

Seductive Betrayal (Prologue)

It was 1940 Paris. The Germans had just invaded France. They would occupy Paris until the Allied forces liberated the city four long year later.



Pierre was a doctor of notable acclaim. His sister Celine was a stunning brunette, unattached, but with lots of suitors. She also was schooled in the medical field. Not quite a full certified nurse, but with enough training to qualify as one. The invading German army was a mixed bag. Some cruel Jew hunters, killers, and rapists. There were some with a fair amount of decency just caught up in the fray as many soldiers did going out to do the bidding of the power hungry dictators, kings, and presidents of their country.

Hans was one of the good guys. Or so he would like to think of himself. He was a Colonel and the head of the advance forces occupying Paris. He didn't like the killing and rounding up of the Jews, but he was in the minority. He kept his mouth shut. No use in opposing the will of the Furor. He did have a

strict code of conduct. He would severely punish any of his troops conducting themselves beyond his own sense of decency.

This assigned duty was the worse any German officer could receive. Take over a city with hostile locals and maintain order. He suspected his reserved manner toward the overall German plan of rounding up and annihilating Jews was the reason he was given this command. His first order of business was to have a meeting with whatever authoritative figures remained. The French government personnel fled when they heard of the advancing German army. Those people considered most important were business men, any remaining civil servants, and medical personnel. He would need their assistance to prevent harm to his troops and also to them. That was the first time Pierre and Celine met Hans.

Seductive Betrayal
(Chapter 1)

As long as his French comrades were to be constrained by the enemy, Pierre was glad that it was someone like Hans. He seemed to be a decent fellow in spite of the situation. Celine didn't think along the same lines. She saw a very handsome man whom she was thinking she could manipulate to her advantage. Hans did not know that both Pierre and Celine were part of the resistance alliance. Knowing the invasion was imminent, a small band of French patriots had been having secret meetings on how to disrupt the enemies plans. They were all aware that if caught, execution was their likely outcome. The Germans were brutal in this regard.

Hans had singled out Pierre knowing that he was a doctor. Their first meeting went like this:

I need prominent citizens like yourself to help me maintain order. It is beneficial for both of us if you comply. I may call on you in the future if some of my men need medical attention. Are you willing to help me with this? I took the Hippocratic Oath.

The oath a doctor takes to pledge ethical, patient-centered care—including helping all patients and doing no harm—is primarily known as the Hippocratic Oath.

I will honor that regardless of who the patient is. I am glad to hear that. Does your wife also hold that same opinion? I see that she is a nurse. Actually, she is not quite a nurse, but skilled enough. She is not my wife. She is my sister.

Hans was a handsome man and Celine was not immune to his looks and charming style.

Hans



Celine



Celine's beauty did not go unnoticed by Hans, but he was married and had no intention of pursuing anyone else.

Not everyone in Hans's occupational army was as decent as he was. Some soldiers had the opinion that the spoils of war were theirs for the taking.

Two of his soldiers had raped a girl. Caught in the act, some onlookers took it upon themselves to beat the two soldiers. This was the first of many incidents Hans had to deal with.

Hans called another meeting with the French civilian group. He informed them that this type of activity would not be tolerated and these men would be severely punished.

Pierre asked what their punishment would likely be. They will be stripped of

their rank and assigned latrine duty for the duration of the war. To Pierre, this did not seem stern enough for what they did.

Pierre's vow to help all was now to be tested. Hans had asked him to treat the injuries of the two rapists.

He complied, but unknown by Hans and the two, he slipped some powder into their medicine he instructed them to take.

Later at one of their secret meetings, Pierre told the group what he had done. The two came down with severe diarrhea. When they rushed to the very latrine they were tasked with cleaning a well placed bomb went off and both men were killed.

Hans called for another meeting. It seems there is a resistance group operating here. If anyone has information regarding their actions it would be prudent to help me. If we find out who was responsible, they will be dealt with and anyone of knowledge of their actions will receive the same fate.

Hans singled out Pierre and Celine. If either of you know who was responsible for this indecent it would be a favor to me if you helped. Even if I knew, I would not help you. What did you expect? Your army comes in here taking over our residences, consuming our food supply, and holding all of us hostages. It is normal for patriots to resist.

