

Chapter 64 : “1982/02 – Dearest Sister”

Madeleine Thérèse Amelie Josephine Bernadotte (Len among the friends, Madde in the popular press) was born on Thursday June 10, 1982, in a specially furnished room at Drottningholm Castle. Baby entered into the world at 19.05, was 49 centimetres long, weighed 3340 grams, sweet and healthy. This time, CG was present during childbirth. The baptism took place on August 31 and was performed in the chapel of the castle by Archbishop Olof Sundby. Madeleine shouted to the extent during baptism that Sundby was reported to JO for child abuse but that matter was dismissed.

Like the other children, Madeleine attended Västerled's parish pre-school activities 1985-1989, primary school 1989-1992 Smedslättsskolan, middle school 1992-1995 in Carlssons skola and then secondary school 1995-1998 at Carlssons/Enskilda gymnasiet and social science program 1998-2001 at Enskilda gymnasiet. She was confirmed in Vadstena Abbey on August 16, 1997 (she too for Hans Rhodin; not the same spectacle this time though; Silvia had been allowed to choose the participants so the hazing was minimal) and graduated in 2001 with 14 MVG in Swedish, English, natural sciences, religious studies, geography, history, aesthetic activities and sports. Her French and mathematics were poor, though. Her project was called “From beginner to good rider”. At Carlsson's school, she participated in the choirs and played electric bass in the school's all girl pop band - according to music teacher Ingemar Thorell it was really good. For a while she took piano lessons, but then the riding interest took over.

Madeleine too is supposed to have had dyslexia, though not of the same serious type as Victoria & CP. She is supposed to have largely overcome it on her own through systematic reading training - following advice from a classmate whose father had similar problems.^{1,2} However, she has since complained about her low reading speed.³

*

In addition to articles in mainly Aftonbladet, Expressen and Svensk Damtidning, there are four biographies about Madeleine: A chapter in Catarina Hurtig's book “Prinsessor” (2007). A Finnish biography by Laura Ala “Prinsessa Madeleinene” (2011). A biography by Johan T Lindwall “Madeleine - Prinsessan privat” (2012 & 2013). A biography by Daniel Nyhlén “Prinsessan Madeleine” (2013). These describe Madeleine as simultaneously nice, sweet, cute and cuddly - defiant, independent, stubborn, competitive and “wanting to do her thing” - restless, easily aggravated, spoiled, a diva and ego-tripped - shy, lazy, insecure, pleasure-hungry and weak-kneed - purposeful, ambitious, warm-hearted, generous, frisky and friendly. Difficult to put it all together. Madeleine's psychology seems fictitious.

As a child, she did not want to be interviewed or photographed. If something did not go her way, she would throw herself on the floor, scream and throw things at it. Silvia has told a funny story about when the family in 1989 was to receive the Pope:

Madeleine always had a very strong will. It was hard to make her dress in the mornings, she always had her own ideas. On the eve of the Pope's arrival at Stockholm Castle, I had the brilliant idea to bring her her three dresses to choose

¹ Jenny Alexandersson. Prinsessan Madeleines osynliga handikapp. Aftonbladet, 2009-11-02.

² Herman Lindqvist. [Söndagsbilagan.] Aftonbladet, 2009-12-20.

³ Mer än en partyprinsessa. Svensk Damtidning, 2004:11. [Intervju med Madeleines handledare Eva Sundler.]

from, on condition that she dressed herself. She thought that was very good, for the first time she had to decide. The morning came. It was as always stressful and at the last minute. The cars were waiting, the protocol people stood with clocks in hand. Then I discovered that Madeleine had dressed herself, but she had not put on the white stockings. I said: "Madeleine! The socks! The Pope is coming. You must wear socks. Look at Victoria, she has socks." Madeleine responded with a shriek. I had experience with that and realized that I had only two alternatives, either arrive at the Castle with a princess wearing white socks but screaming her head off or I could arrive with a happy and contented brat, without her socks. I chose the happy one.⁴

Another episode is from Carlsson's school 1993 class 4. CG wanted to give her something really spectacular as a birthday present. It ended up with Madeleine and her classmates having the entire amusement park Green Lund for themselves. That's the way to make 4th-graders into monarchists I guess.

