

Lindsay Heizman
"Mengele's Twins"

(Pilot) TREATMENT

Band of Brothers meets American Horror Story

Genre: Drama, Historical Fiction, Coming-Of-Age

Logline: In a time of lawlessness and blind hatred, two-twin girls fight to beat the odds of surviving camp Auschwitz, to do so, they must outmaneuver the infamously cruel Dr. Josef Mengele and outlive his torturous experiments. The ultimatum was simple: survive, or don't.

Rundown

An adaption series to the true story of novelist, Holocaust survivor Eva Mosez Kors; the Mosez family has fallen into the hands of the Nazi regime, with her family killed off all that remains is her twin sister. Through Eva's tenacity, together they fight to subsist, to outlast the others, to make it back home to Portz, Romania. Their fight to remain hopeful is tested and foiled daily, through the experiments of Mengele, the two girls are introduced to the severity of what they're in for.

Character Bio's

Dr. Josef Mengele, known for his dazzling smile grew up very handsome, thus very confident. Pressured into medicine by his family, Mengele found a way to incorporate medicine with his love for his country...and slight obsession with Hitler. He takes his doctoral degree to the S.S. regime, where he was constantly being promoted. He was a huge animal lover and owned many pets, but never had any girlfriends. Always too concentrated, self involved, Mengele had no time for

distractions from his work. Avid Christian, he's seen as an all around good guy, well liked by his peers. As to his character, he is always prompt on time, and easily irritable. He calls his experiments his babies and is never satisfied, always wanting more, expecting better. One of his quarks is how he always kicks his scuffed boot heels together, demanding attention. Another quark is how obsessed he is over earning more medals, which many speculate as a cover for his professed love for Hitler. Mengele loves classical music, it plays eerily down the hallways as he hums or constantly plays a tune. Mengele shows Jews sincerity, in the sense that he honestly believes them to be less than human – inferior, justifying his behavior. He simply doesn't understand these Jews and their lack of appreciation.

Eva Mosez (11) Absolutely lovely. A leader, though the youngest, Eva is by far the stronger twin. In a war with no winners, Eva resembles all that deals with frustration and aggression of war, while Miri upholds the more passive role. Eva has a heart of gold and a voice too loud for her own good, allowing her loyal nature to constantly stir trouble.

Miri Mosez (11) The older and more sensible twin – a rule follower. Two beautiful girls with a bright future and gorgeous locks of hair, the color of butterscotch. Less involved in the storyline, Miri is definitely less enticing than her sister, but is also far more relatable to the other half of the audience – the half of the audience unable to relate to Eva's irate passion or anger, and connects better to the passive side of things. Together the girls are one.

Jaffa Mosez, the mother of Eva and Miri and wife of husband Alexander, is an overworked, underestimated character of great maternal instinct. Granted a high education, but tends solely to the house and family, see stereotypical Jewish mom. Always cooking something up in the kitchen, she is fiercely loyal, passionate, and quite religious. Jaffa is killed off almost immediately as Eva watches her parents head toward the crematorium. Jaffa's character is often revived, used as the voice of reason in many questionable scenarios Eva finds herself in. Their own personal guru as it relates to the scene, Eva and Miri flashback subtle life lessons their mother taught them as children. (I picture Jaffa to be to Eva, the spiritual awakening and force, as Lion King's Mufasa was to Simba.)

Secondary Characters

Moshe Ra'ah (late 50's) a Yiddish man and camp veteran, new acquaintance of Eva. Old and frail, Moshe holds stories of the camp others dare not even speak of. Stories to make your skin crawl. Stories of his almost-escapes, of his successful assists of others, of the constant abuse he's seen, he is quite the storyteller. That is, after you break through the ice and have won him over, because before that, he will be stone cold silent. He is an intimidating man, clearly once very burly, his body is now severely disfigured with stitchings and amputations and even a slashed trachea. Scars from head to toe.

Story Line

STORY A

A) EVA - What makes Eva such a *survivor*?

Eva schemes to escape Auschwitz.

