina had been shot in the chest and was in

a small hospital in Switzerland. Her lover had lost his courage at the last moment and could not kill her with a second shot and then turn the gun on himself.

Page 18: The tragic incident softened Mrs. Molitor's resolve. She now gave her approval to the marriage, which then occurred August 28, 1901. The young groom had just turned 20 years old. The couple moved across the ocean to begin their new existence.

They settled in the capital city of Washington, D.C. Karl Hau, who was fluent in English as well as in French, studied for three years with determination and success. He completed his studies with very high grades and was therefore granted an assistantship at the university with a yearly salary of 2400 marks, and was granted admission to law school.

During his three years of study Hau supported his family from the interest earned on his wife's share of her inheritance, about 2500 marks annually, and an additional 3000 marks which his father sent him once a year. With careful budgeting and a thrifty lifestyle, one could almost survive on this money. During these first three years in America the Haus did not create any noteworthy debts or experience any true financial problems. These did not begin until Karl Hau started earning his own money. He earned a relatively high income as he became a renowned lawyer in questions of international civil law.

Page 19: That was in the year 1905. Once he began earning his own money, he let his wasteful tendencies loose and his expenditures climbed astronomically. In the same year Lina, who

loved Karl deeply and trusted him implicitly, asked her mother to send the capital of her share of her inheritance (60,000 marks) to Washington instead of just the interest.

Hau led very important financial operations in the Orient, operations that, if successful, were in the millions of marks. On these trips Hau spent exorbitant amounts of money and led an extravagant lifestyle. For example, in Port Said and especially during his last longer stay in Constantinople, it was proven that he spent 100,000 marks and possibly even more. He exuded the air of a man who felt he had an important role in international trade and that a few thousand marks more or less was trivial

#### 4. RETURN TO HOME.

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On the last of these business trips overseas -- in the summer of 1906 -- Karl Hau took with him his wife, small daughter, and Miss Lerch, who was a combination between governess for the child and companion for Lina.

Page 20: The now five year old marriage was thoroughly happy. Hau and Lina were still deeply in love. At this point anyone who knew them shared this opinion. The fact that 25 year old Hau could not fully satisfy his marital duties did not deserve her full trust. He fraternized with prostitutes in Vienna and Frankfurt am Main. Despite this, he gave his wife no cause to suspect anything. Miss Lerch, who was included in every important incident in the

family, stated that Hau was never unfaithful to his wife when he was in Washington. "There were never any scenes of jealousy. The couple lived in the best of harmony."

This statement was confirmed by the Turkish General Consul in Washington, Professor Dr. Hermann Schönfeld. He explained in short but sweet terms: "Their family life was outstanding. That he was ever unfaithful to his wife is unknown to me."

"Mrs. Hau loved her husband endlessly", said the wife of Dr. Müller-Linz, the sister of Karl Hau's stepmother. Saying literally the same thing, Olga Molitor said, "My sister loved her husband endlessly."

If, after an analysis of these statements, which contain not a single contradiction, any doubt could exist, they were aired by Luise Molitor, who, like the rest of her family except Olga, did not like her brother-in-law. But even Luise had to admit, "They had a good marriage."

Page 21: Hau was a devoted father who loved his daughter dearly and "the child was crazy about him" the governess commented.

The married couple split up in Lucerne. Hau went to Bernkastel to visit his father and then continued on to Constantinople. Lina, the child, and the governess (Miss Lerch) went to Baden-Baden.

Lina had not been home or seen her family in five years. Her mother welcomed her with open arms. Her sister Olga made a strong impression on Lina. Lina wrote about her sisters Fanni and Luise, the Lieutenant Karl Schnell and her brother-in-law Lieutenant a.D.



Bachelin in her letters to Karl, but she didn't mention anything about Olga. The girl that Karl Hau had met in Ajaccio had matured both physically and psychologically. Hau would be amazed!

## 5. OLGA.

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Olga Molitor, a very lovely, clever, and friendly blonde, now moves to the foreground from her previous position in the background.

The attorneys during the trial contested this. The defense attorney, Dr. Eduard Dietz, said that Olga did not want all attention focused on her. The chairman of the federal district court, Dr. Eller, tried everything within his power to portray Olga as a young lady from a good family who unknowingly became entangled in a very precarious situation, and wanted Miss Olga Molitor to only be questioned when there was not other choice, so as to spare her the painful embarrassment.

Page 22: One can understand both attorney's points of view; nevertheless, it is unsettling to think that perhaps through this chivalrous behavior some points may have been left in the dark -- points that may have been very important in determining facts and personalities.

Mrs. Lina Hau prepared the setting for the important role Olga would play.

Unknowingly and harmlessly, she wrote to her husband, "Olga has become a very beautiful woman!" (Letter from July 2, 1906).

She called her sister "a spiritually superior creature"; she bragged about Olga's "bright friends", and the number of her admirers. Lina intentionally left out one thing in her praise, however: Olga became sick from psychological overexertion. She was a "somewhat stressed out person", "nervously overtaxed". Even the other sisters did not come out favorably in Lina's criticisms: "Olga, Luise, and Fanni all three represent a good degree of peculiarity. Very normal is none." Lina meant nothing malicious with these statements, and the sisterly critique ends with the friendly statement that they are all "good people".

Page 23: Olga wrote poems, but didn't find a publisher for them. "Olga is sometimes totally filled with triumphant euphoria, but sometimes frightened of the critique."

With time, however, Lina's attitude towards Olga took on a different, less friendly tone. She no longer talks about Olga's beauty, as she did at first. In a letter to her mother, Lina wrote, "Every word that you write to me about Olga only proves that it would be best for her if she would marry." Olga had to be gotten out of the house. Once she began running around like an unrecognized Sappho, one can no longer get along with her. "The way she treats you defies description. I can't stand to live with her any more." And finally she makes her suspicious testimony: "Olga provides us all with piquant readings. She has rotten taste."

Where did this sudden change in opinion come from? Where does this surprising bitterness in the judgment of her beautiful sister come from?

Some things can be satisfactorily explained. Lina was afraid of her attractive younger sister with strawberry blonde hair. Even the most respectable young lady couldn't be blamed for not being upset when her throng of admirers increased by one.

As the day of Karl's expected arrival neared, Lina's jealousy grew. Mrs. Molitor, who had completely forgiven her son-in-law for the abduction in Ajaccio, the suicide attempt in Switzerland, and the forced agreement to marriage, had invited her daughter and son-in-law to stay in her villa instead of the Hotel Messmer. But then Karl would be in constant proximity to Olga... That was very unsettling to Lina, a still young woman, but a woman who was nevertheless six years older than her husband -- and beautiful sister. On top of that, Lina was sick, Olga healthy, and Karl was of a very sensual nature. Enough explosives had been brought together. As long as no one played with fire...!

Page 24: From the letters Lina wrote to her husband as his expected date of arrival neared, the happy tones of joy normally expected with the pending reunion with her "endlessly loved" husband after months of separation was not to be detected. The impression given in these letters was unsettled, strained: "Come back; you will be happily received. I am a little afraid because of Olga. She is a good person, very pretty, and can be very interesting."

In such a manner a loving wife would hardly write, if she could look forward to a reunion without any reservations. Nonetheless, there was something which dampened her joy. There is no need to wait for an explanation. Lina wrote of her jealousy of Olga in her last letter to her husband before his arrival: "We are happy to hear that you are coming soon. *Olga is especially happy. She will show you the castles, but for certain known reasons, I will always be with you*"

That is the language of freely admitted jealousy. We don't know for which "known reasons" Lina was jealous -- except the universal one: the seductiveness of a beautiful and amusing young lady and the flammability of a young, easily seduced man. One can assume, in any case, that the rumor of the relationship between Olga and Hau in Ajaccio was not unfounded.

Page 25: Now it is October 18, the perhaps more feared than longed for day of reunion.

