

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,000

2
00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:10,840
Good, rolling.

3
00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:13,760
[INAUDIBLE] recording,
too, just in case.

4
00:00:13,760 --> 00:00:14,430
Thank you.

5
00:00:14,430 --> 00:00:16,195
We're rolling any
time you're ready.

6
00:00:16,195 --> 00:00:17,530
Are we already rolling?

7
00:00:17,530 --> 00:00:19,420
We are.

8
00:00:19,420 --> 00:00:23,170
So this is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

9
00:00:23,170 --> 00:00:25,960
interview with
Mrs. Ingeborg Mayer

10
00:00:25,960 --> 00:00:33,580
Protentis on August 8, 2016
in Brockton, Massachusetts.

11
00:00:33,580 --> 00:00:37,510
Thank you very, very
much, Mrs. Protentis

12
00:00:37,510 --> 00:00:40,240
for agreeing to
speak with us today,

13

00:00:40,240 --> 00:00:43,450
for agreeing to
share your story,

14
00:00:43,450 --> 00:00:47,770
let us know a little bit about
the experiences that you had,

15
00:00:47,770 --> 00:00:49,960
the family history
that you have,

16
00:00:49,960 --> 00:00:54,490
and how that all was part of
that huge catastrophe which

17
00:00:54,490 --> 00:00:57,250
ended up being the Holocaust.

18
00:00:57,250 --> 00:01:01,640
I'm going to start with
the most basic questions,

19
00:01:01,640 --> 00:01:03,500
and we'll go from there.

20
00:01:03,500 --> 00:01:05,500
So my very first
question is, could you

21
00:01:05,500 --> 00:01:08,620
tell me the date of your birth?

22
00:01:08,620 --> 00:01:14,170
I was born February 17, 1932.

23
00:01:14,170 --> 00:01:16,335
What was your name at birth?

24
00:01:16,335 --> 00:01:16,960
Ingeborg Mayer.

25
00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:19,840

26

00:01:19,840 --> 00:01:22,370

And where were you born?

27

00:01:22,370 --> 00:01:27,970

I was born in Würzburg,
Germany, which is in Bavaria.

28

00:01:27,970 --> 00:01:32,350

What is the closest large
city or town near Würzburg

29

00:01:32,350 --> 00:01:34,810

so we'd have an idea
of geographically?

30

00:01:34,810 --> 00:01:35,740

Munich.

31

00:01:35,740 --> 00:01:37,600

Oh, so you're really
close to Munich?

32

00:01:37,600 --> 00:01:38,740

Yes.

33

00:01:38,740 --> 00:01:42,280

That is the heart of Bavaria.

34

00:01:42,280 --> 00:01:44,690

Can you tell me
your parents' names?

35

00:01:44,690 --> 00:01:47,195

My mother's name was Rosa.

36

00:01:47,195 --> 00:01:50,080

Her maiden name was Riechenberg.

37

00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:50,950

Riechenberg?

38

00:01:50,950 --> 00:01:52,330

Riechenberg.

39

00:01:52,330 --> 00:01:56,350

My father was Max Mayer.

40

00:01:56,350 --> 00:01:58,540

Were you an only child?

41

00:01:58,540 --> 00:02:02,890

No, I was the youngest
of four, but there

42

00:02:02,890 --> 00:02:09,039

was a large gap between
my siblings and I,

43

00:02:09,039 --> 00:02:14,470

and my oldest brother, Emile,
was 20 when I was born.

44

00:02:14,470 --> 00:02:20,260

My sister, Betty, was 18,
and the other brother was 15.

45

00:02:20,260 --> 00:02:21,640

What was his name?

46

00:02:21,640 --> 00:02:23,470

I'd rather not talk about him.

47

00:02:23,470 --> 00:02:26,710

48

00:02:26,710 --> 00:02:33,220

And so Emile and Ingeborg
are very German names.

49

00:02:33,220 --> 00:02:37,150

Was your family very
assimilated into German society?

50

00:02:37,150 --> 00:02:43,510

Very much so, so much, in
fact, that my mother, who

51

00:02:43,510 --> 00:02:49,840

was very much a part of a
business that my father was in,

52
00:02:49,840 --> 00:02:52,250
said, let's put the--

53
00:02:52,250 --> 00:02:56,710
they owned a bakery
and a cafeteria.

54
00:02:56,710 --> 00:03:00,640
Let's put the ovens on
a ship and go to Israel,

55
00:03:00,640 --> 00:03:05,980
and my father said, I am a
German first and a Jew second.

56
00:03:05,980 --> 00:03:07,330
And he didn't want to go?

57
00:03:07,330 --> 00:03:12,940
And he didn't go, and that
was a catastrophic thing

58
00:03:12,940 --> 00:03:18,230
because he ended up in
Dachau and Buchenwald.

59
00:03:18,230 --> 00:03:19,030
Wow.

60
00:03:19,030 --> 00:03:20,080
We'll get there.

61
00:03:20,080 --> 00:03:22,420
Right now we'll talk
about pre-war life,

62
00:03:22,420 --> 00:03:28,960
but yes, decisions like that
were often so fundamental.

63
00:03:28,960 --> 00:03:31,810
And they made the

difference in the destiny

64

00:03:31,810 --> 00:03:36,220
of an entire family,
whether to stay or to go.

65

00:03:36,220 --> 00:03:41,940
Let's talk a little
bit about your family.

66

00:03:41,940 --> 00:03:46,510
Did your father and
mother come from Würzburg,

67

00:03:46,510 --> 00:03:48,175
or were they from other places?

68

00:03:48,175 --> 00:03:52,660

69

00:03:52,660 --> 00:03:58,900
My father came from, I
think, [? Meribel, ?]

70

00:03:58,900 --> 00:04:06,520
and my mother's parents'
names are very French.

71

00:04:06,520 --> 00:04:09,820
They were Babette
and Raphael, so I

72

00:04:09,820 --> 00:04:14,250
think there may have been
some French ancestry there.

73

00:04:14,250 --> 00:04:19,000
But I'm not quite sure
where she was born.

74

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:20,839
Did your mother come from--

75

00:04:20,839 --> 00:04:22,498
did she have siblings?

76
00:04:22,498 --> 00:04:24,540
Was she the only child,
or did she have siblings?

77
00:04:24,540 --> 00:04:27,550
No, she had two brothers.

78
00:04:27,550 --> 00:04:29,890
And what are their
names if you remember?

79
00:04:29,890 --> 00:04:35,440
Yes, Ludwig and Solomon.

80
00:04:35,440 --> 00:04:37,660
And did they live around you?

81
00:04:37,660 --> 00:04:39,610
Did you--

82
00:04:39,610 --> 00:04:41,520
I don't recall.

83
00:04:41,520 --> 00:04:43,726
Ludwig came to
the United States.

84
00:04:43,726 --> 00:04:47,260

85
00:04:47,260 --> 00:04:49,810
I don't know what
year, but I know

86
00:04:49,810 --> 00:04:57,030
that he lived in Manhattan,
and he became a baker.

87
00:04:57,030 --> 00:05:01,620
Solomon-- I don't know when
he came to the United States,

88
00:05:01,620 --> 00:05:03,210

but he did.

89
00:05:03,210 --> 00:05:05,480
So this is all
before World War II?

90
00:05:05,480 --> 00:05:06,790
Yeah.

91
00:05:06,790 --> 00:05:08,180
No.

92
00:05:08,180 --> 00:05:09,350
Yes.

93
00:05:09,350 --> 00:05:12,510
I had to think, yeah.

94
00:05:12,510 --> 00:05:15,870
So you think there
was a French influence

95
00:05:15,870 --> 00:05:19,120
on your grandparents on your
mother's side because they--

96
00:05:19,120 --> 00:05:20,520
Possibly.

97
00:05:20,520 --> 00:05:25,560
--because they had French
names, Babette and Raphael,

98
00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:26,740
I think you said.

99
00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:29,520
Yeah, Raphael and Babette.

100
00:05:29,520 --> 00:05:31,740
What was their name again?

101
00:05:31,740 --> 00:05:32,830
Riechenberg.

102
00:05:32,830 --> 00:05:35,460
Riechenberg, OK.

103
00:05:35,460 --> 00:05:38,580
But when you were born,
did they live in Würzburg,

104
00:05:38,580 --> 00:05:40,740
your grandparents?

105
00:05:40,740 --> 00:05:47,060
I only had one grandparent,
and that was Raphael.

106
00:05:47,060 --> 00:05:53,520
My father-- now, this is
things that were told to me--

107
00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:54,300
I understand.

108
00:05:54,300 --> 00:05:56,880
--since I was the youngest.

109
00:05:56,880 --> 00:06:03,420
My father was orphaned
at a young age, about 13,

110
00:06:03,420 --> 00:06:07,860
and so I had no
paternal grandparents.

111
00:06:07,860 --> 00:06:11,530
My maternal
grandmother had passed,

112
00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:15,390
so I just had my maternal
grandfather, Raphael.

113
00:06:15,390 --> 00:06:16,980
Do you have memories of him?

114

00:06:16,980 --> 00:06:18,030
Definitely.

115
00:06:18,030 --> 00:06:20,964
What kind of a person was he?

116
00:06:20,964 --> 00:06:25,170
He was Mr. Clean personified.

117
00:06:25,170 --> 00:06:26,800
Really?