I am in a difficult spot. My superiors are stressing me to take harsh actions. What occurs in the future I may not be able to stop.

I understand. We will talk to some of our people and explain that if you are replaced, someone not so refined might be next.

In our way of acknowledging your dilemma, we invite you to dinner. It was Celine's suggestion. I will take you up on that.

It turns out that Celine was an excellent cook. She prepared a gourmet meal along with some select French wines. The evening took on a pleasant aura

and for a short while, all parties forgot about the war. Celine was particularly attentive to Hans. He thought, if not for the current circumstances, he would be inclined to actually pursue her charms.

After all had left, Pierre asked Celine, what are you doing? You fawned all over Hans the entire evening. You know he is our enemy. I don't know much about war tactics, but I know men. By getting close to him, I might pick up some important information about the German's movements and intentions.

Well, just be careful. I could see he definitely welcomed the attention. A week went by and Hans thought his superiors had forgotten about the two soldiers who had been killed. That was until Colonel Strauss showed up. Strauss, also a Colonel, but of higher rank than Hans.

Colonel Strauss



Hans was at another dinner with Pierre and Celine when Colonel Strauss barged in unannounced. Well, well, it seems you are getting along quite well with the local gentry. I think I will join you. This looks like a very fine meal. Pour me some of that French wine. The pleasant evening suddenly turned into an uncomfortable silence. Celine knew where this was going. Instead of resisting, she turned her attention to the Colonel. He assumed that she was drawn to his higher position. Hans didn't like the course the evening had taken. At the conclusion of the meal, Colonel Strauss had consumed a fair amount of wine and was feeling pretty content. He ordered Hans to leave first. Celine brought the dishes into the kitchen to be washed. Pierre

followed her in bringing more dishes with him. What are you doing? This is a very dangerous game you are playing. I know what I am doing. You will see later. Both returned to the dining room. Celine had told Pierre about her plan. He didn't like it, but he knew enough about his sister's stubbornness to reluctantly go along. He informed the Colonel that he had early rounds in the morning and please excuse him as he ascended the stairs to the upper loft. Colonel Strauss took this as a green light to invite Celine back to his quarters.

Hans witnessed their walk along the street. He couldn't quite understand his feelings. Why was he jealous of Colonel Strauss? He had his own wife waiting back in Berlin. There were two adages about long distance relationships. "Distance make the heart grow fonder" and "Out of sight out of mind". It seems the later was how he was currently feeling.

Colonel Strauss relieved the guards stationed at his front door. Hans could not believe Celine would accommodate a pig like Strauss.

He stood across the street as his jealousy increased. After about 15 minutes, he heard a scream. No doubt it had come from Celine. He stormed the front porch and entered the building. There on the center rug lay Colonel Strauss with a knife stuck in where his heart would be positioned. Celine had a frightened look on her face. Before Hans could ask, she blurted out, he tried to rape me.

Hans was not stupid. He surmised that Celine had lured Colonel Strauss here for this very reason. He had two choices. Arrest Celine right now and call the guards back, or try to cover up what really happened.

Hans did what his heart told him rather than what logic dictated. Go get your brother. Pierre entered the building and surveyed the scene before him. It seems Celine's plan worked out as she had conspired. Strauss was a threat that they could not let stand. By calling Pierre here instead of the guards, Hans was already in too deep to back out.

The report that Hans submitted back to headquarters said that Colonel Strauss had consumed a heavy meal, copious amounts of wine, and had a heart attack

while engaging in sex with a local woman. At least part of this was true. He did have a heart attack, but not of the natural kind. This information did not arouse any suspicion. Colonel Strauss was a well known womanizer, overweight, and not highly regarded. The high command kept the details of his demise from his wife. She had already suffered numerous indignation from his previous flings.

You may wonder how would they could cover up an obvious homicide. Celine, on the guise of needing the bathroom, stopped in the kitchen and grabbed a large sharp knife. When she returned, Strauss had already taken off his jacket and shirt in anticipation of the sexual interlude he was sure was coming. Celine, being a nurse practitioner, knew where to insert the knife and had laid Strauss down on the floor on his back to prevent blood from spilling all over. Pierre sealed up the knife wound and they redressed Strauss in his uniform before they called the guards.

No one questioned what really happened. Colonel Strauss was cremated and given full honors dressed in the uniform he came in.

