

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:24,200

2

00:00:24,200 --> 00:00:25,618
So I went back to La Rambla.

3

00:00:25,618 --> 00:00:26,910
That's where they were staying.

4

00:00:26,910 --> 00:00:28,390
Now, I also want
to know something.

5

00:00:28,390 --> 00:00:31,880
When your father put you on
the train, is there money?

6

00:00:31,880 --> 00:00:33,855
Do you have to pay for a ticket?

7

00:00:33,855 --> 00:00:34,730
He bought the ticket.

8

00:00:34,730 --> 00:00:35,660
He bought the ticket.

9

00:00:35,660 --> 00:00:39,290
So when you run away from this
guy, who, clearly, whatever

10

00:00:39,290 --> 00:00:41,390
he was going to do, and
we don't know anything--

11

00:00:41,390 --> 00:00:41,890
No.

12

00:00:41,890 --> 00:00:43,820
--maybe he was going
to be absolutely fine--

13

00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:45,800

clearly saved your
life by giving you

14

00:00:45,800 --> 00:00:48,050

the directions of locking
yourself in a bathroom.

15

00:00:48,050 --> 00:00:48,650

Right.

16

00:00:48,650 --> 00:00:51,020

And when you were in that
bathroom, were you frightened?

17

00:00:51,020 --> 00:00:53,540

Oh, was I frightened,
because what

18

00:00:53,540 --> 00:00:55,070

if they broke the bathroom open.

19

00:00:55,070 --> 00:00:55,730

Right.

20

00:00:55,730 --> 00:00:56,305

And what if someone--

21

00:00:56,305 --> 00:00:57,140

Which could have happened.

22

00:00:57,140 --> 00:00:57,765

Right.

23

00:00:57,765 --> 00:00:59,690

And suppose someone
wanted to get in--

24

00:00:59,690 --> 00:01:00,620

did anybody knock?

25

00:01:00,620 --> 00:01:01,250
No.

26
00:01:01,250 --> 00:01:03,160
Nobody knocked?

27
00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:05,290
So is it possible
that many people

28
00:01:05,290 --> 00:01:08,540
on that train, that same
train where the bathroom was,

29
00:01:08,540 --> 00:01:11,560
knew that this guy had told?

30
00:01:11,560 --> 00:01:14,320
Probably other people
noticed, maybe, you know,

31
00:01:14,320 --> 00:01:16,480
because he did talk to me.

32
00:01:16,480 --> 00:01:18,910
He wasn't particularly,
I suppose,

33
00:01:18,910 --> 00:01:22,880
not yelling or screaming,
but enough for me to hear.

34
00:01:22,880 --> 00:01:23,650
Right.

35
00:01:23,650 --> 00:01:25,015
So other people may have heard?

36
00:01:25,015 --> 00:01:25,890
May have heard, yeah.

37
00:01:25,890 --> 00:01:27,680

And he may well
have told everybody,

38
00:01:27,680 --> 00:01:28,900
do not go into the bathroom.

39
00:01:28,900 --> 00:01:31,570
Yeah, could be because no
one knocked at the door.

40
00:01:31,570 --> 00:01:34,750
And when the train started
again after the stop,

41
00:01:34,750 --> 00:01:36,850
and I'm sure a lot
of them went down

42
00:01:36,850 --> 00:01:39,430
because it was a
full-packed train,

43
00:01:39,430 --> 00:01:42,950
then I came out the way I
was told, and he was there.

44
00:01:42,950 --> 00:01:46,630
And then it's a very short trip
then from Malines to Bruxelles,

45
00:01:46,630 --> 00:01:48,790
to Brussels.

46
00:01:48,790 --> 00:01:52,755
How long do you think you
were in that bathroom?

47
00:01:52,755 --> 00:01:53,380
I have no idea.

48
00:01:53,380 --> 00:01:54,030
No idea?

49

00:01:54,030 --> 00:01:54,860

A half hour?

50

00:01:54,860 --> 00:01:55,520

An hour?

51

00:01:55,520 --> 00:01:56,320

No, not that long.

52

00:01:56,320 --> 00:01:57,040

Not that long.

53

00:01:57,040 --> 00:01:57,710

Not an hour.

54

00:01:57,710 --> 00:01:58,835

Oh, definitely not an hour.

55

00:01:58,835 --> 00:01:59,520

OK.

56

00:01:59,520 --> 00:02:02,010

No.

57

00:02:02,010 --> 00:02:04,110

So he saves you,
but you get very

58

00:02:04,110 --> 00:02:06,154

suspicious because in
the middle of the day,

59

00:02:06,154 --> 00:02:07,362

he's giving you his own room.

60

00:02:07,362 --> 00:02:07,862

I know.

61

00:02:07,862 --> 00:02:09,090

[LAUGHTER]

62

00:02:09,090 --> 00:02:12,610

I think if he hadn't done that,
I would probably kind of waited

63

00:02:12,610 --> 00:02:14,910

and see what he was
going to suggest

64

00:02:14,910 --> 00:02:17,860

or what he was going
to offer maybe.

65

00:02:17,860 --> 00:02:19,390

But that did it.

66

00:02:19,390 --> 00:02:20,170

Yes.

67

00:02:20,170 --> 00:02:24,030

So how do you go
back to the school?

68

00:02:24,030 --> 00:02:25,517

You go on the train?

69

00:02:25,517 --> 00:02:27,600

So you have a little bit
of money to get a ticket.

70

00:02:27,600 --> 00:02:28,530

Yeah.

71

00:02:28,530 --> 00:02:30,300

And you still have
your little bag?

72

00:02:30,300 --> 00:02:32,313

I still have my little
bag, and I get back.

73

00:02:32,313 --> 00:02:34,480

OK, so you get back to the

school, and what happens?

74

00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:37,290

And after a few days, they
told me there was no way,

75

00:02:37,290 --> 00:02:42,010

I couldn't stay, because I was
putting everyone in danger.

76

00:02:42,010 --> 00:02:46,120

See, we had all
these false ideas,

77

00:02:46,120 --> 00:02:48,170

thinking they know
where you are.

78

00:02:48,170 --> 00:02:50,970

They know where to find
you when you're not

79

00:02:50,970 --> 00:02:52,140

reporting in Malines.

80

00:02:52,140 --> 00:02:54,600

I don't know how
much they would trace

81

00:02:54,600 --> 00:02:58,500

every detail of
every person, but we

82

00:02:58,500 --> 00:02:59,670

were reasoning like that.

83

00:02:59,670 --> 00:03:01,910

So they will know that
you are deserting.

84

00:03:01,910 --> 00:03:03,600

You haven't reported.

85

00:03:03,600 --> 00:03:05,640

It's too dangerous
for everyone here.

86

00:03:05,640 --> 00:03:06,920

You have to go.

87

00:03:06,920 --> 00:03:08,340

And we were four like that.

88

00:03:08,340 --> 00:03:09,030

So we left.

89

00:03:09,030 --> 00:03:10,200

You were four Jewish kids?

90

00:03:10,200 --> 00:03:11,470

Mhm.

91

00:03:11,470 --> 00:03:13,710

So you just left.

