

Franzi & Paula: "Gute Zeiten, schlechte Zeiten"

Written by Aria



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Franzi and Paula were the very best of friends, and they do say that friends make the best lovers. But what if that friend is your boyfriend's sister-in-law? And, no matter how you try you cannot seem to get her out of your mind? In truth, you don't ever want her to be too far from your thoughts. And what if that friend's allegiance is to her marriage, to her professed love for her husband? These scenarios were in a nutshell the stuff of Franzi's dilemma, a struggle which became increasingly difficult as her feelings for her 'sister in law' seemed to grow more impassioned and inconsolable with time. Surely, a person just cannot help but act upon their feelings, no? But given this particular love quadrangle, could those amorous feelings ever be returned?

Franziska "Franzi" Reuter (played by Actress: Jasmine Weber) works as a waitress in town and is happily in love with Phillip, for whom she repeatedly proved that she would do just about anything. She gets along well with Phillip's brother John and has a wonderful friendship with his wife, Paula. Paula was a special woman who always seemed to be there for Franzi; she had even taken an interest in teaching Franzi how to do new things like ride a motorbike. Since John and Phillip's father recently passed away and they were estranged from their sister, Franzi and Paula made up for lost family for the men in their lives.

[More about this actress \(in German\)...](#)

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Paula Rapf (played by Actress: Josephine Schmidt) is married to John, a reporter, with whom she is madly in love. They have a comfortable home which they share with Phillip and they have a love they know could never end. Paula is mechanically minded and loves to tinker with motorbikes, but is now doing all that is possible to establish herself as a career police officer. She is patient and caring by nature and enjoys the company of her brother-in-law's girlfriend, with whom she feels very comfortable.

[More about this actress \(in German\)...](#)

The Couple: Franzi and Paula got on very well; being at ease with each other, they naturally spent quite a bit of time together. Franzi admired her friend, but it soon became clear to Franzi that she was beginning to fall for her sister-in-law's sweet generosity and quiet charm. Her feelings were more than she could handle, and one day she simply could not resist placing a kiss on her friend's lips. Paula took the gesture lightly, at first, but in time she came to understand Franzi's feelings were intense and could not easily be excused away. And, it wasn't long before Paula also began to question her own attachment to the best friend she had grown to love. Franzi and Paula's romance echoes the title of this television series, the best of times and the worst of times, and easily qualifies as another of the great on-screen romances of our time.

Gute Zeiten, schlechte Zeiten (*The Best of Times and the Worst of Times*), Germany's first day time serial, made its debut in 1992 on RTL station. It has reportedly remained the number one in its slot in all these years and by 1001 had peaked with over 7 million viewers.

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