118
00:06:26,800 --> 00:06:31,580
He would get dressed up
in a suit, watch fob,

119
00:06:31,580 --> 00:06:35,040
walked with a cane
that had a silver head.

120
00:06:35,040 --> 00:06:38,070
And after his walk,
he'd come home,

121
00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:42,930
wash the bottom of his shoes,
the bottom of his cane.

122
00:06:42,930 --> 00:06:48,150
And we only had one bathroom
in this apartment in Manhattan,

123
00:06:48,150 --> 00:06:54,575
and I used to desperately
say, oh, Pop, please come out.

124
00:06:54,575 --> 00:06:56,970
I have to go.

125
00:06:56,970 --> 00:06:58,800
So you're talking
when you already

126
00:06:58,800 --> 00:07:00,430
lived in the United States?

127
00:07:00,430 --> 00:07:00,930
Right.

128
00:07:00,930 --> 00:07:02,020
He was with you?

129
00:07:02,020 --> 00:07:07,830
He walked me to school
every day and picked me up

130
00:07:07,830 --> 00:07:10,620
from school every day.

131
00:07:10,620 --> 00:07:14,280
Was he a person that
you could get close to?

132
00:07:14,280 --> 00:07:17,220
He was in a German way.

133
00:07:17,220 --> 00:07:28,250
I think Germans are not as
affectionate as Mediterraneans,

134
00:07:28,250 --> 00:07:31,880
so yes, he loved
me a great deal.

135
00:07:31,880 --> 00:07:32,760
You felt that?

136
00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:33,260
Yes.

137
00:07:33,260 --> 00:07:39,080
That's the important thing is
that a child feels this, yeah.

138
00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:42,810
So do you remember him from
Würzburg when you lived there?

139
00:07:42,810 --> 00:07:45,380

Not at all.

140

00:07:45,380 --> 00:07:47,420
And let me see.

141

00:07:47,420 --> 00:07:50,240
Let me see if I can ask
another question about--

142

00:07:50,240 --> 00:07:54,110
you mentioned that your
father had a bakery.

143

00:07:54,110 --> 00:07:56,570
What was it called?

144

00:07:56,570 --> 00:07:57,490
Mayer's.

145

00:07:57,490 --> 00:07:58,960
Mayer's Bäckerei?

146

00:07:58,960 --> 00:08:00,170
Mayer's Bäckerei.

147

00:08:00,170 --> 00:08:02,900
We also had a restaurant.

148

00:08:02,900 --> 00:08:06,120
Now if you guys are--

149

00:08:06,120 --> 00:08:12,830
since you're all Massachusetts
or had been, the size of Pier 4

150

00:08:12,830 --> 00:08:15,800
in Boston-- that was the
size of the restaurant.

151

00:08:15,800 --> 00:08:17,240
Like Anthony's Pier 4?

152

00:08:17,240 --> 00:08:18,410
Anthony's Pier 4.

153
00:08:18,410 --> 00:08:20,240
That was a large restaurant.

154
00:08:20,240 --> 00:08:23,520
Yeah, and my father--

155
00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:28,470
since my parents were
44 when I was born,

156
00:08:28,470 --> 00:08:30,920
he used to show me
around the restaurant

157
00:08:30,920 --> 00:08:34,220
before he was in the
concentration camp.

158
00:08:34,220 --> 00:08:39,950
And I'll get two very
important antidote in this

159
00:08:39,950 --> 00:08:42,059
about this restaurant, if I may.

160
00:08:42,059 --> 00:08:42,559
Sure.

161
00:08:42,559 --> 00:08:45,390
You mean an anecdote, right?

162
00:08:45,390 --> 00:08:48,030
Anecdote, yeah.

163
00:08:48,030 --> 00:08:48,530
Sure.

164
00:08:48,530 --> 00:08:50,900
Please tell us now.

165
00:08:50,900 --> 00:08:55,460
The restaurant was basically
across the street from

166

00:08:55,460 --> 00:09:02,730
the University of Würzburg, so
a lot of students, mostly men,

167

00:09:02,730 --> 00:09:05,900
would come in to eat.

168

00:09:05,900 --> 00:09:08,540
And now, this was told to me.

169

00:09:08,540 --> 00:09:12,470
You have to understand,
I was very young.

170

00:09:12,470 --> 00:09:16,330
And sometimes my father--

171

00:09:16,330 --> 00:09:23,090
if one or two of these students
couldn't pay their whole bill,

172

00:09:23,090 --> 00:09:25,970
he would say, when you
become a famous lawyer,

173

00:09:25,970 --> 00:09:31,680
or a doctor, or architect,
you'll pay me back.

174

00:09:31,680 --> 00:09:36,710
And it did-- may I go into that?

175

00:09:36,710 --> 00:09:38,400
Of course, go ahead.

176

00:09:38,400 --> 00:09:41,290
Because it's a very
important part of this story.

177

00:09:41,290 --> 00:09:44,570

178

00:09:44,570 --> 00:09:49,290

We had a very large house,
and after my father was

179
00:09:49,290 --> 00:09:52,430
put in the concentration
camp and the servants had

180
00:09:52,430 --> 00:09:56,840
quit because they were not
allowed to work for Jews,

181
00:09:56,840 --> 00:09:59,820
I had a nanny who quit.

182
00:09:59,820 --> 00:10:02,090
So we moved into
three little rooms,

183
00:10:02,090 --> 00:10:07,970
but other Jewish families
that were basically

184
00:10:07,970 --> 00:10:13,910
evacuated from their
homes came to the door.

185
00:10:13,910 --> 00:10:15,620
And since we had
the room, my mother

186
00:10:15,620 --> 00:10:21,300
would tell them to go upstairs
and just take some rooms.

187
00:10:21,300 --> 00:10:26,810
Well, they were like
shadows to me, basically.

188
00:10:26,810 --> 00:10:30,210
Are you talking when you
still had the large house?

189
00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:30,720
Yes.

190

00:10:30,720 --> 00:10:35,040
Before you yourselves were
evacuated from your home,

191
00:10:35,040 --> 00:10:37,280
you would take in
other Jewish families?

192
00:10:37,280 --> 00:10:39,150
Yeah, we were not
evacuated from our home.

193
00:10:39,150 --> 00:10:39,750
Oh, I see.

194
00:10:39,750 --> 00:10:41,130
We left willingly.

195
00:10:41,130 --> 00:10:43,830

196
00:10:43,830 --> 00:10:47,910
Well, anyway, Kristallnacht
came in November of 1938.

197
00:10:47,910 --> 00:10:49,350
That's right.

198
00:10:49,350 --> 00:10:54,570
And I slept in the same
bed with my mother,

199
00:10:54,570 --> 00:11:01,320
and all of a sudden I heard
all this noise and noise

200
00:11:01,320 --> 00:11:06,720
against-- we had-- almost
they were many castle doors,

201
00:11:06,720 --> 00:11:11,910
and I heard pounding against
them and then men shouting.

202
00:11:11,910 --> 00:11:14,610

And then we had
marble steps going up,

203
00:11:14,610 --> 00:11:16,360
and I could hear--
to this day, I

204
00:11:16,360 --> 00:11:19,770
can hear the boots
on the marble steps.

205
00:11:19,770 --> 00:11:20,380
Excuse me.

206
00:11:20,380 --> 00:11:24,596

207
00:11:24,596 --> 00:11:35,060
And I would hear children
crying, women screaming.

208
00:11:35,060 --> 00:11:37,580
I would hear a lot of yelling.

209
00:11:37,580 --> 00:11:43,250
My mother took a dresser and
pushed it against the door,

210
00:11:43,250 --> 00:11:44,150
and she held me.

211
00:11:44,150 --> 00:11:49,460
And she said, Inge,
which is Inge in German,

212
00:11:49,460 --> 00:11:52,820
tonight we're going to die.

213
00:11:52,820 --> 00:11:56,440
I didn't know what dying
was, but she was crying,

214
00:11:56,440 --> 00:11:57,055
and I cried.

215

00:11:57,055 --> 00:12:00,130

216

00:12:00,130 --> 00:12:08,570

And we heard glass breaking
and so much going on.

217

00:12:08,570 --> 00:12:12,790

And then the sun came up,
and we lived in what was--

218

00:12:12,790 --> 00:12:15,850

which you now would call
almost a cul-de-sac.

219

00:12:15,850 --> 00:12:19,940

There were just three big
urban mansions in this area.

220

00:12:19,940 --> 00:12:24,310

221

00:12:24,310 --> 00:12:27,790

And there was a
knock on the door

222

00:12:27,790 --> 00:12:30,760

and said, Frau
Mayer, Frau Mayer.

223

00:12:30,760 --> 00:12:36,035

And it was a man from across
the cul-de-sac, and he said,

224

00:12:36,035 --> 00:12:36,640

they're gone.

225

00:12:36,640 --> 00:12:40,835

Well, she wasn't sure, so
she didn't move the dresser.

226

00:12:40,835 --> 00:12:46,120

But then he convinced her,
and we opened the door.

227

00:12:46,120 --> 00:12:51,210

And there were dolls,
and shoes, and clothes,

228

00:12:51,210 --> 00:12:54,320

and glass strewn all over.

229

00:12:54,320 --> 00:12:56,050

All over the house?