For the first time in five years the two 25 year olds, Karl Hau and Olga Molitor, stood face to face and smiled. One need not wonder that both were happy about how kind time had been to the other during their separation. Karl ripened into a man at the American university and had earned the reputation of a great and successful business man "of whom Lina could be proud:" -- or so wrote Mrs. Molitor to her sister, the widow of a high officer. Hau was clever, interesting, and a show-off to whom money in the millions would flow -- a man who had many other important people to influence than a young, impressionable girl. And Olga, a very amusing and pretty girl with her golden hair could be dangerous to someone less settled.

And Lina stood there and saw it all through her jealousy-sharpened gaze. Her 31 years weighed heavily on her when she looked at her 25 year old husband, the young man to whom she could not be a lover or a wife -- just a loving friend and caring partner. Lina saw herself as prematurely wilted and stripped of leaves in comparison to her sister in full bloom. She was in a living hell, the poor thing.

Page 26: Even if one could have made the accusation that the two behaved incorrectly and didn't think enough about the extreme sensitivity of the spiritually wounded woman, she wouldn't have needed the extra burden. In fact, this could have been seen as proof. Maybe if they felt that since they didn't do anything bad and were nothing more than good friends and relatives, that they weren't inflicting any pressure. Even if they weren't anything but friends, they appeared to be more. Not only the jealous wife, but also other people thought the way Lina did when they saw Karl and Olga together. The sister Fanni Molitor implied that "something happened" between Olga and Karl Hau. The constant witness of the internal affairs of the Hau household, the governess Miss Lerch -- who insisted that she does not gossip -- was convinced that the intimacy between Olga and Karl went too far -- way too far. The chairman reproached Miss Lerch because in earlier testimony she had said that Hau was never unfaithful in his marriage to Lina. Without even a momentary pause, she answered with the noteworthy

statement: "I was asked if I knew if he ran around with other women. I said, 'No'. About *relationships within the family*, I wasn't asked."

She made a sharp differentiation: As far as she knew, Hau did not run around with other women. What she thinks of his relationship to Olga Molitor -- about that she refrained from making any comments. She was not asked about "relationships within the family."

Page 27: To a very high degree, then, the companionship between Olga and Karl appeared very suspicious and unsettling to the jealous woman, Lina Hau. She told her aunt, the wife of Dr. Müller-Linz of her suffering: "Olga is in love with my husband." And when she responded, "That cannot be! Have you spoken with your mother?" Lina answered: "It is true. I even told Mother." She added that she had even spoken to Olga and reproached her severely for the affair she was having with her husband. Lina was so deeply depressed during this story, that her aunt broke off talking about it any more in order not to put Lina through any more misery.

One had to feel sorry for Lina, but then one has to wonder how much validity to give the statements of her witnesses who gave the impression that they were against Olga out of sympathy for Lina. Their statements contradict those of Olga and Hau, who said that a forbidden relationship "absolutely did not" occur between the two. Even if not punishable, their harmless relationship had such an effect on a third person, that it allowed misinterpretations and made poor Lina very unhappy.

If it had been up to her, she would have taken her husband and child and left right away for London on their way back to the United States as soon as possible -- back to where she felt comfortable and where her marriage had been happy. Between their house in Washington and the Molitor villa was an entire ocean.

Page 28: She still had to go through a difficult test period. Lina and Karl had promised Olga to show her Paris since she had never been there.

Olga was not the type to let her relatives out of such a tempting promise -- to see beautiful Paris under such pleasant circumstances. Whether Lina regretted it, that she was the one who had earlier planted the seed for this?

The three left Baden-Baden October 25.

## 6. IN PARIS. LINA'S JEALOUSY.

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If Baden-Baden was torture for the poor woman, Paris was pure hell. She didn't have a single happy moment there.

Always unsettled and mistrusting, every glance at the two was full of fear. When the others had fun, her thoughts were painful -- that her husband preferred the younger, prettier sister. This was a symptom of her pain, if not her betrayal. Lina experienced endless, joyless, painful hours during the few days in Paris.

Page 29: The trio arrived in Paris October 26. By October 28 the married couple had a furious argument, which can be viewed as the beginning of the catastrophe. They were so worked up and spoke

so loudly, that the housekeeping help in Hotel Regina remembered it as unusually bad. Hau broke his silence and finally admitted that Olga was the subject of this "dispute". He admitted that Lina was concerned and began the problems. "She constructed the situation incorrectly and mistook correct relationships as bad ones." Hau protested with much energy against Lina's claim that an affair occurred between him and Olga, and denied all of her accusations. He could not calm his wife, however, and convince her of the harmlessness of the relationship between Hau and Olga. "The dispute ended when my wife quit making accusations." Thus, no understanding, no forgiveness. No peace treaty, not even a ceasefire. The war was temporarily stopped.

How easy to imagine the wildly angry woman saying: "If only Olga was gone! If only she could be gone!" (Testimony of Miss Berch: "Mrs. Hau told her husband, if only something could happen, that Olga would be called back to Baden-Baden.")

This wish gave Hau an idea in order to keep the peace: "The isolation of us three must end..." and "I was so worked up, that I tried to think of a way to get Olga out of Paris."

Hau knew better than to try speaking to the fun-loving Olga directly. She didn't seem to realize the torture she was inflicting upon her sister. She thought it was humorous and took it for a childish game when Lina demanded she should dress in old clothes and make herself ugly in order not to be attractive to "Mr. Hau", as Lina referred to him to Olga. She would have found it just as ridiculous -- not understood at all if someone had



suggested that she sacrifice any of her fun-filled days in Paris for her sister.

Page 30: With Olga, there was no way... the mother!

Yes, the mother had to come get her. "As soon as their mother arrived, the arguments were much milder." And Mrs. Molitor was to leave with Olga "as soon as possible" because "our marital peace was disturbed by her presence."

Thus, the often mentioned telegram was sent. Lina knew nothing of the telegram, although she had unknowingly caused it. "Wait for you on next train. Olga very sick. Lina Molitor."

The noteworthy signature, a name that Lina hadn't used in five years, shows the overtaxed condition the sender Hau was in. He must have tried to avoid anything that would have stood out as unusual to Mrs. Molitor. Thus, he could not have been in his right mind as he wrote this name down.

On October 29 -- the day after the "dispute" -- the telegram was sent. Unbelievably, Mrs. Molitor didn't notice the strange signature and left immediately. She arrived October 30 in Paris on the Orient Express. No one met her at the train station. In the hotel, she discovered that the telegram was a fake. Her joy that Olga wasn't sick was mixed with her anger over the frivolous mystification that had worried a good mother and caused a very uncomfortable trip under these conditions for an old woman.

Page 31: The eye of a mother quickly noticed that things among the three were not as they should be among three young people living it up in Paris. We don't know if Lina poured her heart out

to her mother, but we do know that she told her that she was unhappy -- because of Olga. Mrs. Molitor spoke to Olga about this: "She told my mother in Paris that she couldn't help it, but she was jealous of me."

Until this admission, which could hardly have surprised her, Olga, the happy child, appeared to be clueless of the ever more impatient Lina's jealousy. With eyes full of tears of love for her sister, she seems now to realize for the first time how things were, and she tells us, "On one of the last evenings in Paris, I stood at the window of my room, and Lina at the window of hers, across from me. I saw how Lina looked at me with an *indescribable sad expression*. It is possible that my sister was unhappy the entire time in Paris."

This didn't appear to make that much of an impression on Olga at the time. She was "very angry" that she had to leave Paris earlier than planned.

Mrs. Molitor and Olga left Paris for Baden-Baden the next day. Soon there after, November 1, Lina and Karl Hau left Paris for London, where Hau, before the return to America, still had business to take care of, he claimed.

#### 7. THE BROTHER-IN-LAW AND THE SISTER-IN-LAW.

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Page 32; Certain things are missing in order for the larger picture to make sense: for example, *Olga's goodbye to Hau* in the Hotel Regina. It was so uncomfortable! Mrs. Molitor barely got

unpacked and could not leave Paris quickly enough. Lina supported her mother in this, and Hau, the unknown instigator of this hastened departure, let things run their course. A more intimate farewell between Olga and Hau was not possible under the jealous eyes of Lina or under the watchful gaze of the mother. There was no chance to clear up any misunderstandings or to agree on a future meeting. And what if something had started between the two?