- a. She vows to protect the life of her sister Miri, and to one day return home together. Eva's job is to keep Miri's morale high.
- b. Personal Cause for Reasoning...
Since birth, Miri was never as healthy as Eva, doctors didn't think she'd make it. In too many circumstances, Eva would sacrifice a necessity or her own well being on behalf of Miri.
(i.e. dinner, blankets and clothing, chores, medicine, etc.)

STORY B

B) MENGELE - What makes Mengele so *driven*?

A grieving "father" trying to right his guilt, strives to become Germany's best (doctor's term for twin) Doctor.

- a. Mengele is out to prove something; to conquer and glorify his name, to whoever must have robbed him of his assuredness.
- b. Personal Cause for Reasoning...
A senior in high school, young in love with a girl; he knocked her up. They were elated; all he ever wanted was a baby boy. It wasn't until his GF was 6-7 months along her pregnancy when rumors started spreading, allegedly she had distant traces of Jewish blood.
Humiliated.
He aborts her baby. Their baby, his son, and the only son he'll ever have born, he murdered. A traumatic experience; fueling his relentless need to redeem himself, his name, and this tainted reputation. He drives to become a world-class doctor – an untouchable.

STORY C

C) JAFFA - What makes Jaffa so *wise*?

Maybe... Jaffa remains KILLED OFF... But is used in memory-form to show past memories Miri and Eva share.

- a. Eva and Miri remember her as wise, powerful, with an impact. A referendum of what to do next, in any pressing situation.
- b. Jaffa is to Eva what Mufasa is to Simba.

Primary Set

The series will alternate between three basic settings:

INT. The Hospital / EXT. Hospital lot

INT. The Barracks / EXT. Labor errands

INT. The Train / EXT. Entrance to Auschwitz

Secondary Set

Secondary sets will vary as the episodes do, ranging from lines outside the crematorium, to musky kitchen duty, to even the outside world.

Also, Jaffa-flashbacks may be used as an alternative.

Reoccurring Sets

Most scenes will take place within the fenced confinement of Auschwitz.

Conflicts

STORY A is about Man vs. Man (Eva **vs.** Mengele)

STORY B is about Man vs. Himself (Mengele **vs.** Traumatic Past)

STORY C is about Man vs. The Elements (Jaffa **vs.** Holocaust)

Side note... The Man vs. Element theme applies to the Jews vs. Auschwitz, but also Jaffa vs. ability to speak from the grave.

Sample Episodes

How to incorporate this idea of a Death Sentence train... After ending the pilot watching an identifiable train exit the camp, the 2nd episode will begin with this very train, returning trains back to Auschwitz, only this time they are bare. Empty. Each following episode now starts (and ends?) with jam-packed trains exiting the camp, never knowing *who* or *what* was next. Note: The entering of each new train brings with it new stories to tell and new hostages to meet. With each week comes a new story, intertwined with ever-running story that is the conflict between Eva and Dr. Mengele.

- A) Train pulls in –the girls believe their long lost Uncle to be on the upcoming train, a same last name situation, but upon arrival they see no Uncle.
- B) New Train pulls in –Enter two new twins, whom they must protect from Mengele and take under their wing. Eva’s responsibility is only expanding.
- C) New Train pulls in –an orphaned baby arrives and Mengele forces them to nurse and care for her.
- D) New Train pulls in –Fresh off the tracks is a newly assigned guard, absolutely awful human being. The camp has a new enforcer in town. Off the train also hops an American Jewish soldier whom Eva befriends.
- E) New Train pulls in –episode where one twin almost dies from experiment.
- F) New Train pulls in –episode with a raffle to see who’s to die next, and older kids ratting out the younger.

ENDING the Episode....

Having turned in the first 25 pages as requested, there is a chunk of material left between page 25 and the packed trucks exiting Auschwitz and Mengele's hospital. The content of this untouched portion depends on what the producer wants and where he wants to run with it, depending on which characters may or may not be selected and killed off. My series has long legs, and can go many different routes; it's just a matter of choosing one and going with it, and then rewriting it a million more.