As with all the royalty in this book, both the court and the school emphasized Madeleine's artless habit. She used the subway. At school, she was treated like any upper-class girl. She was ambitious, study-motivated and humble. She spoke out in discussions and stood by her views. She was involved in the student council and organized parties and school trips. Behind this civic facade it was business as usual, however. CG and Silvia kept close tabs on her activities so that no fortune seekers infiltrated her circle. If Madeleine wanted to spend time with someone, the court called his or her parents and explained the rules. Rule number one was that no one spoke to the press. Madeleine's two closest friends were classmates Natalie Rosta and Louise Gottlieb. These three didn't socialize much but sat by themselves and felt cooler and more distinguished than the remaining plebs.

She long avoided representation. In 1996, at the age of 14, she was described as the most extrovert of the children who didn't care that people glanced at her while out walking and who struck up an acquaintance with completely unknown people. She always had a group of friends around her who obeyed her slightest wish. She had an easy time at school and was interested in everything. A journalist: "She thinks it's fun with the attention and has no problem with herself in the newspapers. Her siblings are more careful." Classmate I: "She is always happy and has fun, even when taking a test." Classmate II: "Curious and unprestigious. If she doesn't know anything, she asks about it. She is not afraid to make a fool of herself." Classmate III: "She thinks life is a ball." In sum: Madeleine was naive and trusting in the way one becomes in an overly protective environment: Artless, clueless, immature and childish - much like CG at the same age. She would soon suffer the consequences.

*

She was put on horseback at the age of four. Initially she was trained by Fredrik von Krusenstierna at the Royal Stables. Later by Peder Fredricson. In the summers of 1991-1996 (?) she attended a riding camp. She also rode extensively on Öland. The riding was filmed for the program Året med kungafamiljen. In 1993, the reporters tried to interview her. Madeleine squirmed, laughed in embarrassment and hid behind the horse. From the age of nine she had one of her own: Travolta (a pony she inherited from Victoria), Touching News, Crizz & Pontiac.

⁴ Herman Lindqvist. Mitt i allt - historien om Herman Lindqvist om han får berätta den själv. 2012.

January 1996, she took the theory test for the Green Card, a requirement to compete. Later that year she competed for the Stockholm Cross Country Riding Club under the name Madeleine Gustavsson. It was a district championship for juniors in cross country riding, an originally military event with dressage, track jumping & terrain riding. The attention was so troubling - many photographers and photographic flashes even during the training - that she switched to Surahammar's equestrian association where she in 1997 helped out in the stables and in 1998 competed under the name Anna Svensson. Her coaches were Christer Gustafsson and Anne Liwing. In the stables there were some guys but possible relationships were eagerly denied on the grounds of her immaturity: "The princess is a simple and sweet person. They're just good friends...".

Her most famous episode is that on November 30, 1997, she performed anonymously as Spice Girls Mel B (*Scary Spice*) during the final masked jump at Globen Stockholm International Horse Show. On May 16, 1998, she won her first two medals - heights 1.10 & 1.20 at a regional competition in Köping. Crizz was gammy at the time so she had been allowed to borrow Liwing's horse Ballet. During a jumping competition in Sunne on July 5, Ballet refused at 1.30 and it could have ended really bad. She was hurled forward and left hanging in one of the stirrups. She was then close to hitting an approaching photographer. Next year, she tried for the junior Swedish championship. She attended an intensive course led by Maria Gretzer of the national team, and her horse was trained by Lisen Bratt-Fredricson, she too of the national team. However, it did not go well. Her last race was the mini derby in Falsterbo. Her parents then decided that school was more important. Gretzer's comment: "It gets so complicated when such a person is to carry on with a sport. Everyone has opinions."