230

00:12:56,050 --> 00:12:59,830

All over the house,
and we couldn't

231

00:12:59,830 --> 00:13:05,170

understand why we were left.

232

00:13:05,170 --> 00:13:09,200

It was just my
mother and I left.

233

00:13:09,200 --> 00:13:15,650

And I don't know the time span
because, again, I was six.

234

00:13:15,650 --> 00:13:21,260

But my mother found out
that one of the students who

235

00:13:21,260 --> 00:13:24,580

my father said,
you'll pay me back,

236

00:13:24,580 --> 00:13:27,200

found out where my
mother and I were,

237

00:13:27,200 --> 00:13:33,110

and he stood in front of the
door and told them to pass by.

238

00:13:33,110 --> 00:13:35,090

So he paid back.

239

00:13:35,090 --> 00:13:38,520
Wow, wow.

240
00:13:38,520 --> 00:13:40,710
So that day, who was taken?

241
00:13:40,710 --> 00:13:43,440
That night, who was
taken from the home?

242
00:13:43,440 --> 00:13:45,370
Everyone who was there.

243
00:13:45,370 --> 00:13:46,740
All the people who had been--

244
00:13:46,740 --> 00:13:49,950
All the people who my
mother gave shelter to.

245
00:13:49,950 --> 00:13:50,970
And your father?

246
00:13:50,970 --> 00:13:51,470
Was he--

247
00:13:51,470 --> 00:13:52,730
My father was it Dachau.

248
00:13:52,730 --> 00:13:53,580
Already?

249
00:13:53,580 --> 00:13:54,180
Yes.

250
00:13:54,180 --> 00:13:55,730
And your siblings?

251
00:13:55,730 --> 00:13:58,530
Were in the United
States and Palestine.

252
00:13:58,530 --> 00:14:01,395
So it was only you alone with

your mother at that point?

253

00:14:01,395 --> 00:14:03,990

254

00:14:03,990 --> 00:14:08,460

OK, that is a very
important anecdote,

255

00:14:08,460 --> 00:14:18,470

a very important story with
a very pivotal arc to it.

256

00:14:18,470 --> 00:14:20,840

Because your father
was so generous,

257

00:14:20,840 --> 00:14:22,130

it saved you and your mother.

258

00:14:22,130 --> 00:14:24,800

259

00:14:24,800 --> 00:14:28,170

He just thought, as a joke.

260

00:14:28,170 --> 00:14:31,560

He knew they wouldn't
come back to pay money,

261

00:14:31,560 --> 00:14:37,000

that they'd forget their
years in college, that whoever

262

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:42,670

this was-- and we never
found out the actual person,

263

00:14:42,670 --> 00:14:44,800

but we knew he was
a Gestapo officer.

264

00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:48,440

265

00:14:48,440 --> 00:14:51,440

And that's what we know.

266

00:14:51,440 --> 00:14:53,780

And you knew that he
came to the restaurant

267

00:14:53,780 --> 00:14:55,680

and had not been
able to pay for his--

268

00:14:55,680 --> 00:15:01,760

We were told by other people
because the restaurant

269

00:15:01,760 --> 00:15:03,440

was closed, naturally.

270

00:15:03,440 --> 00:15:08,940

My mother had no workers,
and the bakery was closed.

271

00:15:08,940 --> 00:15:09,440

And--

272

00:15:09,440 --> 00:15:12,440

273

00:15:12,440 --> 00:15:13,640

I'm sorry.

274

00:15:13,640 --> 00:15:14,840

That's OK.

275

00:15:14,840 --> 00:15:15,360

We can cut.

276

00:15:15,360 --> 00:15:19,310

277

00:15:19,310 --> 00:15:27,910

I feel I've earned the
title survivor, and--

278

00:15:27,910 --> 00:15:31,020

279

00:15:31,020 --> 00:15:32,640

Let's step back a little bit.

280

00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:34,590

Why don't you ask
me the questions.

281

00:15:34,590 --> 00:15:36,270

Yeah, let's step
back a little bit.

282

00:15:36,270 --> 00:15:39,660

Before all of these
things happened,

283

00:15:39,660 --> 00:15:43,830

I want to get a sense of
what was this world like.

284

00:15:43,830 --> 00:15:48,360

And I know that you were
only six years old when

285

00:15:48,360 --> 00:15:50,340

Kristallnacht
happened, and you're

286

00:15:50,340 --> 00:15:51,690

the youngest of the family.

287

00:15:51,690 --> 00:15:56,100

So a lot of what you can tell me
is what other people told you.

288

00:15:56,100 --> 00:16:00,390

But I'd like to get a sense
of who was your family.

289

00:16:00,390 --> 00:16:03,210

From what you are
telling me, your father

290

00:16:03,210 --> 00:16:05,970
went from being orphaned
to being somebody

291

00:16:05,970 --> 00:16:09,060
who's quite well-to-do?

292

00:16:09,060 --> 00:16:11,200
How did that happen?

293

00:16:11,200 --> 00:16:18,780
Well, again, I was told he
hadn't lived in that area,

294

00:16:18,780 --> 00:16:22,080
and he sold him a house.

295

00:16:22,080 --> 00:16:27,130
I had his diploma from--

296

00:16:27,130 --> 00:16:30,910
he was a master baker, and I
have his diploma hanging up

297

00:16:30,910 --> 00:16:33,370
on the wall upstairs.

298

00:16:33,370 --> 00:16:40,430
And he saved his money,
and at the age of 22,

299

00:16:40,430 --> 00:16:44,980
he bought the house, the
picture that you saw.

300

00:16:44,980 --> 00:16:45,730
I see.

301

00:16:45,730 --> 00:16:49,000
And we'll show that picture
later and film that, but

302

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:53,090
is that the house that had

the marble stairs as well?

303

00:16:53,090 --> 00:16:56,860

And you said that during the war it was bombed by the British

304

00:16:56,860 --> 00:16:57,640

at some point?

305

00:16:57,640 --> 00:16:58,180

Yes.

306

00:16:58,180 --> 00:17:00,310

And then rebuilt?

307

00:17:00,310 --> 00:17:10,000

How I found that was, in 1978, one of our sons

308

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:12,460

was on an exchange year in Switzerland

309

00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:17,200

at the University of Fribourg, and we went to see him.

310

00:17:17,200 --> 00:17:21,730

And I said to my husband, no matter what you do,

311

00:17:21,730 --> 00:17:26,440

don't go on the Autobahn.

312

00:17:26,440 --> 00:17:29,560

And then I said, we should go on the Autobahn.

313

00:17:29,560 --> 00:17:31,630

It's faster.

314

00:17:31,630 --> 00:17:35,100

And all of a sudden he stopped, and I had fallen asleep.

315

00:17:35,100 --> 00:17:39,330

Then he said, Inge, look at
this sign, and it says Würzburg.

316

00:17:39,330 --> 00:17:42,070

So from Switzerland
into Germany?

317

00:17:42,070 --> 00:17:44,860

So I said, let's go.

318

00:17:44,860 --> 00:17:48,460

I said, maybe I can
bury some ghosts.

319

00:17:48,460 --> 00:17:53,140

And we went to Würzburg,
and I kept asking--

320

00:17:53,140 --> 00:17:57,190

I speak German, not
very well anymore.

321

00:17:57,190 --> 00:17:59,330

It's been a long time.

322

00:17:59,330 --> 00:18:03,070

And I kept saying in
German, [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

323

00:18:03,070 --> 00:18:08,230

324

00:18:08,230 --> 00:18:12,610

And they gave me a street,
and it wasn't the street.

325

00:18:12,610 --> 00:18:14,990

And one young German
woman said, maybe

326

00:18:14,990 --> 00:18:20,290

you mean [SPEAKING GERMAN],,
which meant cul-de-sac.

327

00:18:20,290 --> 00:18:28,060

And we went there, and an old man was walking with a cane.

328

00:18:28,060 --> 00:18:34,480

And I said to him, did you know a Jewish family named Mayer.

329

00:18:34,480 --> 00:18:39,170

And he pointed to the house, and he said, right there.

330

00:18:39,170 --> 00:18:40,380

They lived there.

331

00:18:40,380 --> 00:18:46,060

The British bombed it, but it was rebuilt to specification

332

00:18:46,060 --> 00:18:49,700

and was now an apartment house.

333

00:18:49,700 --> 00:18:52,700

So it was rebuilt in the style that it had been before?

334

00:18:52,700 --> 00:18:53,600

Oh, yes.

335

00:18:53,600 --> 00:18:58,030

They rebuilt-- the whole city was devastated mostly by--

336

00:18:58,030 --> 00:19:01,970

some American planes, but mostly by the British.

337

00:19:01,970 --> 00:19:11,000

And we saw pictures when we went to the city in 2013.

338

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:17,330

It was just rubble, just rubble, but the German mentality

339

00:19:17,330 --> 00:19:22,070

is you put everything
back where it is.

340

00:19:22,070 --> 00:19:23,540

And in a way, it's good.

341

00:19:23,540 --> 00:19:25,340

In a way, it's good.

342

00:19:25,340 --> 00:19:29,120

And the people we
met then who were

343

00:19:29,120 --> 00:19:33,320

younger, who weren't even born,
were absolutely wonderful.

344

00:19:33,320 --> 00:19:36,500

345

00:19:36,500 --> 00:19:40,610

And somebody asked me, wow, you
must be getting a lot of money

346

00:19:40,610 --> 00:19:43,340

from that.