92

00:03:13,710 --> 00:03:14,210

We left.

93

00:03:14,210 --> 00:03:16,660

So part of it we did on foot.

94

00:03:16,660 --> 00:03:19,740

Part of it we did on
little bits of train,

95

00:03:19,740 --> 00:03:21,910

wherever we could catch one.

96

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:22,980

And we made it.

97

00:03:22,980 --> 00:03:28,170

I think it took us close
to four days, five days,

98
00:03:28,170 --> 00:03:31,800
to reach the Swiss border.

99
00:03:31,800 --> 00:03:33,500
We crossed France.

100
00:03:33,500 --> 00:03:34,550
You did cross France?

101
00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:38,280
Well, yeah, we had to because
how we get to Switzerland.

102
00:03:38,280 --> 00:03:41,870
We slept in barns.

103
00:03:41,870 --> 00:03:42,950
We slept outdoors.

104
00:03:42,950 --> 00:03:46,970
It was summer, kind
of warm, May, June.

105
00:03:46,970 --> 00:03:50,210
I don't know exactly
the dates anymore.

106
00:03:50,210 --> 00:03:55,130
Some farmers would feed
us, and we finally made it.

107
00:03:55,130 --> 00:03:56,470
We crossed the no man's land.

108
00:03:56,470 --> 00:04:00,435
We reached the Swiss border, and
we were told that they closed,

109
00:04:00,435 --> 00:04:02,460
and they wouldn't
accept anyone anymore.

110
00:04:02,460 --> 00:04:05,990
We told them who we were and
that we just couldn't go back.

111
00:04:05,990 --> 00:04:09,990
We would be arrested and
sent to concentration camp.

112
00:04:09,990 --> 00:04:13,110
No, nothing.

113
00:04:13,110 --> 00:04:15,360
They wouldn't take us.

114
00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:17,519
And you're all like
13, 14, years old.

115
00:04:17,519 --> 00:04:20,260

116
00:04:20,260 --> 00:04:23,620
We were in total despair.

117
00:04:23,620 --> 00:04:29,240
There must be one or two maybe
15, but not much more, 15, 16.

118
00:04:29,240 --> 00:04:30,820
So we all had the voice.

119
00:04:30,820 --> 00:04:33,640
There were three
of them, I think,

120
00:04:33,640 --> 00:04:38,760
had been in the Hashomer
Hatzair, at least two for sure,

121
00:04:38,760 --> 00:04:41,230
me and another.

122
00:04:41,230 --> 00:04:44,240
And so if they won't take
us, they won't take us.

123
00:04:44,240 --> 00:04:46,950
What's next?

124
00:04:46,950 --> 00:04:48,670
We got a big carton.

125
00:04:48,670 --> 00:04:49,560
We walked.

126
00:04:49,560 --> 00:04:52,110
We took part of a train.

127
00:04:52,110 --> 00:04:54,540
Now we were really
getting closer

128
00:04:54,540 --> 00:04:57,040
feeling we are getting
back to Belgium.

129
00:04:57,040 --> 00:05:00,320
Where shall we go now?

130
00:05:00,320 --> 00:05:02,950
We then started
considering, well,

131
00:05:02,950 --> 00:05:05,353
let's make an end of our life.

132
00:05:05,353 --> 00:05:07,270
And that's what's been
discussed in the train.

133
00:05:07,270 --> 00:05:10,030
But, see, you are so frightened.

134

00:05:10,030 --> 00:05:10,990

You're so terrified.

135

00:05:10,990 --> 00:05:12,580

You think you're so careful.

136

00:05:12,580 --> 00:05:13,780

We were whispering.

137

00:05:13,780 --> 00:05:16,000

So we thought no
one can hear us.

138

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:18,610

Here are the four in
this little compartment.

139

00:05:18,610 --> 00:05:22,000

And we are deciding which way
we're going to end our lives

140

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,490

rather than hand ourselves
over to the Germans.

141

00:05:24,490 --> 00:05:26,350

What other choices did we have?

142

00:05:26,350 --> 00:05:28,240

Home was finished.

143

00:05:28,240 --> 00:05:28,990

School--

144

00:05:28,990 --> 00:05:30,750

For all of you,
home was finished?

145

00:05:30,750 --> 00:05:31,750

Yeah, I think so.

146

00:05:31,750 --> 00:05:31,990
[BOTH TALKING]

147
00:05:31,990 --> 00:05:33,740
No one was going to
go home because we all

148
00:05:33,740 --> 00:05:38,950
knew the reprisals what it would
be once you got that letter.

149
00:05:38,950 --> 00:05:41,630
I mean, you see, in parts,
we were innocent too.

150
00:05:41,630 --> 00:05:45,610
We didn't reason fully on the
impact of all these things

151
00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:49,587
except from hearsay.

152
00:05:49,587 --> 00:05:50,920
The school, we couldn't go back.

153
00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:53,650
We had just ran away from
it because we put everyone

154
00:05:53,650 --> 00:05:54,250
in danger.

155
00:05:54,250 --> 00:05:57,920
So you had a choice either
to report to Malines

156
00:05:57,920 --> 00:06:04,390
and, say, here I am, or none
of us felt like doing that.

157
00:06:04,390 --> 00:06:07,660
So once said, let's just throw
ourselves under the train.

158
00:06:07,660 --> 00:06:10,570
Well, that was,
for me, horrifying.

159
00:06:10,570 --> 00:06:12,820
I said, look, that
is too violent.

160
00:06:12,820 --> 00:06:13,670
I couldn't do it.

161
00:06:13,670 --> 00:06:14,830
I couldn't do it.

162
00:06:14,830 --> 00:06:18,220
If we're going to do it,
let's take a mild way.

163
00:06:18,220 --> 00:06:21,050
I go for gas.

164
00:06:21,050 --> 00:06:22,440
You have to be kidding.

165
00:06:22,440 --> 00:06:24,870
No, see, I did tell that.

166
00:06:24,870 --> 00:06:25,960
Didn't You hear?

167
00:06:25,960 --> 00:06:26,770
Gas?

168
00:06:26,770 --> 00:06:29,350
Yeah, well, then you
just go to sleep.

169
00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:30,290
That's all.

170

00:06:30,290 --> 00:06:33,220
But it's an interesting
choice, given what was going on

171
00:06:33,220 --> 00:06:34,440
that you didn't know about.

172
00:06:34,440 --> 00:06:35,530
Right.

173
00:06:35,530 --> 00:06:37,660
So I said, if we're
going to do it,

174
00:06:37,660 --> 00:06:40,540
you guys do whatever you want,
but I'm going for the gas

175
00:06:40,540 --> 00:06:43,900
because at least
we open the gas.

176
00:06:43,900 --> 00:06:45,140
You go to sleep.

177
00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:47,960
You won't even know
that we are passed away.

178
00:06:47,960 --> 00:06:50,610
And as we are discussing
all of this now reaching

179
00:06:50,610 --> 00:06:52,910
nearly the Belgian
borders, we're

180
00:06:52,910 --> 00:06:56,125
at the end of the
North of France,

181
00:06:56,125 --> 00:06:58,500
we hadn't even realized that

there were other passengers,

182
00:06:58,500 --> 00:07:00,208
and he said, that's
what I'm telling you.