The psychologists' theories leave the door wide open.

Maybe Karl Hau planned on executing a plan to leave his wife and child and to repeat with the younger sister what he had done with the older one years before... Maybe, in his conceit, he concluded from Olga's behavior, that she wouldn't refuse an offer to run away with him.

This hypothesis could be supported by the governess' statement, that Hau tried to get his wife to go home ahead of him, and to take their child and the governess. This suggestion was refused by Lina because she would not cross the ocean without a man along for protection.

Page 33: That is one possibility. There are many others.

The Hau marriage was very happy. We know this from the person that had the deepest view into family affairs and was Lina's confidante -- the governess. Hau's boss, the General Consul Dr. Schönfeld certifies this, as well. We feel it in every word in Lina's letters. ("Write please, dear sweet man, to your love-craved wife, whom you so terribly spoil and who is so terribly happy by your side, and not at all happy away from you...") Totally happy -

- until Olga enters the picture. Then everything changes. All peace and comfortableness is gone. Constant arguments, tears... The unhappy woman tortures her man... He can't handle it.

And should the quiet happiness that lasted for five years be sacrificed for an affair that may be very fleeting?

Can Hau not have had such thoughts? Can he not have meant it seriously when he got rid of Olga by deceit and force "in order to preserve marital peace" as he guarantees us -- in order to avoid temptation? Can he not have told himself -- "Out of sight, out of mind"? Can the doubt of his wife not have bothered his conscience, and can he not have viewed himself as a repenting sinner leaving the erotic Olga and coming back to his wife, who "loves him endlessly"?

Page 34: Even if he did have such good intentions -- the situation was not that easily rectified. Olga Molitor was not the kind of person who stood idly by as you went on.

From these words that came from her mouth, we can clearly see that her feelings for him are not strictly platonic. Despite the fact that her entire family viewed the American as an adventure-seeker, swindler, and a fraud -- finally even as a murderer! -- despite all of that, she liked him. When all others damned him, she declared loudly that she did not have the slightest suspicion that he was the murderer. Imagine the arguments and the accusations that must have flown her way! Solidly and unshakingly, she stood by her view: Hau is not the murderer that they say.

Can one not assume that her support of Hau is much stronger than normal?

Love does not measure the object by its worth. This would not be the first time that an innocent girl was totally confused by an impure man; yes, even fell in love with a scoundrel. Such a situation would arouse sympathy, but not disregard, disdain. It is misfortune, not loss of respect.

After experiencing the worst suspicions about herself, she waited until after it would no longer arouse curses from the people before she spoke to a journalist for the "New Free Press", and this hypothesis lost all probability.

Page 35: In the meantime, without taking away from the believability of the young woman, one can now see that Olga had deceived herself in her relationship to Hau, which was not clear under the previous, confusing circumstances.

Olga suffered the most, next to the accused himself, during the Karlsruhe trial. She experienced a true martyr's torture during these five horrible days. The questions she was asked would make any decent girl blush for shame. She was asked about things that a young girl would barely whisper in her best friend's ear, but she had to answer loudly and publicly and not hide anything, as God was her witness. She had to get police protection to keep the cruelest curses and threatened violence away. She was not even spared of accusation for the worst crime of all -- the murder of her mother.

She had only one person to thank for all of this misery -- the man that she so bravely and loyally supported -- Karl Hau.

It is no wonder that Olga's faith in Hau became shaky by the end, however, when one realizes that she was in the constant company of Hau's most adamant opponent in the Molitor family -- First Lieutenant Bachelin.

Page 36: One can be certain that Olga was influenced by the family's opinion; and what she now says about Hau, for whom she experienced such terrible things, can, in my opinion, not be viewed with any less weight than what she thought and said about him earlier.

Let's look at her first statement, July 17. Question: "Do you have any suspicion of your brother-in-law, Karl Hau?"

Olga: "No! Absolutely not!"

Chairman: "You have no suspicion whatsoever that the accused committed the crime?"

Olga: "I do not suspect him at all."

Defense lawyer: "You stated earlier, that you are totally convinced that the murderer could not be the man who was following you (meaning Hau), but rather a third person."

Olga: "That is still my opinion today."

It is unfortunate that Olga did not take any of the many chances during the trial to protest the innuendo of an affair -- that she didn't do it with the same decisiveness as she did later to the journalist from the "New Free Press": "Mr. Hau" was very distant from her, more distant than is common for relatives of this

degree. Despite their relationship in Ajaccio? Despite the publicly often repeated accusation that she was "after her brother-in-law", and that she had an affair with him, etc.? Despite her acceptance of the invitation to go with them to Paris and the occurrences in Hotel Regina?

Page 37: To all of that, Olga remained silent. With certainty, she believed what she now said, but she can't wonder, when others believe what she said earlier under testimony, and conclude that what she says now after her stay in Celerina is totally incorrect.

But even if it is true, that "Mr. Hau" remained an indifferent stranger -- what we can't do with the best of attempts -- even then her brother-in-law, who had many affairs during his student life, could be convinced that this pretty young lady with golden blonde hair looked too deeply into his dark eyes. Already that would explain his behavior.

#### 8. HAU TRAVELS FROM LONDON TO FRANKFURT.

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It is easily proven that Hau felt the need for a real goodbye, as opposed to the cool, voiceless parting in Paris before he left with his wife and child for distant Washington, DC. He absolutely had to speak to Olga privately before he left.

Page 38: There are several logical reasons for such a meeting.

It's possible that he felt disquieted and believed he had to cool their emotions, that he wanted to make it clear to Olga that she could not disturb the marriage any more and that it was her duty to give her poor sister her peace back.

It is also possible to believe that Hau had less honorable intentions, that he was smitten with the charms of the beautiful young woman and planned an act of force and wanted to kidnap the girl or at least discuss the plans of running away together.

Both of these theories are possible, but it is difficult to believe Hau's explanation during the trial for his secret trip: "I wanted to see my sister-in-law Olga one more time before leaving for America; I felt an urgent need to sort things out with Olga in order to be able to live with my wife in peace." These words were accepted as incomplete and unbelievable.

Page 38: That these well thought out words were so received is easily explained in that these people were convinced and the entire trial was conducted from the viewpoint that Hau had to be the murderer of Mrs. Molitor. This also made it very easy to portray Hau as a culturally deprived, wasteful, pleasure-seeking, and at times unscrupulous man. Thus, there were only two people at the scene of the crime: the murderer and his victim, Hau and Mrs. Molitor. Olga was at the scene merely as a witness. Possibly even, but with only slight possibility, as the person for whom Hau's bullet was intended, and she avoided her destiny by sheer luck. Every one believed that everything Hau did was because of



his attraction to Olga and that only she was the incentive to commit such a heinous crime.

As Hau tried to explain, only one thing was waited for by the listeners in the court room: in what relationship did this man stand to the murder of Mrs. Molitor?

He answered: "In none! I didn't shoot, I wasn't at the scene of the crime, and therefore, I didn't see my mother-in-law sink to ground, I didn't even hear the shot. Yes, I did come here from London, disguised myself, and I admit that circumstances speak against me. But I did, in fact, come to speak to Olga, and as that was ruled out and disgrace faced me, I gave up and went back to where I came from as soon as possible."

Page 40: This was surprising in its unsatisfying simplicity and was so disappointing for those who expected the veil to be lifted in this secretive murder case. They did not want to believe this solution to this huge puzzle which was no solution at all. This wasn't the hoped for explanation, but rather had the effect of clouding things more.

Hau shot Mrs. Molitor -- who else could it have been? He should tell us, therefore, why, with what intentions and thoughts, but he didn't tell us anything! Doesn't he have anything to say about it? He told us himself that he was in that area that evening. As motive for his secret stay, his suspicious behavior, and for his quick departure, all he told us was: Olga!

This would have been much more of a revelation if the entire trial hadn't focused on the relationship between him and his sister-in-law already.

Page 41: Everyone knew that their reunion after five years of separation aroused Lina's jealousy and that their stay in Paris had caused serious conflict in Hau's marriage. They left Paris without being able to say goodbye, because in the presence of the mother and the sister, all they said was, "Have a good trip!" and "Farewell!" A sharply watched kiss on the cheek was not a goodbye for Hau, who perhaps had much more to say to Olga.

