

= Stefanie Rabatsch =

Stefanie Rabatsch (née Isak ; born 28 December 1887) was an Austrian woman of the upper @-@ middle class known for being the unrequited love subject of Adolf Hitler , the future leader of the Nazi Party and dictator of Nazi Germany , when he was a teenager . Her Jewish @-@ sounding maiden name has been subject to much speculation .

Stefanie was born into a family of high social status . Hitler fell in love with her after she passed by him during her daily daughter @-@ mother stroll in Linz , glancing at him . Although madly in love with her to the point of suicide , Hitler never once spoke with her , and she later married an Austrian army officer . August Kubizek , a close childhood friend and later biographer of his childhood experience with Hitler , wrote about Hitler 's passion for her in his book , Adolf Hitler , My Childhood Friend . Stefanie stated in interviews that she was unaware of Hitler 's feelings towards her , and little is known about her life .

= = Background = =

August Kubizek , a music student from Linz , first met Hitler when the two were competing for a place to stand during an opera performance . According to him , Hitler 's passion for Stefanie began in spring 1905 , when he was 16 and attending school in Linz , and lasted until 1909 , when he was 20 . Kubizek recalls the first time he heard about Hitler 's obsession in his memoirs :

Born Stefanie Izak , she came from a family of higher social class than Hitler 's . She is thought to have been one or two years older than him . Stefanie had returned to Linz after professional training in Munich and Geneva . Kubizek describes her as " a distinguished @-@ looking girl , tall and slim . She had thick fair hair , which she mostly wore swept back in a bun . Her eyes were very beautiful " . Kubizek 's book was heavily edited during the Nazi period , especially the parts concerning the details of Hitler 's passion for Rabatsch , but was republished in many editions after the war .

= = Interaction with Hitler = =

According to Kubizek , Hitler never spoke to Stefanie , always saying he would do so " tomorrow " . He loathed those who flirted with her , especially the military officers , whom he called " conceited blockheads " ; he came to feel an " uncompromising enmity towards the officer class as a whole , and everything military in general . It annoyed him that Stefanie mixed with such idlers who , he insisted , wore corsets and used scent " . Hitler insisted that Kubizek stalk Stefanie and delivered daily reports on her activity while he was away visiting his mother or family . In one report , Kubizek wrote that Stefanie loved to dance and had taken lessons . Hitler disliked dancing and reportedly replied , " Stefanie only dances because she is forced to by society on which she unfortunately depends on . Once Stefanie is my wife , she won 't have the slightest desire to dance ! " In June 1906 , Stefanie gave Hitler a smile and a flower from her bouquet as she was passing him in her carriage . Kubizek later described the scene :

After Hitler 's mother died of breast cancer in 1907 , the funeral procession went through Urfahr to Leonding . Kubizek remarks that Hitler said he had seen Stefanie at the funeral procession , which gave him some consolation . Kubizek claims that " Stefanie had no idea how deeply Adolf was in love with her ; she regarded him as a somewhat shy , but nevertheless remarkably tenacious and faithful , admirer . When she responded with a smile to his inquiring glance , he was happy and his mood became unlike anything I had ever observed in him . But when Stefanie , as happened just as often , coldly ignored his gaze , he was crushed and ready to destroy himself and the whole world . " Hitler finally stated he planned to kidnap Stefanie and kill both her and himself by jumping off a bridge into the Danube . Instead he moved to Vienna , where an idealised image of Stefanie became his moral touchstone . Stefanie stated in later interviews that she was unaware of Hitler at the time , but that she had received an anonymous love letter asking her to wait for him to graduate and then to marry him , which she only realised after being questioned about him , must have been from Hitler . She recalled :

She became engaged in 1908 to an officer in the Hessian regiment stationed in Linz , and after the end of the Second World War she lived in Vienna . At Christmas in 1913 , when he was living in Munich , Hitler placed an anonymous personal ad in the Linz newspaper with his best wishes to her , but she was already married and in Vienna by then . She was interviewed and Hitler 's love for her dramatised in a 1973 Austro @-@ German television film called A Young Man From the Innviertel . Little is known about her overall life .

= = Jewish @-@ sounding maiden name = =

Despite her Jewish @-@ sounding surname , Stefanie was not Jewish . However , most historians agree that Hitler would have assumed Stefanie was of Jewish origin . American historian Graeme Donald believes Hitler would have inferred that she was Jewish , but saw no problems with this at the time . This view is supported by German historian Anton Joachimsthaler , who stated in a BBC interview that Hitler must have assumed she was Jewish because of her Jewish surname . British historian Paul Roland wrote in his book Nazi Women that it didn 't make the slightest difference to Hitler whether she was Jewish or not .

= = Scholarly reactions = =

Hugh Trevor @-@ Roper considered Kubizek 's memoirs to be a valuable examination of Hitler 's early life , but also thought it did not answer all the questions historians would have wanted to see answered .

Ian Kershaw , in whose judgement Kubizek 's book had the assistance of a ghostwriter , considers the story of Stefanie exaggerated . Kershaw further states that to Hitler , Stefanie was a person to be admired from afar and not approached in person .