

## Chapter 10\_Romance ...

In this excerpt from "Mother Night," the narrator reflects on his life and experiences as a spy during the tumultuous times of war, revealing intimate truths about his relationship with his wife, Helga. He emphasizes that Helga never knew about his espionage activities, realizing that disclosing such information would not have diminished her love for him. The burden of his secret weighed heavily on him, yet he valued Helga's unwavering affection, which he describes as uncritical love—a vital treasure amid the chaos surrounding them.

The narrative takes a poignant turn as the narrator recounts the loss of Helga, presumed dead after the Russians reclaimed the Crimea where she was entertaining the troops. Post-war, he hired a private detective in West Berlin to discover her fate but received no leads, despite offering a generous reward for any information regarding her status.

The closeness between the couple is painted vividly as the narrator recalls their shared microcosm, a “nation of two” encased in the confines of their marital bed. Their lives were isolated from the broader world; immersed in each other, they exchanged unarticulated emotions rather than engaging in meaningful discourse. The bond between them was so profound that they were oblivious to the outer cacophony of war and conflict, instead delighting in the simplicity of their love.

However, when this intimate world collapsed with Helga's disappearance, the narrator found himself adrift—a stateless individual bereft of his anchor. He reflects on the warning given to him by his recruiter in the past, indicating that the very nature of his espionage meant he had committed treason against his country. The recruiter ominously forewarned him that there would be no forgiveness for his actions, encapsulating a heavy truth from which the narrator struggles to escape.