Possibilities of what went through Hau's head after he was alone with his wife and child could have been, if he loved Olga -- "How can I win her over?" If he was afraid of her -- "How do I appease her?" He had to know for sure. Only Olga could provide that for him. He had to talk to her.

It is hard to believe that a man, for whom a trip from Karlsruhe to Heidelberg was a long trip, would travel from London to Baden-Baden with the sole purpose of telling a young lady, "Live well!" or "Come with me!" For Hau, however, who is used to American distances and for whom a trip from Washington, DC across the ocean to Constantinople is nothing, for him a trip from London to Baden-Baden is child's play.

After taking this into consideration, it is irrelevant if he made the trip to end things or to begin anew. That he had a stormy desire to see Olga one more time was enough incentive for him to make such a journey.

Page 42: If Hau is a criminal, he is not a very clever one. As example is the telegram from Paris. Another example is a telegram he sent shortly after his arrival in London: "Come without delay to Berlin. Discretion important. Haste requested. Thies."

His stay in London had to be very short. He could have arrived no earlier than the evening of November 1. On November 3, he is in Frankfurt am Main.

#### 9. THE DAYS IN FRANKFURT.

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It's not hard to imagine the panic Hau must have been in these last few days before the fateful November 6. One need only look at his actions during this time.

The constant companionship with his sister-in-law in Baden-Baden, the trip to Paris which had to be very stressful and tiring, entertaining young women. Lina's jealousy and the stormy scenes in the hotel which were not totally his fault -- all of this together -- even if subconscious -- led to him want to get rid of the cause of all of his problems. The fake telegram to the mother and the ensuing comedy. Separation from Olga without a goodbye. Trip to London. Another faked telegram. Trip to Frankfurt with the sure intention of a heated argument with Olga... Even if he had nerves of steel, it would not be surprising if he had a breakdown.

Page 43: And what lay behind him could be seen as trivial compared to what lay ahead of him -- the meeting with Olga, the sole purpose of his trip.

This new stress on his nerves was too much. He let three days slip by before he undertook decisive steps. Those were three long days!

An alcoholic probably would have reached for the bottle in order to summon up courage. Hau's vice was women, therefore, he turned to prostitutes to keep his mind from being preoccupied.

"Where can one find attractive women here?" was his first question to the hotel porter.

He would have found them even if the porter hadn't given him an address. One of these women took tea with him. One night he didn't come back to the hotel at all.

When necessary, he also spent time with respectable people. Relatives, whom he hadn't seen for years, he now looked up. He lied through his teeth to them. Totally without purpose. His actions during these days were somewhat pathologic.

Page 44: Only to be together with people, he traveled with a step-aunt to a distant step-cousin in Linz am Rhine and then back to Frankfurt. Mrs. Stahl, the aunt, described him as "fearfully worked up", "highly nervous", and "physically and mentally ill". "A true picture of misery" his cousin, Mrs. Neuerburg, described him.

He made extraordinary comments. "I am so tired, so exhausted," he complained over and over again. "I am at my end!" he yelled out, full of doubts. To Mrs. Neuerburg he made the puzzling comment, "Don't wonder if you hear one day *I have been shot.*"

These words of Hau's on the evening before his difficult trip to Baden-Baden are too noteworthy to be ignored.

He calculated in the possibility of being shot...

Shot by whom?

No one knows of any enemy of his that would want to kill him. He only wanted to see Olga, to end things...

So among all of the other things that exhausted him both mentally and physically, he also feared for his life.

Page 45: And Hau is not one of those people who wants to die, who looks at death quietly and calmly. We knew as well as him that Lina wanted to commit suicide with him and as she lay with wounds

bleeding before him, that the courage failed him to turn the gun on himself. We also know that he refused the poison that Lina gave him to end a joyless existence, an existence that is destroyed by the international scandal. He would rather live in ugliness than die in beauty.

No one doubted his repeated explanation during the trial: "My actions at that time weren't normal."

As November 6 dawned... "Today has to be the day..."

He went to a hairdresser and had a fake beard glued on. He wanted to surprise all of his acquaintances in Baden-Baden and didn't want to be recognized immediately.

If things hadn't turned so tragic, people would have laughed about the beard later.

Despite his claims that the beard was professionally done, it must have been done very poorly. And that he dared to be on the street during the brightest hours of sunshine during the short day, speaks for his claim that he wasn't normal at that time.

In this poor masquerade, he left with the noon train in the direction of Karlsruhe.

He needed only to look at himself in the mirror to see the ridiculousness of his disguise. He reminded people of a character in a thriller novel, and had just the right costume on for the occasion "-- Now it can happen. To the murder! To the well thought out, long planned murder, " pleaded the prosecutor.

Page 46: We don't even need to think about the murder. Such an absurd costume would never have entered the mind of a man who

had his senses about him, especially for a man with a reputation for unusual intelligence.

On this day, however, he didn't have his senses about him. Once again, we return to the same conclusion: he wasn't normal!

#### 10. NOVEMBER 6 IN BADEN-BADEN.

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He arrived early afternoon in Baden-Baden. He left his luggage in the train station.

Why is everybody staring at him? The other passengers in the train, and now the baggage handlers... The patrolman on the corner notices him and follows him with his eyes and shakes his head. What a curious sight. All in black, with a black coat and a poorly made fake black beard... The people on the street either stopped and stared or fearfully got out of the way. "A criminal!" says a shy cleaning girl; "a man about to commit suicide" says one sales clerk; "pale and all in black... the 'Flying Dutchman!'" jokes one educated woman; "strange, with his collar up" says an aristocratic woman; "insane!" judge the sane; "the murderer!" cries the chorus after the shot was fired.

Page 47: Hau felt that he was being watched and he tried to avoid their gaze. But that didn't stop him from being seen by dozens of people walking, workers, etc. during that afternoon between 2:30pm and 6pm, and always in the same area. Every person who crossed his path noticed him: the pale man with a fake black beard and a black coat -- "disturbed, unusual, a look of insanity

in his eyes" is how he was described by almost everyone. Soon he removed himself to walking under the trees, then he sat down on a bench without regard for the bad weather on this gray day -- and waited and waited. So much was he bothered by the looks of the passers-by, that he distanced himself ever more before turning around. He always kept the Molitor villa in his sight.

From his stays in the villa he knew that Olga regularly went out in the afternoon. She could not escape his watchful eye. He would follow her, talk to her, and if she was scared by his appearance, he would say something immediately to quiet her. And when Olga heard that he came from London because of her, in order to see her, to tell her something important, she would not run away. Then the rest would follow.

But she never showed up. He waited for nothing, waited long hours in which his disquiet steadily grew... He had been circling the villa now for three hours. She still never showed. The door never opened.

Was Olga perhaps sick and had to remain in her room?

Page 18: The short winter day was almost over. The sun was setting. There was not more time to waste.

Should he go knock on the door of the villa and ask to come in? Even if he should get past the maid, to whom he would reveal his identity -- he didn't want the mother to know of his presence, then this disguise was because of her, because in her presence, in her house, he could not hide and have a private discussion with Olga.



He had to get the mother out of the house.

He went to the post office and phoned the Molitor villa. The maid answered: no, an important postal official needed to talk to Mrs. Molitor personally about an urgent matter. Mrs. Molitor took the phone: She must go to the post office immediately. "I have a cold and don't want to go out." "...OK, if it's that important, I'll be right there."

The phone call lasted from 5:45pm - 5:47pm. It was already dark when Mrs. Molitor left the villa.

Hau hurried back to his observation point. He had calculated that while his mother-in-law went to the post office to talk to the postal inspector and then walked back to the villa that he would have enough time to find Olga in her room and to discuss the most important things -- and maybe set up another time when they could discuss things at length -- maybe that evening or on one of the next few days... He didn't need the disguise with her.

Page\_49: He was sadly disappointed, however. Mrs. Molitor left for the post office -- but in the company of Olga! The women headed toward the post office.

