



Freud's Mistress

By Karen Mack, Jennifer Kaufman

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His theories would change the world—and tear hers apart.

A page-turning novel inspired by the true-life love affair between Sigmund Freud and his sister-in-law.

It is fin-de-siècle Vienna and Minna Bernays, an overeducated lady's companion with a sharp, wry wit, is abruptly fired, yet again, from her position. She finds herself out on the street and out of options. In 1895, the city may be aswirl with avant-garde artists and revolutionary ideas, yet a woman's only hope for security is still marriage. But Minna is unwilling to settle. Out of desperation, she turns to her sister, Martha, for help.

Martha has her own problems—six young children and an absent, disinterested husband who happens to be Sigmund Freud. At this time, Freud is a struggling professor, all but shunned by his peers and under attack for his theories, most of which center around sexual impulses. And while Martha is shocked and repulsed by her husband's "pornographic" work, Minna is fascinated.

Minna is everything Martha is not—intellectually curious, engaging, and passionate. She and Freud embark on what is at first simply an intellectual courtship, yet something deeper is brewing beneath the surface, something Minna cannot escape.

In this sweeping tale of love, loyalty, and betrayal—between a husband and a wife, between sisters—fact and fiction seamlessly blend together, creating a compelling portrait of an unforgettable woman and her struggle to reconcile her love for her sister with her obsessive desire for her sister's husband, the mythic father of psychoanalysis.

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Editorial Review

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After being dismissed from yet another position as a lady's companion, Minna Bernays sheepishly moves in with her older sister to help run the household and take care of Martha's six children. Martha's husband doesn't seem to be much help as the brainy Sigmund Freud is refining a set of psychological theories that Viennese society finds controversial, Martha finds perverse, but Minna finds fascinating. Sigmund and Minna quickly develop an intellectual bond, but she becomes consumed with thoughts of a more intimate relationship. As intellectual and romantic horizons open for Minna, she wonders if the risk is worth the reward. Inspired by the real affair between Sigmund Freud and his sister-in-law, *Freud's Mistress* combines the glamor of high-society Vienna and the squalor and scandal of the servant class. Mack and Kaufman skillfully mix fact and fiction, rounding out details of the famous analyst's academic work with depictions of his home life and Viennese society. A thrilling story of seduction, betrayal, and loss, *Freud's Mistress* will titillate fans of *Memoirs of a Geisha* (1997) and *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2002). --Stephanie Turza

Review

Praise for *Freud's Mistress*:

"[D]elicious ... will enthrall readers." —*People*, 4 stars

"A titillating tale." —*USA Today*

"Historical romance fans will speed through the pages and find fodder for book club discussions." —*Library Journal*, starred review

"A thrilling story of seduction, betrayal, and loss, *Freud's Mistress* will titillate fans of *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *The Other Boleyn Girl*." —*Booklist*

"If you liked *Loving Frank* and *The Paris Wife*, you'll love *Freud's Mistress*!" —Katie Couric

"Absorbing and provocative . . . a great read . . . I've been recommending it to friends." —Erica Jong, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

"A fascinating read." —Norah O'Donnell, *CBS This Morning*

"[W]hat a wow of a novel . . . irresistible." —Liz Smith

"In *Freud's Mistress*, Karen Mack and Jennifer Kaufman succeed where so many historical novels flounder: They weave an unexpected tale of human desire and the bonds of love, based firmly in the rich and relevant source material they've scoured for details of the daily lives of fin-de-siècle Viennese, and—fascinatingly—the inner life of Dr. Sigmund Freud." —Lisa See, *New York Times*—bestselling author

"It's a fascinating story told in an utterly compelling fashion. While reading it, I felt as if I were a part of the world of these people—which is at once frightening and exhilarating. *Freud's Mistress* is a wonderful, engaging, and bittersweet novel. I absolutely loved it." —Garth Stein, *New York Times*—bestselling author of

The Art of Racing in the Rain

“...[A]n intriguing, illuminating, and wholly engrossing account of the affair between Sigmund Freud and his headstrong, intelligent sister-in-law, Minna Bernays. Karen Mack and Jennifer Kaufman render fin-de-siècle Vienna and the Freud household so vividly one can almost smell the coal fires and cigar smoke.” —Jennifer Chiaverini, author of *Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker*

“Book groups looking for a great selection? Look no more! This is Sigmund Freud like we’ve never known him. Insecure, passionate, even sexy. Who knew?” —Esmeralda Santiago, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Conquistadora*

“If you want to understand the obsessive pull of the human heart, you could spend a lifetime on the couch, or you could read this dazzling novel about Minna Bernays’s love affair with her brother-in-law, Sigmund Freud. . . . [T]his is a book to savor.” —Sheri Holman, author of *Witches on the Road Tonight* and *The Dress Lodger*

“It is almost impossible to pass up a novel inspired by Sigmund Freud’s rumored affair with his sister-in-law. This is a story that will appeal to the Pleasure Principle of many a reader.” —Whitney Otto, author of *Eight Girls Taking Pictures* and *How to Make an American Quilt*

Praise for previous books by Karen Mack and Jennifer Kaufman:

“I almost cried when this book ended.... It is simply fabulous ...will make a terrific movie.” —Liz Smith

“I’m absolutely crazy about [this] book ... absolutely astonishing....” —Carolyn See, author of *Making a Literary Life*

“Brilliant....” —Karen Quinn, author of *The Ivy Chronicles*

About the Author

Karen Mack, a former attorney, is a Golden Globe award-winning film and television producer. **Jennifer Kaufman** is a former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and a two-time winner of the national Penney-Missouri Journalism Award. They both reside in Los Angeles and this is their third novel. Their first novel, *Literacy and Longing in L.A.* was on the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller list for 15 weeks reaching #1 and won the Best Fiction Award from the Southern California Bookseller’s Association. Their second novel, *A Version of the Truth*, was also on the *L.A. Times* bestseller list.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Salina Juarez:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A e-book Freud's Mistress will make you to become smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think which open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or appropriate book with you?

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Julia Flowers:

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