347

00:19:43,340 --> 00:19:48,890

And I was notified several
years ago, many years ago,

348

00:19:48,890 --> 00:19:54,170

that the state claimed the
property for back taxes

349

00:19:54,170 --> 00:19:57,650

because my father was in
the concentration camp,

350

00:19:57,650 --> 00:20:00,180

and nobody paid the taxes.

351

00:20:00,180 --> 00:20:02,000

Oh my goodness.

352

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,710
So I got in touch with a firm
in New York called Claims

353

00:20:06,710 --> 00:20:10,010
Against the Holocaust, and--

354

00:20:10,010 --> 00:20:11,810
I'm going to use language--

355

00:20:11,810 --> 00:20:15,520
the man down there said
to me, Mrs. Protentis,

356

00:20:15,520 --> 00:20:17,360
you were screwed.

357

00:20:17,360 --> 00:20:23,830
That property-- Now, this
was in about 1980-something.

358

00:20:23,830 --> 00:20:27,110
In 1980-something, he said,
the value of the property

359

00:20:27,110 --> 00:20:31,110
is about a million and 3/4.

360

00:20:31,110 --> 00:20:36,470
But you know, it's
not important.

361

00:20:36,470 --> 00:20:39,480
It's not important.

362

00:20:39,480 --> 00:20:40,395
I had my life.

363

00:20:40,395 --> 00:20:43,140

364

00:20:43,140 --> 00:20:49,680

I live in a country that
is absolutely beautiful.

365
00:20:49,680 --> 00:20:55,490
I have a wonderful husband,
four wonderful sons, fourteen

366
00:20:55,490 --> 00:20:59,350
of the best grandchildren.

367
00:20:59,350 --> 00:21:07,190
And I will always be grateful
to this country for giving me

368
00:21:07,190 --> 00:21:07,690
asylum.

369
00:21:07,690 --> 00:21:10,670

370
00:21:10,670 --> 00:21:11,170
Wow.

371
00:21:11,170 --> 00:21:14,550

372
00:21:14,550 --> 00:21:20,910
Thank you for sharing that
and for taking me forward

373
00:21:20,910 --> 00:21:24,510
to a place where I would
have asked questions later,

374
00:21:24,510 --> 00:21:26,970
but it's one of the
questions that we have is,

375
00:21:26,970 --> 00:21:31,230
did you ever go back, how did
you respond to when you went

376
00:21:31,230 --> 00:21:34,050
back, what did you find there?

377

00:21:34,050 --> 00:21:37,110

You answered all of those
kinds of questions and the one

378

00:21:37,110 --> 00:21:42,870

about restitution, did you
ever get any restitution?

379

00:21:42,870 --> 00:21:48,820

And if I had been eligible--

380

00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:51,490

if I had been eligible--

381

00:21:51,490 --> 00:21:54,410

I had gone to the
consulate in Boston.

382

00:21:54,410 --> 00:21:55,285

The German consulate?

383

00:21:55,285 --> 00:21:59,140

Yeah, it's a German consulate.

384

00:21:59,140 --> 00:22:02,650

I had two little
cousins, a girl my age

385

00:22:02,650 --> 00:22:09,140

and our brother who
was maybe 3, 2, 3.

386

00:22:09,140 --> 00:22:12,530

I would never have
taken the money.

387

00:22:12,530 --> 00:22:19,280

I could see these little
hands coming out of the Earth

388

00:22:19,280 --> 00:22:21,740

saying, Inge, you're alive.

389

00:22:21,740 --> 00:22:22,610

You're married.

390

00:22:22,610 --> 00:22:25,310

You have children.

391

00:22:25,310 --> 00:22:26,180

We have no life.

392

00:22:26,180 --> 00:22:29,090

We are gone.

393

00:22:29,090 --> 00:22:33,200

We can't leave any memories.

394

00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:37,010

Even though your are bad, you
have memories in your life.

395

00:22:37,010 --> 00:22:39,410

I would never have
taken the money.

396

00:22:39,410 --> 00:22:41,150

To me, it would have
been blood money.

397

00:22:41,150 --> 00:22:44,180

398

00:22:44,180 --> 00:22:48,320

Tell me about this branch of
the family, these cousins.

399

00:22:48,320 --> 00:22:51,320

Were they children from
your mother's brother?

400

00:22:51,320 --> 00:22:54,050

I don't know.

401

00:22:54,050 --> 00:22:55,490

I don't know.

402

00:22:55,490 --> 00:22:57,440

Did you know them personally?

403

00:22:57,440 --> 00:22:58,480

Yes, yeah.

404

00:22:58,480 --> 00:23:00,170

So what were their names?

405

00:23:00,170 --> 00:23:02,840

I don't remember.

406

00:23:02,840 --> 00:23:04,160

Whose children were they?

407

00:23:04,160 --> 00:23:06,020

I don't know.

408

00:23:06,020 --> 00:23:07,580

But you know they
were your cousins?

409

00:23:07,580 --> 00:23:08,270

Yes.

410

00:23:08,270 --> 00:23:09,710

And you knew that they--

411

00:23:09,710 --> 00:23:13,320

do you know how they perished?

412

00:23:13,320 --> 00:23:19,470

In a concentration camp
because after the war,

413

00:23:19,470 --> 00:23:23,250

my father came to this
country, and after the war,

414

00:23:23,250 --> 00:23:28,250

he went to the Red Cross to
find out about relatives.

415

00:23:28,250 --> 00:23:33,180

Well, it seems the

whole extended family

416

00:23:33,180 --> 00:23:37,530
ended up in the
concentration camps and--

417

00:23:37,530 --> 00:23:39,980
Now, when you talk about
the extended family,

418

00:23:39,980 --> 00:23:44,190
did your father have siblings
even though he was an orphan?

419

00:23:44,190 --> 00:23:47,330
He had a sister
who was a teacher,

420

00:23:47,330 --> 00:23:51,480
and she also perished
in a concentration camp.

421

00:23:51,480 --> 00:23:53,357
Did you remember her?

422

00:23:53,357 --> 00:23:54,190
Was she in Würzburg?

423

00:23:54,190 --> 00:23:56,490
Yeah, she looked like
a typical teacher.

424

00:23:56,490 --> 00:23:57,420
Did she really?

425

00:23:57,420 --> 00:24:01,070
She had a bun, and she
dressed with these high neck

426

00:24:01,070 --> 00:24:03,150
dresses, little white collars.

427

00:24:03,150 --> 00:24:10,460
And she always said to me, now,
when I tell you this, remember

428
00:24:10,460 --> 00:24:11,820
it, Inge.

429
00:24:11,820 --> 00:24:12,840
Very teacher-like.

430
00:24:12,840 --> 00:24:14,700
Teacher-like.

431
00:24:14,700 --> 00:24:20,550
And we didn't see her
often, but we did see her.

432
00:24:20,550 --> 00:24:22,860
Did she live in the same city?

433
00:24:22,860 --> 00:24:23,850
I don't know.

434
00:24:23,850 --> 00:24:25,260
What was her name?

435
00:24:25,260 --> 00:24:25,930
Rosa.

436
00:24:25,930 --> 00:24:26,880
Rosa?

437
00:24:26,880 --> 00:24:27,780
Like your mother?

438
00:24:27,780 --> 00:24:29,760
Yes.

439
00:24:29,760 --> 00:24:31,830
It seemed to be a
very popular name.

440
00:24:31,830 --> 00:24:33,420
It's like Mary.

441
00:24:33,420 --> 00:24:34,560

Well, in the 20s--

442

00:24:34,560 --> 00:24:36,570
well, they would have
been born earlier,

443

00:24:36,570 --> 00:24:38,460
but it was a very
popular name here

444

00:24:38,460 --> 00:24:40,305
in the States in the 20s, Rosa.

445

00:24:40,305 --> 00:24:43,260

446

00:24:43,260 --> 00:24:45,455
Let's go then to--

447

00:24:45,455 --> 00:24:46,830
do you know whether
these cousins

448

00:24:46,830 --> 00:24:49,330
were from your mother's or your
father's side of the family?

449

00:24:49,330 --> 00:24:51,600
I have no idea.

450

00:24:51,600 --> 00:24:54,060
Let's talk about your
mother a little bit.

451

00:24:54,060 --> 00:24:58,260
I'd like to get a sense of
what kind of a person was she.

452

00:24:58,260 --> 00:25:02,970
You say that she had you
pretty late, when she was 44.

453

00:25:02,970 --> 00:25:05,460
Was she the same
age as your father?

454
00:25:05,460 --> 00:25:07,950
Yes.

455
00:25:07,950 --> 00:25:10,080
So tell me a little
bit about her.

456
00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:12,270
What was her personality
like, your mom's?

457
00:25:12,270 --> 00:25:16,010

458
00:25:16,010 --> 00:25:21,270
Very ahead of her
time, very driven.

459
00:25:21,270 --> 00:25:24,750

460
00:25:24,750 --> 00:25:27,750
Now, since my parents
were very wealthy,

461
00:25:27,750 --> 00:25:31,140
she had a lot of jewelry.

462
00:25:31,140 --> 00:25:37,500
She had a tiara with
stones in it and bracelets,

463
00:25:37,500 --> 00:25:41,340
and I remember when they
had dances my nanny would

464
00:25:41,340 --> 00:25:43,050
let me sit on the steps.

