

B.L. MORRISON SCHOOL, POSTVILLE

presents

IN THE GHETTOS OF WARSAW

Scene takes place in 1939 following the invasion of Warsaw, Poland by Nazi Germany. During this time the Jews were placed in ghettos. Our story takes place in the ghettos of Warsaw.

CAST

Rebecca - a teenage girl.....	Sharon Edmonds
Jeremiah - a teenage boy.....	Alaster Sheppard
Martha - 9 yr. old girl.....	Jennifer Mews
Mary - 8 yr. old girl.....	Carlene Sheppard
David - 7 yr. old boy.....	Jimmy Goudie
Orphanage Matron.....	Wendy Jacque
Hans Dietrich - German Lieutenant.....	Jerry Goudie
Commandante Schmidt.....	Samantha Pilgrim
- originally played by.....	Harvey Jacque

TEACHER ADVISOR

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Mud Lake Elementary
Mud Lake



CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL 91

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Rebekeh.....	Sharon Edmonds
Jeremiah.....	Alaster Sheppard
David.....	Jimmy Goudie
Martha.....	Jennifer Mews
Mary.....	Carlene Sheppard
Esther.....	Geri Arlene Edmunds
Matron of the Orphanage.....	Wendy Jacque
Hans.....	Jerry Goudie
Commandant Schmidt.....	Harvey Jacque

Scene One

SD: The scene is of the inside of an orphanage. The spotlight centres on the bedroom area, where Rebekeh is sitting on her bed writing an entry into her diary.

Rebekeh:

October 14th, 1941
Dear Diary:

Today more innocent people were herded onto trucks & shipped to death camps. Everyday so many of our friends disappear from around us. We wonder who will be next? It could be me or even worse my younger brother David. If anything happened to him, life wouldn't be worth living. I remember the look on his face when we walked home and found that mom and dad had been taken and the house had been ransacked.

No one told us where they were gone, but we understood only too well what had happened to them, because the previous day our next door neighbours had been brutally taken from their home and put onto an army truck.

The rumour that came from the underground was that hundreds of Jews from Gdansk and the villages around Warsaw had been sent to concentration camps. Now that Warsaw has fallen, people in the ghetto are being rounded up and sent by train to Auschwitz. They say they are performing medical experiments on people; on our people! I saw a rabbi being beaten and dragged away. Some Nazi said he wasn't fit for Auschwitz. What did he ever do? When I hear Jeremiah speak it hurts. He would stop others from hurting one another before. Now all he wants to do is take revenge out on the Nazis. Sometimes I wish I could do the same.

SD: The children enter the scene. Rebekeh quickly hides her diary under her pillow.

Martha: I'm so hungry!—My tummy hurts.

Rebekeh: I know Martha, but we all have to live with it, until we get out of this place! The Rabbi says one day we may all go to the Promised Land!

Mary; What's that?

Rebekeh: According to the Prophets, all the Hebrew children, will one day return to Israel. That's the place where Abraham, Elijah and David lived.

David: I never lived in 'Iswhyelle'.

SD: (Everyone laughs)

Jeremiah: You don't actually believe in a Promised Land, and all the other 'children's stories' the Rabbi tells, do you!

Rebekeh: I always did before, but ever since mom and dad (pause); you know; sometimes it's nice to believe there will be somewhere far away from here, after all this?

Esther: The only way we will ever get out of this place is if they come and take us away to Auschwitz like our parents.

Rebekeh: Esther, you have to have hope. If we give up hope we don't have anything to live for. We have to be strong for David, and the others even if we don't feel strong ourselves.

Mary: Rebekah, what is Auschwitz?

Rebekeh: Auschwitz is a concentration camp... a place where the Nazi's sent mom and dad.

Martha: Why did the Nazis send them there?

Jeremiah: Because the Nazis hate us.

SD: (Matron walks into the bedroom. David runs up to her and gives her a hug as...).

David: Matron! I don't want to go to bed yet!

Matron: Come on little one...off to bed with you! Everyone else, the same! It's time for prayers.

SD: (The children jump in bed. The Matron motions to everyone to close their eyes and bow)

Matron: Jehovah, Your children bow before you to praise and worship you. You are the God that brought Moses and our ancestors across the Red Sea, and then held the hand of Joshua as he led the Hebrew children into the Promised Land. We long for the day to come when we will return to the Land you promised to our first grandfather, Abraham. Just as a gentile king took your children into Babylon, so today your children are held captive in another land. Many have been taken captive and murdered because we are your sons and daughters. Please, look favourably upon us and deliver your people.

