

MISS ME KATE

Kate, you started out your life,
In prewar Hungary.
Your life was filled with joy. You saw
Just possibility.

Your girlhood ended suddenly.
The Nazis saw to that.
Your world was pulled from under you,
And in no time flat

You experienced a fate
That I cannot describe
Sans teary eyes and lumpy throat.
Yet, you did survive.

A holocaust the likes of which
Had not been seen before.
Something we must all insure
Shall happen nevermore.

Somehow, Kate, you did escape
The fate six million met.
You began your life anew,
But vowed not to forget.

Your life reclaimed, you started in
On studies about science.
And even though you've been imbued
With abject self-reliance,

You soon met Michael and did find
Your soulmate, eternal.
A partnership developed which
Encouraged you to spurn all

Others, whether in the lab,
Or at the swimming pool.
You still remain devoted now.
Who says that love is cruel.

You started your career. Life did
Seem to progress well.
Until Nineteen Fifty six
Again things went to Hell.

The soviets weren't Hitler and
'There was no holocaust.
But for Jewish intellectuals
The cause again was lost.

You were rootless once again.
'For New York you were bound.
Finally this land was yours,
Goldene Medina found.

Now Rockefeller was the place.
The actin was for you.
Soon your research grew some wings,
And suddenly it flew.

While you were busy in the lab
You had a role, other.
You always knew the import of
Your job as your kids mother.

So you made science in the lab,
And scientists at home.
Then you developed wanderlust.
'Twas time for you to roam.

You came out to Chicago and
Continued your career.
A long and storied one it's been.
And that's what brings us here.

You've mentored may scientists.
A champion for women,
You've found time for science, kids
Baking, Mike and swimmin'.

You wear so many hats now Kate.
Professor, mentor, mom.
Its always been so nice to see
You've done all with aplomb.

Time marches on and so do we.
'That's why today we're here.
We've gathered here to let you know,
That to us you are dear.

This honor's nowhere near enough,
To tell you how we feel.
Each of us does love you Kate.
And surely we are real

Sad that you're not always here
in body. But in soul
We know that you will never leave.
I'm sure that you'll patrol

This hallway running east and west,
And sometimes west to east.
Your formal lectures may have stopped,
But I'm quite sure, at least,

You'll be glad to give advice
'To each of those who seek
Your counsel on whatever.
We know you won't be meek.

Enjoy this day. You've earned it Kate.
Know in our hearts you'll be.
Three cheers for a life well-lived
And a spirit always free.



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