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### One of the Millions

“Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions”

-Primo Levi (<https://prod.marshall.usc.edu/>). Beginning in 1941

(<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org>), the Holocaust was a time of desolation for over 11 million people in Europe. Innocent men, women, and children were brutally murdered at the hands of their own kind. At that time, there were millions of people who all had a story to tell. However, most didn't get the chance to tell it. The lives of those lost are instead passed on through those who live. This is the story of a young Jewish child who lived oppressed from the moment she took her first breath until the moment she took her last.

Jacqueline Morgenstern was a little Jewish girl who grew up in Paris, France. Her father, Karl Morgenstern, ran a shop in the city. All was well until the Germans arrived in 1940. When Jacqueline was just eight years old, her father's shop was taken, and they were forced to flee to Marseilles, France. The family was eventually discovered in 1944 and sent to Auschwitz, a concentration camp in southern Poland

(<https://www.history.com>). When they arrived, the family was deemed fit to work slave labor.

Jacqueline and her mother were separated from her father and sent to the women's camp.

Because of how little food was provided, Suzanne Morgenstern gave her daughter most of her rations. The desperate mother soon became ill and was sent to the gas chambers. Jacqueline was then placed in a heated barrack for children and made friends. However, the newfound hope did not last long. Dr. Kurt Heissmeyer was a doctor who, like Josef Mengele

(<https://www.history.com>), performed experiments on children. Later that year, he had the

twenty children who were in those barracks deported to the Neuengamme concentration camp in northern Germany (<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/>). Dr. Heissmeyer then injected each child with a tuberculosis shot. The purpose of this evil experiment was to study the reaction of their glands to the spreading infections in their bodies. Only a few months later, Jacqueline and the rest of the children became extremely sick. In January of the next year, the doctor began operating on the young girls and boys. Devastatingly, when the British were closing in on the camp, each child was drugged and murdered. Jacqueline Morgenstern died on April 20, 1945. (<https://www.museumoftolerance.com>).

As I reflected on the struggles and terrors Jacqueline Morgenstern experienced, I was disturbed and horrified. Then, when I realized that millions in the Holocaust had a similar story, I was overwhelmed with a sadness that stuck with me. No innocent man, woman, or child, should ever to go through what the Nazi's did to the Jews in 1941. Even now, many people don't know what happened to those lives. "To keep the past from becoming the present, we must remember the stories of the 11 million during the Holocaust. "Our future depends on keeping history alive."