



HEDY LAMARR

(1914 - 2000)

"The most beautiful girl in the world"

- At the age of 17, Hedy was cast in the film that first catapulted her into the spotlight: *Ecstasy*. The movie includes a scene in which Hedy swims nude and simulates an orgasm—a first in film history
- Hedy's first husband was Fritz Mandl, a leading Austrian munitions dealer. Not only did he prevent her from further acting pursuits, but he reportedly spent a small fortune trying to purchase every existing copy of *Ecstasy* in an unsuccessful attempt to suppress it
- Hedy escaped from Fritz and negotiated a contract with Louis B. Mayer (head of MGM) to be a US film star
- Hedy wanted to invent something to help combat the German U-Boats during World War II. In 1940, she teamed up with her composer friend, George Antheil, and started working on a 'secret communication system' intended for use by the US Navy. This system used a 'frequency hopping' technology to make it difficult for the enemy to detect or jam any incoming radio-controlled torpedoes fired from US ships. Using a piano roll to change among 88 different frequencies, this novel approach was truly unique
- In 1942, the US Government seized Hedy's patent as the property of an enemy alien
- Hedy's technology became the basis for secure wireless communications, such as Wi-Fi, GPS, & Bluetooth

A Doll

It's late-1934. Hedy Lamarr (20), Fritz Mandl (34), and three of his closest Lieutenants sit in a private projection room watching a screening of Hedy's film "Extaze" (Ecstasy). The movie ends. The lights to the cinema turn on. Fritz, refusing to make eye contact with Hedy, sits in formidable silence. He then stands and turns to address his lieutenants.

FRITZ

Buy up every print, even the negatives. I don't care how much you have to pay. Get it done.

Fritz finally stares at Hedy, or rather, stares through Hedy. Rigidly, he turns and exits. The three lieutenants do a subtle costume shift that makes it clear that they are all metaphorically embodying Fritz now. They encircle Hedy, menacingly.

HEDY

HIS FACE.

NEVER SEEN HIS FACE SO RED BEFORE.

SPREADING UP HIS CHEEKS LIKE HE WAS SLAPPED ACROSS THE FACE.

YET I'M THE ONE TO FACE THE BLOW,

THAT CRIMSON STAIN WON'T EVER SHOW

ON A DOLL LOCKED INSIDE A GILDED CASE.

HIS EYES.

NEVER SEEN HIS EYES THIS COLD BEFORE.

A FROST THAT HARDENS OVER

EVERY CORNER OF HIS FACE.

BUT I'M THE ONE TO FREEZE TO DEATH,

THOUGH THE ICY CHILL WON'T FOG UP THE BREATH

OF A DOLL LOCKED INSIDE A GILDED CASE.

KEEP YOUR HUNTING LODGE,

YOUR LIMOUSINES,
YOUR PLANE,
YOUR YACHT.
YOUR PLATES OF GOLD,
YOUR FANCY FURS,
YOUR RING CAN ROT.
LEAVE ME MY BREASTS,
MY LIPS,
MY HEART,
MY HIPS DON'T EXIST FOR YOUR THRILL.
'CAUSE IF YOU HAVE ALL OF ME,
THEN WHAT'S LEFT OF ME?
JUST A DOLL WITHOUT A WILL.

MY EYES.
NEVER SEEN MY EYES AS A PRIZE BEFORE.
MY FACE.
NEVER SEEN MY FACE AS CLAIMED BEFORE.
YET, THEY ARE.
AND IT IS.
AND I'M DONE BEING HIS—

LOCKED INSIDE A GILDED CASE.