

FIRST PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY

Yes, I'm Sure

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The SS officer beckoned us up to the front of our synagogue
He stared at us for a moment

“Are you sure that you’re one hundred percent Jewish?”

Jewish

To them it meant the problem that needed to be solved
The cargo that needed to be transported
The prisoners that needed to be kept in check
The inferior race that needed to be destroyed

I’m not sure why they asked my sister and me that question
Perhaps we didn't look like the Jews the Nazis had propagandized
Perhaps they found family records that pointed otherwise
It didn't matter

“Yes, I’m sure”

At the time I didn't know what was in store for me or my family
Though I did know that the Nazis had hurt my people
Had driven some of my people, people like my brother, to hurt themselves
And I did know that I would never be a part of their regime

I knew where I belonged

Jewish

To me it meant the family that I loved
The religion that I loved
The God that I loved
The community that I loved

So when I answered the SS officer
It was not about how much I hated the Nazis
And their tyranny
And their inhumane ways
It was about how much I loved my people
And how I knew that I would persevere through whatever the Nazis threw at me
With my people by my side