

“Bloom”

Roses bloom in harsh conditions
Their petals push through the frost bitten air
Color breaking the bleakness of winter
Bringing a rebellion against decay

Alma Rosé was not a flower
Yet, she carried one in her name
And in her spirit

Behind barbed wire at Auschwitz
Where the world had splintered
She stood beneath a sky that had forgotten music
And lifted her violin

Her bow rose
Music spilled into the barracks
Stitching sound into silence
Threading humanity back into bodies
Reminding the cruelty around her

That identity could not be taken away

No matter the conditions

Alma Rosé would continue to bloom

The music did not drown out the orders barked out by guards

But it rebuilt what brutality had tried to erase

Identity

Structure

Self

For a moment, when the music rang out

The world listened

It listened to Alma’s conducting

Her silent authority that echoed louder than any note

It listened to her discipline

The rehearsals that had turned music into survival

It listened to her defiance

When she dared to resurrect buried melodies

Alma Rosé reminded the women around her

That they were more than the ink carved into their skin

That the rhythm still lived in their pulses

That harmony could still exist

The women felt this in the lift of their chins when they played

In the careful press of their performance uniforms

In their thirst for the music

Oppression tried to bury Alma Rosé’s spirit beneath the ashes

To take away what was left of her

The world tried to freeze it into silence

But even in winter,

A rose remembers how to bloom

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