

Chapter 46 : “Henemark”

One of the tidbits in *The Reluctant Monarch* was that CG not just admired her from a distance but really had a relationship with the “Courtesan” = Camilla Henemark (1964-). Camilla was the daughter of Nigerian lawyer Austin Obane and Swedish hairdresser Gerd Henemark Johnsson. The two had met in England during their respective training and Camilla was born in Newcastle. She grew up in Hässelby, dropped out of primary school in the 9th grade and started at a theatre school. She later worked as a model, after a while with her own company, and as an artist. She was known for her expansive lifestyle and drastic humour. She was also politically committed to the Social Democrats with statements such as: “My background is lower underclass but thanks to living in Sweden I received a chance anyway.”¹ 1996 she held the May 1st speech in Borgholm. The speech was about xenophobia and “how to conduct a fair distribution policy when there is not so much to distribute any more”.² Camilla followed up with a centrefold in the SSU magazine *Frihet* where she was body painted with red roses.

The portrayal of the relationship was never very detailed, even when Camilla afterwards was interviewed by *Expressen*. She and CG first met in November 1998 at Jakthornet at Gärdet. After that, she was invited to a series of dinners and parties, always via intermediaries, never on her own initiative, never by CG directly. She felt that for just over a year once a month she lived out a fantasy, unclear if it was hers or CG's. The physical part of the relationship ended a bit into the year 2000 but they continued now and then bumping into each other since they moved in the same circles. The last time was at Noppe's on December 15, 2005, but then they were no longer on speaking terms. In the end, a great many people had seen them together. There was a joke circulating, originating from the SMS QA-service 118800: “Question: How often does the king have sex? Answer: He fucks once a month. Though Silvia never wants to, so he has a secret harem.”³ The responsible joker was forced to apologize.

The parties attended by CG and Camilla would end with performances, shows and karaoke. CG participated. Everybody was in high spirits and intelligence, good taste and so forth were abandoned at the doorstep. Not much sex though. According to Camilla “it was more of a circus and children's ball pit than club Kinky”. Often the parties took place in Aje's overnight flat, a kind of playhouse for adults, much gold, much kitsch. Sjöberg had tried to interview her by phone about the relationship, but Camilla hung up when she noticed where it was going. After the biography was published, she wanted to speak to her lawyer before she said anything. When CG went public with the relationship, she accepted three interviews: with *Expressen*, with German TV and with Malou Sivers in “After ten” on TV4. “If I wrote my memoirs now I would have to leave Sweden. So I'll wait a while.” But there she changed her mind. She seems to have been waiting for some sign of life from CG on how to act. When he left her to her own devices, she made the best of it.

* Did you think he was handsome?

- Yes, now I blush. Ha ha. I thought so. He's handsome. He's so cute. But it's also his charisma, his natural charisma. He's extremely charming in an almost childish way. This humorous, almost mischievous personality that he has. With a lot of humour and far from stuck up. Very nice but he never forgets who he is.

¹ Aftonbladet, 1996-03-28.

² Wilhelm Behrman. La Camilla under röda fanor. Svenska Dagbladet, 1996-03-29.

³ SMS-tjänst svarar om kungens sexliv. Affärsvärlden, 2009-03-06.

* Is there anything else that you discovered in him when you got to know him?
- Yes, this particular quality [of never forgetting who he is] and his humour. He's really funny. He can make jokes in a wonderful way. The incredibly relaxed giggly person - he giggles all the time. You never see it officially. I didn't know that before we met.

* Were you ever afraid to fall in love with him?
- Yes, of course. But it was not on the map. Several times I thought that "No, now it must be the last time." You don't fall in love when you know it's impossible. On the other hand, however, you let down your guard in a way you normally don't do. This isn't going to be a relationship, we're just having fun. But maybe it was a few times too many.⁴

* Did the king tell you what he thinks of being king?
- He loves being king. He takes it very seriously. It comes before anything else. I do not believe for a moment that he is unwilling, as the book claims. He is faithful and he knows nothing else. He is doing his duty. He knows that what he does means a lot to many people.⁵

Camilla often asked CG about Silvia and how she would react if she found out. Aje's circles were also Silvia's and it's not good to have a queen as an enemy. Afterwards, Camilla claimed to be a woman of high moral standing since she had no other relationship going at the time. If anyone had sinned, it was CG. She had expected CG to deny the relationship, it would have been the most convenient for her, but not that he would say she was history. At CG's press conference in Hunneberg, she sat in front of the TV feeling scared for the consequences and also vindictive: "I stopped breathing. If I could have teleported myself, I would have strangled him right there and then."⁶

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Two years later on October 17, it was time for the book release.⁷ Dagens Nyheter published a long online interview⁸ with high lights of her life - mainly sex life - and Expressen a shorter ditto. Camilla was also interviewed on television and told about CG and the royal gang's dinners without wanting to go into any details. She seemed embarrassed that this particular chapter of her autobiography had attracted so much attention. After all, she was the main character. CG only entered on page 222. Although the questions after a while were no longer solely about CG, she was required to comment on her book and on her lifestyle. She refused.

The number of shags, lovers, relationships etc. was, after all, limited, less than 50 it seems. Those mentioned are athletes and artists, the Café Society as they were previously called. Camilla appears to have engaged in trophy hunting. The wrestler Frank Andersson was a feather in the hat. Often, however, there was so much alcohol and other substances in the body that her judgment failed and it became anyone. Afterwards, she blamed her ADHD diagnosis. You can say a lot about ADHD but that it somehow automatically would result in fornication is fiction. The diagnosis is applied to concentration difficulty and/or overactivity.

⁴ Annie Reuterskiöld. Henemark och kungen. Exklusivt. Expressen, 2010-11-12.

⁵ Annie Reuterskiöld. Henemark: "Kungen älskar att vara kung". Expressen, 2010-11-14. [Redigerat.]

⁶ Christoffer Nilsson. Camilla Henemark till attack -mot kungen. Expressen, 2011-11-23.

⁷ Camilla Henemark & Carina Nunstedt. Adjö det ljuva livet. Bokförlaget Forum, 2012.

⁸ Anna Bodin. Kungens kris. DN.se, 2012-10-10.

Additional symptoms such as anxiety, depression and emotional instability may exist and they did.

Those who wanted to know more about her relationship with CG were disappointed. One thing was abundantly clear however. This was Sweden's socially most unequal relationship and the only way to make it work was for both parties to regress to childhood. When meeting they had pillow fights and even ran around throwing sushi at each other. As for what they saw in each other, it was nothing new. Camilla always denied that it was a love affair. Remains that she, like the other broads, was flattered by the attention. As to CG, Camilla was like a catalogue of his past relationships: Experienced but not threatening sex object that recognized his leading role in society and her own subordinate position. CG felt safe in her company.