

Honorable Mention
Division II - Writing

Phoebe Ledbetter, Grade 9

“Entries of a Believer”

Our Lady of the Elms

Elaine Fippin, Instructor

993 words

September 1, 1939,

My name is Klaus Schmidt. I write today because I am proud of my leader, der Führer und Reichskanzler, Hitler. He is a man who truly makes our country proud. Es lebe Deutschland! Ever since I was a child, I understood that Jewish parasites are disgusting. Hitler also understands this obvious truth, and this is why we can mark this day as the day he takes Poland to clean it of the Jewish filth within. My parents have told me how they are the cause of Germany's political, cultural, and economic degeneration. Even though I am only fourteen, I can see all of the poison those vermin bring to our country and to the world. Hitler is right to exterminate them, and taking Poland is the first step.

December 3, 1939,

The parasites now have to wear their Jewish armbands: white with a blue star, that identify what they are. Every time I see one of them in the schoolyard, I feel uncomfortable to even be near them. The worst part is when I'm seated in the classroom near them. I've seen the newspapers that say those aliens use Christian children in their rituals. Draining the children's blood and using it to bake matzahs is disgusting. I don't want to be anywhere near those kinds of monsters. Those people are the children of Satan to do something like that. Heil Hitler, for finally getting rid of them.

December 12, 1939,

Today some Jewish boy in my class decided to approach a girl I like, Selma Fischer, in the schoolyard. Apparently he likes her too. Doesn't he know she'll never like him? Doesn't he know no one could stand to be around something as disgusting as him? As he walked up to her, I stepped in front of him; he stumbled back, and I spat on him. I told him he has no chance, no hope, and how it'd be better if he died. It's true, and the same with all Jewish aliens. Selma agreed with me; I think she likes me because we share the same values. We agreed: Hitler will take care of him.

April 9, 1940,

Like my first entry, mark this day as the day Hitler takes Denmark and Norway. Heil Hitler! My birthday was yesterday, and I would say that this is the perfect gift for my fifteenth birthday. Also that Jewish boy, whatever his name was, stopped showing up to school. Yet another great present. It took me a few months to notice he was gone; I only noticed last week when I needed a pencil. I turned around to see if I could take his and saw he wasn't there. I asked one of my friends where he went, and he said he'd been gone a while. I guess my wish came true.

April 12, 1945,

It's been a few years since I last wrote; the war is ending, and I'm scared for myself and my wife. Hitler has finally taken care of most of the Jews; I'm glad I don't have to come across any of those aliens anymore. The Soviet Union, United States, and Great Britain have been trying to stop Hitler's solution. There is so much commotion. Today President Roosevelt died, and I'm worried what this means for us. We need somewhere safe, as Selma is due to have our baby soon. We've started packing for Switzerland, and we leave tomorrow. Switzerland is neutral, so we won't have to worry about bombings since there have only been a few there. We've heard of many Nazis fleeing to South America, but knowing how many of them will be going there, we don't want to take the risk. Heil Hitler, may he save us.

April 18, 1945,

Switzerland is much different from Germany. When I've talked to neighbors about the war, they get upset at me about the way I talk about the Jews. They yell at me and my wife for supporting Nazi ideology, but I never did anything wrong. I didn't put them into those camps; I didn't lay a finger on any of those parasites. How dare they blame me!

April 30, 1945,

Hitler is dead. He and his wife have killed themselves. I can tell you now that I don't feel sorry or upset by this loss. My daughter, Erika, was born today. I have realized something that blinded me before. It happened when I brought my daughter home; the neighbors came over to

see her, and they could see her obvious birth defect. One of my neighbors told me that if we had remained in Germany, she would have been taken and euthanized for having Down syndrome. She said Erika was still a beautiful girl, but the others looked at her funny. They stepped away from her as if they might catch it. My heart ached. My eyes filled with tears. She was my beautiful baby girl. It dawned on me then that if anyone were to treat my daughter the way I treated that Jewish boy, my heart would break. Neither of them could help what they are, and it didn't make either of them any less human. That Jewish boy was someone's baby, we are all someone's baby, all human, all alike. All the lies I had been fed growing up poisoned me; our neighbor has been teaching me and my wife the truth. The only thing we ever needed to do was to actually listen and try to understand, but we never wanted to try before. I don't want my daughter to be fed the same hate and lies; I want her to treat that Jewish boy how I should have, like a human being, not an alien. They were no different than us, and I'm sorry it took me so long to realize that. The hate cycle that had been fed for generations through my family stops here, stops with her. God forgive me.

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