Be with the weak and the young. Hold up the hand of the widow, the orphan, and the poor. Remember the children of the Warsaw ghetto.

David: Amen!

Matron: Shhhh. Now let us all hold hands and sing the Psalms of the captive.

Everyone: Yameh Yatov ya na alaheem, Chevette na heem ya na hum
Yameh Yatov ya na alaheem, Chevette na heem ya na hum
Yameh Yatov ya na alaheem
Chevette na heem ya na hum
Yameh Yatov ya na alaheem
Chevette na heem ya na hum.

Esther: May I have the Torah Matron.

Matron: I didn't know you were so interested, Esther.

Esther: Thankyou Matron.

Matron: Blow out the candle and cover up.

SD: (The candle is blown out and the children turn in to go to sleep)

Matron: Good night children.

The Children: Good night Matron.

SD: (As soon as the Matron leaves the children talk)

David: Can I get in bed with you Rebekeh...I'm scared.

Jeremiah: Grow up kid! Let's get some sleep!

Rebekeh: Come over David, you can sleep with me.

SD: (David gets in bed and slips behind Rebekeh)

Esther: What's that noise?

Rebekeh: What noise?

Martha: I heard it that time, there's someone downstairs!

Jeremiah: Be quiet, it's probably that fat old Matron eating our food.

Mary: Matron isn't fat; just kind of round.

SD: (Suddenly the Air Raid siren blasts through the darkness. Jeremiah jumps out of bed and runs to the window. In a couple of seconds bursting into the room comes the Matron held at gunpoint by Commandant Schmidt, and a Nazi soldier named Hans)

Hans: This is only a children's orphanage. (Turning to Commandant) You said this was the home of vigilantes, Commandant!

Commandant: No one has asked for you to speak soldier! Old woman, who are these children?

Matron: They are children of Jewish families that have been...taken away.

Commandant: Why are they not with their parents?

Matron: They were permitted to return to the ghetto to live with family. When no one was left to care for them, I was paid to become their matron.

Commandant: We should send the whole dirty bunch of you onto a nice train! You, (points at Esther) what is that beside your bed?

Esther: It's, It's, a Jewish book.

Commandant: Let me see this Jewish Book of yours.

SD: (Esther hands the book over to him. He thumbs through it)

Commandant: Woman, come here and read this to me. If I remember your language reads backwards! Hah. Read here.

Matron: In the beginning, God created the heaven's and the earth, and the earth was without...

Commandant: No more, I've heard enough... a Jew with a christian book...

Hans: But they have a right to have their scriptures. Were not Moses and Jesus Jews?

Commandant: Shut up! No one has spoken to you! Give me the book woman! (He points at Esther) You; we will make an example of you for the rest of these future Auschwitz visitors!

Matron: What do you mean? Please, you will not take the girl?

Hans: She is only a child! Commandant!

Commandant: You will come with us!

Esther: Rebekeh! Jeremiah! Matron, please somebody!

SD: (Commandant hauls Esther out of her bed and onto the floor. Esther begins to cry hysterically. The younger children run to Rebekeh.)

Commandant: Get up Jew, you're coming with me!

SD: (Jeremiah moves towards the Commandant)

Jeremiah: You can't do that. She hasn't done anything!

SD: (The Commandant slaps Jeremiah across the face)

Commandant: If you don't shut up, you'll join your parents!

Hans: Commandant! These are children! They have done no one any harm! What are we as soldiers doing in an orphanage anyways! War is on a battlefield against an enemy...not slapping little boys and taking little girls as prisoners!

Commandant: A Jew is a Jew! They are all alike, and that is my war! Take that girl and lead her out of here, before I make an example of you!

SD: (Hans drags Esther out, down the steps and into the audience. Schmidt follows closely behind. Jeremiah follows and says)

Martha: Do something Jeremiah; don't let them take her!

Jeremiah: You can't take her! Please, leave her alone!

Matron: Don't Jeremiah, you'll make it worse for her if you try to stop her. Perhaps they will just try to frighten her as a warning!

Mary: Why are they taking Esther?

Rebekeh: Shhhh!

SD: (Lights go down on stage and up on Schmidt, Hans and Esther.)