183
00:07:00,208 --> 00:07:05,620
You can get caught up in so
much of your fear and despair.

184
00:07:05,620 --> 00:07:07,820
The lady was sitting
at the other section

185
00:07:07,820 --> 00:07:10,300
of another little compartment,
but it's all open.

186
00:07:10,300 --> 00:07:11,860
You know how those trains are.

187
00:07:11,860 --> 00:07:12,550
I see.

188
00:07:12,550 --> 00:07:14,240
This was not an
enclosed compartment.

189
00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:14,926
No, no, no.

190
00:07:14,926 --> 00:07:15,968
So you were like in the--

191
00:07:15,968 --> 00:07:16,990
Yeah, four seats.

192
00:07:16,990 --> 00:07:19,660
And then you have four
and then four and four.

193
00:07:19,660 --> 00:07:22,425

And she was there
in that corner.

194
00:07:22,425 --> 00:07:24,050
She had heard the
whole thing going on.

195
00:07:24,050 --> 00:07:28,930
So she moved over, and
she said, don't do that.

196
00:07:28,930 --> 00:07:30,280
Don't do it.

197
00:07:30,280 --> 00:07:34,860
Look, you probably don't know
where I'm going to get off,

198
00:07:34,860 --> 00:07:36,040
and it's true.

199
00:07:36,040 --> 00:07:37,250
We had no clue.

200
00:07:37,250 --> 00:07:40,690
I mean, I didn't know much
about Belgium except Antwerp.

201
00:07:40,690 --> 00:07:43,010
What else did I know?

202
00:07:43,010 --> 00:07:47,300
Wherever the train stops,
and I get to follow,

203
00:07:47,300 --> 00:07:50,660
I'm going to give you
a name and an address.

204
00:07:50,660 --> 00:07:52,470
These people will help you.

205

00:07:52,470 --> 00:07:53,330

That's all she said.

206

00:07:53,330 --> 00:07:55,730

She didn't say how, what, which.

207

00:07:55,730 --> 00:07:57,650

But don't do it.

208

00:07:57,650 --> 00:08:00,380

That is really
not the way to go.

209

00:08:00,380 --> 00:08:03,290

Go to the different places
I will indicate to you,

210

00:08:03,290 --> 00:08:04,730

and you will get help.

211

00:08:04,730 --> 00:08:07,070

And I happened to
get the address

212

00:08:07,070 --> 00:08:09,890

of the dentist in Jodoigne.

213

00:08:09,890 --> 00:08:11,600

And she went down in Jodoigne.

214

00:08:11,600 --> 00:08:16,172

So, for me, that was the closest
by, and then she vanished.

215

00:08:16,172 --> 00:08:16,880

So wait a minute.

216

00:08:16,880 --> 00:08:20,030

Did she give you these names
before she got off the train?

217

00:08:20,030 --> 00:08:20,903

Yeah, on the train.

218
00:08:20,903 --> 00:08:22,070
And she said-- on the train.

219
00:08:22,070 --> 00:08:23,890
Yeah, just follow me.

220
00:08:23,890 --> 00:08:25,560
And I stopped, and
the train stops.

221
00:08:25,560 --> 00:08:28,520
And you see me go
down, get all off.

222
00:08:28,520 --> 00:08:30,460
And then you'll find yourself--

223
00:08:30,460 --> 00:08:32,630
the directions and
indications where

224
00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:36,970
to go because they were all
within the ranges of 3 miles, 4

225
00:08:36,970 --> 00:08:38,270
miles, you know?

226
00:08:38,270 --> 00:08:39,390
It's all villages.

227
00:08:39,390 --> 00:08:42,500
Now did she sit with you?

228
00:08:42,500 --> 00:08:44,790
Or did she say this--
give you the name?

229
00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:45,700
She gave me the name.

230
00:08:45,700 --> 00:08:46,700
I went back to our seat.

231
00:08:46,700 --> 00:08:48,600
And went back.

232
00:08:48,600 --> 00:08:51,410
So there wouldn't be any
suspicion, I believe,

233
00:08:51,410 --> 00:08:52,797
for herself.

234
00:08:52,797 --> 00:08:55,130
But did the four of you start
talking like, what is she,

235
00:08:55,130 --> 00:08:56,210
a crazy person?

236
00:08:56,210 --> 00:08:58,340
I mean, you trusted her.

237
00:08:58,340 --> 00:08:59,270
We trusted her.

238
00:08:59,270 --> 00:09:02,590
We kind of look and said,
well, we have nothing to lose.

239
00:09:02,590 --> 00:09:04,610
Let's give it time.

240
00:09:04,610 --> 00:09:09,050
And very shortly, after that,
it was a last-minute thing.

241
00:09:09,050 --> 00:09:10,080
The train stopped.

242

00:09:10,080 --> 00:09:13,940
She went down, and
we all went down.

243
00:09:13,940 --> 00:09:15,050
Do you know her name?

244
00:09:15,050 --> 00:09:16,220
No.

245
00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:17,950
You never saw her again?

246
00:09:17,950 --> 00:09:18,450
No.

247
00:09:18,450 --> 00:09:19,492
Isn't that extraordinary?

248
00:09:19,492 --> 00:09:21,445
It is extraordinary
that none of us had--

249
00:09:21,445 --> 00:09:22,820
that's what I'm
telling you, when

250
00:09:22,820 --> 00:09:25,400
your panicked like that,
it's the weirdest things you

251
00:09:25,400 --> 00:09:26,240
do know.

252
00:09:26,240 --> 00:09:28,790
None of us even asked her name.

253
00:09:28,790 --> 00:09:30,050
Do you know what I'm saying?

254
00:09:30,050 --> 00:09:30,550
Yeah.

255
00:09:30,550 --> 00:09:32,920
But she knew the
dentist very well.

256
00:09:32,920 --> 00:09:35,360
She lived in Jodoigne.

257
00:09:35,360 --> 00:09:37,280
And she knew the
family very well.

258
00:09:37,280 --> 00:09:40,580
So she knew who she
wasn't trusting me to,

259
00:09:40,580 --> 00:09:44,770
at least that's happened
to have been my case.

260
00:09:44,770 --> 00:09:48,080
And so that's where how I
got to look at the door,

261
00:09:48,080 --> 00:09:53,850
and it was, like, 2:00 in
the afternoon or something

262
00:09:53,850 --> 00:09:57,950
like that, early in the daytime.

263
00:09:57,950 --> 00:10:02,400
And he opened the door,
and then he said--

264
00:10:02,400 --> 00:10:03,870
I explained my story.

265
00:10:03,870 --> 00:10:06,720
Now you can imagine, you
know, you stutter and stammer

266

00:10:06,720 --> 00:10:09,840
because one minute,
you were considering

267
00:10:09,840 --> 00:10:12,980
to make an end of it, and here
is this stranger when you've

268
00:10:12,980 --> 00:10:15,750
got to tell them
what you come for,

269
00:10:15,750 --> 00:10:20,325
well, this lady met us on
the train, and we're hiding,

270
00:10:20,325 --> 00:10:22,560
and do you think you could
give me some shelter,

271
00:10:22,560 --> 00:10:25,200
something like that.

