



Leader . . . Siegmund

Far-right heads to German state win

By ZARA QURESHI

GERMANY'S hard-right AfD party was last night heading for victory in a crucial election, exit polls suggested.

The party was leading in Saxony-Anhalt with 44.5 per cent of the vote, well ahead of the 18.5 per cent for Chancellor Friedrich Merz's CDU.

If confirmed, it would be the first time a radical right-wing party has taken control of a German state since World War Two.

AfD leader Ulrich Siegmund told supporters: "We have already won."

He wants closer ties with Russia, migrants sent to their countries of origin and a ban on rainbow flags in schools.

The AfD also wants migrants separated from German kids in class and less focus on World War Two in history lessons.

Mr Merz has vowed to fight back against the surging party, saying: "We must address issues."



Burnham . . . yesterday

PM joins King and Queen at church

By MATT WILKINSON

PM Andy Burnham and his wife joined the King and Queen at a church service yesterday.

His surprise attendance delighted worshippers, who described his presence alongside the royals as "amazing".

Mr Burnham and Marie-France van Heel were at Crathie Kirk, Royal Deeside, regularly visited by the Royal Family when they stay in Scotland at Balmoral.

Gillian Garner, from Cheshire, was there with her family.

She said: "It was truly amazing to stand in the church with the King and the Queen, the PM and his wife.

"It was a moving, wonderful service." She said the service focused on the importance of kindness and helping the most vulnerable.

On Saturday, the King and Queen attended the annual Braemar Gathering in the Highlands.

ACTRESS'S 4 WHITE DRESSES... A WED FLAG TO HER SCOOTER?



EXCLUSIVE by
FAY LEYFIELD
Showbiz Features Editor

SYDNEY SWEENEY and Scooter Braun first locked eyes just over a year ago on the dance floor at Jeff Bezos' lavish wedding.

Now they are back where it all began – Venice – and can't keep their hands off each other, which is not surprising considering some of her looks.

Passionately snogging in a gondola and strolling arm in arm through the historic city before slipping into a naked sequined dress on the red carpet, it seems the world's most eligible woman is about to be off the market.

She certainly seems to be dropping marriage hints – the bridal look has seriously inspired her Venice wardrobe.

Sydney has worn **FOUR** white outfits in just three days, from labels including Chanel and Vivienne Westwood, which along with a necklace featuring the letters SB in tribute to her man, might not have been chosen simply to accentuate her famous curves.

I'm told the Euphoria actress, who turns 29 this Saturday, is desperate for the controversial music mogul – who is 16 years her senior – to pop the question.

My source said: "Sydney and Scooter's romance went from casual to serious very quickly."

"Their families are close, she spends time with his kids and they are inseparable."

"Sydney has been joking that all she wants for her birthday is a big ring. But there won't be a long engagement like her previous one. They think they are soulmates and will marry very quickly."

Sydney was previously engaged to US businessman Jonathan Davino, but their seven-year romance ended early last year as her career skyrocketed.

Biggest cheerleader

She has returned to Venice for the film festival – yet she is not there to promote her latest movie, but as an ambassador for Armani beauty, and doting Scooter is once again by her side after their summer of love.

Their pairing, initially raised eyebrows. The TV and movie sex symbol has footballers flooding her DMs, while divorced dad-of-three Scooter, 45, is loathed by Taylor Swift fans around the world after a bust-up over him buying the master recordings of Taylor's first six studio albums.

Sydney and Scooter were pictured together strolling the streets of Venice last summer, in between the many festivities for Amazon boss Bezos's £40million wedding to Lauren Sanchez. It wasn't just a holiday romance though, as a few months later they were spotted kissing in New York's Central Park and from then on they were inseparable.

It's not lost on Scooter how lucky he is to have landed the sexiest woman on the planet.

When they first went public, he called himself "a lucky bastard".

And when the final series of TV's Euphoria aired and Sydney's character Cassie became a controversial OnlyFans model, Scooter was her biggest cheerleader.

As thousands swooned over her bikini-clad scenes, it was reported that he had "absolutely no issue" with how explicit and provocative it was.

Sydney certainly isn't shy about showing off her relationship, even if it has ruffled a few feathers.

Known as Taylor Swift's nemesis, Scooter is infamous for buying the chart queen's early album masters – a transaction that Taylor claimed was carried out without her permission.

It sparked lengthy legal proceedings and a very public feud in 2019, with the singer then going on to re-record all of her early tracks.