David follows at a distance to the edge of the stage)

Esther: Let me go, please let me go. You have no right to keep me here! I haven't done anything! You pukey swine.

SD: (Esther kicks Hans, and she breaks free, and runs up the aisle. Commandant hauls out his revolver and...)

Commandant: Stupid Jew! Goodbye.

SD: (Hans and Jeremiah scream out the same time)

Hans: Schmidt!

Jeremiah: Noooooooooo!

SD: (Esther is hit by the bullet and falls to the floor with a groan. Schmidt walks up to the body and rolls her over with his boot. He points at Hans)

Commandant: That is one less Jew to worry about! Welcome to your Promise Land.

SD: (He points the gun at the body and pulls the trigger a final time. Hans picks up the body and walks out as)

Martha: Another gunshot. (pause) Esther!!!!!!!!!!!!

SD: (End of Scene One)

SCENE TWO

SD: (It is morning at the orphanage and the children are making their beds. No one is saying anything until David begins to look around. David walks over to Esther's bed with a confused look on his face)

Rebekeh: What's wrong David?

David: Is Esther up already? She usually is still in bed when I get up.

Mary: Somebody should tell David what happened.

David: What is everybody talking about? Rebekeh, I'm getting scared. Did something happen to Esther? Did she leave the orphanage without permission again?

Rebekeh: Esther's going to be gone for a long time.

David: I don't want Esther to be gone.

Rebekeh: David; some soldiers came last night and they found Esther with the Torah. You know what happens to anybody who is caught by the Nazis with the Torah.

David: No I don't.

SD: (Mary turns to Rebekeh and loudly whispers)

Mary: He's too young!

Rebekeh: Esther won't be back anymore. I know you don't understand, but...

David: Esther's dead, isn't she?

Martha: I miss Esther too David.

David: It isn't fair what did she do?

Mary: Jeremiah's right. I don't like the Nazis.

Martha: I hate them, I hate them all!

David: I thought God said we weren't supposed to hate anyone!

Martha: Even when they take your family and friends away?

David: Guess so; Rabbi didn't say anything about that?

SD: (Mary and Martha sit beside David and put their arms around him. Jeremiah and Rebekeh walk off towards the edge of the stage)

Jeremiah: How you feeling?

Rebekeh: How do you expect me to feel? I've known Esther for as long as I've been here. She was like a little sister to me. Other than you, I've had only David. He's so young. Sometimes he doesn't even remember mom and dad. What are we going to do Jeremiah?

Jeremiah: I don't know about you, but in a few more months when I turn 16, I'm going to join the resistance and fight the Nazis. I hate Germans! They are all alike! They have killed my family and I one day will repay in full what they have done!

Rebekeh: You scare me sometimes when you talk that way. I hate what the war has done to my family, to the children and even to you. One time you would never say anything against anyone. And now you're full of hate.

Jeremiah: Of course I'm full of hate...I hate everything about this life we live. Everyday goes by and a few more people are carted off to face a starvation, a gas chamber or gun! And now Esther is dead. Hate! How can't I be filled with hate?

Rebekeh: Sometimes I feel like running into the streets, and killing every soldier I see, but then, I see even kindness in someone I want to hate. Take...

Jeremiah: What! How can you see kindness in a people who would kill your parents and murder Esther?

Rebekeh: Well, remember last night? I felt just like you when that Nazi officer treated us like animals, because we were Jews! I was ashamed and at the same time ready to jump at him for what he did. But; what about that other soldier. The young fellow. He seemed different; almost like he, really cared!

Jeremiah: WHAT! Are you out of your mind! He's a NAZI! He is one of the enemy; a German!

Rebekeh: But maybe he was different. Didn't you see the way he reacted when the officer pulled Esther out of bed? Isn't it possible he hates this holocaust as much as we do?

Jeremiah: His mom and dad weren't dragged out of bed in the middle of the night, stripped of their pride and life and left to die like an unwanted dog in a gas chamber. He can have no idea. He wears a Nazi uniform; he is the reason I hate!

Rebekeh: I'm sorry I even said anything. I understand how you feel. You're right. They are all alike.

Jeremiah: Promise me you will have nothing to do with him.

Rebekeh: With who?

Jeremiah: You know who I mean. That German Nazi...Hans was his name. Promise me Rebekeh!

Rebekeh: I promise Jeremiah.