272
00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:29,060
So he took me in, just in
the kitchen a few minutes,

273
00:10:29,060 --> 00:10:32,980
and he said, if I
keep you here, you'd

274
00:10:32,980 --> 00:10:40,340
be in danger because I got too
many patients every single day.

275
00:10:40,340 --> 00:10:44,300
So hiding here wouldn't be
a safe place at all for you.

276
00:10:44,300 --> 00:10:47,370
But what I can do is give
you the name of my mother

277

00:10:47,370 --> 00:10:51,130
and sister, who
lived 12 miles away,

278
00:10:51,130 --> 00:10:52,565
and you can take my bicycle.

279
00:10:52,565 --> 00:10:55,090
And he didn't know
me and never seen me.

280
00:10:55,090 --> 00:10:56,840
You can bike there--

281
00:10:56,840 --> 00:10:58,465
because there were
no public transport.

282
00:10:58,465 --> 00:11:02,450
Trams and all of that had
stopped for the Germans.

283
00:11:02,450 --> 00:11:06,020
And I'm sure you can
do something for you.

284
00:11:06,020 --> 00:11:11,740
So that's how I started
off to Grez-Doiceau.

285
00:11:11,740 --> 00:11:14,812
A 12-mile bike trip?

286
00:11:14,812 --> 00:11:15,395
In a country--

287
00:11:15,395 --> 00:11:17,317
Gave me some directions.

288
00:11:17,317 --> 00:11:18,650
Yes, but you'd never been there.

289

00:11:18,650 --> 00:11:19,970
Never been on the road.

290
00:11:19,970 --> 00:11:21,790
This is, to me,
totally unknown lands,

291
00:11:21,790 --> 00:11:24,110
like you would put me now
in Virginia and tell me,

292
00:11:24,110 --> 00:11:26,850
here is the bike
and go where to.

293
00:11:26,850 --> 00:11:27,465
Do you know--

294
00:11:27,465 --> 00:11:28,632
You knew how to ride a bike.

295
00:11:28,632 --> 00:11:29,650
Yeah, I knew that.

296
00:11:29,650 --> 00:11:30,230
Thank god.

297
00:11:30,230 --> 00:11:33,380
I couldn't now, but I knew then.

298
00:11:33,380 --> 00:11:34,765
And so I got there.

299
00:11:34,765 --> 00:11:36,140
I found it a little
bit difficult

300
00:11:36,140 --> 00:11:39,240
to find that house
just by the river.

301
00:11:39,240 --> 00:11:42,260

And as you have noticed, the
house that was the front,

302
00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:45,040
but then there
was the site where

303
00:11:45,040 --> 00:11:48,440
he had the patients coming in
because he had two cabinets.

304
00:11:48,440 --> 00:11:51,970
He had one in Jodoigne, where
he lived with his own family,

305
00:11:51,970 --> 00:11:54,220
but then he came twice
a week to Grez-Doiceau,

306
00:11:54,220 --> 00:11:56,800
where he also was
taking patients--

307
00:11:56,800 --> 00:11:57,870
In the same house?

308
00:11:57,870 --> 00:12:04,030
Yeah, with the little
section for his dentistry.

309
00:12:04,030 --> 00:12:07,600
So I knocked on the side door
for and didn't get an answer.

310
00:12:07,600 --> 00:12:09,910
I was already terrified.

311
00:12:09,910 --> 00:12:10,960
And what time is it now?

312
00:12:10,960 --> 00:12:12,280
Is in the evening already?

313

00:12:12,280 --> 00:12:13,130

No, not yet.

314

00:12:13,130 --> 00:12:13,630

Not yet.

315

00:12:13,630 --> 00:12:18,100

Because, no, I made it in a
decent time, like, you know?

316

00:12:18,100 --> 00:12:22,330

And I was already terrified that
there was no one maybe here,

317

00:12:22,330 --> 00:12:23,680

and what am I going to do.

318

00:12:23,680 --> 00:12:25,080

I'm going back to Jodoigne.

319

00:12:25,080 --> 00:12:28,080

Well, anyway, I kind
of looked around,

320

00:12:28,080 --> 00:12:32,170

and someone in the
street made a sign

321

00:12:32,170 --> 00:12:36,360

that to take around the
house, which I did and got

322

00:12:36,360 --> 00:12:37,710

to the front door.

323

00:12:37,710 --> 00:12:40,000

And Marie appeared.

324

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:43,890

OK, and I tell my
story, again, right?

325

00:12:43,890 --> 00:12:47,230

I'm coming from your
brother and this and that,

326

00:12:47,230 --> 00:12:49,350

and do you think
you could save me?

327

00:12:49,350 --> 00:12:52,480

And, of course, we all had the
same story, and we believed it.

328

00:12:52,480 --> 00:12:56,340

The war was going to be
over pretty soon, sure.

329

00:12:56,340 --> 00:12:58,970

That's what's in
our minds, you know?

330

00:12:58,970 --> 00:13:04,920

So it won't be too long that
would save me from the Gestapo

331

00:13:04,920 --> 00:13:06,080

or something like that.

332

00:13:06,080 --> 00:13:12,040

I can't remember which little
pitiful story I had to tell.

333

00:13:12,040 --> 00:13:16,030

She was very friendly, very
warm, very sympathetic,

334

00:13:16,030 --> 00:13:19,930

but she couldn't give
me an answer right away.

335

00:13:19,930 --> 00:13:23,250

So she said, I'm sure
it's going to be OK,

336

00:13:23,250 --> 00:13:27,910

but my mother isn't here, and
I have to have her permission.

337

00:13:27,910 --> 00:13:33,130

So if you can wait a bit,
until she comes back,

338

00:13:33,130 --> 00:13:36,170

she's due back on
the next time away

339

00:13:36,170 --> 00:13:38,740

that went from this
village to that village.

340

00:13:38,740 --> 00:13:40,350

She went for some business.

341

00:13:40,350 --> 00:13:43,760

They had just moved in
the house and all that.

342

00:13:43,760 --> 00:13:48,680

So I did, and they agreed to
see whether they could keep me.

343

00:13:48,680 --> 00:13:49,840

So you're about 14.

344

00:13:49,840 --> 00:13:51,080

Mhm.

345

00:13:51,080 --> 00:13:52,830

And Marie is in her 40s.

346

00:13:52,830 --> 00:13:53,630

Yeah.

347

00:13:53,630 --> 00:13:54,440

With children?

348

00:13:54,440 --> 00:13:54,940

No.

349

00:13:54,940 --> 00:13:55,430

No children.

350

00:13:55,430 --> 00:13:55,970

She never married.

351

00:13:55,970 --> 00:13:56,720

She never married.

352

00:13:56,720 --> 00:13:57,860

No.

353

00:13:57,860 --> 00:14:00,800

And that's Marie,
and then Elise--

354

00:14:00,800 --> 00:14:02,480

Elise, yeah.

355

00:14:02,480 --> 00:14:03,560

Those two live together.

