Night, ELIE WEISEL

# chapter 4 Notes

* The Weisels were assigned to a Kommando and Block. \*Block=housing, Kommando=Work
* They were told to avoid the construction Kommando.
* The Tent Leader was FAT- German Jew. He was hoarding the food.
  + Was really nice to kids. He wasn’t selfless, he ran a homosexual child trafficking network within the camp.
  + Told Elie he’d keep him with his father in exchange for shoes, he says no. (They were taken any way a few days later in exchange for nothing.)
* The next day, he went to a medical exam to get listed for his gold tooth.
* 4th Day at Buna- Kapos start choosing people “like cattle”
  + Were led to the Orchestra Block
  + Julieck- Pole, glasses
  + Louis- Holland, violinist
  + Foreman- Pole, former Warsaw Student
* Job- He counts nuts, bolts, electrical equipment.
* Idek- Has rage issues. “Has fits of madness…stay out of his way.”
* Franek told him to not rush, except when Idek was around. Franek was being nice and allowed Elie to work next to his father.
* Yossi & Tibi: brothers from Czech, parents were killed in Birkenau; Live solely for each other. They became good friends of Elie
  + All three wanted to leave Europe & board a ship to Israel
* Block leader- German Jew, good leader. Tried to organize food.
* Elie Number: A 7713
* The dentist called him in, he said he was sick, so the dentist told him to come back in a week.
  + Came back, said he was sick, got to leave again.
  + They shut down the dentist office a week later, he was running his own market for gold. He was hanged. Elie didn’t feel pity for him
* “I was nothing but a body. Perhaps even less: a famished stomach. The stomach along was measuring time.” –He was starving.
* French Girl- He doesn’t know if she speaks German, or if she’s a Jew. She was working forced labor in the warehouse.
* Idek beat Elie, French girl wiped his blood off, and gave him bread. She calms him down.
* Years later, in Paris they met up. Finds out that she knows German and is Jewish.
* Idek beats Schlomo with an iron bar. Elie was mad at his father for not staying out of his way.
* Franek asks for Elie’s golden tooth. Franek from a nice guy, to greedy.
  + Elie asks his father if he should it. He says no.
  + Schlomo gets beaten for not staying in step. Franek beats him.
  + He gave Franek the tooth. He wanted bread, too. So he gave it. Franek was shipped away two weeks later.
* Elie wandered through the warehouse and walked in on Idek and Polish girl. He laughs. Idek threatens him.
* Elie had to lay on a crate in front of everyone, and was lashed 25 times by Idek.
* Sunday: Alert- Sirens.
  + SS- will shoot anyone not in their block.
  + Two cauldrons of soup were unguarded- “Two lambs with hundreds of wolves lying in wait for them.” - Metaphor
  + A man crawled on his hands and knees, pulled himself up to the soup, dipped his face in it, and screamed. He was shot and killed.
  + The Jews thought the Red Army was taking over.
  + Red army did bomb, but missed Buna (grenade didn’t explode)
* 1 Week Later:
  + 2 people were sentenced to hanging- 1st boy screamed: “Long live liberty! My curse on Germany.”
  + Said the soup tasted better than ever to Elie.
* Chief Kapo, The Dutchman, he was really nice, never beat anyone.
  + His “intern”- the pipel (usually hated worse than Kapos, but not this pipel)
  + During the power outage, they were accused of sabotaging.
  + Their quarters were searched- they found a ton of weapons.
  + The Dutchman was tortured for weeks- He said nothing. He was transferred to Auschwitz.
  + The Pipel was also tortured in solitary; was eventually condemned to death, along with two others with weapons.
  + The Pipel was too light, gasped for air for over half an hour, with everyone being forced to watch.
  + People ask “where is God?” Elie responds that he is within the Pipel (dead).
  + “Soup tastes of corpses.”- Metaphor for nothing being good in life.