

A DARK TALE

By Austin D'souza

Dari

There was a time when humanity was lost in us. False ideologies ruled. And the people who didn't come under these ideologies were tortured or killed. In the midst of this madness there lived two families. Neighbours more so. When the families heard about the arrest of Jewish people, The Sokolowski's and Kozłowski's hid their Sons in a cellar. Both boys Dariusz and Maksym stayed in there for a complete day listening to the screams outside. The Next morning Dariusz suggested Maksym to open the cellar to which he protested. "They...They are out there, they are out there." He stuttered. Dariusz didn't listen to him and slowly creaked open the cellar door. The house was a mess. The furniture was flipped and the vases were broken, it seemed that his and Maksym's family protested before the arrest. Dariusz grabbed Maksym's hand and forced him out of the cellar. "We have to go Maksym," he said. "They might come back." They both ran away from the house using the back door.

They spent the rest of the two years running, stealing and sleeping in gutters and Ditches. They both called themselves with nick names, Dari and Mak. Both boys survived giving each other hope and strength. Mak wanted to see his family again, he hoped they were alive somewhere, and he wanted to free them but on the other hand Dari wanted revenge. Nothing but boiling anger flooded Dari's veins. One day they found a small group of Jewish people living in a neighbourhood and they asked for shelter. They told their stories about how their families were taken. The community took them in for some more information on the arrests. They were happy to get some fresh food and a good warm bath after two years. But little did they knew the horrors that would come forth in the coming days. The Nazi officials attacked the neighbourhood at night and took all the people as prisoners, those who protested were shot dead. Dari and Mak were taken from their sleep.

Dari was irritated by the train horns. Him and Mak were on the complete opposite side of the train, a compartment packed with prisoners. There wasn't any free space to move. When the train stopped Dari listened to the officers opening the gates and the first thing, he saw was the word Sobibor. Dari tried to find Mak the whole time but he was helpless, no one would talk to him, The SS Officials hit him when he asked for Mak. The medical personnel started writing the numbers on the Forearm of all the prisoners with Indelible ink as their Identification when they entered the Gates. 214782 was the number given to Dari. Dari was pushed inside the camp. He asked a man if he has seen a boy named Maksym around to which he replied, "There is no Maksym here, there are just numbers." Dari was scared when he heard that. Dari remembered the two years he spent with Mak, who was the weak one among them, and he feared that he would die, if he didn't find him soon enough.

Mak

Three days later a man came to Mak and told him about a boy who came the same day as him, the man pointed Mak to Dari's location and he ran in that direction. Mak searched for him and soon his eyes fell on a boy who seemed to be beaten. Mak called in a soft voice, "Dari?" The boy looked up with a swollen eye as tears dropped down his cheeks. "Mak!" he exclaimed. "MAK." He screamed as he jumped up to hug him. "What happened?" asked Mak. "I...I tried to escape. I... I'm sorry Mak, I was going to leave you behind." he cried out. Mak hugged him again and told him, "There's nothing to apologies brother."

Three months passed. Dari was given the work of construction around the camps while Mak was a cleaner in the main building. They learned that there were six hundred people in the concentration camp and the SS officers killed many of them when the replacements arrived, so that the prisoners won't organise themselves and plan a revolt against them. Both the boys had befriended another prisoner named Aleksy. Aleksy had access to list of people to be executed. Aleksy told Dari and Mak that six of the people that came with them were on the list. Dari and

Mak were tensed because in no time their names would eventually show up on the list. Mak started to organise the people as much as he could, and Dari motivated them with his strong will.

The revolution was imminent now. Some of the organised group members were already killed in the span of two months. The new prisoners were quickly involved into the plan. Mak waited for a perfect moment to strike. Dari couldn't wait any longer. The anger boiled within him, he was ready to kill some Nazis.

One day Mak heard the SS officers talking to one another about the head of the camp leaving the next morning. Mak took the opportunity to quickly spread the word. Mak explained his plan to the group that he will steal the SS uniforms from the locker room which he had access to and will hide there until the night. Then he will come to the camp and will give the uniforms to them and they will kill the Officers with snipers. After that the gates will be opened and they will run in a crowd towards their freedom. Everyone knew that not all the people would survive the plan. But they had no option but to follow it.

Next day during the evening Mak went to the locker rooms and stole ten SS uniforms, wearing one himself. He hid there until the night and took the opportunity to leave. The SS official at the Gate saluted Mak and he realized that not only he was identified as one of them but he was wearing the uniform of a Senior officer. Mak got the uniforms into the camp. While distributing he searched for Dari, who was supposed to wear one of these uniforms. Aleksy came to Mak with a rueful face and said, "Dari was on the list for tomorrow's execution. He is taken in one of the cells in the main building."