356

00:14:03,560 --> 00:14:04,060

Right.

357

00:14:04,060 --> 00:14:06,010

And the mother is in
her 60s or something.

358

00:14:06,010 --> 00:14:06,960

Early 60s.

359

00:14:06,960 --> 00:14:07,480

Early 60s.

360

00:14:07,480 --> 00:14:08,030

Yeah.

361
00:14:08,030 --> 00:14:11,240
So the mother comes
back and sees you.

362
00:14:11,240 --> 00:14:12,660
Yeah, and Marie explains--

363
00:14:12,660 --> 00:14:13,160
Right.

364
00:14:13,160 --> 00:14:14,035
And the mother said--

365
00:14:14,035 --> 00:14:15,535
--that Paul had sent me.

366
00:14:15,535 --> 00:14:16,930
Right.

367
00:14:16,930 --> 00:14:19,580
And they discuss a
little bit, and then they

368
00:14:19,580 --> 00:14:23,990
said, well, we are going
to give it a try, yes.

369
00:14:23,990 --> 00:14:26,030
You can stay, you know?

370
00:14:26,030 --> 00:14:27,950
So I said, well, what
I do with the bicycle.

371
00:14:27,950 --> 00:14:30,450
Well, don't worry about it.

372
00:14:30,450 --> 00:14:34,070
My brother will come for
Tuesday or Wednesday,

373

00:14:34,070 --> 00:14:38,540
whichever days he was coming,
and we'll see what we can do.

374
00:14:38,540 --> 00:14:42,950
She did tell me later on
that in the first few weeks,

375
00:14:42,950 --> 00:14:46,770
they had considered
sending me to an orphanage.

376
00:14:46,770 --> 00:14:51,070
A lot of Jewish people
were saved that way

377
00:14:51,070 --> 00:14:55,460
to where orphanages are kept
by nuns and things like that.

378
00:14:55,460 --> 00:14:58,870
But then after a few weeks,
they got so attached to me

379
00:14:58,870 --> 00:15:01,880
that they didn't have
the heart to do that.

380
00:15:01,880 --> 00:15:03,548
But that I only knew after.

381
00:15:03,548 --> 00:15:05,590
Afterwards, yes, of course,
they [BOTH TALKING]..

382
00:15:05,590 --> 00:15:07,120
No, they wouldn't
tell me that, no.

383
00:15:07,120 --> 00:15:08,720
No.

384
00:15:08,720 --> 00:15:10,380

And where did you
stay in the house.

385
00:15:10,380 --> 00:15:12,580
What was it like in that house?

386
00:15:12,580 --> 00:15:15,320
Oh, they gave me the most
beautiful home of all.

387
00:15:15,320 --> 00:15:15,820
Really?

388
00:15:15,820 --> 00:15:16,320
Yeah.

389
00:15:16,320 --> 00:15:18,050

390
00:15:18,050 --> 00:15:21,130
Marie moved-- there was
like a master bedroom.

391
00:15:21,130 --> 00:15:23,870
She moved out of that and
gave me the master bedroom,

392
00:15:23,870 --> 00:15:25,900
and she moved into
a smaller room.

393
00:15:25,900 --> 00:15:28,480
I was, like, I didn't
even dare moving.

394
00:15:28,480 --> 00:15:31,510
I mean, I hadn't been used
to anything as beautiful

395
00:15:31,510 --> 00:15:34,900
looking as that, although it
was things which she had rescued

396

00:15:34,900 --> 00:15:38,170

from the bombing, put
together, because I told you

397

00:15:38,170 --> 00:15:41,230

the whole house was bombed,
and they lost everything.

398

00:15:41,230 --> 00:15:44,750

It was a very, very beautiful
bungalow, nine months old,

399

00:15:44,750 --> 00:15:48,400

which was totally
destroyed by the bombing.

400

00:15:48,400 --> 00:15:52,040

But she still gave me
the most beautiful room.

401

00:15:52,040 --> 00:15:55,320

And then they really took
care of me because all I had

402

00:15:55,320 --> 00:15:56,945

was the dress you
see I'm wearing.

403

00:15:56,945 --> 00:15:57,737

Right, you had no--

404

00:15:57,737 --> 00:15:59,640

--a little backpack.

405

00:15:59,640 --> 00:16:02,640

I don't even think I have
anything much to change.

406

00:16:02,640 --> 00:16:06,660

So they clothed me, they fed
me, and they were on stamps

407

00:16:06,660 --> 00:16:10,710
because no one could have
any food without stamps.

408
00:16:10,710 --> 00:16:14,400
So that's how we started
our saga in Grez-Doiceau.

409
00:16:14,400 --> 00:16:17,090
So this is the first time
you have your own room,

410
00:16:17,090 --> 00:16:20,076
and it's in a complete
stranger's house.

411
00:16:20,076 --> 00:16:21,277
Mhm.

412
00:16:21,277 --> 00:16:22,860
And then, of course,
what do I notice,

413
00:16:22,860 --> 00:16:26,230
actually, a crucifix
here, a crucifix there,

414
00:16:26,230 --> 00:16:30,780
another way, because they were
very, very Catholic, yeah.

415
00:16:30,780 --> 00:16:34,450
And, of course, they
know you're Jewish.

416
00:16:34,450 --> 00:16:37,820
And do you have any
idea why they put you

417
00:16:37,820 --> 00:16:39,950
in the master bedroom, the
best room in the house,

418

00:16:39,950 --> 00:16:40,797
as opposed to--

419
00:16:40,797 --> 00:16:42,380
it wouldn't have
been anything wrong--

420
00:16:42,380 --> 00:16:43,390
It wouldn't make any difference.

421
00:16:43,390 --> 00:16:43,670
No.

422
00:16:43,670 --> 00:16:44,710
--in the smaller room?

423
00:16:44,710 --> 00:16:45,415
I don't know.

424
00:16:45,415 --> 00:16:46,040
You don't know?

425
00:16:46,040 --> 00:16:49,640
Was she just kind
of hostess to do

426
00:16:49,640 --> 00:16:51,468
the best when you
receive some guests,

427
00:16:51,468 --> 00:16:52,510
you know what I'm saying?

428
00:16:52,510 --> 00:16:53,010
Right.

429
00:16:53,010 --> 00:16:56,550

430
00:16:56,550 --> 00:17:00,830
Yeah, she was very
artistic person.

431
00:17:00,830 --> 00:17:03,800
She could do anything
and everything.

432
00:17:03,800 --> 00:17:07,390
I've never seen someone
so well-rounded.

433
00:17:07,390 --> 00:17:08,089
This is Marie?

434
00:17:08,089 --> 00:17:08,589
Marie.

435
00:17:08,589 --> 00:17:09,829
Marie.

436
00:17:09,829 --> 00:17:12,589
Her own clothing, her
own hats, her own shoes.

437
00:17:12,589 --> 00:17:14,250
She could do anything
during the war.

438
00:17:14,250 --> 00:17:14,839
Really?

439
00:17:14,839 --> 00:17:15,680
Yeah.

