

Honorable Mention
Fiction Writing, Division I
By Levi Rau, Grade 7
Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
Jennifer Adair, Instructor
Aggravation
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Aggravation

“Imagine being inside a gas chamber, waiting to die due to Zyklon B gas filling your lungs. How did you get there? You didn’t do anything wrong, you were just Jewish which made you wrong according to the Nazis. That was the average life of a Jew in the 1940’s. Some might have heard this period before, though whatever you heard is nothing compared to the truth. The horrors that nice people had to face for no reason other than their heritage and religion were horrifying. If this wasn’t enough they even taunted the world by saying they were cleaning the world and even taking a religious symbol, the swastika, and using it to represent themselves. In total, the Nazi party was a horrific movement in many different ways that are just disturbing.

The treatment of people like Jews, black people, gay people, and Gypsies was horrifying. They trapped them in a corner and sent them to work camps known as concentration camps. Some think, “Who cares that was 80 years ago”, but the depressing truth is that since the attack on Israel anti-Semitism has been up 400%—”

Anya Baker turned off her I-Pad. The world seems to be symmetrical. Being Jewish, she already understood the amount of anti-Semitism. She hates this disgusting discrimination. She sees it at school every day. It’s like waking up just to go to a place that’s supposed to be a haven to enjoy and learn about the world though it’s quite the opposite, an ugly warzone. They boss her around and persuade her that her beliefs and heritage is wrong just because it isn’t theirs. She has to go to sleep knowing that an estimated 1.09 billion people are publicly anti-Semitic, anti-her family, anti-her culture, anti-her.

Anya sets her books down in her first-period class, math. She hates this class because A: it’s math, and B: Mary Wyatt is in there. *Oh, speak of the devil*, a tall, blonde, makeup-covered Mary comes walking up wearing a tight crop top and long black leggings with a cross around her neck and white Converse on her feet. “What are you doing?” she says with her hands on her hips. You can practically taste the snotty mood, her rich stuck-up beliefs being openly displayed.

“Is it truly a crime to go to class?” Anya asks, her eyebrows twisting and turning into a wretched pose.

“For someone like you? Yeah.” The staleness of Anya’s face contradicted Mary’s wide smile. She turned her gaze to Mr.Stone, their math teacher with a shimmering bald head, who is probably 4 '8 on his tippy toes, carrying a ruler. Much like a bird when a person approaches, Mary flies back to her seat. This was an average encounter in the day, and likely won’t be the last. Anya stares into the atoms of her desk, the hate and wonder flowing out of her eyes. *Why would people do this to me? They gain absolutely nothing from it besides feeding the hungry beast that is their massive ego.*

“Well hello class, let’s begin a new subject: linear equations-” and she’s asleep. She was tired before but Mary exhausted her. She found that her days are quicker and less tiring if she sleeps in class.

Continuing to her fifth period, she was met with the disturbingly perfect skin care of Mary right in the door. “Well look who it is. If it isn’t the Jew.” You could see the color of rage quickly flow into Anya’s face.

“What’s wrong with Jews? What did we ever do to you?” Anya snaps back.

“What did you do wrong? Uhhh.... Shut up.” Anyone in this situation could tell that Mary had no idea what she was talking about or even why she hated her. The clear lack of understanding was evident, though there wasn't anything that she could do about it. She could tell an adult, though that would just worsen the situation. She could fight her- she chuckles at the idea. She was trapped in a corner, just waiting at the brutal mercy of Mary. It sounds like something the reporters on the holocaust would talk about.

Finally, the 5th bell rang indicating that it was time for lunch. She entered the cafeteria, and took a seat at her table in her usual spot. However there was something unusual about it. *Squishy?* Anya had just sat down on what appeared to be refried beans. Behind her loomed Mary, watching and laughing with her friends pointing at her.

“Did you sit on something?” Mary was barely able to say it through her cackling. The spectators began to multiply, so Anya fled to the nurse for a change of clothes. *Why’d she do this? This is so embarrassing. How badly does she hate me?*

Exhausted from the long day, she finally hears the last bell and a strong smile emerges from her cold, seemingly lifeless face. She runs into the hallway, toward her locker and- *BANG*- she runs directly into Mary.

“What is wrong with you?!”

“I didn’t *mean* to run into you-”

“Well too bad pal, you did,” Mary slowly walks toward in a scary, disturbing manner. Her loud footsteps echoing closer in Anya’s head. Her face floods with fear; her brain stops working.

She approaches slyly like a savage beast,

Her anger visible in an aura,

She grabs Anya up into the sky,

And inside a locker,

Anya feels hate inside of her,

The pent-up rage explodes,

Anya’s fist smashes into her face,

You can feel the brutal recoil as she’s smashed back,

She starts screaming as Mr.Stone runs toward her,

Though his presence is too late,

The damage had already been done to both parties,

The pain was mutual,

The oppression had slowly,

Bit by bit,

Dime by dime,

Escalated into an outburst of violence,

Now everyone has to suffer.

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