**The Line**

**Instructions:** This short play is to be done in a ‘readers’ theater’ style, which means that the performers use scripts and stand on a bare stage. The accompanying PowerPoint slides are to be shown in sync with the performers’ words as indicated by brackets **[ ]**. A word or two within the brackets indicates what will appear on the screen for that specific image. The left margin of this script is wide enough to allow for the script to be secured within a folder and for pages to be printed one-sided.

Traudl should stand on the audience left, Sophie on audience right.)

**[title]**

**Sophie**

This is the story of two women,

**Traudl**

One who followed orders and turned a blind eye to the murder of millions,

**Sophie**

And one who sacrificed her life to resist the Nazis.

**Traudl**

And the line that separates leading from following,

**Sophie**

action from inaction,

**Traudl**

the bystander from the upstander.

**[1933]**

**Sophie**

It’s 1933. Germany is under the rule of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. They will plunge the nation into genocide and war. Tens of millions of people will die. However, a nation can’t make war without the cooperation of the majority of its people. **[line]** This story begins with two of those people.

**[Traudl]**

**Traudl**

My name is Gertraud Traudl Junge. I was born in Germany in 1920.

**[ Sophie]**

**Sophie**

My name is Sophie Magdalena Scholl. I was born in Germany in 1921.

**[Hitler Youth]**

**Traudl**

As soon as I was old enough, I joined the Hitler Youth. It gave me safety, security, and my friends were doing it, too. I felt like I belonged to something bigger than myself. I didn’t care about politics, so I didn’t pay much attention to the Nazi indoctrination.

**[line]**

**Sophie**

As a teenager I joined the Hitler Youth, too, like most girls my age. But I began to question the anti-Jewish indoctrination right away. I began to oppose the Nazis.

**Traudl**

I heard about violence against Jews, but since it didn’t affect me, I ignored it. I spent my time with people in the arts world. **[typewriter]** I took a secretarial job to support myself.

**Sophie**

My friends, too, were in the arts. Even though I wasn’t personally affected by the Nazi hate, I got angrier and angrier the more I learned about the atrocities against innocent people. **[books]** I became a student at the University of Munich.

**[Nazis]**

**Traudl**

I got a job as a secretary in the Reich Chancellery in Berlin, working for the Nazis. I was 21 years old. I heard that Hitler himself was looking for a secretary, and in early 1943 I became his personal secretary.

**[Sophie and Hans]**

**Sophie**

My brother Hans felt the same way I did about the Nazis. He started an underground resistance group with his friends called ‘The White Rose.’ They were dedicated to non-violent resistance to the Nazis by secretly spreading fliers to tell people the terrible things the Nazis were doing.

**[Hitler]**

**Traudl**

I enjoyed the years working for Hitler. He was charming, friendly, like a father, and he treated me kindly. And even though I was right near the center of Nazi power, I really didn’t know what was happening.

**Sophie**

Our group, “The White Rose,” joined with the national resistance movement.

**[arrest]**

The Gestapo learned about us. One day when Hans and I were placing fliers in the university hallways, we were arrested, along with the other members of The White Rose.

**Traudl**

I was a 21 year old with a good job. I either didn’t want to see what has happening around me, or I was blind to it.

**Sophie**

I was bold and courageous while I was in prison. I told the Gestapo that I “would do it all over again” and I refused to recant, or apologize for what I had done, in exchange for leniency. I was convicted of high treason. **[photos of Sophie]** I was executed by guillotine when I was 21 years old.

**Traudl**

I was Hitler’s last secretary. After the war, I returned to Munich and joined the rest of the nation in trying to rebuild Germany. People knew that I had been Hitler’s secretary, but nothing happened to me. I was officially exonerated due to my age. They said I was young and I couldn’t have known any better.

**[placque]**

**Sophie**

Then one day Traudl met me.

**Traudl**

There is a commemorative plaque to Sophie Scholl in Munich. I must have walked past it hundreds of times without noticing it. Then one day I saw it. I was shocked. I realized that she was executed in 1943, just when I started my job with Hitler. Sophie had been a Hitler Youth member herself, just like me. She was a year younger than me, and she saw clearly that the Nazis were committing terrible crimes against humanity. **[no excuse]** All of a sudden I had no excuse anymore.

**[no excuse to be young]**

It was no excuse to be young.

**[tombstone]**

**Sophie**

I died in 1943, ONE among thousands of such ‘enemies of the people’ – dissidents, intellectuals, deserters, human beings – who were executed by the Nazis. The White Rose and I live on every time anyone, anywhere sees injustice and takes action. I am memorialized in young people who see their youth not as an excuse for political apathy but as the energy to change the world.

**[tombstone]**

**Traudl**

I died in 2002. As I got older, I suffered from terrible depression. I tried to justify my ignorance. I was not a wicked person, I was not a Nazi, and I never directly harmed another human being – I had simply done what I was told. I followed orders. But I was guilty. I was complicit with evil.

**[line]**

**Sophie**

But this is not where the story ends.

**Traudl**

Because this is not a story about Germany, and it’s not a story about the past.

**[story of a line]**

**Sophie**

This is the story of a line. **[line that separates]** A line that separates those who stand up

**[from those who obey orders]**

**Traudl**

From those who merely obey orders.

**Sophie**

A line that separates difficult **[difficult]**

**Traudl**

From easy. **[easy]**

**Sophie**

A line that separates being true to yourself **[true]**

**Traudl**

From being content to do the wrong thing because everyone else is doing it too, because if everyone is guilty then no one is guilty. A line that separates being true to yourself **[from conformity ]** from conformity.

**Sophie**

And people who are true to themselves never regret it.Not even Sophie Scholl. **[Sophie]**

**Traudl**

And no one who betrays their conscience ever finds peace.

**[Traudl]**

**[true story]**

**Sophie**

True story.