440
00:17:15,680 --> 00:17:18,260
Because the coat that you
see me even after the war

441
00:17:18,260 --> 00:17:20,270
that I'm walking the
streets of Antwerp,

442
00:17:20,270 --> 00:17:22,730
she made that from

some other coat

443

00:17:22,730 --> 00:17:27,536
that she reversed and made it
to my size and made my hat,

444

00:17:27,536 --> 00:17:29,080
and it was just incredible.

445

00:17:29,080 --> 00:17:30,730
Yeah.

446

00:17:30,730 --> 00:17:32,180
I was very lucky to have--

447

00:17:32,180 --> 00:17:33,350
Absolutely.

448

00:17:33,350 --> 00:17:36,210
--been accepted in a
family like that one.

449

00:17:36,210 --> 00:17:39,950
But now your experience,
not only from what

450

00:17:39,950 --> 00:17:43,160
your mother tells you about
Christians or Catholics

451

00:17:43,160 --> 00:17:45,920
in particular, but
your own experience,

452

00:17:45,920 --> 00:17:47,120
is not a very good one.

453

00:17:47,120 --> 00:17:48,890
So you're walking
into a house that's

454

00:17:48,890 --> 00:17:51,450

going to save you with all
these crucifixes and this--

455
00:17:51,450 --> 00:17:52,243
Yeah.

456
00:17:52,243 --> 00:17:53,660
Well, of course,
in the beginning,

457
00:17:53,660 --> 00:17:56,150
I'm like a little bit
weary about all that,

458
00:17:56,150 --> 00:17:59,500
but then safety
comes first, right?

459
00:17:59,500 --> 00:18:02,740
And I kind of say, oh, well,
that's what they believe.

460
00:18:02,740 --> 00:18:05,450
So that's what they believe.

461
00:18:05,450 --> 00:18:07,940
And then they were
the type of people

462
00:18:07,940 --> 00:18:10,810
they would go to Mass
every single morning,

463
00:18:10,810 --> 00:18:16,610
a very well-known family in
the family for generations

464
00:18:16,610 --> 00:18:20,110
and particularly very,
very staunch Catholics.

465
00:18:20,110 --> 00:18:22,280
So they went to Mass every day.

466

00:18:22,280 --> 00:18:25,002

So, of course, the first
few days, I am just there,

467

00:18:25,002 --> 00:18:26,710

and we don't know what
we're going to do,

468

00:18:26,710 --> 00:18:30,770

and how we are going to
handle this whole situation.

469

00:18:30,770 --> 00:18:35,230

And they did inform the parish
priest what they have done,

470

00:18:35,230 --> 00:18:37,410

and they were very close.

471

00:18:37,410 --> 00:18:39,800

And he said he would
help to try to get

472

00:18:39,800 --> 00:18:42,410

me some false papers,
at least to have

473

00:18:42,410 --> 00:18:45,470

some document of some type.

474

00:18:45,470 --> 00:18:48,935

And she did explain
to me, Marie and me,

475

00:18:48,935 --> 00:18:52,480

gently that being that they were
so well-known in the family,

476

00:18:52,480 --> 00:18:56,710

they had to kind of,
for the outside world,

477

00:18:56,710 --> 00:18:58,510
come up with a story--

478

00:18:58,510 --> 00:19:00,890
where does this person
appear suddenly?

479

00:19:00,890 --> 00:19:05,070
And in villages,
everyone knows everyone.

480

00:19:05,070 --> 00:19:09,640
So they made up that I
was a distant cousin, who

481

00:19:09,640 --> 00:19:15,340
had come from the Flemish part
of Belgium to learn French,

482

00:19:15,340 --> 00:19:19,940
and so then they
explained to me,

483

00:19:19,940 --> 00:19:23,680
but being that you are
part of the family.

484

00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:25,680
You will just have to
come to Mass with us

485

00:19:25,680 --> 00:19:28,490
because it would be very
strange to the whole village

486

00:19:28,490 --> 00:19:32,180
that we take someone in who
doesn't believe and doesn't

487

00:19:32,180 --> 00:19:34,280
go to Mass every day.

488

00:19:34,280 --> 00:19:38,347
So I decided I have no choice.

489
00:19:38,347 --> 00:19:39,180
What else will I do?

490
00:19:39,180 --> 00:19:40,840
I'll just have to go.

491
00:19:40,840 --> 00:19:43,000
In the beginning,
it was traumatic.

492
00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:45,980
I would imagine.

493
00:19:45,980 --> 00:19:47,510
Could you talk to them about it?

494
00:19:47,510 --> 00:19:52,700
Did they ask you about your own
tradition and your experience?

495
00:19:52,700 --> 00:19:54,350
They asked me that
I was a believer.

496
00:19:54,350 --> 00:19:56,650
I said my mother was
very, very Jewish,

497
00:19:56,650 --> 00:20:00,730
and I used to kind
of go with her.

498
00:20:00,730 --> 00:20:04,010
We had our traditions
and things like that.

499
00:20:04,010 --> 00:20:06,620
Now, of course, the
more I got to know them,

500

00:20:06,620 --> 00:20:08,770

the easier I found
to talk about it,

501

00:20:08,770 --> 00:20:11,710

and I would then
share things which

502

00:20:11,710 --> 00:20:15,430

I did find ridiculous or
questioning to my young mind

503

00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:21,150

then, like, my mother was
really, like, fanatic.

504

00:20:21,150 --> 00:20:23,720

If we were walking
the streets of Antwerp

505

00:20:23,720 --> 00:20:27,570

and see a priest on the
other side of the street,

506

00:20:27,570 --> 00:20:30,990

she had it that you
had to turn your button

507

00:20:30,990 --> 00:20:33,690

to avoid any malediction
coming on you,

508

00:20:33,690 --> 00:20:37,290

and I did that because I
was brought up like that.

509

00:20:37,290 --> 00:20:41,218

You see, she really had a
lot of, what you call it?

510

00:20:41,218 --> 00:20:41,760

Superstition.

511
00:20:41,760 --> 00:20:42,750
Superstition.

512
00:20:42,750 --> 00:20:44,506
A lot.

513
00:20:44,506 --> 00:20:50,930
And I think a lot of Polish
Jewish were like that.

514
00:20:50,930 --> 00:20:52,242
So you shared this with Marie?

515
00:20:52,242 --> 00:20:54,325
I shared that with Marie,
and we laughed about it.

516
00:20:54,325 --> 00:20:55,610
Yes, of course.

517
00:20:55,610 --> 00:20:59,660
Because here I was seeing the
priest on the daily basis.

518
00:20:59,660 --> 00:21:00,875
I was trying to help.

519
00:21:00,875 --> 00:21:01,550
Right.

520
00:21:01,550 --> 00:21:05,270
Very friendly, very
welcoming, same with them.

521
00:21:05,270 --> 00:21:08,110
So I felt at this
to share with it.

522
00:21:08,110 --> 00:21:09,890
Did they, before you--

523

00:21:09,890 --> 00:21:12,020
before you started
going to Mass,

524
00:21:12,020 --> 00:21:13,640
did they tell you
what you should

525
00:21:13,640 --> 00:21:15,935
do when you were at Mass so
it wouldn't be complete--

526
00:21:15,935 --> 00:21:17,810
because you've never
been in a church before.