Everything was for nought! The rendezvous was impossible.

He also had to tell himself that when they spoke to the postal director, they would discover immediately that his name had been misused. They would investigate who it was, and it wouldn't take long to figure out that it was Hau.

Even if he had the physical means, after today's failed attempt, he couldn't try again.

He failed.

As soon as he realized this, he gave up and returned to the train station. With luck, he found a carriage on the Lichtenthaler Boulevard. He gave the driver an unusually large tip. The fee was 70 cents. Hau gave him two marks. The driver did not forget that!

The charade was over. Hau tore his beard off. He retrieved his luggage. The baggage handlers noticed that a beardless man now picked up the luggage. He left with the 6:15 pm train to Karlsruhe -- barely a quarter of an hour after the murder of Mrs. Molitor.

Page 50: Hau doesn't know what happened during this fateful 15 minutes. He said he didn't hear the shot and had no idea that his mother-in-law had been shot.

A witness, Mrs. Eisele, made herself known, who supports these claims by Hau, a witness whose believability was never questioned, or at least not successfully, as far as I know.

Mrs. Eisele stated, with remarkable detail, how she had seen the very noticeable, large, pale Hau calling for a carriage shortly after 6pm, and saw him get in and leave in the direction of the train station before she heard the shot. As she later learned of the murder of Mrs. Molitor, she said immediately that she had heard the fatal shot, but she never thought for a moment that the pale man that had taken the carriage on the Lichtenthaler Boulevard was in any way connected with the murder.

Hau took the first train that he could to Karlsruhe and then London in order to get home as soon as possible.

Page 50: Inexplicable, as is so much else! He had a jump ahead. If he had felt guilty, he would at least have tried to go somewhere else, far away and disappeared -- in some forgotten corner in some large city -- God only knows where! He had enough money that he could have hidden for a long time -- about 8000 marks. But he didn't think of that. He went home.

And an alibi? That was impossible. The days right before he was with his relatives in Frankfurt and until noon on the fateful day, spoke with the hotel workers, went to the hairdresser, etc. And as he knows, he was widely noticed in Baden-Baden because of his appearance and that he was close to the scene of the crime shortly before the murder, and he was seen by various people.

Although an alibi wasn't possible, his return to his family is very puzzling. Someone who had just committed a murder would not run home to his family, where he would immediately be searched for and would thus run into the arms of the police. This is an inexplicable puzzle.

He went home, and what happened is what he should have expected if he was the sought for murderer: he was arrested and extradited. If he had expected this and wanted to be caught, it would have been much more comfortable if he had stayed in Baden-Baden. He accepted everything very calmly -- his wife's suicide, his father's stroke, the torture of an eight month detention in jail awaiting trial without complaint, and through it all, he remained by his original statement - "I don't know anything about this, but circumstances are against me. What I wanted in Baden-

Baden and what I did, I won't say. You can't prove I committed a murder, because I didn't." And from this standpoint he did not stray -- even during the trial, until the fourth day when a witness gave the reason: Olga was the only motive for his behavior.

Page 52: More than that he would not say, perhaps he couldn't say anymore. He could well have believed that he didn't need to say more. He subscribed to the philosophy: "Nothing can happen to me."

He was sentenced to death. He accepted his sentence with the same coolness as everything else.

#### 11. NOVEMBER 6 BETWEEN 5:45PM AND 6:15PM. THE MURDER OF JOSEFINE MOLITOR.

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For the sake of exactness we need to examine the half hour between 5:45pm and 6:15pm, taking into consideration only officially proven details, not time according to witnesses, who are sure, yet make mistakes.

Page 53: At 5:45pm Mrs. Molitor received a phone call. The conversation lasted two minutes until 5:47pm. At 6:15pm Hau left Baden-Baden with the punctual train to Karlsruhe. The time cannot be questioned.

According to the maid, Olga Molitor left her mother's villa shortly after 2pm and arrived at the neighboring villa Engelhorn for tea. The conjecturing criminologists would have grasped at

these two hours if Olga weren't such a fine, upstanding young lady, as many witnesses testified.

Nonetheless, what did Olga do during these two hours? Couldn't she have met with Hau? And what all could have happened in two hours! Olga and Hau could have planned a murder in a short amount of time. Hau could have convinced Olga, "We have to flee. Your mother is standing in our way; thus, she has to be murdered. Then we'll get your inheritance, I'll receive money as well, and we can live well! So go ahead and go to tea at Engelhorn's and don't worry! I'll hang around the area and because of my clothes and my behavior I'll make myself very noticeable so that everyone who passes will have to notice me. When it gets dark, somehow I'll get your mother out of the house and trick her into going to the post office. (Page 54) The fearful, older woman will stop by Engelhorn's villa and pick you up so that you'll go with her. As soon as I see you both on the way to the post office, I'll run to the train station so that I can still catch the 6:15pm train to Karlsruhe. Here is the gun. As soon as the two of you get to where there aren't many people around, it's dark, and you're sure no one can see, bend over as if you were going to pick something up off the ground, and fire. The bullet will go through her back and from the bottom through the top of her heart and kill her immediately. Now, of course, you have to play the role of the surprised, confused daughter and, horrified, cry for help. Everyone will believe you that in the excitement you didn't get a good look at the murderer. It was dark, after all. But you heard

foot steps, then the shot and saw someone fleeing the scene. No one will suspect you in the least. A young lady, who was picked up from a nice tea circle and five minutes later kills her mother in cold blood, with whom she had lived well together, and without having had a fight on the street -- no one would believe that such a creature exists. Suspicion will fall on me. I was seen by everybody in the area. I'll explain that I was in the neighborhood only to see you. That will explain my presence well enough. I'll prove that there is no way I could have committed the murder. In any case, no lawyer will be able to prove that I did, because I couldn't have because by the time the shot was fired, I was already on my way to the train station. I'll probably have to spend a little time in jail before the trial, but then I'll be acquitted. We'll have the money and the sky will be ours!"

Page 55: This story was spread around and some people actually believed it!

There is a much simpler explanation for what Olga did for the time between 2-4pm than this ridiculous robbery and murder story.

Above all, we don't know for certain that Olga left at 2pm and didn't arrive until 4pm in the neighboring villa. Later on, after the maid thought about it, she thought Olga didn't leave until 3:30pm. This correction is actually irrelevant. We needn't worry about what Olga did before she arrived for tea. How should we know? No one asked about it.

In any case, Hau didn't see Olga leave the villa and didn't know she was next door for tea.

"At a quarter to 6," said Olga, the maid called her out of the tea room. She met her mother in the hall, who told her that she had been called to the post office about the faked Paris telegram. Olga immediately volunteered to go with her nervous mother.

This time can't be correct -- it must have been a little later. The telephone conversation that caused Mrs. Molitor to leave her villa didn't end until shortly after a quarter to six -- at 5:47pm (official determination). Mrs. Molitor first had to get dressed to go outside and then walk to the neighboring villa where she picked her daughter up. It had to have been at least 10 minutes after the phone call before both women left Engelhorn's villa.

Page 56: The details of the murder are so unclear, but not much more light was shed during the trial. We can only ask: whether and in what aspect Karl Hau could have participated in the murder of Mrs. Molitor.

As the accused, Hau was not forced to tell the truth. Therefore, his statements can only be considered when their content is covered by the witnesses.

When the main witness, Olga, by whose side her mother was murdered, made an obvious mistake with the time and who had as much as nothing to say about the details of the murder, this was explained as being due to the trauma this terrible deed caused her.

The most important witness was Baroness von Reitzenstein who saw Hau before the murder and was the last person to see him at the scene of the crime, and who saw Olga and Mrs. Molitor about six

minutes later -- three minutes before the murder. In my opinion, the testimony of this witness was the most important. Because the newspaper reports differed so greatly, I decided to go to the source to find out what the real testimony was. The wife of the Baron of Reitzenstein was so kind and wrote me two long letters about her meetings with Karl Hau and with Mrs. Josefine Molitor and Olga on November 6 between 5:50 and 6pm. She did this in order to provide complete and correct information.

