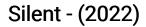


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Silent

A young teenage girl crept out of her home Heading toward the dark forest behind her house Unpleasant odors filled the air As sounds and voices grew louder

She hid behind a couple of pine trees barbed wire towering over her On the other side she could see children and adults of all ages Working, while a cloud of sadness hung over them Soldiers stared at the prisoners like hawks Making sure they did their job

All the hostages could do was stay silent Stay silent while the Nazis ruined their lives Stay silent while her people killed their hope and happiness All they could do was stay silent

On her way back to her house she caught a glimpse of her reflection in a window Her vanilla-colored hair hung loose under her shoulders ice blue eyes stared back at her Two of the things that made her different from people she just saw Two of the things that somehow made her superior and special Only two things

The German girl knew none of this was right How could it? Being treated differently based on religion Based on hair color, based on eye color They were still human, they deserve the same rights as everyone else But she couldn't say that, not in front of her family Not in front of anyone, because she was part of the Aryan race

Now it was her turn to stay silent Stay silent and keep her beliefs to herself Stay silent while her people killed other people's hope and happiness All she could do was stay silent