

Requiem for Ulrike

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Ulrike Meinhof is dead she died for your sins thumbtacked to a cross of aircraft aluminum hanging from her cell window grating braided towel shreds for a rope in the chill pitiless light of that longago morning 8 May 1976 thirty years after the end of the war that never ended seventh floor of Stammheim prison 'suicide is the last act of rebellion.'

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Strip her dignity away as easily as her postmortemed organs as her delicate perfumed brain subtle and exotic thieved discreetly from her violated skull parts of other organs lifted for examination the suppression not enough total elimination of image of myth and thus retroactively the human seed of the greater sidelined personality only chemical testing of the panties of the dead scraping for cheap yeasts and phantom sperm with which to regale the audience of course no evidence of rape did you suppose they would be amateurish enough to leave evidence what more evidence demanded than her vivisected body?

Slo-mo footage with that slightly sepiatoned look common to all television tapes from the 1970s the Big Three sailing casually through the streets Bowie's 'Sweet Thing (reprise)' echoing off the facades of the Ku-damm of that classic dead entity West Berlin Gudrun Ensslin laughing enveloped in faintly menacing hilarity grin a mile wide blonde hair waving like the Reich Battle Flag on full-tilt *blitzkrieg* jeans flowered shirt Andreas Baader frowning all cheekbones and lips sideburns jutting aggressively decked out in a hand-tailored custom-made silk shirt lifted casually from some composer acquaintance's Italian wardrobe eyes blank blank circles admitting nothing criticizing everything Ulrike a little taller a little heavier a little slower with a face full of patient stern concern and love for her unacknowledged third daughter the Federal Republic.

Susan Sontag once said that love/admiration is the worst impetus for writing anything that anger is the best and she was right stark worship collapses even as