Krusenstierna assessment of her riding capabilities was that "It was all about one-upmanship. Madeleine always wanted to best her siblings. It was about riding the longest and being the most daring." Other opinions were that she was a good rider, fearless and relaxed in the saddle. Krusenstierna's opinion of Madeleine as competitive seems to be an exaggeration, though. After the equestrian period, she only competed once - in tjevasan 2008. The time was 2.25 hours. The location was 2678. Since the training was limited to the prior weekend, the time was okay. As in the horse racing there was a lot of hush-hush around it all. The verdict is out though: Competition is too strenuous for fun. She is more of an exercise person. As a child, Madeleine trained rhythmic ball gymnastics in GF Stockholmsflickorna but nowadays it is mostly jogging, long walks and workouts. She has a hunting license from 2003. She rarely uses it, but she has shot a deer.

Her interest in horses turned into representation. In 1997, the Stockholm Cross Country Club renamed their competition "Princess Madeleine's Cross Country Competition" and appointed her honorary member. In 2000, she was courted by her home county with a scholarship fund for support and encouragement for young people who wanted to engage in equestrian activities. Since 2001, she has presented the awards "Pony Rider of the Year with a coach in Gävleborg County" and "Gold Rider of the Year". In 2012, she also became the patron of the Horse Riding Sports Foundation, which awards scholarships to top riders just below national team level.

*

At the time of her 1997 confirmation, press coverage increased. There were many unpleasant fantasies around her person. I have already described how rapper Ken Ring in August 1999

urged his audience to storm the castle and rape her. There were manipulated images of her and CG on different servers in an incestuous relationship. She received hate letters about her morality - the most famous being those from the religious Westborosect about her indecent attire during the Nobel festivities. She was molested several times but it was some time before she received a bodyguard - one of the reasons for the protective wall of acquaintances when she moved about town. The German gossip press wrote a number of fictional stories about her of a sexual nature that later resulted in a large indemnity. The depictions in the Swedish gossip press were more acceptable but insinuating.

At her 18th anniversary there were some ceremonies: At 12:30 she was congratulated by the court and by representatives of her home county. At 11:45, there was a ceremony in the outer courtyard. 500 people attended. On Tuesday, the following week, CG handed her the Order of the Seraphim in the presence of the Speaker and the Prime Minister. Madeleine gave a brief speech. There was an official lunch.

She was interviewed by TT. Madeleine was laconic: She enjoyed spending time at the stables among horse people who were more interested in her riding than in her position as a princess. She hoped to live as normal a life as possible: Concentrate on her studies, go to the movies with friends, take a driving license. After high school, she wanted to study abroad - preferably languages. She envisaged a future as interior designer - her great interest. *Her life as a princess?* “It was in primary school that she realized that she was different. It was the bodyguards, and that more people congregated around her than the others. Like her siblings, she was often married of in the press - that was difficult to ignore. If she missed the last article, her friends would tell her of it. It was unpleasant at first, but now she had become used to it. The advantage as a princess was that she got to meet super celebrities such as royalty and world renown artists and that she received fan letters. The disadvantage was all the unwanted attention.⁵

Later in August, she received her drivers license. She had a Volvo V40 from the Royal Stables - later a Lexus SUV. She is a good driver, but has been accused several times of taking the road rules somewhat lightly.

*

There were many rumours about Madeleine meeting guys her last year in high school and photos of the candidates were published. Most of it seems exaggerated. She kissed her summer flirt Pierre Ladow – and that was it. She was sick of school. After graduating, she did a personality and recruitment test. According to that, she was suitable both for a social profession where she could help people and for an artistic profession. It was worth thinking about. She celebrated her 18th anniversary and her graduation together with Louise Gottlieb. The girls also spent the autumn together in London with one of Madeleine's mother's friends, Ann-Kristin Wallenberg. Officially, Madeleine studied English. Unofficially, she socialized with relatives and acquaintances. She was seen with Pierre Ladow, who also studied in London. After a month, Svensk Damtidning arrived for an interview: Madeleine thought it was nice to get away from Stockholm for a while. She dwelt on the supply of restaurants, theatres and cultural life. She'd seen “Mama Mia!” and the Lion King. The English “was an interesting course at different levels”.