465
00:25:43,050 --> 00:25:45,660
And I could watch
the women, and they

466

00:25:45,660 --> 00:25:50,450
had all these beautiful
things with green stones,

467
00:25:50,450 --> 00:25:53,420
and white stones, and red
stones, which I later found out

468
00:25:53,420 --> 00:25:55,905
were diamonds,
rubies, and emeralds.

469
00:25:55,905 --> 00:25:57,090
A lot of bling.

470
00:25:57,090 --> 00:26:00,300
Yeah, a lot of bling.

471
00:26:00,300 --> 00:26:08,520
And when this prosperous
era ended and we were alone,

472
00:26:08,520 --> 00:26:11,730
she would wake me up in
the middle of the night

473
00:26:11,730 --> 00:26:18,220
and take me to the roof, bring
the blanket and a pillow.

474
00:26:18,220 --> 00:26:24,090
And she had a barrel,
and she carried it.

475
00:26:24,090 --> 00:26:28,890
In it she had some
tools, and the support

476
00:26:28,890 --> 00:26:33,580
beams in the attic
were made of wood.

477
00:26:33,580 --> 00:26:38,410
And she would dig out
holes in the wood,

478

00:26:38,410 --> 00:26:45,990

catch the sawdust in the
buckets, and put in jewelry.

479

00:26:45,990 --> 00:26:48,910

And she'd come over, wake me up.

480

00:26:48,910 --> 00:26:55,360

Inge, you got to remember these
numbers, one, three, seven.

481

00:26:55,360 --> 00:26:59,044

In other words, the support
post one, three, seven.

482

00:26:59,044 --> 00:27:04,450

If anything happens
to me, you come here.

483

00:27:04,450 --> 00:27:05,920

I made them low.

484

00:27:05,920 --> 00:27:10,168

You can reach them, and
you don't tell anybody

485

00:27:10,168 --> 00:27:10,960

where you get them.

486

00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:13,680

And you go to--

487

00:27:13,680 --> 00:27:16,420

she have me the name
of two families.

488

00:27:16,420 --> 00:27:19,630

And you tell them you're
going to give them this,

489

00:27:19,630 --> 00:27:24,050

and they should take
you in and protect you.

490

00:27:24,050 --> 00:27:26,760
And then she would take--

491
00:27:26,760 --> 00:27:32,480
she would be there for a
long time, and I was cold.

492
00:27:32,480 --> 00:27:38,610
And then she'd take the sawdust
and flush it down the toilet,

493
00:27:38,610 --> 00:27:47,510
and at times we went to
Gestapo headquarters.

494
00:27:47,510 --> 00:27:53,300
And she took one of the
jewels and put it in her hand

495
00:27:53,300 --> 00:27:57,500
and inquired about her
husband, my father,

496
00:27:57,500 --> 00:28:03,200
and afterwards she would shake
the hand of the Gestapo office,

497
00:28:03,200 --> 00:28:04,545
and the jewel would be gone.

498
00:28:04,545 --> 00:28:09,760

499
00:28:09,760 --> 00:28:13,130
Do you know if she'd
got any information?

500
00:28:13,130 --> 00:28:20,450
She never told me, but my father
survived and was released.

501
00:28:20,450 --> 00:28:23,570
So something must have worked.

502
00:28:23,570 --> 00:28:28,500

Now, you mentioned that
during Kristallnacht--

503
00:28:28,500 --> 00:28:29,390
Excuse me.

504
00:28:29,390 --> 00:28:32,460
You mentioned that
during Kristallnacht

505
00:28:32,460 --> 00:28:35,810
that the rest of the
family had already left.

506
00:28:35,810 --> 00:28:38,660
They weren't there, or
your father was arrested.

507
00:28:38,660 --> 00:28:41,840
So was it just you and
your mother in the house?

508
00:28:41,840 --> 00:28:42,890
Yes.

509
00:28:42,890 --> 00:28:50,240
So the Stormtroopers or these
Hitler-Jugend thugs or so--

510
00:28:50,240 --> 00:28:52,070
they were aware
that there was just

511
00:28:52,070 --> 00:28:54,410
a woman and a small
child in the home?

512
00:28:54,410 --> 00:28:56,570
I have no idea.

513
00:28:56,570 --> 00:29:01,070
The Gestapo man who obviously
stood in front of our door

514
00:29:01,070 --> 00:29:02,106

must have known.

515

00:29:02,106 --> 00:29:06,900

516

00:29:06,900 --> 00:29:12,060

It's hard to say because
there were other incidents.

517

00:29:12,060 --> 00:29:15,930

My father had a huge
library with a ladder

518

00:29:15,930 --> 00:29:18,630

we used to go around,
and on the bottom

519

00:29:18,630 --> 00:29:22,260

he used to have a
shelf for my books.

520

00:29:22,260 --> 00:29:26,760

And one day-- it
was during the day--

521

00:29:26,760 --> 00:29:30,282

the Hitler Youth came in.

522

00:29:30,282 --> 00:29:33,730

They took all of the
books, including mine,

523

00:29:33,730 --> 00:29:38,950

put them in a pile in the
middle of the cul-de-sac,

524

00:29:38,950 --> 00:29:41,320

and burned them.

525

00:29:41,320 --> 00:29:45,930

And my mother said
to me, those are

526

00:29:45,930 --> 00:29:50,590

the ideas of men that

they want to destroy.

527

00:29:50,590 --> 00:29:53,970

And I watched the
flames, and I could

528

00:29:53,970 --> 00:30:00,180

see heads of men coming
out of the flames,

529

00:30:00,180 --> 00:30:03,910

and then I saw my
books being burned.

530

00:30:03,910 --> 00:30:12,910

And there were animals
coming out of those books.

531

00:30:12,910 --> 00:30:15,680

You mean there were
stories about animals

532

00:30:15,680 --> 00:30:18,444

and you saw it in
your mind's eye?

533

00:30:18,444 --> 00:30:18,944

Yes.

534

00:30:18,944 --> 00:30:22,770

535

00:30:22,770 --> 00:30:31,430

And so I became--

536

00:30:31,430 --> 00:30:36,710

when I came to this country,
I became an avid reader

537

00:30:36,710 --> 00:30:45,460

and very interested in
a lot of these things.

538

00:30:45,460 --> 00:30:47,680

A lot was taken

away from you when

539

00:30:47,680 --> 00:30:53,850
you were such a baby still, a
little toddler, a little girl

540

00:30:53,850 --> 00:30:59,140
at an age where children
are so open to the world,

541

00:30:59,140 --> 00:31:01,090
and they're vulnerable.

542

00:31:01,090 --> 00:31:02,640
They don't have defenses up.

543

00:31:02,640 --> 00:31:08,330

544

00:31:08,330 --> 00:31:10,390
Now, I don't know
how far I'll get

545

00:31:10,390 --> 00:31:12,840
with this part of the story.

546

00:31:12,840 --> 00:31:18,770
My mother and I, for some
reason, were put in a camp.

547

00:31:18,770 --> 00:31:20,340
Now, it wasn't a camp.

548

00:31:20,340 --> 00:31:27,700
It was more like a house,
and they had bunks in there.

549

00:31:27,700 --> 00:31:29,470
And it was all women
and little girls.

550

00:31:29,470 --> 00:31:32,550

551

00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:36,960
And one day some
Gestapo officers

552
00:31:36,960 --> 00:31:42,750
came in with some Gestapo
women, and they picked out

553
00:31:42,750 --> 00:31:45,330
some little girls, including me.

554
00:31:45,330 --> 00:31:48,550

555
00:31:48,550 --> 00:31:54,190
And I was either four or five,
and they took us outside.

556
00:31:54,190 --> 00:31:55,820
And I was so happy
to be outside.

557
00:31:55,820 --> 00:31:58,730
I thought we were
going to go play.

558
00:31:58,730 --> 00:32:01,835
And they took us to
this big house, which

559
00:32:01,835 --> 00:32:03,443
was full of Nazi soldiers.

560
00:32:03,443 --> 00:32:07,690

561
00:32:07,690 --> 00:32:08,190
I'm sorry.

562
00:32:08,190 --> 00:32:13,709

563
00:32:13,709 --> 00:32:15,195
--sex toys.

564

00:32:15,195 --> 00:32:17,710

565

00:32:17,710 --> 00:32:18,340

Little girls?

566

00:32:18,340 --> 00:32:23,497

567

00:32:23,497 --> 00:32:23,997

Yes.

568

00:32:23,997 --> 00:32:26,920

569

00:32:26,920 --> 00:32:30,540

And my mother said to me--
when they took, she said,

570

00:32:30,540 --> 00:32:32,130

keep yourself clean.

571

00:32:32,130 --> 00:32:33,420

Keep yourself pretty.

572

00:32:33,420 --> 00:32:34,470

Don't scream.

573

00:32:34,470 --> 00:32:37,590

Don't cry.

574

00:32:37,590 --> 00:32:41,790

I think she knew what
was going to happen.

575

00:32:41,790 --> 00:32:44,220

Oh my goodness.

576

00:32:44,220 --> 00:32:46,620

And after a few--

577

00:32:46,620 --> 00:32:48,480

I don't know the time span.

578

00:32:48,480 --> 00:32:49,260

Of course not.