Seductive Betrayal *(Chapter 2)*

After the demise of Colonel Strauss, Pierre and Celine discussed what had happened and what might still happen. At any time Hans can claim they are resistance fighters and order their execution. They could expose the crime that Hans hid from the authorities at that time, but who would believe them against a Nazi Officer. Celine showed Pierre some evidence that insured that would not happen. She had the foresight to take a picture of Colonel Strauss laid out on the floor with the knife sticking out of his chest. Pierre often used a miniature camera to photograph corpses after a failed surgery. Here is an example of what was available in 1940.



These were used primarily by spies from all countries even though Pierre's use was different. How did you smuggle that camera past the eyes of the Colonel? Women have more places to hide things than men. Don't ask.

So it was that Pierre, Celine, and Hans both had reason to keep their secret. Pierre told Hans that he would talk to his friends and try to keep disruptions away from Hans's area of concern. The resistance fighters complied. Hans and Celine kept getting closer. Pierre was worried. He was certain that they would end up together as more than friends. He talked to Celine about that possibility. Celine's answer was "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer."

A Nazi officer and a female resistance fighter made strange bedfellows. Eventually that is where they often met. To Celine, this was more than an espionage assignment. She truly liked Hans and thought that he felt the same.

For several months things went smoothly for Hans. He did feel guilty for cheating on his wife, but not enough to quit seeing Celine. Her appeal was just too strong. His superiors even commended him on his handling of the Paris section.

The US officially declared war on Germany in December 1941. The invasion of Normandy did not occur until June 1944. Before that, the US military needed on the ground information on what was going on in and around Paris. Tom was already a lieutenant, but had never faced war time enemies. That was about to change. He was a paratrooper and part of the advanced surveillance combat corp. His mission was to land in enemy territory and report on troop movements and evaluate the enemies strength. As he parachuted out of the plane, high winds drove him off course and he landed in a wooded area just south of Paris. He landed in a tree, but was not injured. His chute was tangled in the branches. Using his Rambo style knife, he cut himself loose, but on the way down a tree branch punctured his calf as he fell to the ground. Still being able to walk OK, he knew he needed some medical care. If not properly dressed, infection would kill him faster than any enemy bullet.

Author's note:

I use the term Rambo style knife even though Rambo (First Blood) did not premier until October 22, 1982. Rambo (Last Blood) opened in 2019. There were 5 Rambo movies. Will there be a sixth? “Last Blood” was supposed to be the final chapter. It is hard to leave money on the table. Just ask my wife who refuses to retire even at 65 years old. There is speculation that there will be a Rambo 6. My guess is it will be called “Thin Blood, Geritol for All” Seniors rise up. Actually at 80, Stallone is amazingly fit.

Tom Simmons



He made his way to just outside of Paris. He came upon a farm house. Cautiously he approached not knowing how he would be received. Another enemy or a savior. He burst into the front door gun raised. The couple who resided there cried “Mon Dieu” They raised their hands, but Tom lowered his rifle and said, I am not here to harm you. Luckily, the woman spoke a little English. You just scared us. You are welcome here. We hate the Germans. Francois and Manon were part of the French resistance.

After giving him some water and French bread they saw his injured calf. You need to get that taken care of before infection sets in. I agree. We know a nurse who can fix that. That was how Tom met Celine.

Seductive Betrayal
(Chapter 3)

The next day Celine showed up at the farm house. She was surprised to see

an American soldier there. She goes about bandaging his wound, but keeps mostly silent. Tom surprises her by speaking French to thank her. How is it that you speak so fluent French? My grandmother was French and after my parents died she raised me. She only spoke French although she had been in America since 1906. Why don't you turn me over to the Germans? Aiding and abetting the enemy is a capital crime and subject to execution. Do you think we are happy to have the Germans invade our country? Francois and Manon have a broadcast radio and are part of our resistance group. You can use that to send information to your forces. It can only be used sparingly though, so only send when you have important news. Keep this clean and I will return in a couple of days to check on you.

Tom could not believe his luck. At first he thought his chances of conducting his task was impossible after his mishap in the tree. He also detected an interest in him from Celine that was beyond the impersonal medical treatment he received. He looked forward to her return.