It left his reputation in tatters. High-profile clients drifted away, his eight-year marriage to Yael Cohen ended in divorce in 2022 and Scooter later admitted the episode took a



Dress 1

Sydney in a white lace corset dress by Vivienne Westwood as she arrives at Venice airport with boyfriend Scooter

'She's been joking that all she wants for her birthday is a big ring. But there won't be a long engagement. They are soulmates and will marry very quickly'



Dress 2

She steals the show in this vintage strapless silk-chiffon dress by Chanel for a pre-dinner stroll to the city's famous Harry's Bar



In a £462 Loïs Broderie Anglaise cotton midi dress as she enjoys a romantic gondola ride and smooch with Scooter

Dress 3



Dress 4

In a simple white silk mini dress before boarding one of the city's water taxis



Sydney's marriage wows

severe toll on his mental health. Sydney, who is no stranger to criticism herself, is said to have played a huge part in helping him step back into the limelight and isn't worried about what people think.

So, just what does the Housemaid actress see in the pop mogul?

Sydney might be one of Hollywood's hottest properties, with an estimated net worth of £30million, but Scooter is one of the wealthiest talent managers and executives in the entertainment industry, and thought to be worth around £740million.

Money, though, has nothing to do with it. My insider said: "Scooter offers Sydney something she's not had before – he's mature, understanding and has weathered media storms. They have insane amounts of fun together, and he brings out a new side to her. Together, they are

adventurous, ambitious and have incredible chemistry."

Sex and relationship expert Gemma Nice told The Sun: "When two high achievers meet, genuine compatibility comes down to safety and presence."

"Sydney is a fiercely driven producer and actress, while Scooter has built empires."

"In high-risk worlds, your nervous system is constantly in survival and business-brain mode."

"Sydney is likely drawn to Scooter because he truly understands that intense pressure and isn't intimidated by her drive, as some people can be."

"When a partner matches your ambition and drive to succeed, you can finally drop your guard and feel held. That mutual protection and grounded respect is where real, powerful intimacy is found."

Indeed, when asked at the start of

the year what she looks for in a partner, Sydney revealed: "I have a huge fear of being alone for the rest of my life, so I look for someone who will be my best friend, who I can hang out with, talk to all the time, dream up things with, and work with."

"Athletic and outgoing and funny... that someone needs to be able to climb a mountain with me, go skydiving with me. And someone who loves their family."

Career sky-rocketed

Scooter clearly ticks a lot of those boxes. The trip to Venice is the culmination of an action-packed few months, which has brought the pair closer than ever. After Sydney wrapped filming on Netflix's military sci-fi film Gundam in Australia, Scooter joined her and they went bungee-jumping, sky-diving and wing-walking. It was a big tick for

the star.

Her dad Steven flew out to spend time with them and I'm told he very quickly approved of the relationship.

My source said: "Scooter made sure he got to know Sydney's family very early on and they liked him straight away."

"There is an element of them worrying she's moving very quickly, but they can't deny how happy she seems and how much she is thriving."

In turn, Sydney has nurtured a relationship with his children from his first marriage, Jagger, 11, Levi, nine, and seven-year-old Hart.

The actress was recently seen with her arms wrapped around the children as they grabbed ice cream. She has made no secret in the

past about wanting a family and dreamed of being a young mum.

"I always thought I'd have a kid by now... I always wanted to be a young mom," she said in 2023.

"I love acting, I love the business, I love producing, I love all of it. But what's the point if I'm not getting to share it with a family?"

"The time will come, and I'll have four kids."

"And they will come with me everywhere and be my best friends."

Sydney launched racy lingerie brand Syrn, which she describes as her "playground for self-expression" – in January with \$1billion of backing from mentor and close friend Bezos.

Her first underwear range – which she modelled herself – sold out within minutes and the

brand made £18million in the first quarter of 2026. Scooter is said to have played a helping hand in that, with a source explaining: "He is supporting her every step of the way."

"He knows a lot about business and is playing a big part in helping

her make some of those all-important decisions. Some men might not like other people ogling their girl, but he loves it and the best part is she is advertising her own brand. He thinks it's genius."

Back in Venice, all eyes are once again on the celebrity power couple. With her career reaching huge heights, a booming business empire under her belt and a blended family fully in her corner, Sydney seems to have found in Scooter everything she has been searching for.

She spent years waiting for her fairytale ending and, as her birthday approaches, her inner circle is convinced her wish for a sparkling new ring might come true sooner than expected.



WEDDING . . . Bezos and Sanchez. Guests Sydney and Scooter, right