527
00:21:17,810 --> 00:21:19,450
Never.

528
00:21:19,450 --> 00:21:21,170
Or did you just imitate that?

529
00:21:21,170 --> 00:21:21,940
I imitated.

530
00:21:21,940 --> 00:21:24,010
They said, well,
just do as we do.

531
00:21:24,010 --> 00:21:26,440
Well, I found that very
difficult. Genuflecting

532
00:21:26,440 --> 00:21:27,580
was out of the question.

533
00:21:27,580 --> 00:21:29,850
This is the beginning here.

534
00:21:29,850 --> 00:21:31,460
No, I couldn't do that.

535

00:21:31,460 --> 00:21:33,290

I wouldn't do the sign
of the cross on me

536

00:21:33,290 --> 00:21:37,030

either because I felt
very uneasy about it.

537

00:21:37,030 --> 00:21:39,920

So she did it for me.

538

00:21:39,920 --> 00:21:41,103

How did she do it for you?

539

00:21:41,103 --> 00:21:42,770

Well, she would just
take the holy water

540

00:21:42,770 --> 00:21:44,437

and just do the sign
of the cross on me.

541

00:21:44,437 --> 00:21:45,710

Oh, I see, right, right.

542

00:21:45,710 --> 00:21:46,760

So that was OK.

543

00:21:46,760 --> 00:21:48,530

I could handle that,
as long as I didn't

544

00:21:48,530 --> 00:21:49,613

have to do it with myself.

545

00:21:49,613 --> 00:21:55,100

We're speaking the very first
few days of this new existence

546

00:21:55,100 --> 00:21:55,910

here.

547

00:21:55,910 --> 00:21:59,330

So, genuflecting,
no, I didn't do that.

548

00:21:59,330 --> 00:22:01,820

But then she kind of said,
you know, try as much

549

00:22:01,820 --> 00:22:03,840

as you can to do what we do.

550

00:22:03,840 --> 00:22:08,600

So I practice in my room because
I found that so difficult

551

00:22:08,600 --> 00:22:12,560

that I said, rather than
look ridiculous and dumb,

552

00:22:12,560 --> 00:22:14,760

let me first give it
some practice here.

553

00:22:14,760 --> 00:22:16,850

So I practiced all by myself.

554

00:22:16,850 --> 00:22:18,100

So you practiced genuflecting?

555

00:22:18,100 --> 00:22:19,190

Mhm.

556

00:22:19,190 --> 00:22:20,930

And did you notice
that you were supposed

557

00:22:20,930 --> 00:22:24,710

to do it in a certain
way, left to right, right?

558

00:22:24,710 --> 00:22:26,270

In the beginning,
I let her do it.

559
00:22:26,270 --> 00:22:27,305
It was just as easy.

560
00:22:27,305 --> 00:22:28,100
Yes.

561
00:22:28,100 --> 00:22:30,680
And I didn't particularly like
the idea of this holy water

562
00:22:30,680 --> 00:22:31,880
either.

563
00:22:31,880 --> 00:22:33,330
So I let her do it.

564
00:22:33,330 --> 00:22:36,250
But then after a
while, yes, I practice.

565
00:22:36,250 --> 00:22:39,710
I said, might as well go with
it because it's the only way

566
00:22:39,710 --> 00:22:40,300
to be safe.

567
00:22:40,300 --> 00:22:42,850

568
00:22:42,850 --> 00:22:45,750
But it had a very
difficult feeling.

569
00:22:45,750 --> 00:22:51,720
Being such an orthodox
upbringing with so many

570
00:22:51,720 --> 00:22:55,350
superstitions and, you
know, on the young mind,

571

00:22:55,350 --> 00:22:57,690

she had impressed me
very much with it.

572

00:22:57,690 --> 00:23:01,440

I think I must have been the
one who probably got most of it

573

00:23:01,440 --> 00:23:03,300

from my mother.

574

00:23:03,300 --> 00:23:06,830

Most of what she believed
about other people.

575

00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:10,760

I don't think she worked so much
on the boys as she did on me,

576

00:23:10,760 --> 00:23:12,140

and I don't know why.

577

00:23:12,140 --> 00:23:14,225

Well, clearly, you were
a target in that family

578

00:23:14,225 --> 00:23:18,320

for a number of things, yes?

579

00:23:18,320 --> 00:23:21,050

Maybe that's the way
Jewish mothers do.

580

00:23:21,050 --> 00:23:23,300

They're closer to their
daughters than their sons?

581

00:23:23,300 --> 00:23:24,410

Maybe.

582

00:23:24,410 --> 00:23:26,620

Except she wasn't
that close to Clara.

583
00:23:26,620 --> 00:23:28,255
No.

584
00:23:28,255 --> 00:23:30,480
Yeah, Clara didn't
allow it either, see?

585
00:23:30,480 --> 00:23:32,130
I must have been an enabler.

586
00:23:32,130 --> 00:23:32,908
Yes.

587
00:23:32,908 --> 00:23:34,430
[LAUGHTER]

588
00:23:34,430 --> 00:23:34,930
Probably.

589
00:23:34,930 --> 00:23:38,300

590
00:23:38,300 --> 00:23:40,740
But then, eventually,
I got to do it,

591
00:23:40,740 --> 00:23:41,990
and I had no problems with it.

592
00:23:41,990 --> 00:23:42,907
And it was no problem.

593
00:23:42,907 --> 00:23:43,770
Then it was fine.

594
00:23:43,770 --> 00:23:46,130
And I had a missal
because, in those days,

595

00:23:46,130 --> 00:23:47,250
everyone had a missal.

596

00:23:47,250 --> 00:23:51,715
And that was a nice distraction
because I could read.

597

00:23:51,715 --> 00:23:53,340
And a missal is a
book of prayers, yes?

598

00:23:53,340 --> 00:23:54,380
Yeah.

599

00:23:54,380 --> 00:23:56,810
Where you have the dated
prayers for the Mass.

600

00:23:56,810 --> 00:23:59,540
So that was nice
because it kept me busy.

601

00:23:59,540 --> 00:24:00,350
I could follow.

602

00:24:00,350 --> 00:24:01,070
I could read.

603

00:24:01,070 --> 00:24:03,665
I could see what was
going on, you know?

604

00:24:03,665 --> 00:24:04,760
And it was in French?

605

00:24:04,760 --> 00:24:07,680
Yeah, French.

606

00:24:07,680 --> 00:24:11,990
And I thought what it had to
say was rather nice, you know?

607

00:24:11,990 --> 00:24:15,670

So I had no problem
with that at all.

608

00:24:15,670 --> 00:24:19,590

Did you then start
reading the New Testament?

609

00:24:19,590 --> 00:24:23,500

A little with the family,
with the mother and Marie.

610

00:24:23,500 --> 00:24:24,000

Yes.

611

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:24,880

Yeah.

612

00:24:24,880 --> 00:24:30,110

But then not long after that,
I received this panicked letter

613

00:24:30,110 --> 00:24:31,430

from my mother.

614

00:24:31,430 --> 00:24:32,060

OK, wait.