Page 57: In order to make things easier to understand, I have included a map at the end of this article.

From 5:45-5:47pm Hau was at the post office, which is in the middle of the city, and spoke with Mrs. Molitor on the phone. With his long legs, walking quickly he could make it to the villa of Baron von Nagel in 7 or 8 minutes.

At 5:50pm Baroness von Reitzenstein left her villa on the Kaiser Wilhelm Street and went up the street to the mail box, which is on the corner of the Kronprinzen Street. She encountered a noteworthy man at about the middle of the Nagel villa, a man "with his collar up and his hat pulled down over his face," wrote the Baroness von Reitzenstein. "I immediately thought: he doesn't want to be recognized -- noticeably pale, as I could easily tell. He went up the street, taking large steps." It is Hau who was coming back from the post office. He hurried by -- in the direction of the Molitor's villa, in order to see Mrs. Molitor leaving.

These facts fit together exactly.



Mrs. Molitor (called at 5:47pm) immediately got ready to go out and picked up Olga from the Engelhorn villa, which is on the corner of the Bismarck Street, close to the Kaiser Wilhelm Street.

Page 58: Before the women left Engelhorn's villa, about 10 minutes must have gone by since the phone call. At this time, about 5:57pm, Hau saw them leaving the villa. At the fork of the Stadelhofer and Bismarck Streets with the Kaiser Wilhelm Street, the Molitors stopped for a moment and discuss which way they should take to the post office. Even they see Hau, who is much further ahead of them than the Baroness von Reitzenstein. He stopped under the shadows of the trees and wasn't recognized. The women only see a "masculine figure", who frightened the nervous Mrs. Molitor. They head down the Kaiser Wilhelm Street for the post office.

Hau had now seen enough. There was no way he could talk to Olga. His plan was ruined. He leaves in the opposite direction. ("I ran down the mountain.") The women hear footsteps, but going in the opposite direction and then nothing more. (Statement of Olga Molitor.)

In the meantime, Baroness von Reitzenstein had stuck her letter in the mail box and headed back.

Now the women hear footsteps behind them again.

Now Baroness von Reitzenstein is in front of her villa. "I was still on the street. I encountered the women under the lanterns where our garden wall begins. Both looked at me. Right behind them was an older man in brown with a gray-streaked beard who I only glanced at from the side, and who didn't look suspicious

at all (as opposed to Hau). I thought it was an inhabitant from further down the street... During the trial, the accused had to come before me, and I said, fully convinced, that the brown man who was following the women was smaller, stockier... As I closed our front door, the clock was striking 6pm.

Page 59: Even here, these times are correct to the minute.

Thus, Hau was hurrying from Engelhorn's villa across Bismarck Street. At the Alleehaus on the corner of the Fremberg Street and Lichtenthaler Boulevard, Hau found a carriage and left. (6:03pm) (Witnesses: Mrs. Eisele and the driver of the carriage, Braun)

The Molitor women continued down the Kaiser Wilhelm Street, followed by the man with gray streaks in his beard, who, when Baroness von Reitzenstein saw him, "wasn't walking very fast," "I thought the man wanted to pass us," said Olga.

Now they feel him -- "right behind us."

They had just passed the Lindenstaffeln, now they were "at the darkest point," a shot rang out from behind, from very close and went through Mrs. Molitor's heart. She made a half-turn and sank dead to the ground at the side of her daughter who was accompanying her (6:03pm).

Mrs. Eisele heard the shot from the Alleehaus right after she saw the carriage head down Lichtenthaler Boulevard for the train station. "Someone shot a rabbit," she told the child that was with her, when asked.

The train station is outside the city. The distance from the Alleehaus to the train station is about 1400 meters. The carriage was well-driven. Hau gave him a princely tip. (The fare was 70c, Hau paid him two marks. Witness -- the driver Braun). Hau had just enough time to get his baggage and leave with the 6:15pm train to Karlsruhe.

Page 60: If the Baroness von Reitzenstein had not met Hau leaving the city on her way to the mailbox and then the Molitor women on her way back, we would not have even considered the man with the gray-streaked beard; if the masculine figure in the shadow of the trees who then went in the opposite direction was Hau; if Mrs. Eisele hadn't first seen Hau get in the carriage and then heard the shot; if the carriage driver who was richly rewarded for his speed really got Hau there in time for the 6:15pm train -- then it is physically impossible that Hau could have been at the scene of the crime at the time at which it was committed.

We must keep these details in mind. For this reason, we weren't reluctant to repeat what we already knew in order to bring together the various statements in a manner coordinating time and place.

## 12. THE WOUND FROM THE SHOT. SUSPECTED OF MURDER, HAU IS ARRESTED IN LONDON UPON HIS RETURN.

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It was very foggy, gray and cold. The lanterns were already

lit, but because of the heavy fog they did not shine past the trees.

The victim's body lay on the ground.

Olga kneeled next to her. She cried out for help. She tried to get her mother to sit up, but with no success. In her confusion and her anger, she didn't see much of the murderer, and not his face at all. It seemed to her "like she was looking at fire." Something moved to leave. "A coat that blew back and forth, like someone was running." Nothing clear, everything was blurry in the fog. (Page 61) She was more concerned about her mother. This was so terrible, she couldn't believe it was true. She bent over her mother and looked for signs of life, but it was already too late. She can't tear her eyes away from her mother. The murderer, whom she had seen only fleetingly, was long gone.

Even though her gaze was concentrated on her mother and she only got a glimpse of the murderer, she said both in the preliminary hearing and again during the trial: the "masculine figure" that had made her mother nervous, was not the one she saw leaving the scene. The murderer was someone else. If it was Hau, she would have surely recognized him.

Not at the moment the murder was committed or even later, did it occur to her -- the sole witness -- that Karl Hau could be the murderer.

The shot rang through the quiet city, a city that is normally very full of life. The shot was heard from far away -- all the way to the Alleehaus.

People came from all sides -- people who heard the shot and then Olga's cries for help.

The body was carried to a neighboring villa. Dr. Neumann was called immediately, who now had the painful task of certifying his friend's death. A completely healthy woman who could have lived for many more years, said the doctor. The bullet went into her back and through the center of her heart, causing immediate death.

Page 62: Considering the path the bullet took, the doctor declared that the murderer was either short or was on his knees and was very close. Another specialist said that the shot could not have been fired from more than 10 centimeters away.

But none of that was viewed as very important as soon as it was discovered that Hau had been in the area in a disguise and had spent many hours that afternoon in the area of the crime. No more proof was necessary, no more clues searched for: the murderer had already been found.

The entire Molitor family was against Hau and believed he was guilty. As proof, we need only look at his wife Lina's letters to her sister Luise. Only the murdered Mrs. Molitor got along with Hau and believed in his success potential after she saw how happy he made her daughter. All of her children except Olga and Lina -- who loved him endlessly -- disliked Hau and pointed at him as the murderer. We need only look at their statements before the court.

Page 63: Luise: "Suspicion fell upon Hau immediately."  
First Lieutenant Karl Molitor: "The suspicion was there immediately." Fanni: "I haven't trusted the accused for a long

time. He was also the only person capable of shooting my mother." The strongest language was used by Lieutenant Colonel a.D. Bachelin from Freiburg, the husband of Elisabeth Molitor: "As I heard," said the brother-in-law from Freiburg about the brother-in-law from Washington, "that the accused had been in Germany that day, I immediately told my wife, '*No one but Hau is the murderer!*' I knew he was a fraud right away and warned my mother-in-law about him."

The entire family except Lina and Olga were totally convinced that Hau was the murderer. This brings up another puzzling question, however. If the entire family thinks he is guilty, this isn't purely instinct. Something must have happened that we don't know about.

The family agreed Hau was the murderer, as was generally agreed, and the state prosecutor telegraphed London to arrest Hau for murder immediately upon his arrival.

One can say anything they want about Hau, but no one can say he hid like a guilty criminal would.

Even though Hau had sworn his wife to secrecy before he left for the continent, she would certainly have broken this with her family -- especially if it concerned her mother!