SD: (Jeremiah leaves Rebekeh and joins David, Mary and Martha. Rebekeh slowly slips to the left of the stage, and walks down into what is the outside of the orphanage. She turns around to make sure no one has seen her go)

Rebekeh: I hope no one saw me leave. (sigh) What am I going to do?

SD: (Rebekeh puts her hands through her hair, and stares across

the crowd as if looking for answers and expresses her feelings in her soliloque)

Rebekeh: Esther's gone! It seems like yesterday the papers were filled with stories of Hitler advancing his troops into Poland. I remember daddy, reading the paper telling me when we were still a normal family, sitting in our living room. And now dad and mom are either dying in Auschwitz, or...already dead.

Part of me is with Jeremiah. I'm proud to be a Jew, and sometimes I want to fight back against all that's happened to me, my family and my people. I want to hate...but I can't! I don't know what to believe; I feel like I'm being pulled in two different directions. I love Jeremiah, but is he wrong?

He seemed so different. Why did he care how we were being treated? I can't get the picture out of my mind of him standing up to that Nazi officer and defending Esther! But if he cares, why is he a Nazi? Nazis hate Jews...Nazis pen Jews up in dirty, infested ghettos...Nazis sent my parents to die! He can't be different! Why am I even considering him...considering him! For what? I promised Jeremiah I would have nothing to do with him! But then; why?

SD: (Light fades on Rebekeh, until the audience can just see her apparition. The spotlight now focuses on Hans who enters the rear exit in the back of the room. Hans now speaks his feelings in his soliloque)

Hans: I can't get the picture out of my mind of that little girl being shot. Last night I tossed and turned; her face haunted me all night long; a foreboding image, imprinted forever on my mind. Why did he have to kill her? Schmidt's an animal. I never joined the army to kill children...to kill anyone. The battlefield is a place where men who know the reality of death meet. I respect my enemy...but how can these Jews ever respect us, for what we have done.

When I enlisted, my only dream was to send a little money back to my parents in Bavaria. If my parents knew what I would become involved in; if the majority of our people knew what Hitler's Nazism would bring, I would have never been here, and maybe that little girl would still be alive.

How could someone like her ever understand that not all Germans are not like that animal Schmidt. She could never believe many Germans hate the Nazis, and some have even hidden Jews away from the Ghestapo, at the cost of their own families safety. I wish I could burn this

cursed swastika! But look at me... a Nazi soldier! Why would she ever think of me?

SD: (Then Hans notices Rebekeh. For a moment he stares, and is caught in a suspension of desire and absolute fear. ACT. As he is about to walk away, he stops and turns to make his way down the aisle across the front of the stage. It is not until he reaches half way across the stage that Rebekeh sees him. The light on Rebekeh slowly turns up to reveal her fear and disbelief. Hans stops and the two make an extended moment of eye contact. She turns to move away when Hans says...)

Hans: Wait... please, give me just a few moments of your time.

Rebekeh: Me?

Hans: I'm sorry about your friend.

SD: (Rebekeh stares at him, is about to say something, then puts her head down in silence)

Hans: I wish I could undo what has been done...but I can't.
I wish I could somehow show you my life before this uniform...but you will probably never see me again...
I wish I could ... I wish ... I wish I could be your friend; but...

Rebekeh: My friend?

Hans: I hate who you think I am; and I wish I could be sure you were wrong. I am sorry I spoke to you; I had no right to think we ... to believe you could forgive me for being a German. I will go.

SD: (Hans turns to go)

Rebekeh: I wish we could be friends...

Hans: Why couldn't we...can't we escape this war, escape this pain and hatred? Why can't we be two people who are different? Look at what racism has done to two people...we, we can be friends. Please?!

SD: (Rebekeh waits a moment, it is evident she wants to but cannot...)

Rebekeh: No, we could never be friends.

SD: (Rebekeh turns away and walks onto the stage and exits through the midstage curtain. Hans walks across the stage, stares into the crowd, as the lights dim and die.)

END OF SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

SD: (It is suppertime at the orphanage and the children are gathered around the table. Matron is pouring porridge into their bowls. No one seems to be hungry, but instead they just pick at their food. Rebekeh is missing from the table.)

Jeremiah: What's this thick slop!

Mary: Eoooooh!

Matron: Now quit your complaining. You should be satisfied; most people are worse off than us. We are not starving!

Martha: It's better than nothing...I guess.

Matron: Where's Rebekeh? Have any of you seen her?

Martha: She's still up in her bedroom.

