

**"COUNTDOWN TO HITLER"**

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535 words

A new government

"Adolf Hitler"

Neighbors start giving me stares

Friends starting to disappear

Mean looks thrown at me on the streets

This shouldn't last long

But even after weeks,

Things didn't seem to change.

When I questioned

They told me it was because,

I was a Jew.

## **9**

Boys big and small are torn away from their homes

All for his Nazi army

But I'll be alright here

I still have my family

And some friends

With a good job to keep my income,

The people tell me to be grateful.

My ears are drawn to the news

People given new names,

And bright stars sewn to their clothing,

But they were nowhere near me.

Why should I worry?

8

"Hitler"

"Hitler"

"Hitler"

Is the only talk out of anyone's mouth

Will people stop this nonsense?

Who even is this man?

As thoughts flood through my mind,

I begin.

The anxiety.

Worry.

Fear.

While I walk to work

Fearful faces look my way

Are they scared of me?

Have I done something wrong?

I have yet to know,

What was to come.

Words hit me in the face when I left

"Oh my goodness, a Jew!"

"Get rid of it!"

7

I am fired now  
No money made  
I live off what I've got left.  
A bang at my door,  
A new middle name ,  
A star stuck on my clothes,  
I am becoming the people  
I once brushed off.

6

Signs hung on shop doors  
*"Jews forbidden"*  
I can't even be a human.  
To them,  
I am an animal  
Treated inhumanely  
And soon enough  
I am forced from my home,  
Put on the streets of some old ghetto,  
Living with the other so called,  
*"Saras" or "Israels"*  
This was sick  
Horrid.

And I knew I was going to end up just like the others

Ending up in some camp

Giving into hard labor

Torture.

Death.

Hitler's evil,

Is now coming to engulf me too

Just like how it got to the rest of us.

5

We learn to make schools,

Educate the children,

Care for each other,

This ghetto will not pull us apart.

We vow to stand strong

Undefeated

Work hard

We will cannot let them win

They will not just exterminate us like we are some disease.

4

We continue praising our religion

We keep believing.

We keep fighting.

We keep educating.

We keep singing.

We keep dancing.

We will keep going.

3

The sun rises

The smell of smoke floods my head

*What is happening?*

A hand grabs my shoulder

Tough and strong

The face of a Nazi looks down

I blink, and I am on a train.

I blink, and I am on the ground.

I blink, and I am in a tight room,

Surrounded by a crowd stripped of their belongings.

There are tears, screams, cries.

*And I realize*

2

Why do we hate on people that are different?

Why do we think that violence is always the answer?

Why can't we all just be friends and care for one another?

We are all here on this earth together

To work together

To change together

To fight together

So why get rid of us because we are different from you?

*I*

And I am another one

Lost to the countdown of Hitler.

**WORK CITED**

Bachrach, Susan D. *Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust*. Little Brown and Company, 1994. *publishersweekly.com*, <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-316-69264-9>.