Celine's head was spinning too. Not only did she notice Tom's handsome physique, but he also was a member of the armed forces fighting to free France.

She continued her tryst with Hans, but could not keep the American out of her mind.

Celine's medical treatment soon relieved Tom's injury from danger. Returning for a last checkup, a noise from outside alerted them of potential danger. Looking out the window, they saw a couple trucks pull up with the Nazi swastika prominently displayed on the side door panel.

Author's note: The correct spelling is Nazi, but I prefer the miss-spelled version Natzi since it sounds more correct.

Francois told them they must leave through the back door. If Tom is caught here, we will all die. Celine left with him. It would be hard to explain her presence here.

Celine knew the forested area well. She used to go camping with her father

and mother. There was a small cabin near a lake that was hidden from the highways. That should be safe enough for the meantime. Celine and her father had holed up there many times during winter storms.

Arriving at the cabin, it seemed like the winter storm that suddenly arrived played into the unfolding drama that was to come. They were somewhat uncomfortable with each other, not knowing what fate had forced them together. Celine, being familiar with the place, set about looking for items to make do. Is there any canned food stored here? I will check, but I think most everything was already consumed by the last time I was here. Go ahead and check. I will go outside to see if I can find some game for dinner. Are you a hunter? I was back in my youth in Virginia. What is Virginia? That is one of our 48 states. A beautiful countryside environment that I hope some day to return to. Tom still had his rifle and Rambo knife never to be without as far as he could manage. A half and hour later, Tom returned with a rabbit he had shot. This will do for some protein. Did you find anything else in the pantry. Yes, I did. I found some potatoes and carrots that had survived due to the cold and a bottle of whiskey that my Dad had left. Well, that gives us a good start.

Celine made the most of the veggies. Tom skinned the rabbit and cooked it in a skillet. A little salt and pepper and juice from the meat made a nice gravy. This was one of the best meals Tom had had since he left America. You have a wife or girlfriend waiting for you back in America. I did have a fiancée, but with me leaving for the Army, it seems she did not want to wait. Another victim of the war it seems.

Tom had gathered some firewood and set the logs ablaze. A shared bottle of whiskey, a satisfying meal, and the warm glow of firelight left only one thing left to do. The next morning, they both arose from the single bed almost forgetting the passion they had shared in the night.

They both felt a little shy thinking that things had moved way too fast. Putting those thoughts aside, they returned to the farm house to find Francois and Manon gone. The radio was still in its secure hiding place. Celine told Tom to take it and return to the cabin. She would try to find out what was

going on and what had happened to Francois and Manon. When she returned home, Pierre and Hans were waiting for her. Where have you been? I visited Francois and Manon, then went to check on a couple of my clients in need of medicine. A snow storm prevented me from returning and I just spent the night with the last couple. When I came back to the farm house, no one was there. Hans said we suspected that those two were part of the resistance alliance. They were taken into custody and this morning were executed. Celine was stunned. They were just a harmless couple trying to wait out the war. You may have thought that, but we found compromising pamphlets and other evidence to the contrary. You are also under suspicion due to your association with them. I vouched for you this time, but be careful who you associate with.

All this time, Celine had forgotten that Hans was part of the brutal German army. She had let her emotions cloud her judgment. She thought from now on she should distance herself from him. Thoughts of Tom returned to her. What has she gotten herself in to?

Celine was caught in a trap she doesn't know how to get out of. If Germany wins the war, Hans might remain here with her. If Germany loses the war, Hans will have to leave and Tom might remain.

Author's note:

There is always a song somewhere that covers these situations. Most likely it is a country song. I always say, "Country music is the poetry of American Life". Drinking, cheating, carousing, forlorn in love, all covered by some lyrics. Here is an example from 1976. A song by Mary MacGregor and written by Peter Yarrow of "Peter Paul and Mary fame". Peter died last year in 2025.

Here are part of the lyrics:

There are times when a woman has to say what's on her mind
Even though she knows how much it's gonna hurt
Before I say another word, let me tell you "I love you"
Let me hold you close, and say these words as gently as I can

"There's been another man that I've needed, and I've loved
But that doesn't mean I love you less
And he knows he can't possess me, and he knows he never will
There's just this empty place inside of me that only he can fill"

Torn between two lovers, feeling like a fool
Loving both of you is breaking all the rules

To continue:

Celine stopped romancing Hans. He noticed the distance between them too. There was nothing he could do about it. He suspected that the execution of her French friends was the reason. He didn't blame her. He was happy for the time they had spent together. He also noticed that she often was absent from the home and he didn't know where she went. He assigned a scout to follow her and report back.