Mary: I think she's reading.

Matron: Well she should be down here eating supper. Jeremiah, keep your eye on the children. I'll get that girl out here.

SD: (Matron moves across stage as spotlight hits scene of Rebekeh lying in her bed, writing in her diary. She reads aloud the passage. Matron can be seen listening and secretly watching)

Rebekeh:

October 15th, 1941

Dear Diary:

Life was confusing before, but now its total kaos. My whole world is crumbling around me. Last night two Nazis barged into the orphanage holding Matron at gunpoint. The older one dragged Esther out of bed, because they saw the Torah beside her. When Jeremiah tried to stop him, the officer slapped him across the face. I'm glad Jeremiah didn't lose his temper or it might be him I'd be missing. Instead, I'm missing Esther. They took her out and the next thing we hear were two gunshots. We don't even know if she's dead and if her body is lying in the open somewhere.

The worse part about it is, its not Esther I keep thinking about. In the middle of that crazy scene last night, I couldn't help but notice how the young soldier,

kept trying to stop the officer from beating on Esther. He really seemed to care. I mentioned it to Jeremiah, but he got angry at me. He hates the Nazis! Sometimes I want to hate; talking to Jeremiah makes me feel guilty that I don't hate them all. Instead, I can't help thinking about Hans; that's the young soldier. Things got even more complicated.

I sneaked out of the orphanage last night, to get some fresh air. I was standing next to a street sign, confused about what happened to Esther and for some reason...Hans was there. Before I knew it he was talking to me. He asked me if we could be friends! A Nazi soldier asked if we could be friends! I got flustered. I didn't know what to do. Just stand there and talk to him? What would Jeremiah say to me, or any of the Jews in the ghetto? They might think I was an informant, or worse... his girlfriend. How insane! He would never want a for Jew for a girlfriend. And a Jew would never want a Nazi soldier.

SD: (The Matron begins to whistle as she walks into the room, so as to appear she has not been listening. She watches as Rebekeh hides her diary under her pillow).

Matron: It's time for supper young lady. Into the kitchen, quickly! I will be out for a few moments. After supper I want everyone in bed early. Yesterday's events have the children frightened.

Rebekeh: Yes Matron. I'm sorry I am late. I'm just tired.

SD: (Rebekah walks past the matron. As she is leaving matron pretends to dust. When Rebekah is gone matron goes to where the diary is hidden; when she finds it she reads a portion of it.)

Matron: -So, she's in love with a German is she? This may be my way out.

SD: (Lights spot Matron as she slips off the stage. Lights are dimmed on the kitchen scene where the children are eating their supper. The Matron walks over to an office. It is the Ghestapo headquarters in Poland. The office of the Commandant)

Matron: I hope I know what I'm doing. Jehovah forgive me. Office of the Ghestapo... Commandant Schmidt.

SD: (She knocks at the door)

Commandant: Yes, Yes, Come in!

Matron: I beg of you Commandant, for a moment of your time.

Commandant: What are you doing out of the ghetto woman. Have you come for a trip to Auschwitz?

Matron: No Commandant. I have come with information for you... in exchange for protection from the deportations.

Commandant: What type of information is this you speak of?

Matron: Information regarding the relationship between a Nazi soldier and a Jewess who has sympathy with the resistance.

Commandant: Who is this soldier who dares to insult the Fuher!

SD: (Heel click and salute)

Matron: First your promise of assylum. I beg of you, your word. Promise me you will give me passage to the Promise Land.

Commandant: Zionist swine! But it is a small price to pay, for the criminal to come to his justice. Yes, you will see this Promise Land of yours. Now, who is this traitor and his Jewess.

Matron: It is the young man who came with you last night. The one who did not want Esther harmed. The one you call Hans.

Commandant: He will not see Germany again! And the Jewess?

Matron: You will not harm her, will you?

Commandant: Her name.

Matron: Rebekeh.

Commandant: Do you have any proof of these allegations?

Matron: Yes.

SD: (She hauls out Rebekeh's diary)

Matron: This is the young girls diary. Read the last entry.

SD: (The Commandant reads the entry and throws it against the wall.)

Commandant: Jew! Come with me! We will finnish this business!

SD: (He screams into the intercom)

Commandant: Have Lieutenant Hans Dietrich, at the Jewish orphanage in minutes or risk court martial!

Come with me!

