

## **Protagonist Klaus Schulz**

Klaus Schulz is a young man serving in the army for Nazi Germany during World War 2. Joining at the age of 18 and the story taking place at the age of 20, Klaus is a quiet yet determined young man who, after witnessing and participating in many of the horrible acts by the Nazis, comes to realize the inhumanity of it all and decides to defect. With the Nazi party angered by this act, Klaus must escape with his lover, utilizing his wits and military training to reach the safety that is the neutral country of Ireland, while trying to bypass the Nazi enemy territory of the UK.

Klaus came from an upper-middle class German family who completely supported the ideologies of Hitler, and in his mid-teens became completely engrossed and wildly supportive for the Nazi movement. So much so, that he spent his entire second half of his teen years physically training to join the Nazi Army. During this time he fell in love with a beautiful young woman, who was the oldest daughter of one of the highest ranking Nazi generals. Once they started seeing each other, Klaus made a positive impression on her general father, and was streamlined into the military selection process where he excelled with flying colors, and eventually, started working at concentration camps. It was here that Klaus worked for two years, performing cruel acts against others and witnessing terrible tragedies. After two years of this, he decided he couldn't do this anymore and came to the decision to defect, with his lover deciding to join him and willing to die with him if need be. Before leaving he killed several guards and lead the escape of two captives before getting out himself.

Klaus was a huge supporter of Adolf Hitler before his realizations to what was happening in the world. He would spend his free time studying Nazi politics, and studying other political systems such as monarchies and democracies, learning the pros and cons of all. He likes board games

such as Chess and Backgammon and would constantly challenge others in order to better himself in this regard. When he would lose, he would become visibly irritated, then would spend extended amounts of time studying the game and as to why he would have lost in order to improve. He's also very physically in shape, due to years of training for the military and loves to push his physical limits, even if it means injuring himself. He would even become happy if he hurt himself badly if it meant that he broke any previous personal records. He's very naïve, so much so he would go on and perform cruel acts to others if his peers were the ones to egg him on to do so, and this is what happened during his times with the Nazis.

Klaus hates hurting others, but for the longest time couldn't care if he saw others hurting other people, as his moral compass just told him that as long as he wasn't doing it then it wasn't so bad. It was only when he had to do it that this viewpoint started to change. He's physically very strong and mentally very smart and capable and is very caring to those he considers close. He would even die for them if necessary. Once defected, he promised himself that if he should survive he would dedicate the remainder of his life attempting to atone for his sins, and every so often when thinking of the things he's done he would have complete breakdowns that only his lover could help alleviate.

Klaus when young was outgoing and eccentric, but after his time with the Nazis became quiet and calculating, although caring for others and willing to do whatever he needed to in order to help them. Every once in a while, if playing games, his eccentric side reappears, if only for short moments at a time. He believes that people can better themselves but only at the cost that is appropriate for the actions they have taken, which his peers remark as strangely mature for his age. Still a young kid however, he remains somewhat naïve even when he tells himself not to

trust everything told to him, and is still vulnerable to many issues young men face, including the allure of sex, alcohol, and a general misunderstanding of the world itself.

Klaus, with his also-defected lover by his side would run into many issues during the story as not only he had ran from the state, but also took a high ranking general's daughter with him which makes him a high ranking target for the Nazis. Once stumbling into a different high ranking general's office during a meeting, he also happens to know important details about Nazi activities coming up in his future, and this info would become useful later on as he could help the Allies predict Nazi actions, and it would come as a great shock to all when later during the story that the high ranking general would also defect as he loves his daughter more than his country, and respects Klaus for protecting her the entire way through, although was an enemy as first due to him putting her in such a situation to begin.

Throughout his entire life, Klaus had always had shadows of doubts about his identity, although with the turbulence his life went through with the great war, he never took the time to explore it. During his travels to escape the Nazis, he received crucial aid from an underground LGBT group from the UK known as The Every, whereas during his time with them was encouraged to explore himself and eventually came to find that he identified as a transgender woman. This would cause turbulence with her lover and her father and would eventually lead to her defected father retaliating against Klaus and the group which lead to a bloody battle. When Klaus escapes, her lover refuses to join as she believed he wasn't the person she used to know, causing turmoil for Klaus's mind and heart.

Klaus later down the road comes to find her family history, where she discovers her grandmother was Jewish, having her entire view of her life be turned upside down, knowing now that the Nazis were attacking her people now, and that she once took part in this. Once arriving in Ireland

and escaping, Klaus would establish a Jewish community and purchase territory for this community, where over the years she would become a light in the darkness for the entirety of the Jewish and committed her entire life to protecting and offering a safe haven for all, regardless of race or identity. Klaus would be the leader and founder of one of the world's earliest all-inclusive communities and would live the rest of her life protecting and helping others as a means to atone for her past sins, and near the end of her life would even take in former Nazis like her and help them learn to see the world in the way she came to see it and help remove the remaining ideologies of the Nazis from modern-day Europe. Klaus died at the age of 70 when she died protecting innocent people in her community from a late Nazi extremist, not truly able to escape her previous life but able to achieve redemption and provide hope for people like her, despite their identity or heritage.