615

00:24:32,060 --> 00:24:32,600

One second.

616

00:24:32,600 --> 00:24:33,268

Hold that.

617

00:24:33,268 --> 00:24:34,310

Hold that for one minute.

618

00:24:34,310 --> 00:24:35,960

I want to go back to something.

619

00:24:35,960 --> 00:24:37,490

When did you get false papers?

620

00:24:37,490 --> 00:24:39,170

The parish priest
got the false papers?

621

00:24:39,170 --> 00:24:40,100

Pretty fast.

622

00:24:40,100 --> 00:24:41,390

He got me false papers.

623

00:24:41,390 --> 00:24:42,980

I had a different name.

624

00:24:42,980 --> 00:24:46,250

I was born in Ghent,
which was a Flemish part,

625

00:24:46,250 --> 00:24:49,960

so it justified the story
that went along with it.

626

00:24:49,960 --> 00:24:52,640

Apparently, and I
didn't know that,

627

00:24:52,640 --> 00:24:57,860

I was still making quite some
Flemish mistakes like gender.

628

00:24:57,860 --> 00:25:00,020

I would mix the masculine
and the feminine

629

00:25:00,020 --> 00:25:02,300

because every word, of
course, in the French language

630

00:25:02,300 --> 00:25:03,740

has a gender.

631

00:25:03,740 --> 00:25:08,000

So it really fit the story
that they had made up,

632

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:11,930

and they would sometimes, which
was funny, refer to it, see,

633

00:25:11,930 --> 00:25:16,790

she said [? au ?] for [? un ?],,
but that's why she's here.

634

00:25:16,790 --> 00:25:18,063

So that worked.

635

00:25:18,063 --> 00:25:18,750

It worked.

636

00:25:18,750 --> 00:25:20,640

And do you remember
what your name was?

637

00:25:20,640 --> 00:25:23,110

Yeah, Marie Gosens.

638

00:25:23,110 --> 00:25:24,146

Marie Gosens.

639

00:25:24,146 --> 00:25:25,170

Gosens.

640

00:25:25,170 --> 00:25:26,140

Born in Ghent.

641

00:25:26,140 --> 00:25:28,890

642

00:25:28,890 --> 00:25:34,580

Actually, I went even to
Ghent in, I can't remember,

643

00:25:34,580 --> 00:25:39,740

in the '70s, 1970s, which
some of our sisters,

644
00:25:39,740 --> 00:25:41,210
I went to the cemetery.

645
00:25:41,210 --> 00:25:43,790
I wanted to find out
whether this name existed.

646
00:25:43,790 --> 00:25:45,260
And there were a lot of Gosens.

647
00:25:45,260 --> 00:25:47,420
So maybe I got the
name of someone

648
00:25:47,420 --> 00:25:52,080
who had died, but maybe
not declared or whatever.

649
00:25:52,080 --> 00:25:54,885
So I was Marie
Gosens, born in Ghent.

650
00:25:54,885 --> 00:25:58,640
Now the fact that you looked
very Jewish, according to you--

651
00:25:58,640 --> 00:25:59,930
Yeah, I did.

652
00:25:59,930 --> 00:26:02,150
--people in the
little village did not

653
00:26:02,150 --> 00:26:04,325
say, what do you mean she's
a part of your family?

654
00:26:04,325 --> 00:26:05,200
Nobody questioned it?

655

00:26:05,200 --> 00:26:07,500

There were some
who would question.

656

00:26:07,500 --> 00:26:11,030

Some that I was told, be
very careful of what you say

657

00:26:11,030 --> 00:26:14,330

or what you don't say.

658

00:26:14,330 --> 00:26:16,340

Rather, then, say,
you don't know,

659

00:26:16,340 --> 00:26:18,910

and wait for us to answer.

660

00:26:18,910 --> 00:26:23,610

And we had some neighbors who
collaborated with the Nazis,

661

00:26:23,610 --> 00:26:28,520

and we were very, very aware
of that and in great fear.

662

00:26:28,520 --> 00:26:35,070

So I tried to keep indoors
as much as I could, not mix.

663

00:26:35,070 --> 00:26:37,240

But, obviously, there were
other people who were--

664

00:26:37,240 --> 00:26:38,323

Oh, no, others were very--

665

00:26:38,323 --> 00:26:39,422

Very good. very good.

666

00:26:39,422 --> 00:26:41,400

Yeah, very good with it.

667
00:26:41,400 --> 00:26:45,410
The sisters in the parish
knew, the parish priest knew,

668
00:26:45,410 --> 00:26:50,130
there was some
nobility that lived

669
00:26:50,130 --> 00:26:53,160
in the parish, a
baron and baroness,

670
00:26:53,160 --> 00:26:56,250
and they were staunch
Catholics, and they knew.

671
00:26:56,250 --> 00:26:59,140
So that was OK.

672
00:26:59,140 --> 00:27:02,610
But you have to be
careful, very careful.

673
00:27:02,610 --> 00:27:03,810
So I didn't go out much.

674
00:27:03,810 --> 00:27:05,650
I didn't mix much.

675
00:27:05,650 --> 00:27:07,530
So you didn't have
young friends?

676
00:27:07,530 --> 00:27:08,030
No.

677
00:27:08,030 --> 00:27:09,754
And no school, obviously.

678
00:27:09,754 --> 00:27:10,670
Oh, no, no way.

679

00:27:10,670 --> 00:27:12,800

Nobody had school.

680

00:27:12,800 --> 00:27:18,630

For some reason, Henry went
to school with his siblings.

681

00:27:18,630 --> 00:27:19,130

[INAUDIBLE]

682

00:27:19,130 --> 00:27:20,390

No, I didn't go to school.

683

00:27:20,390 --> 00:27:22,130

No, that was too dangerous.

684

00:27:22,130 --> 00:27:23,300

Yeah.

685

00:27:23,300 --> 00:27:24,920

Maybe because our
place was smaller,

686

00:27:24,920 --> 00:27:28,070

and everyone knew
everyone, and they were

687

00:27:28,070 --> 00:27:30,450

afraid of what would be asked.

688

00:27:30,450 --> 00:27:32,810

And, actually, I don't think
there was a high school.

689

00:27:32,810 --> 00:27:35,620

I would have been
more for going already

690

00:27:35,620 --> 00:27:38,418

to the beginning of high
school or the eighth grade

691
00:27:38,418 --> 00:27:38,960
or something.

692
00:27:38,960 --> 00:27:41,030
It only went through sixth
grade in the village.

693
00:27:41,030 --> 00:27:41,550
I see.

694
00:27:41,550 --> 00:27:43,640
So there was no point.

695
00:27:43,640 --> 00:27:46,520
No, I never went to school.

696
00:27:46,520 --> 00:27:48,020
All right, we're
going to now break.

697
00:27:48,020 --> 00:27:48,690
OK.

698
00:27:48,690 --> 00:27:51,530
When we come back, we will
talk about this famous letter

699
00:27:51,530 --> 00:27:53,390
that you received

700
00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:54,250
From my mother.

701
00:27:54,250 --> 00:27:55,800
Yes.

702
00:27:55,800 --> 00:28:27,000