SD: (The Commandant picks up the diary, grabs the Matron's arm, and moves across the stage, as the lights die. The lights return to the orphanage where the children are getting in bed. Their conversation will be some of their last within the orphanage. Rebekeh seems panicked. She realizes her diary is missing).

Rebekeh: Mary; Martha; have either of you been picking at my things again?

Martha: Not me. What things?

Rebekeh: Never you mind. What about you Mary?

Mary: Why is it you and Jeremiah blame us for everything? I never touched your stupid things.

Jeremiah: What are you looking for Rebekeh?

Rebekeh: It's nothing; forget it.

Jeremiah: Well then don't lay into everyone else. You would think it was life threatening or something.

David: Jeremiah?

Jeremiah: Yeah?

David: Are we going to have a funeral for Esther?

Jeremiah: There is no funerals for a Jew of the ghetto. Go to sleep David. Forget Esther.

Rebekeh: Jeremiah! Have a little compassion. David is but a child. He will need hope to live on. We must give him a reason to live, not to die.

Jeremiah: He will need to hate the Nazi to live. He is a child, but there is no one to mother him anymore. If something were to ever happen to you or I, he would have to survive by trusting no one. That is what I wish for David. To survive.

Mary: I'm scared.

Martha: Don't talk like that Jeremiah! I'll have nightmares!

Rebekeh: Why are you so frightened?

Martha: I'm afraid they'll take you and Jeremiah away too!

Mary: Then who'll take care of us?

Rebekeh: Don't worry Mary. Jeremiah and I are right here.

Mary: I wish Esther was here too.

Rebekeh: So do I, Mary, so do I.

Jeremiah: I'm turning out the light.

Mary: Can't we leave it on?

Jeremiah: There is nothing to be frightened of in the dark. If the Nazis wanted us, they know where we are, all day long.

SD: (David crawls out of bed and taps Rebekeh on the shoulder.)

David: Can I get in?

Rebekeh: Get inside David.

SD: (Jeremiah reaches up and turns off the light. The Matron can be seen leading the Commandant across the front of the stage. They meet Hans at the base of the opposite stairwell)

Commandant: Woman, lead the way in. We will follow. Let me know who the conspirator is, but do not say anything.

Matron: The children are asleep in their beds; why do we have to awaken them.

Commandant: Just do as you are told.

Hans: Is this woman a spy? We now spy on children!?

Commandant: This woman is a Zionist and a Zealot!

Hans: Why are we here again? Is that was this war is; the nightly raid of orphanages?

Commandant: You are no soldier! Up the steps, now!

SD: (The three walk up the stairwell, and quietly cross the stage. Half way, the Matron moves ahead, signaling the two to follow.)

Hans: What is the old woman doing?

Commandant: Making passage for the Promise Land.

Hans: What?

SD: (Matron walks into the room. Looking at Rebekeh she waits a moment. Turning back at the Nazis she stops...but just for a second. She bends over and kisses Rebekeh on the cheek.

Turning towards the door, she hooks her foot in the bed. She looks back, but it seems no one has noticed. She moves on. Once far enough away, Rebekeh sits up in bed. She looks around and hears talking)

Hans: Why did the old woman kiss the girl?

SD: (Commandant smiles)

Commandant: You seem a little worried NAZI!

Matron: Now what will you do?

Commandant: Let us go wake the children!

SD: (Rebekeh realizes the Nazis are in the house again and coming in the bedroom. She shakes David)

David: (Yawn) What?

Rebekeh: Hide under my bed, now!

David: But...

Rebekeh: Go on; I love you! Jehovah be with you!

SD: (She kisses him on the forehead and he holding his blanket slips under the bed as the Matron, Commandant, and Hans enter the bedroom. Commandant screams)

Commandant: Get Up! All of you! NOW!

SD: (The children all sit up in their beds, in obvious horror).

Matron: What are you doing.

Commandant: Keeping my promises Jew.

Hans: Are you mad?

SD: (He ignores Hans and looks at Matron)

Commandant: You have done well today old woman. You will soon see the Promise Land.

Jeremiah: What does he mean, Matron?

Matron: I do not...

Commandant: Do not lie old woman. Your passage is in the balance.

Matron: What do you mean?

Jeremiah: You are with them!

Rebekeh: No, she would never become a...

Commandant: She would not, would she 'Rebekeh'?

Rebekeh: How do you know my name?!?