579

00:32:49,260 --> 00:32:50,040

Of course not.

580

00:32:50,040 --> 00:32:51,920

They came, and they
said, the Mayer girl

581

00:32:51,920 --> 00:32:55,910

is not supposed to be here.

582

00:32:55,910 --> 00:32:59,030

And they took me, and they
brought me back to my mother.

583

00:32:59,030 --> 00:33:01,980

And she never asked a question.

584

00:33:01,980 --> 00:33:06,510

She just wrapped me in
a blanket and held me.

585

00:33:06,510 --> 00:33:07,395

Oh my goodness.

586

00:33:07,395 --> 00:33:10,760

587

00:33:10,760 --> 00:33:11,940

Oh my goodness.

588

00:33:11,940 --> 00:33:15,930

And a lot of little girls who
screamed and cried disappeared.

589

00:33:15,930 --> 00:33:30,680

590

00:33:30,680 --> 00:33:32,900

But I was going to
make it out of there.

591
00:33:32,900 --> 00:33:34,390
I was going to get out there.

592
00:33:34,390 --> 00:33:37,160
Even if I had to crawl
through the door,

593
00:33:37,160 --> 00:33:38,750
I was going to get out of there.

594
00:33:38,750 --> 00:33:43,080
But they came and brought
me back to my mother.

595
00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:51,430
And I kept washing myself,
and I kept washing myself.

596
00:33:51,430 --> 00:33:57,550
And I had this compulsion
to stay clean and--

597
00:33:57,550 --> 00:34:01,560
I was obsessive-compulsive as
I grew up about cleanliness,

598
00:34:01,560 --> 00:34:03,910
even in my house.

599
00:34:03,910 --> 00:34:10,120
I'm better now with
personal cleanliness.

600
00:34:10,120 --> 00:34:13,320

601
00:34:13,320 --> 00:34:15,659
Were these young
men or older men?

602
00:34:15,659 --> 00:34:16,230
Young men.

603

00:34:16,230 --> 00:34:16,790
Young men.

604
00:34:16,790 --> 00:34:21,560

605
00:34:21,560 --> 00:34:24,650
And actually, one of
them came to our house

606
00:34:24,650 --> 00:34:29,659
after we were released
from this, whatever it was,

607
00:34:29,659 --> 00:34:36,200
asking for me and asked my
mother where Ingeborg was.

608
00:34:36,200 --> 00:34:43,100
And I heard his voice,
and I hid in the closet.

609
00:34:43,100 --> 00:34:46,110
And I don't know what
my mother said to him.

610
00:34:46,110 --> 00:34:51,330

611
00:34:51,330 --> 00:34:52,590
I'm sorry.

612
00:34:52,590 --> 00:34:54,210
Oh, please, no.

613
00:34:54,210 --> 00:34:55,045
Do not be sorry.

614
00:34:55,045 --> 00:35:00,930

615
00:35:00,930 --> 00:35:08,800
--even as a little girl that
I was not willing to let this

616

00:35:08,800 --> 00:35:12,250

ruin my life, that
I was going to be

617

00:35:12,250 --> 00:35:13,780

the best student in school.

618

00:35:13,780 --> 00:35:16,490

619

00:35:16,490 --> 00:35:21,355

And since we came over two
weeks before my seventh birthday

620

00:35:21,355 --> 00:35:26,860

and my parents didn't put me
into school until the fall--

621

00:35:26,860 --> 00:35:28,310

we came over in February--

622

00:35:28,310 --> 00:35:31,080

623

00:35:31,080 --> 00:35:34,560

I was a year and a
half behind, but I

624

00:35:34,560 --> 00:35:38,160

skipped half the second
grade, half the seventh grade,

625

00:35:38,160 --> 00:35:42,090

and half of a high school
grade, and I actually graduated

626

00:35:42,090 --> 00:35:43,190

before I was eighteen.

627

00:35:43,190 --> 00:35:50,840

628

00:35:50,840 --> 00:35:52,940

Did you have any idea--

629

00:35:52,940 --> 00:35:54,290
you were such a little girl.

630

00:35:54,290 --> 00:36:00,560
Did you ever have any idea of
what this was all about, what--

631

00:36:00,560 --> 00:36:04,235
because children don't
know at that age.

632

00:36:04,235 --> 00:36:08,310

633

00:36:08,310 --> 00:36:14,930
No, none whatsoever,
none whatsoever.

634

00:36:14,930 --> 00:36:17,960
And actually, I was
told afterwards, too,

635

00:36:17,960 --> 00:36:25,550
that they arrested my father not
for being a Jew, but he would--

636

00:36:25,550 --> 00:36:31,906
in the cafe and when
he went to the--

637

00:36:31,906 --> 00:36:33,460
no, they didn't call it a put.

638

00:36:33,460 --> 00:36:35,680
They call it the haus.

639

00:36:35,680 --> 00:36:36,260
No.

640

00:36:36,260 --> 00:36:37,040
A Kneipe?

641

00:36:37,040 --> 00:36:38,340

Like a little pub?

642
00:36:38,340 --> 00:36:41,280
Hofbrauhaus, hofbrauhaus.

643
00:36:41,280 --> 00:36:45,620
He would say that Hitler
is going to ruin Germany,

644
00:36:45,620 --> 00:36:49,970
so he was arrested as
a political prisoner.

645
00:36:49,970 --> 00:36:50,630
I see.

646
00:36:50,630 --> 00:36:55,440

647
00:36:55,440 --> 00:36:59,330
Were your parents religious?

648
00:36:59,330 --> 00:37:02,075
To a degree, to a degree.

649
00:37:02,075 --> 00:37:04,772

650
00:37:04,772 --> 00:37:11,570
They kept a kosher
house, but my father

651
00:37:11,570 --> 00:37:13,900
didn't go to
synagogue that often.

652
00:37:13,900 --> 00:37:17,850
When he came to the United
States, he went more often

653
00:37:17,850 --> 00:37:21,940
and would ask me to come because
he wanted to show me off,

654

00:37:21,940 --> 00:37:27,090
that he was older and
had a little girl.

655
00:37:27,090 --> 00:37:31,910
Did he ever find out
what happened to you?

656
00:37:31,910 --> 00:37:34,790

657
00:37:34,790 --> 00:37:36,980
I never told him.

658
00:37:36,980 --> 00:37:39,020
You never told your
mother or your father?

659
00:37:39,020 --> 00:37:39,770
I never told them.

660
00:37:39,770 --> 00:37:42,410

661
00:37:42,410 --> 00:37:43,470
I never told them.

662
00:37:43,470 --> 00:37:46,110

663
00:37:46,110 --> 00:37:50,120
When I was 16, I
told the doctor,

664
00:37:50,120 --> 00:37:52,490
and he wanted to
tell my parents.

665
00:37:52,490 --> 00:37:54,354
And I begged him not to.

666
00:37:54,354 --> 00:37:56,960

667

00:37:56,960 --> 00:38:00,330

I said, I don't
want them to know.

668

00:38:00,330 --> 00:38:01,865

That's a huge burden to carry.

669

00:38:01,865 --> 00:38:04,480

670

00:38:04,480 --> 00:38:12,130

And after I met Sam,
who's not Jewish--

671

00:38:12,130 --> 00:38:14,080

Your husband, yes.

672

00:38:14,080 --> 00:38:15,420

He's very Greek.

673

00:38:15,420 --> 00:38:20,050

Did you ever see the movie
My Big Fat Greek Wedding?

674

00:38:20,050 --> 00:38:25,390

Well, I was what the
male was in that movie.

675

00:38:25,390 --> 00:38:29,230

But they were so lively and
so loving, and Sam said,

676

00:38:29,230 --> 00:38:32,570

Inge, I don't want to
know what happened.

677

00:38:32,570 --> 00:38:35,500

Our life began when we met.

678

00:38:35,500 --> 00:38:39,760

But he encouraged me to go
into therapy, which I did,

679

00:38:39,760 --> 00:38:45,190

and I was in therapy for years

and told everything there.

680

00:38:45,190 --> 00:38:51,520

Well, not everything, but a lot.

681

00:38:51,520 --> 00:38:54,520

There's some things

I just get to a point

682

00:38:54,520 --> 00:39:03,730

where I think I'm opening
the door, and I can't go on.

683

00:39:03,730 --> 00:39:05,050

And I don't know what it is.

684

00:39:05,050 --> 00:39:13,240

I know I remember one part
when somebody put me in a box,

685

00:39:13,240 --> 00:39:18,997

and covered me with blankets,
and put the cupboard down,

686

00:39:18,997 --> 00:39:20,080

and that's all I remember.

687

00:39:20,080 --> 00:39:23,350

And I can't go any further,
but I'm claustrophobic.

688

00:39:23,350 --> 00:39:31,650

689

00:39:31,650 --> 00:39:34,740

Did you ever tell your children?

690

00:39:34,740 --> 00:39:36,390

My children know all about it.

691

00:39:36,390 --> 00:39:41,290

Well, know as much as
I want to tell them.

692

00:39:41,290 --> 00:39:45,090

You have four sons,
and that must be--

693

00:39:45,090 --> 00:39:49,670

sons are protective of
their mothers, and--

694

00:39:49,670 --> 00:39:52,620

695

00:39:52,620 --> 00:39:58,170

My sons are most
incredible human beings

696

00:39:58,170 --> 00:39:59,170

next to their father.

