

1**THE MARKED MAN (1943):**

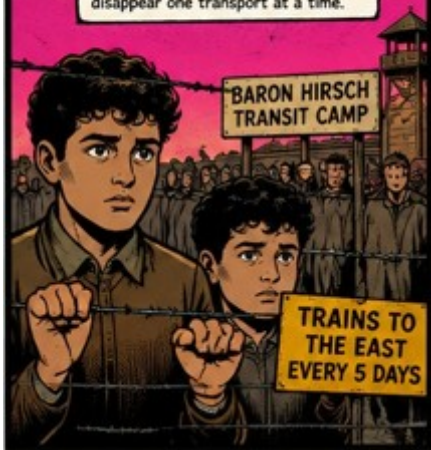
In an instant, the vibrant Sephardic life of Thessaloniki vanished. Nico walked the familiar streets of his home wearing a yellow star—a target on his chest in a city that was rapidly becoming a trap.



2

THE TRANSIT CAMP:

Inside the Baron Hirsch camp, life was measured in five-day intervals. That was the frequency of the trains to the east. Nico and his brother waited in agony, watching their community disappear one transport at a time.



3

SERINA'S HEROISM:

In a desperate bid for life, Nico's mother, Serina, escaped the camp alone to reach the Italian Consulate. She secured the protection papers that snatched her sons from the edge of the abyss.



4

THE DARK SILENCE:

Safety meant disappearing. Nico spent weeks hidden in the suffocating darkness under floorboards and beds—no light, no news, and the constant, terrifying threat of discovery.



5

THE "BROKEN" GERMAN:

In Athens, Nico became "Niko Albanos." To survive, he sold tobacco to German soldiers, feigning a "broken" grasp of their language. In reality, he was highly educated and understood every word they spoke; his silence was his greatest weapon.



6

THE HEAVY RETURN:

Nico was one of the few to return. Of the 50,000 Jews of Thessaloniki, fewer than 2,000 survived. He stood among the ruins of his community, a living testament to a world that was nearly erased.



THESSALONIKI
50,000 JEWS
BEFORE THE WAR
FEWER THAN
2,000 SURVIVED