

Josh Martinez

"Deny"

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* send corrections to the typist

So this is war, more blood poured from the fountain

As I'm counting on the cold hand

Of those that abstain and demand

More ground gained from the crosses that we follow
into battle

I swallow in the whole Earth rattle

It was all too real from the moment that I peeled

My steel cap back

And saw the black knife fade into first light

Some fat balding man had the clever insight

That might makes right so under infrared sight

We steadily advance

I raised from my crouched stance

As boards marked the time I danced through lines of
dead men

Who've been forever left behind and lie with their own
kind

But I turn my mind off, desensitizing

I find myself surmising on how I can plant my flag upon
the horizon

So glory finds me and I can be

history's first living soul on the beaches of Normandy

And slay me a thousand Germans

Cause revenge is burning hot as pistol shot and I can
smell bodies

Rotting on both sides of the divide but the tide of the
battle has turned

The good guys have returned

So we succeed in the beachhead but success is relative

Relatively high numbers of dead blood stained human
remains

But the Nazis fled so we advance into France

We meet the underground resistance behind enemy
lines, making good distance

At the insistence of our leaders

we follow up on every lead, even a tree can be a trap

But one look at the map showed the Germans were
withdrawing

Citizens were applauding

as they plotted how to pay back the citizen assassins

We started liberating towns to the ticker-tape tirades

Of humans too tired to wage war anymore

It looked like war had but a few months left before we
could all rest

And go home to our families

But then we heard rumor of a place

Where an entire human race was taken and laid to
waste

A camp where crazed experiments take place

And rows of corpses overflowed mass graves

There were things to be seen and turn you to burn

inside

The soldiers were told to see with their own eyes

So I went to see it so I could explain without laying
blame

History's made a name of stories so I will call it as I see
it

I see fit to record it so the truth cannot be distorted

But I must warn you, truth is cold

Souls stolen from right under the skin

A prison where inmates' fate was wrapped and lay

The feat past the gates and doctors decided

Whether you were pesticide-ed or provided with a
tattoo used to ID you

When death from exposure overcame you

So I walked past the gates and saw plain brick
buildings

And then the real world faded

"I hated every breath:" the words to express what I saw
when Auschwitz fell

A living hell, you couldn't tell

The living dead from the skeletons enveloped in this
valley of death

The stink of charred flesh made my breath catch

We couldn't match the millions

of dead civilians to what we had believed to be humans

"How could this happen?" I asked my captain and for a
moment

This proponent of atonement just shook his head

Cause it was best left unsaid

But being Jewish on the other side of the divide meant I
knew my history

Without having to face its wrath

The path of six million goes way beyond the math

I can't understand the way you feel

See Poland fell first and Jews were the first to feel it

Herded into units by perverted Germans who used
their loose liberties

To sexually abuse and misuse in full view of the
camera

But it never made the news

Cause most Poles agreed that all Jews were infected

They infested every stock-invested bank

And every government think-tank had at least a Jew or
two

So who am I to play the fall guy?

When I cast my eye on the neighbor's grass

where it's truly greener on the other side

I must confide that I hate Jews just about as much as
the Germans do

So when the burning smoke chokes out the air and all I
smell is burning hair

I'll turn a blind eye and comply

With every single lie that you make us recite so we
won't ask any questions

I'm just an average citizen

See many Europeans felt that Jews were just pollution

A problem finally solved by the Final Solution

Where Communists, Jews, gypsies, and handicapped
queers

All became the target of irrational fears
fed by the flames of state-sponsored propaganda
And that's when one man began to expand
his theories of inferiority and spread it like a virus
So Jews were enclosed in ghettos completely frozen
from contact
Beyond that flat where fifteen people slept back to
back
Where liberty and property were stolen
On the grounds that Jews were the chosen scapegoats
So oaths were torn and the horns sounded
As the hatred rose from town to town the world was
astounded
That the Nazis would treat some citizens so ruthless
But without documented proof the accusations were
toothless
And since the persecuted were Jewish
The world watched and did nothing
See hate was fanned into obsession
Obsessed by the extermination of a nation founded by
religion
So a nation created in fear and xenophobia
proceeded to eliminate sanction by the state
But bullets were too expensive and didn't kill fast
enough
Plus the mass graves made it hard to deny
the use of slaves digging their own graves
So science was used and compounds were created

to make the killing less anticipated and more efficient

A pesticide called Zyklon B was used

to see hundreds of strangers into the gas chambers

Which they were told were the showers

The children, women, and elderly must have been
smelly

Cause immediately upon entry they were all sent to the
showers

So the world watched and somebody had to know

That six million Jews went to camp and just didn't come
home

As I stare down the tracks

where trains packed humans in cattle cars behind steel
bars

The motto of this camp attracts my eye, it says: "Arbeit
Macht Frei"

Meaning "Work will make you free" but all those who
died inside

Probably never saw the irony

This place had an evil feeling as we roamed building to
building

Sights before my eyes, each one the less appealing

A room piled to the ceiling with gold filling teeth

The next filled with shaved human hair

Soon to become some German chair and plush sofa

Suffocating stench as I clench my teeth, for what I
reached next:

I saw ten huge chimneys burning gas, Jews to ashes

A whole section dedicated to storing glasses

confiscated from the dead for resale

I felt frail and had to leave this hell or be consumed by
its spell

I've long since left but I consider it my duty

To bring this tragedy to the attention of a country

Who pats itself on the back for helping in the
occupation

And bring freedom to a federation of the oppressed

but Canada must be undressed

Its dirty laundry put to rest

Our country frowned on the slaughter, perpetrated

A crime so anti-human we were all left exasperated but
it faded over time

And if you think Denmark smelled rotten soon our
feelings weren't forgotten

But I will never forget that this nation did nothing

And when our government feigned sadness they must
have been bluffing

Cause before and during the war all the way into the
fifties

Canada's immigration policy was just as clear as any:

One Jew is one Jew too many

So how can we condemn when we had a chance

To open up our arms and give our home to the
survivors?

Instead we gave the red carpet to ex-Nazi storm riders

Whose record checks seemed to have been forgotten

at the border in the disorder

Why do you think we still keep finding out

the Nazis are our neighbors fifty years later?

Ask me if I think we should've done more
It's all said and done with now so what the fuck for?
My task and all I ask is that you never forget
Cause those who forget: history will repeat it
The Nazis were defeated yet the lies live on and spawn
In the ignorance of those whose motives reap it
And claim death counts were made up as if we needed
to exaggerate
But I saw how hate could make right-thinking people
deviate
When they create excuses for the nooses and reasons
for the bleeding
But nothing made as much sense as "Seeing is
believing"
I can't stop crying
This isn't human
Only illusion, but I'm trying
What I saw will defy
Too many dead to identify
Cities disappear and whole families die
So when you deny, spreading lies my mind burns with
the pictures left behind
Please look inside my eye and tell six million Earth
citizens why
All I want to know is how the hell can you deny?
How the hell can you deny? How the hell can you deny?
How the hell can you deny...