⁵ Christina Olsson. Normalt liv dröm för prinsessa. Göteborgs-Posten, 2000-06-09.

Later, Gottlieb was visited by her beau. Madeleine was also visited by an acquaintance, CP's former schoolmate Erik Granath (1978-). A French photographer took a series of photos of the two in Hyde Park where they were clowning with each other. In one of the pictures, Eric's hand rested on Madeleine's breast. Granath, however, denied having a relationship with her. Confronted with the pictures, he replied: "I don't know what to say. But I can agree that it looks very strange..."⁶ There were fruitless attempts to locate which school Madeleine attended. No results have been reported. It appears to have been studies for a Cambridge degree which grants permission to study at English speaking universities. Perhaps it did not pan out. By Christmas, she was back in Sweden. She claimed to have been stalked by paparazzi, but no such images were ever found. Swedish tourists seem more likely.

Erik was born and raised on Gotland. His father, Mats Granath (1951-), had a construction firm. His mother Ann-Marlene Granath (1955-1999) worked in the firm. He also had an older sister. The story was that Eric's mother suddenly died. Erik seems to have had some kind of breakdown and accumulated several official complaints, which rendered him a fine, community service and the loss of his driving license. CP & Madeleine had supported him when he was at his worst. Erik was very grateful: "Many people think she's self-absorbed. She is not. On the contrary. She cares more about others than herself. She is very considerate."⁷

In spring 2002, they began a relationship. They were seen dancing together in a nightclub, Erik celebrated Easter with the royal family in Sainte Maximes - but slept in an apartment in nearby St Tropez though - and during the summer they lived together:

The whole Midsummer weekend Madeleine and Erik were together in the house in Tofta, a few miles from Visby. The house is idyllic, just a few hundred meters from the sea. On the property there is also a private pool. They have had visits from good friends, walked hand in hand on the gravel roads and along the beach, greeted Erik's neighbours in the area and toured the island. Sometimes friends of the couple have served as drivers, sometimes Erik's father Mats.

I can tell from looking at Madeleine that she's feels fine. She is casual, tan and fashionably dressed in worn jeans, white cap and the boyfriend's down vest with his name embroidered. ... The only moments the couple are apart are when Erik plays golf with his friends on Visby golf course some kilometres from the house they live in. Madeleine is then busy with sea walks with her Labrador Jambo. At the sign where it says to connect the dog, she unleashes Jambo who joyfully skips over the dunes.⁸

During the autumn, people in her surroundings agreed on that the relationship could not continue. German and Swedish magazines published articles about how totally unsuitable Erik was from every possible angle. There was both the police reports, the paparazzi pictures from London and that he had not been sufficiently reverent to CP during Lundsberg. Erik didn't know what to think: "The lump in my stomach never disappears, because I never know what will be in the newspaper the next day - things that are completely fabricated. I'm so tired of the stuff now so there's no words to describe it."⁹ The relationship continued for a few more months. Madeleine did not end it "officially" until an interview on November 18. When

⁶ Magnus Hellberg. "Hon var ett stort stöd när mamma dog." Expressen, 2001-11-01.

⁷ Magnus Hellberg. "Hon var ett stort stöd när mamma dog." Expressen, 2001-11-01.

⁸ Helena Kubicek & Ida Thunberg. Madeleines kärlekssemester. Expressen, 2002-06-29.

⁹ Niclas Rislund. "Jag är så trött på sånt där nu." Expressen, 2002-08-26.

asked why the answer was: "He's passé." This was total news for Erik who thought she had been misquoted. Madeleine had changed her cell phone number so it took him a while to reach her. What she then said is not known. Madeleine has always clammed up as a substitute for levelling.