Of course, it was the cabin that she visited as much as she could without rousing too much suspicion. She didn't know about the scout that followed her the next day.

Seductive Betrayal (Chapter 4)

Celine had purchased food supplies from the local market. She was looking forward to cooking a real meal for Tom. When she got to the cabin, Tom was not there. He was probably out hunting. The radio was out in the open on the table top. That was not a wise thing. Anyone coming upon the cabin would surmise it was perhaps a spy operation. She started to move it to a cubbyhole out of sight when the door opened and the scout who had been following her burst in. Well, well, looks like I caught myself a spy. It is a shame someone so beautiful as you should be executed. That is something I can't prevent but such a waste. Friedrich was not as honorable as Hans. He figured that since she would not be around much longer, having some fun with her was his privilege. Celine tried to fight him off, but he was so much stronger. He had pushed her down on the bed and was in the process of removing her clothes when Tom returned to the cabin. He grabbed a rope that was hanging on the wall and wrapped it around Friedrich's neck and pulled him off of Celine. He continued to constrict the rope until Friedrich

face turned purple and he quit kicking. He could have used his Rambo knife but he didn't want to make a bloody mess. Celine got up and ran into his arms. She was trembling from fright and exertion.

Now they had a real dilemma on their hands. Celine guessed that it was Hans who had her followed. You have two options. You can leave with me and take our chances in the open countryside or we can come up with a plausible story. What story could we possibly concoct to explain what happened?

How often did you come to this cabin? I came here periodically to relax and get away from the city routine. OK, that is a start. You can say you came here to replenish supplies. That is the truth. When you entered the door, you saw an American soldier broadcasting on a radio and knew you had found a spy. You tried to run out the door when the scout entered. A fight ensued and you took the opportunity to run out the door and return to the city. You don't know what happened back at the cabin. Hans will investigate and find this guy dead on the floor and me and the radio gone. I am sure that someone found my parachute nearby and they were probably already looking for me anyway. This validates our story. Where will you go? I am not a city boy. I grew up in the countryside back in my Virginia. I know how to survive in the woods. There will be a massive manhunt looking for you. Let them come. I will conduct what is called gorilla warfare tactics. Evade and attack. I will hear them coming and they will not see me coming. The radio will be worthless without electricity. The radio operates on 12VDC. I will steal a battery from some vehicle and keep broadcasting. I can still complete my original mission.

Celine returned to Paris and told her story. She didn't have to fake being shaken. The whole incident left her with worry and sorrow. Hans didn't quite believe her 100%, but the story had enough truth to it for him to buy it for the time being. Celine knew that she was on a short leash. To further alleviate his suspicions, she resumed the intimacy they had previously shared. Hans was not a total bad guy. He was just caught up in these war games and was between a rock and a hard spot. She and Pierre continued their secret resistance operation continuing to undermine the German's plans.

Hans had ordered a dozen soldiers to comb the woods in the area around and behind the cabin. Celine dreaded hearing news of the manhunt. She expected any day to hear of Tom's capture. Hans now completely believed her story and often gave information on what was going on. This information exchange is called pillow talk.

Here is the definition:

Pillow talk is the intimate, relaxed conversation and cuddling that occurs between romantic partners, usually in bed before or after sexual activity. It acts as a vital bonding tool, fostering vulnerability, emotional connection, and relationship satisfaction through honest, affectionate, and sometimes whispered exchanges.

Hans relayed this information about the manhunt:

After two weeks of searching, his lead officer returned and reported this: Did you find the American spy? Not exactly. He sort of found us. What do you mean? There are only three of us out of the 12 you sent still alive. Suspend this hunt. I don't want to lose any more men.

Hans did not see the relief shown on Celine's face as she turned away. It seems that Tom had learned the value of the Rambo knife. Stallone would have been proud.