Page 64: It is very strange that Hau returned home without any of his childish disguise -- as if he had no idea that his mother-in-law had been murdered, and that he was the one connected with it. If he had known that he was suspected, he should have at least tried to erase some of the clues. He did the opposite and made them as public as possible. He took the shortest route home -

- from Karlsruhe to London via Frankfurt and Brussels. And to make it as easy as possible to find him, he telegraphed his wife on the morning of the 7th: "Wasn't in Berlin, took care of everything in Frankfurt. Will be back this evening."

Lina received another, far more unsettling telegram late on the 6th from Baden-Baden: her mother had had an accident. Of course, she was very upset. But she thought about the Paris telegram and thought Olga had sent another such telegram out of revenge. She didn't think of the worst. She thought it was some sort of business problem at the most.

She didn't find out the truth from her husband, either, who arrived punctually at Hotel Cecil. He said he didn't know anything about the tragedy in Baden-Baden.

Page 65: Two hours later the police came to Hotel Cecil and arrested Hau. A murderer had never made it so easy on the police. The 8000 marks that he had with him were confiscated.

Lina, who happened not to be there when Hau was arrested, thought once again it had something to do with his business dealings. It wasn't until later that she learned the truth -- that her mother had been murdered and her husband was the suspect. No one doubted the witness Miss Lerch, when she said Lina was "extraordinarily shaken". Karl Hau didn't know himself at first with what he was being charged.

It is regrettable that the newspaper reports of Dr. Aschaffenburg-Köln's expert testimony were sketchy and incomplete. This isn't surprising, however. The specialist wasn't called to

the stand until the fourth day of the trial -- after three very long days, the reporters were simply overtaxed. On this fourth day, court was called to session at 9:15am and lasted until 2pm, and started again at 4pm. Dr. Aschaffenburg was the last witness of the day and took the stand at 10:30pm. Looking at these facts, it is not difficult to understand that, after almost 12 hours of exciting and intense work, the reporters were exhausted and their reports became wishes by the end.

Page 66: If we combine the reports correctly, Dr. Aschaffenburg, in cooperation with his English colleagues and with psychologists in London who observed Hau during his incarceration, we discover: Hau had no idea that a "hair on his mother-in-law's head had been touched." Later he asked Dr. Aschaffenburg not to talk about the murder any more. He was reluctant to provide any information about why he was in Germany and would only admit what witnesses would say about certain details, thus, what was seen as fact.

He wouldn't even confide in those closest to him.

The day after his arrest his father, J.B. Hau from Bernkastel and his father's sister-in-law Mrs. Müller-Linz, visited Hau. His father cried a lot. Karl sat there like a rock, "as if he wasn't clear in his mind." He said almost nothing and only nodded.

His father and aunt, in whose house he spent many years while attending high school and whom he loved like a mother, spoke to his conscience: if he did commit the murder, he should just admit it and remove the burden.



"Tell me, Karl, did you do it?" asked Mrs. Müller. "And can I help you?"

"No!" he replied. "I didn't do it. My hands are clean. But no one can help me."

It must have been very difficult when his wife visited him the first time. The protocol in London said, "Both cried a lot and seemed to really care about each other. The meeting was very painful for both of them."

### 13. IN CUSTODY.

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Page 67: After resolving the international formalities, Hau was extradited to Karlsruhe on January 8, 1907 where he was to be held while awaiting trial.

As easy as Hau made it for the officials, it was made uncomfortable for him during his incarceration before the trial. With relentless energy, the investigator Dr. Bischer tried to prove Hau committed the murder and tried to corner him into admitting his guilt. The prisoner was reserved, barely spoke, and after resisting as long as he could, he gave a few details that could not be questioned and that he felt wouldn't burden him: the trip to the continent which he told his wife not to tell anyone about -- a "secret mission", the time in Baden-Baden on the fateful afternoon of November 6, the fake beard, etc. Only one thing did he deny vehemently, the main thing -- he did not fire the shot that killed Mrs. Molitor and didn't even hear it. He would not give

details. He did not try to counter the combinations that made him extremely suspicious with proof of his own. He avoided all questions that could have linked him unquestionably with the crime.

Page 68: He wouldn't even take his defense lawyer, Dr. Dietz, into his confidence. Hau wouldn't even tell him anything about the motive for his return to Germany or his time in Baden-Baden. Hau wouldn't provide him with enough information for a decent defense. "As far as I'm concerned, you can prepare your defense from the viewpoint as if I were guilty," replied Hau to the nosy behavior of his lawyer. Scidom docs a defense attorney have his already difficult job made tougher by the suspect. Not only did he have to work against public opinion, but also against Hau himself. It is amazing, that with everything against him, Dr. Dietz not only didn't give up, but also truly believed that Hau couldn't have committed the crime of which he was accused, but if he did, he didn't do it in his right mind and didn't plan it. He stood by the unfortunate man with tremendous energy, despite everything.

The case investigator did everything within his power to do his job -- to get Hau to admit to the murder, of which he was already totally convinced. Therefore, the entire investigation was carried through from the standpoint of proving Hau was the murderer. One can't help but wonder what other possibilities could have been taken into consideration if the case hadn't been conducted so one-sidedly.

Page 69: During the trial the commissioner of criminal investigations Behringer testified that he felt it was unnecessary

to conduct an investigation that looked for other possible suspects -- "because Miss Molitor didn't see anyone." Olga hadn't seen Hau, either. It would have made things much easier if she had recognized Hau. In fact, she stated the opposite under oath. (Chairman: "Did you at that time (as she saw her mother sink to the ground) have any suspicion of your brother-in-law Karl Hau?" Olga: " Absolutely not!" Chairman: "And did you later have any suspicion that the accused is the murderer?" Olga: "Personally, I never suspected him.")

Another reliable witness, the Baroness von Reitzenstein testified, as she had the morning after the murder, that she had seen an older man a few minutes before the crime and a few steps from the scene of the crime in front of her villa, who wasn't at all noteworthy, but who was suspiciously close to the Molitor women. She had seen this man clearly and he was not the very noticeable, strange man that she had encountered seven minutes earlier. According to the commissioner of criminal investigation's testimony, this older man didn't seem to interest the police in the least. This is unfortunate. Then, if this "gray-streaked man" had

been brought before the court and had also been suspected, the harmless butler Wieland could have been much more convincing that he was not involved.

Page 70: The investigation lasted eight long months, without uncovering anything conclusive. Suspicious moments were heaped together. But those who thought this was enough for those who had to make a judicial decision, can't remain uncontradicted.

#### 14. LINA'S BELIEF IN HER HUSBAND IS SHAKEN.

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Much worse and more sympathy-arousing than the situation Hau found himself in, was Lina's situation. Everything she had accepted like a martyr during the last half year goes directly to one's heart and one can't help but feel sympathy for her. She was like the innocent heroine in a terrible tragedy. "What can hell offer in comparison to my pain" is how she ended a letter to Olga on January 23, 1907.

She loved the man that the entire family hated. The only person who didn't damn him was Olga. Harassed by everyone else, poor Lina fled to her younger sister who had -- even if unknowingly -- given her so much pain. For the moment, she wanted to forget everything that had aroused her jealousy -- Olga's fresh, young, attractive originality. In her pain she turned to the very person whose very presence was at one time unbearable. At least here she didn't hear all the terrible things that everyone was saying about her innocent husband.

The others! Her siblings! They constantly plagued her with the questions: "How can you stand by the man that murdered our mother!"

Page 71: "That's not true!" cried her insides.

"It is true!" they yelled over her.

Who else could have done it -- the terrible murder of our wonderful mother who had never done anything to anyone, who had no enemies?

This swindler -- he walks over corpses! He lies and cheats and even murders!

Olga doesn't agree. Olga didn't say anything bad about Hau. Earlier, Lina would have resented her for that. Now she makes up with her and thanks her. And if something should happen to Lina -- and she knows that her time isn't very far away -- and she hopes her husband will join her -- who else could she trust to take care of her four year old son than Olga, the only one who doesn't detest the father?

For a long time, her belief in her husband remained firm. But the constant accusations, which she had to listen to from dawn till dusk began to erode away at her. She decides to take action.