The ground beneath Mak's foot shook as he heard Aleksy. He quickly snapped out of it and told Aleksy, "You lead the attack."

"WHAT!" exclaimed Aleksy, "Where are you going?"

"To free Dari." He replied.

“No... I...I can't”

“Listen to me, kill the snipers...and open the gates, these people need you now, and don't wait for us. It's up to you now brother. Free our people.”

Aleksy shook his head and went with the rest of the prisoners dressed as the SS officials. Mak went inside the building again. The official opened the gate for him again saluting him.

“I want the prisoner named Dariusz, right now. I want to execute him right in front of the camp Prisoners.” Ordered Mak. “I want to show them what happens when they defy me.” The official took Mak with him inside the building. The walk to the cell was long as it was deep underground. Mak and the official reached at Dari's cell and he opened his door.

“Good, you are a good soldier.” Mak said to the officer. “You should be rewarded.” he said before he stabbed him in his neck and quickly made him lie on the ground. Dari removed the official's blood-stained uniform and wore it himself.

While Dari and Mak ran their way up to the main entrance of the building they heard the siren. “The gates are open.” Said Dari. “They did it.”

“Yes.” Replied Mak in a low voice.

Mak and Dari reached the entrance of the main building and they both saw the prisoners running towards the gate. The horns started blowing and Dari got ready to run as he held Mak's arm. But Mak didn't move. “What's the matter with you. COME ON.”

“I heard a voice, it sounded familiar, just like the officer that came to our house two years ago, he's here Dari, I found him.”

Dari widened his eyes in shock before growing his strength back, “Where?” He asked.

“His office is at the back of this building.”

“Sure, you want to risk it all for him?” asked Dari.

“He took our families Dari, we have to know where they are,” replied Mak.

Dari and Mak ran behind where the fence of the camp nearly touched the building. “There’s no entrance here, Mak?” He pointed.

“There was no entrance.” Mak clarified. “There is no officer.”

“Then why did you bring us here, when there is soo much at stake right now.”

“I don’t have time to explain it to you, but we have to leave, quick.”

“You wasted the freaking time, and now you want to run back to the gates from here, what are you insane or something.”

“Who said anything about the gates.” Replied Mak.

Dari was confused, He thought Mak had gone mad and he was blabbering nonsense.

“I came here every day to dump the waste.” said Mak. “And every day I dug beneath the fence.”

Dari noticed Mak looking behind his own shoulders. Dari went past him and noticed the ground a bit rocky and he was hit by the realization. “You organised those people, you gave those men motivation to rise up, you started this whole goddamn REVOLUTION... For what. TO ESCAPE FROM BEHIND.”

“I did... what I had to, the only lives that mattered were ours.”

“SO those... those two hundred people were just... BAIT.”

“To get the SS officers attention away when we escape from here.”

Dari was shocked. He couldn't believe that Mak just sacrificed those two hundred men.

"Some of them will survive the run Dari, not all of them will die." he assured him.

"No, I am going through the Gates, if I die, I'll die a proud man, I refuse to die like a coward." Dari turned around adamant to go through the gates when he saw an officer looking at them both. A huge sound of bullet fire spooked their attention. Dari realized what just happened. He saw the SS officer reloading his weapon. Mak fell on his knees as blood oozed out of his mouth. Without wasting anytime Dari picked Mak's gun and shot multiple rounds at the officer until he was covered in blood from head to toe.

Dari threw the gun on the ground and held Mak in his arms. Dari couldn't hold his tears back. "No, no, no, no, no you're not leaving me, You are GOING NOWHERE, you understand."

"I...Krrk, I... want you to go...from here."

"No, we'll both go or I'm not going."

Mak smiled looking at Dari. "All these years... you protected me brother..., now let me..." He screamed in agonizing pain.

"You're coming with me." Dari demanded as he carefully placed Mak down and started digging the rocky soil out for the passage. Dari dug the ground like an animal, there was no stopping him, even though he knew Mak was not going to survive the bullet shot to his lower side of the neck, he still didn't want to believe it.

Dari finished the digging and looking back he said, "Look Mak its..." it was too late. Mak laid there with his eyes open, staring into the blank space of nothingness.

"No." Cried Dari with a low voice. He sat on the ground with his hands on the head. "MAAAAAAK" he screamed.

Dari lifted Mak and pushed his body amidst the sounds of bullets that were being fired at the Gates. Dari crossed the fence and carried Mak's body. He just ran as fast as he could, not knowing what could come ahead.

Bio

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