697

00:39:59,170 --> 00:40:02,040

698

00:40:02,040 --> 00:40:03,720

They are very protective.

699

00:40:03,720 --> 00:40:11,360

700

00:40:11,360 --> 00:40:12,690

They just love.

701

00:40:12,690 --> 00:40:15,810

They love.

702

00:40:15,810 --> 00:40:19,920

And they're big guys.

703

00:40:19,920 --> 00:40:21,195

Two of them are 6' 3".

704

00:40:21,195 --> 00:40:24,520

705

00:40:24,520 --> 00:40:26,700

They're all college graduates.

706
00:40:26,700 --> 00:40:29,070
I made sure of that.

707
00:40:29,070 --> 00:40:37,810
And my grandchildren are
even more protective of me.

708
00:40:37,810 --> 00:40:39,330
Five of them have--

709
00:40:39,330 --> 00:40:43,380
as matter of fact, the fifth
one is coming home Wednesday.

710
00:40:43,380 --> 00:40:47,980
They've been to Israel on
the Birthright program,

711
00:40:47,980 --> 00:40:54,570
and Nicholas, Lauren,
Alisha, Rachel, and Justin

712
00:40:54,570 --> 00:40:57,800
are the last ones so far.

713
00:40:57,800 --> 00:41:02,220
And they're very proud
of their Jewish heritage,

714
00:41:02,220 --> 00:41:06,450
yet none of my sons
married a Jewish woman.

715
00:41:06,450 --> 00:41:10,106
And I have the most
fantastic daughters-in-law.

716
00:41:10,106 --> 00:41:12,510
Two of them called
me and wanted to know

717
00:41:12,510 --> 00:41:16,520
whether they should come over
here and hold my hand today.

718

00:41:16,520 --> 00:41:21,000

Do they all know these
parts of your story?

719

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:24,160

That's also pretty incredible.

720

00:41:24,160 --> 00:41:28,320

Many people who go through
such traumatic things

721

00:41:28,320 --> 00:41:32,370

keep that so bottled up
inside, and their families

722

00:41:32,370 --> 00:41:35,400

are never given
the chance, then,

723

00:41:35,400 --> 00:41:38,760

to try and wrap their
arms around them

724

00:41:38,760 --> 00:41:42,000

and be protective of them.

725

00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:46,500

Doctors say that
when a person has

726

00:41:46,500 --> 00:41:49,680

been that abused
and traumatized,

727

00:41:49,680 --> 00:41:56,310

that's a very common reaction
is to just close completely,

728

00:41:56,310 --> 00:42:00,600

and it takes a huge
step to share that

729

00:42:00,600 --> 00:42:02,760

as much as you

want to share that

730

00:42:02,760 --> 00:42:05,280
and as much as you
can share that.

731

00:42:05,280 --> 00:42:15,730
They know because I try to tell
them that the people in Germany

732

00:42:15,730 --> 00:42:21,570
now are not the people that
committed these atrocities.

733

00:42:21,570 --> 00:42:22,730
They're dead.

734

00:42:22,730 --> 00:42:24,000
They're gone.

735

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:27,140

736

00:42:27,140 --> 00:42:37,090
That not to have hard feelings
against the people there now,

737

00:42:37,090 --> 00:42:40,310
but they're not quite
into thinking that way.

738

00:42:40,310 --> 00:42:43,280

739

00:42:43,280 --> 00:42:47,710
I also want to thank you
because in telling me,

740

00:42:47,710 --> 00:42:55,540
you are also making this public
to a wider audience, and I'm I

741

00:42:55,540 --> 00:42:58,600
know what a huge step that is.

742

00:42:58,600 --> 00:43:01,340

And I'm very grateful for it.

743

00:43:01,340 --> 00:43:04,810

And I know other people
will be grateful for it.

744

00:43:04,810 --> 00:43:09,930

It's not just to share
a horrible event.

745

00:43:09,930 --> 00:43:12,910

It is to bare a
part of one's soul,

746

00:43:12,910 --> 00:43:16,510

and there is a cost
involved to such things.

747

00:43:16,510 --> 00:43:19,690

And thank you for
taking this step

748

00:43:19,690 --> 00:43:21,460

because through
this, people will

749

00:43:21,460 --> 00:43:27,550

be able to see what happened
to a little girl, a little girl

750

00:43:27,550 --> 00:43:30,770

who was born in a family that
loved her and could not protect

751

00:43:30,770 --> 00:43:31,270

her.

752

00:43:31,270 --> 00:43:35,860

753

00:43:35,860 --> 00:43:36,690

Thank you for that.

754

00:43:36,690 --> 00:43:40,530
But I learned to protect myself.

755
00:43:40,530 --> 00:43:41,860
I learned to protect myself.

756
00:43:41,860 --> 00:43:46,790
I'm very [INAUDIBLE],,
and I'm very--

757
00:43:46,790 --> 00:43:50,160
but I also know
there are situations

758
00:43:50,160 --> 00:43:53,290
that should be avoided.

759
00:43:53,290 --> 00:43:56,070
I know we've traveled
a great deal,

760
00:43:56,070 --> 00:44:05,660
and I see that there are things
going on in good countries that

761
00:44:05,660 --> 00:44:13,430
are not healthy but again, I say
am grateful for this country.

762
00:44:13,430 --> 00:44:24,240
And no matter what is said
politically, America is great.

763
00:44:24,240 --> 00:44:27,690
It doesn't have to
be remade great.

764
00:44:27,690 --> 00:44:28,530
It is great.

765
00:44:28,530 --> 00:44:32,710

766
00:44:32,710 --> 00:44:40,510
And it should welcome people

who want to come and make

767

00:44:40,510 --> 00:44:44,170
a life for themselves here.

768

00:44:44,170 --> 00:44:47,530
I think my coming
to this country,

769

00:44:47,530 --> 00:44:51,820
and meeting my husband,
and having our sons--

770

00:44:51,820 --> 00:44:53,980
and we always told them
since they were little,

771

00:44:53,980 --> 00:44:55,870
you weren't born just to take.

772

00:44:55,870 --> 00:44:58,390
You were born to give back.

773

00:44:58,390 --> 00:45:02,320
And our oldest son
is with the FBI.

774

00:45:02,320 --> 00:45:06,670
Our next son started a program
for underprivileged children

775

00:45:06,670 --> 00:45:10,360
in high school and even
started a STEP program

776

00:45:10,360 --> 00:45:14,740
so that they could
go to college.

777

00:45:14,740 --> 00:45:17,290
The third son is
a micro biologist

778

00:45:17,290 --> 00:45:21,340
and, as a matter of fact, this

weekend did the Pan-Mass ride

779

00:45:21,340 --> 00:45:23,270
for cancer.

780

00:45:23,270 --> 00:45:27,712
My youngest son is
a psychotherapist

781

00:45:27,712 --> 00:45:28,795
for the mentally retarded.

782

00:45:28,795 --> 00:45:33,360

783

00:45:33,360 --> 00:45:34,840
They've done you proud.

784

00:45:34,840 --> 00:45:39,550
Yes, and they are
giving back, so I

785

00:45:39,550 --> 00:45:43,140
think that was the
reason for my surviving

786

00:45:43,140 --> 00:45:45,520
and meeting the wonderful
man I call my husband.

787

00:45:45,520 --> 00:45:48,890

788

00:45:48,890 --> 00:45:53,540
Let's go back a little bit
to the history if we can.

789

00:45:53,540 --> 00:45:59,390
You said that your
other siblings had left.

790

00:45:59,390 --> 00:46:00,980
What propelled them to leave?

791

00:46:00,980 --> 00:46:04,220

When you were born,
were they already gone,

792

00:46:04,220 --> 00:46:06,770

or when did they leave?

793

00:46:06,770 --> 00:46:10,130

My mother sent my
brother, Emile--

794

00:46:10,130 --> 00:46:12,560

he couldn't get a visa
to the United States,

795

00:46:12,560 --> 00:46:18,290

so she sent him to Palestine,
what was then Palestine.

796

00:46:18,290 --> 00:46:22,100

She sent my sister
to her brother

797

00:46:22,100 --> 00:46:26,240

in New York, who was
a baker, because they

798

00:46:26,240 --> 00:46:30,140

were using the Jewish
girls for sex objects.

799

00:46:30,140 --> 00:46:32,180

Your sister's name,
again, tell me.

800

00:46:32,180 --> 00:46:32,870

It was Betty.

801

00:46:32,870 --> 00:46:35,020

Betty, Emile and Betty.

802

00:46:35,020 --> 00:46:40,310

And about what year
did she send her away?

803

00:46:40,310 --> 00:46:41,230
I'm trying to think.

804
00:46:41,230 --> 00:46:45,760
If we cam over in
'39, maybe '37,

805
00:46:45,760 --> 00:46:50,215
'38 because we came over in '39.

806
00:46:50,215 --> 00:46:53,010

807
00:46:53,010 --> 00:46:56,040
And the sibling who you
don't like to talk about--

808
00:46:56,040 --> 00:46:57,810
I still don't want
to talk about him.

809
00:46:57,810 --> 00:46:58,830
OK, fine.

810
00:46:58,830 --> 00:47:04,600
I just wondered where
he went, but that's OK.

