

Dear Madame Dr Knabe,

I received your letter with many thanks. I was very pleased again. I would like to give you, Madame Dr Knabe, a short extract from my life. I was born on 27 January 1903. We were 7 siblings, 5 girls and 2 boys. I am the youngest. We grew up in contentment and with a good upbringing.

Until my school days I only walked in skirts. I also wore skirts a lot during my school years. I always played with dolls with my siblings. I always liked that too. I was only ever with girls. Even though I was sometimes made fun of, the happier I was. I also wore my hair very long and my sister always wove beautiful bows into it. I was always very happy when I could go out on the street with my doll stroller.

My favourite time was always when I could watch the dressmaker and she sometimes tried children's clothes on me. I was the happiest child in the world then. After school, I learned the hairdressing trade, which I also enjoyed. Even during my apprenticeship, I often had the opportunity to put on my favourite little skirts.

But only in my little room in the evening. And I was very happy with the lot I drew. The master's daughter was a dressmaker and I had lots of opportunities to see the fashion magazine or a lingerie album. Which I always really enjoyed. I still love looking at the fashion magazines today. The best time for me was trying on clothes. She had a bust, but sometimes it wasn't in order, the stand was broken. When she called me to try things on, I was very happy because the first thing I had to do was put on a nice lace petticoat and a nice waist.

Then she always put the dresses or skirts on top. At the end of my apprenticeship she had given me a beautiful silk dress, which I was very happy about. I had had the dress for a very long time. I had often said to her that I would also like to have such a beautiful dress and my wish came true. My dear mum knew, because where would I have had the washing done? I didn't tell other people about it. After my apprenticeship, I came to the Rhineland. I was very unhappy there because I couldn't wear my favourite little skirts. It was too dangerous, but I always wore an undershirt or panties.

With the economic situation getting worse and worse, I decided to join the military. I was able to do the same as in the Rhineland. But there were days when I was alone and quickly put on

my skirts. My heart was always so light. Sometimes I was in a tight spot, but it always passed. When I met my wife, I was happy because she was very understanding of my peculiarity as her brother was also a transvestite. Unfortunately, he passed away. I got some of the things. My wife loves to see me in a skirt. In the evenings we sit in the warm parlour and do handicrafts. I also do all the women's work. We got married in November and are very happy because I don't drink alcohol. That's a brief overview of my life.

Dear Madame Dr, I would like to ask you once again for a written connection with a fellow member of my species. And I am available for you, Madame Dr, at any time. I think the few lines I have written will please my fellow sisters or they will laugh at me, because I am not such a great writer. But I am still pleased that I have written a few lines.

Greetings to all my fellow sisters: Erna.