Pierre had also been distraught over the execution of Francois and Manon. This was the risk one takes for being patriotic. He didn't really like Celine's involvement with Hans, but she did provide some some crucial information to help the resistance. She had told him about Tom and the events that took place at the cabin. She left out the intimate details though. Up until now, he had kept his word about limiting rebel attacks, but his group was getting restless after Francois and Manon's death. The semi-truce that they had with Hans was about to blow up. A major event was in the planning state. If properly executed, all bets would be off.

Seductive Betrayal
(Chapter 5)

The execution of Francois and Manon's prompted the need for action. The resistance group had increased meeting to formulate a response.

The execution of Francois



A meeting of the Resistance Group



It was already 1944. Hans had kept the disruptions in Paris to a minimum for several years. That was about to change.

The resistance group unleashed a city wide assault resulting in 25 German soldiers dead.

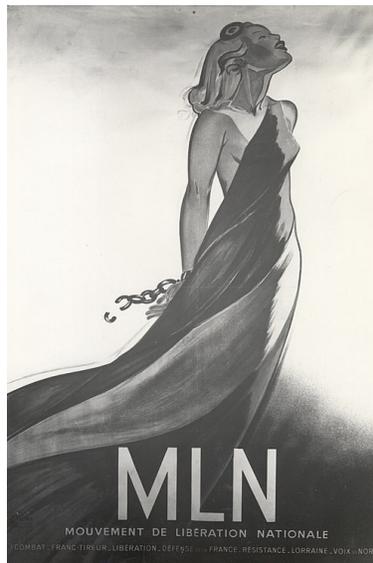


Hans rushed in to Pierre's medical facility. Pierre was caught red handed talking to several known conspirators. There was no hiding his compliance this time. Hans confronts Pierre about the uprising and is about to call for his arrest. He has aimed his pistol at him when Celine enters the room. She sees what is about to occur and shoots Hans in the leg. As he turns around, Celine sees the look of betrayal on his face. It is an image she will live with for the

rest of her life.

Pierre grabs Hans's gun as he falls to the floor. Pierre reasons with Hans as he treats his wound. Your war is over and your side has lost. The liberation of Paris is at hand. Leave while you still can. No one will hold you accountable and you did your best under the circumstances. The German army is in retreat and chaos is everywhere. Go home to your wife and forget this war.

The Liberation of Paris 1944



Celine and Pierre had returned to their pre-war duties. It has been months since liberation day. Pierre's assistant says there is an American in the lobby asking for medical attention. Celine please take care of this. I am busy with this other patient.

Celine goes down to the lobby not really looking. She says, what kind of medical attention do you need? There stands Tom. I have this bruise on my lips and it requires a soft firm pressure to relieve the pain. Celine runs into his arms and kisses him passionately. Tom says wow, if that is soft don't give me hard.

Seductive Betrayal
(Epilogue)

I remember you like cabins. I think you will like this one in the Virginia countryside.



This is more than a cabin. It is as large as most houses back in rural Paris. Well, I hope you think that way because it will be your home after we get married. Who says I will marry you? I thought you might ask that question. So I have prepared to ask you this one. He gets down on one knee and proposes. Will you marry me my French beauty Celine? Yes, I will marry you my handsome American liberator. Pierre is scheduled to arrive the day after tomorrow for the wedding. Wasn't that a little premature? If you had said no, I would have killed myself and the wedding would not have needed to take place. How about we check out your new accommodations? The

bedroom has a sky light to see the stars. That sound like a very good idea. Are there stars to see during the day? Not sure? But you can take a look. You have a mischievous nature Tom, but I like it.



The next morning:

Just relax your grip, look through the scope and fire into the neck just below the head. But it looks so innocent and lovely. Concentrate on the venison steaks that you will be preparing for our dinner tonight. OK, pow. Good shot. You are a natural.

Hans was back home with his wife Greta and son.



Many of his comrades were being arrested for their war time atrocities. Hitler had committed suicide. Germany was in mass disarray.

It was time to put the war behind him. He had sufficient resources to start again. Thoughts of Celine still lingered in his mind. His wife noticed the slight indifference to their reunion. She wondered what might have transpired back in Paris. Woman have a keen sense when something is a little awry. She had noticed the scar from the bullet wound he had gotten. He just told her it happened during the liberation and not to worry. He had a doctor friend and nurse who took care of it.. Eventually, he returned to his former self. She just wrote it off as the effects of war.

The End