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Two Presidential Mistresses and The Battle for Votes-for-Women (Mistresses of History)

VA Harrington Hutton

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What if Downton Abbey, the Real Housewives and West Wing met the National Enquirer?

In this real life drama that features eight of the history's most exciting women and follows their lives from 1912 to 1920, the terrible misfortunes of the mistresses of President Wilson and future president Warren Harding are an open-secret within the high-powered Washington dinner-party circuit commanded by Teddy Roosevelt's frustrated, acid-tongued daughter Alice Roosevelt.

'Age of Innocence' author Edith Wharton's messy divorce and barefoot dancer Isadora Duncan's daring free-love lifestyle consume the nation's front-pages, but it is Emmeline Pankhurst, the elegantly gorgeous upper-class housewife who leads London's 'militant suffragettes' who commands headlines on both sides of the Atlantic.

In her audacious attempt to persuade London's best shopkeepers to speak up in support of the votes-for-women bill in Parliament, she arms hundreds of her followers with small hammers and sends them out on a shop-window-smashing spree that shocks the shopkeepers into action, and lands her and her daughter in prison, but does not achieve her objective.

Soon the war with Germany presents Emmeline with a new window-of-opportunity, and she demands the vote in exchange for urging her followers to support the war-effort. But as the war grinds on with no action on votes-for-women, Emmeline fears that she has been deceived and her country's women will be disappointed, yet again.

In America, Pankhurst's young protégé Alice Paul, a darkly beautiful, brilliantly-educated Quaker heiress sees America's entry into the World War 1 as the perfect platform from which to ridicule President Wilson for his hypocrisy. She derides his decision to send Americans to fight for democracy in Europe while refusing to support her efforts to ensure that the female half of America's citizens gain a voice in their own government.

She burns the president's war speeches in front of the White House and ends up jailed in a decrepit Maryland work-house where she is declared insane. She is threatened with a lifetime commitment to a mental asylum; will she bend to the will of President Wilson and promise to halt her fiery protests? Don't count on it!

Political passion has its price. Find out how things turned out for Alice and the others, including the author's own great-grandmother, a servant in the home of America's top political fundraiser, the 'Karl Rove' of his era.

Uncover more of the sexy, shocking truth in every exciting, fast-paced, short but oh-so-satisfying interwoven CoffeebreakReaders episode. It's a thrilling, inspiring real-life soap opera based entirely on real events in real lives. Perfect to enjoy on quick breaks at work or anytime!

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