SD: (Mary and Martha run to Rebekeh. The Commandant stands in their way. Jeremiah tries to run at the Commandant, but the larger man simply tosses him to the corner.)

Commandant: Hans, go to the window! What do you see?

Hans: Not much. What am I supposed to see?

Commandant: Where are we?

Hans: In an orphanage in the Jewish Ghetto.

Commandant: Yes...

SD: (He points at Rebekeh)

Commandant: Do you know this Jewess? Answer me!

Hans: I know her almost as little as you Comman...

SD: (He looks at Rebekeh)

Commandant: Have you ever spoke to him?

SD: (Rebekeh looks shocked)

Rebekeh: How do you know?

Jeremiah: Rebekeh!?!

SD: (The Commandant slips the diary from his pocket...)

Rebekeh: My diary...How did you... MATRON?!? Why?

SD: (The facial expression on Hans and the Matron must be obvious)

Commandant: She wished to see the Promise Land... you have done well old woman.

Matron: Can we go now... I want to leave here forever. Keep your word.

Commandant: You will see the Promise Land.

SD: (He hauls his revolver from his pocket and points it at the old woman)

Matron: No, please...no!

SD: (Rebekeh screams as she covers the faces of Mary and Martha)

Commandant: Goodbye old woman!

SD: (Commandant pulls the trigger and the Matron is sent reeling against the wall, and slowly slips to the floor. Mary, Martha, and Rebekeh are crying. Jeremiah stares in disbelief.)

Commandant: And now for the traitor!

SD: (He turns again to Hans who is still by the window. Hauling back the hammer he tells Hans to look again at the ghetto.

Commandant: Hans Dietrich. Tonite for your crimes against the Fuher, you will die a Jew of the Warsaw ghetto! Do you have anything to say before you die?

Hans: My only crime is that I was a coward that dared to raise my voice against the power of your racist creeds. This war you fight finds it's source in all that is evil. I am a German and I am proud of my heritage. This is not German...it is Nazi!

SD: (He rips off the swastika)

Hans: I do not deserve to die a Jew.

Commandant: No you are lower!

SD: (He points the gun at Hans. Rebekeh jumps from the bed and runs at the Commandant. Jeremiah on the other side of the room, runs between Hans and the Commandant, to stop Rebekeh. As he holds his arms out to stop her, the Commandant fires twice. Jeremiah reels back in pain against the bed. Hans drops to the floor dead).

SD: (Mary runs to Jeremiah who is bleeding, but alive. Martha holds onto Rebekeh. Commandant glares at Rebekeh!)

Commandant: You hate me little Jew, don't you? You hate us all. You are full of hate at what we have done to your once rich race! Answer me?

Rebekeh: I hate what you have done! I hate everything about Nazis. And I want to hate you... but I can't! I pity you for how low you've become and how sick your racism has ate away at your humanity. You can kill the Jew, but you will never kill our pride, for our pride is in our God. (pause) But you, you are already dead, and history will not forget what you have done to us.

SD: (Commandant points at Rebekeh)

Commandant: Take these two and don't ^{them} let go until you are in Auschwitz.

SD: (He points at Jeremiah)

Commandant: You can walk. If I wished you to die here you would have been dead.

SD: (He points at Han's body)

Commandant: Drag him to the door; he will be left in the ghetto.

SD: (The Commandant lifts the Matron's body in his arms, and walks off the stage. Jeremiah, in pain, drags Han's body, following the Commandant. Rebekeh leads Mary and Martha behind Jeremiah. Through her tears Martha asks...)

Martha: Rebekeh, where is Dav...

SD: (Rebekeh puts her hand over Martha's mouth. Jeremiah turns around with the realization that David is not there. Rebekeh shakes her head quickly, begging him not to say anything).

SD: (The Commandant turns around)

Commandant: Where is who???

SD: (Rebekeh stops in horror)

Jeremiah: The little one is wondering where Esther is?

Commandant: Keep them quiet. Move it.

SD: (They all walk out. Rebekeh turns around as she holds the two girls. When the Commandant walks out of the room she whispers...)

Rebekeh: Goodbye David, Pray we will see each other again... Maybe in the Promise Land.

SD: (They all walk out, leaving the stage bare. Silence for about 10 seconds. David crawls out from under the bed holding onto his stuffed animal. He looks around with a frightened look on his face. Looking over the audience he sadly walks back to the bed, sits up on it, and hugs his bear as the lights dim and die.)