

*The Mitford Affair* by Marie Benedict

Well known for historical fiction, Marie Benedict shares the story of the six Mitford sisters in her latest novel. The Mitford sisters and their brother Tom were raised as English aristocrats, rather impoverished and often left to find their own way. The book *The Mitford Affair* centers around three sisters, Nancy, Unity and Diana as adults during the 1930s.

The author shares each sister's story as a separate but intertwined timeline, as she alternates between the sisters, chapter by chapter. Nancy, the oldest sister, provides for herself as an author even after marrying. Her strongest desire is to be a mother, a desire that keeps her in a rather loveless marriage.

Diana ends her marriage and becomes involved with Sir Oswald Mosley. Mosley is the rising leader of the British Union of Fascists (BUF). Through her relationship with Mosley Diana is drawn in the Nazi movement in Germany, and devotes her life to strengthening the connection between the BUF and Hitler. Diana and Nancy's younger sister Unity, following Diana's path, quickly embraces fascism and is totally obsessed with developing a personal relationship with Hitler.

*The Mitford Affair* is written with much attention to detail, which at times seemed to drag down the storyline. As I approached the final few chapters I was grateful I had worked through the slower part of the book. As in her other novels (*Carnegie's Maid* and *Lady Clementine* are two favorites), Benedict brought to life an era of historical importance with accuracy and anticipation.