The turning point that threatened her resistance was when she discovered that Hau had secretly withdrawn the 60,000 marks that she had in an account in Washington. He had wasted the money -- there wasn't any left. How could he do that to her? She never expected such deceit!

Page 72: She can't believe how he abused her trust. If he could go behind her back like that, couldn't he also have...

"Now it's clear!" she cried out in her doubt. "He did it for money!"

"One we convinced her of Hau's guilt," said her brother Karl, the first lieutenant in Metz, "she began to cry. She broke down. She was totally destroyed."

In this frame of mind she wrote to her sister Olga from Oldenburg on January 23, 1907 -- this date must be noted -- that Olga should refuse to take the witness stand: "I am being eaten with pain for the poor man, If only he would just admit his guilt!.. He is so broken that my pain can't even express it. Why can't he get pneumonia or something?..."

Without a doubt, Lina now believed her husband was guilty and saw death -- whether natural or chosen -- as the only way out.

This letter was not made public until after the trial -- undoubtedly under pressure from the rest of the Molitor family. This was done as a response to the growing public opinion that blamed Olga. The disarmament is understandable, but not the tactic. This letter from the unhappy Lina doesn't tell us anything new. No one doubted that Lina's loss of faith was one of the main motives for her suicide -- not even Hau. Hau only said that if he had been allowed to have a private discussion with his wife -- a discussion that wasn't listened to -- he could have convinced Lina of his innocence and could have talked her out of suicide.

15. MEETING BETWEEN LINA AND KARL HAU IN JAIL. LINA URGES A  
DOUBLE SUICIDE.

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Page 73: Even though, in her moments of doubt, Lina thought Hau was the murderer of her mother, she wasn't fully convinced. She fluctuated back and forth. "As long as there is even a shred of evidence against my husband's guilt, I will defend him. But if I have to convince myself of his guilt, then my life is over." (Statement of her brother, Karl Molitor)

It was as if everyone had taken an oath against Lina. Her tortured life with her family was made worse by the officials, who seemed to have no regard for her feelings.

The poor woman was scared and felt threatened.

Everyone seemed to believe that she knew more about her husband's crime than she said. They seemed to think that if they totally frightened the woman that they could finally get her to tell them what else she knew. They went through all of her private things and confiscated her letters.

Page\_74: She also talked about the horror she felt when the prosecuting attorney threatened her with imprisonment! She didn't know anymore which side was up. She was merely the unfortunate wife and didn't know *"where her doubt would take her."*

Ah, but she knew all too well! And therefore she wanted to talk to her husband again -- just the two of them -- "without that feelingless official standing around" before she committed suicide.

Even this request was denied.

Karl Hau had also requested such a private meeting with his wife. His request was also denied.

When Hau requested it, he was told, "Do you really want all of your most intimate family affairs made public in court? Your wife would faint."

They didn't seem to realize that this was mental torture to an extreme and that this was barely more civilized than the thumb screws and Iron Maiden used during the Middle Ages.

The meeting between Lina and Karl Hau finally took place June 5 in the presence of the jail inspector. "That was no conversation," Hau said in his first public hearing. "We were strictly forbidden to even mention the murder. We couldn't even speak English. This made it impossible for me to tell my wife anything."

That a word or two in English slipped out could not be prevented by the "feelingless" official. These few words smuggled in English were enough for Lina to get the message across to her husband what she wanted: "She pressured me to avoid the trial through *suicide*, since she had decided to take that path."

Page 75: She had told the defense attorney Dr. Dietz, who had become her friend and confidante in her time of need, on May 14 during a four hour conversation that she had decided to commit suicide.

No playwright need provide such strong, convincing reasons for his heroine's suicide as what here truth had provided.



Her entire family was against her, she was insulted and scared by thoughtless, inconsiderate people, who didn't need feelings just because they were officials. Her faith and trust in her husband was shaken by his deceit in Washington; she feared defamation of her family name through the scandal and criminal trial. Her family's most intimate affairs would be laid out for public scrutiny, -- and above all, her marriage was forever destroyed because the man that she "loved endlessly" had cheated on her and had misused and wasted her money. What was left for this poor woman? How could death be anything but salvation?

With a soldier's briefness and precision her brother said before the court: "She felt that her husband was no longer interested in her, but rather Olga."

Page 76: Her tragic jealousy also played a major role in her suicide. She confided in Dr. Dietz. "Doctor, I'm a wreck!" she complained. "I'm not good for anything any more. I am too old, not racy, intellectually stimulating, or bright enough. I am in Olga's way." She could not be convinced otherwise.

This brings to mind the words Heinrich Kleist put in his Pentisilea's mouth:

"I'd rather die, than be an unattractive woman."

Nothing could change Lina's mind from her decision to end her tragic existence quickly. She also insisted that her husband join her in death. That was the only repentance she wanted for all that he had done to her.

It's so unfair! Didn't her husband lie to her about his trip to Germany and went to Baden-Baden behind her back? All for Olga! If he did that with a clear, sane mind, she could never forgive him.

And what did life offer him now? The many clues that pointed against him could only lose their strength when he revealed the most intimate family secrets to the world and put the triangle between Hau, Lina and Olga in bright light. If Hau did that, she could not survive it.

And above that -- in the unlikely case that she lived and Hau was acquitted -- after learning about his misuse of her money, the many affairs he had in Vienna and Constantinople, and his crazy trip to Baden-Baden that proved her jealous suspicions -- she could not think about living with him again.

Page 77: But if he's not acquitted, he will be sentenced. Isn't a quicker death preferable to the other alternative?

Through a double suicide they could not only prevent the uncovering of the family drama, but their son could also have his name changed and avoid ever being linked to the whole affair.

Those are the thoughts and feelings that motivated Lina on June 4 as she, under the eyes of the inspector, told her husband, "I have the poison ready for you, too."

Despite the observation and the ban to speak a foreign language, she was able to communicate her plan to her husband in a few "broken English phrases".

"I answered", said Hau, " that I didn't want to escape the trial through suicide, because that would be seen as admitting my guilt."

She responded, "That doesn't matter. The main thing is not to make our family's private life public."

For Lina is Hau's guilt or innocence unimportant, for her that is only a "side topic". Of utmost importance now is her family's privacy -- above all the situation with Olga. Lina's jealousy of Olga always comes to the forefront. Even we can't get around it.

Page 78: The chairman wants the accused to explain more.

Hau, who otherwise was very cold and emotionless through the entire process, now became very soft and emotional and explained in a tear-choking voice, what drove his wife to suicide: "Because we never had a chance to talk. I could have proven my innocence to her with just a few words."

"Then tell us!" the chairman pressured him. "Now is your chance -- and it is of utmost importance -- to tell the truth."

Hau responded: "There are things that one can tell his wife, but that I would never in my life say here!"

Hau's language is worth noting. He truly seems to be convinced that he could have talked Lina out of suicide if they could have had a private discussion.

16. WITH WHAT MEANS COULD HAU HAVE TALKED HIS WIFE OUT OF SUICIDE?

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Page 79: What kind of magical means did Hau think he had that he believed would have given him the power to win back his wife's trust, to eliminate her jealousy and to give her back a reason to live? Some secret means that he wouldn't "in his entire life" say before the world?

This unquestionable proof that he didn't murder her mother? This wasn't enough to perform this miracle. His guilt or innocence was a "side topic" for her. What could it have been?

This brings us back to the hypothesis that we can't prove beyond a doubt, but that we must keep in mind.

Hau, who lived happily with his wife and whose marriage first encountered stormy waters because of his wife's jealousy of Olga; if Hau could have convinced Lina that his attraction to Olga was just a passing thing and that his wife and marital happiness meant too much to him to give it up...

If his motivation for the Paris telegram really was to end the triangle in as peaceful a way as possible, even if it meant lying to his clueless mother-in-law in order to get the equally innocent Olga out of Paris, but without the courage of admitting that he was the originator of this maneuver -- how would things stand?

Olga was not at all happy that she had to leave Paris. He never had a chance to say goodbye. Perhaps Olga had figured things out somewhat and was angry. Karl Hau was disquieted...