811
00:47:04,600 --> 00:47:07,950
So we're back at your home.

812
00:47:07,950 --> 00:47:09,165
When is your father arrested?

813
00:47:09,165 --> 00:47:14,770

814
00:47:14,770 --> 00:47:16,610
I was three.

815
00:47:16,610 --> 00:47:18,530
You were three?

816
00:47:18,530 --> 00:47:20,595

So you wouldn't
have a memory of it?

817
00:47:20,595 --> 00:47:21,095
I did--

818
00:47:21,095 --> 00:47:21,680
You did?

819
00:47:21,680 --> 00:47:24,470
--for this reason.

820
00:47:24,470 --> 00:47:28,900
We had a German shepherd--
surprise, surprise--

821
00:47:28,900 --> 00:47:34,310
and I was playing outside
in the cul-de-sac with him.

822
00:47:34,310 --> 00:47:40,790
And a black car pulled up,
and I don't know what it was.

823
00:47:40,790 --> 00:47:47,270
Two or three men in black coats
with black hats came over to me

824
00:47:47,270 --> 00:47:51,540
and asked me what my name
was, and I told them.

825
00:47:51,540 --> 00:47:56,810
And they asked me where
my father was, and I said,

826
00:47:56,810 --> 00:47:57,540
I don't know.

827
00:47:57,540 --> 00:48:00,540
I think he's in his office.

828
00:48:00,540 --> 00:48:05,660
And then they came out with
my father, who was handcuffed,

829
00:48:05,660 --> 00:48:06,560
and they said--

830
00:48:06,560 --> 00:48:10,580
and my mother was
running after them,

831
00:48:10,580 --> 00:48:14,030
and she said, where
are you taking him?

832
00:48:14,030 --> 00:48:15,650
And they said, don't worry.

833
00:48:15,650 --> 00:48:18,312
He'll be home in a few days.

834
00:48:18,312 --> 00:48:21,890
Well, it was three
and a half years,

835
00:48:21,890 --> 00:48:24,182
and he was in Dachau
and Buchenwald.

836
00:48:24,182 --> 00:48:27,260

837
00:48:27,260 --> 00:48:34,310
And that's why I remember
because I was sort of involved.

838
00:48:34,310 --> 00:48:36,230
Did you feel guilty about that?

839
00:48:36,230 --> 00:48:36,840
Pardon me?

840
00:48:36,840 --> 00:48:38,840
Did you feel guilty that
if you hadn't told them

841
00:48:38,840 --> 00:48:39,640

he wouldn't have been taken?

842

00:48:39,640 --> 00:48:40,140
No.

843

00:48:40,140 --> 00:48:42,200
OK, so you didn't-- you
didn't feel that, good.

844

00:48:42,200 --> 00:48:47,366
No, I didn't because I was
a three-year-old child.

845

00:48:47,366 --> 00:48:51,320
Yeah, but children sometimes
assume a responsibility

846

00:48:51,320 --> 00:48:53,690
that isn't theirs.

847

00:48:53,690 --> 00:48:54,190
No.

848

00:48:54,190 --> 00:48:55,110
There was one-- OK.

849

00:48:55,110 --> 00:48:58,910

850

00:48:58,910 --> 00:49:02,810
Did you see him
again in Germany?

851

00:49:02,810 --> 00:49:04,800
Yes, once.

852

00:49:04,800 --> 00:49:13,070
My mother said, they're moving
Papa from Dachau to Buchenwald,

853

00:49:13,070 --> 00:49:17,600
and I found out that the train
is going to stop in Würzburg

854

00:49:17,600 --> 00:49:20,360
in the middle of the night.

855
00:49:20,360 --> 00:49:25,670
So she woke me up, and we
went to the train station.

856
00:49:25,670 --> 00:49:29,480
And you could see the
prisoners through the windows

857
00:49:29,480 --> 00:49:33,700
of the train, and
there came my father.

858
00:49:33,700 --> 00:49:37,790
And he put his hand out,
and my mother lifted me up.

859
00:49:37,790 --> 00:49:42,200
And I kissed him
through the glass.

860
00:49:42,200 --> 00:49:44,308
That was the only
time I saw him.

861
00:49:44,308 --> 00:49:48,700

862
00:49:48,700 --> 00:49:53,470
So when did you leave?

863
00:49:53,470 --> 00:49:55,560
How did you leave Germany?

864
00:49:55,560 --> 00:50:01,900
We left Germany in
January of 1939.

865
00:50:01,900 --> 00:50:04,270
So that's a couple of
months after Kristallnacht.

866
00:50:04,270 --> 00:50:06,880

867

00:50:06,880 --> 00:50:12,490

And from all of the thing--

868

00:50:12,490 --> 00:50:15,430

your father obviously must
have lost the business

869

00:50:15,430 --> 00:50:17,800

several years before.

870

00:50:17,800 --> 00:50:22,500

Was there anything else that
you were able to take with you?

871

00:50:22,500 --> 00:50:23,000

Yes.

872

00:50:23,000 --> 00:50:25,552

873

00:50:25,552 --> 00:50:27,480

I still have--
no, they moved it.

874

00:50:27,480 --> 00:50:28,570

Pewter.

875

00:50:28,570 --> 00:50:32,880

There was pewter here and
some pewter downstairs.

876

00:50:32,880 --> 00:50:36,570

That vase that the
flowers are in--

877

00:50:36,570 --> 00:50:38,870

I was told by an
antique dealer it

878

00:50:38,870 --> 00:50:43,125

was a soup terrine that
belonged to the King of Prussia.

879

00:50:43,125 --> 00:50:48,320

880

00:50:48,320 --> 00:50:52,415

My parents had this
furniture, which was--

881

00:50:52,415 --> 00:50:55,590

882

00:50:55,590 --> 00:50:59,330

I hated it because
sometimes I had it dusted,

883

00:50:59,330 --> 00:51:00,720

and it had all these curves.

884

00:51:00,720 --> 00:51:03,330

885

00:51:03,330 --> 00:51:04,828

This was in the
United States then.

886

00:51:04,828 --> 00:51:06,370

Yeah, but they
brought the furniture?

887

00:51:06,370 --> 00:51:06,960

Yes.

888

00:51:06,960 --> 00:51:11,330

So about a room and
a half of-- they're

889

00:51:11,330 --> 00:51:15,270

called Biedermeier
and Baroque furniture,

890

00:51:15,270 --> 00:51:19,380

and my mother took
me down to the pier

891

00:51:19,380 --> 00:51:22,350

where they were packing
these big crates.

892
00:51:22,350 --> 00:51:25,450
And we walked in, and
they said, oh, Frau Mayer.

893
00:51:25,450 --> 00:51:29,891

894
00:51:29,891 --> 00:51:33,910
My parents obviously
went up, and they said,

895
00:51:33,910 --> 00:51:35,830
is this your things?

896
00:51:35,830 --> 00:51:36,990
Yes.

897
00:51:36,990 --> 00:51:38,740
And they talked
for a few minutes,

898
00:51:38,740 --> 00:51:43,780
and they said whatever the
other guy's name, Fritz, Hans.

899
00:51:43,780 --> 00:51:46,180
We haven't eaten yet,
and we take a long time

900
00:51:46,180 --> 00:51:49,310
to eat, about four
or five hours.

901
00:51:49,310 --> 00:51:54,300
So we'll see you later,
which was telling her,

902
00:51:54,300 --> 00:51:56,770
if there's other
things you want to get

903
00:51:56,770 --> 00:52:00,130

within four to five hours--

904

00:52:00,130 --> 00:52:04,190
so she hailed a cab, and
we went back to the house,

905

00:52:04,190 --> 00:52:05,110
got some things--

906

00:52:05,110 --> 00:52:06,420
I don't remember what--

907

00:52:06,420 --> 00:52:09,160
and brought them back.

908

00:52:09,160 --> 00:52:11,722
Was this in Würzburg?

909

00:52:11,722 --> 00:52:12,555
Was it near a river?

910

00:52:12,555 --> 00:52:13,570
I don't know.

911

00:52:13,570 --> 00:52:14,740
I don't know.

912

00:52:14,740 --> 00:52:15,290
I don't know.

913

00:52:15,290 --> 00:52:17,890

914

00:52:17,890 --> 00:52:21,220
These are things
that puzzled me.

915

00:52:21,220 --> 00:52:23,390
Where did these things happen?

916

00:52:23,390 --> 00:52:25,420
But I was too young.

917

00:52:25,420 --> 00:52:29,010
Of course, of course.

918
00:52:29,010 --> 00:52:30,700
The servants and the nanny--

919
00:52:30,700 --> 00:52:33,190
were you attached to
the nanny that you had?

920
00:52:33,190 --> 00:52:37,170
No, no.

921
00:52:37,170 --> 00:52:40,350
I was actually
glad she was gone.

922
00:52:40,350 --> 00:52:41,970
Was she cruel, or was she harsh?

923
00:52:41,970 --> 00:52:46,420

924
00:52:46,420 --> 00:52:47,140
She was weird.

925
00:52:47,140 --> 00:52:54,920

926
00:52:54,920 --> 00:52:56,550
She was not to my liking.

927
00:52:56,550 --> 00:52:57,855
She didn't teach me things.

928
00:52:57,855 --> 00:53:02,260

929
00:53:02,260 --> 00:53:04,000
Here's one example.

930
00:53:04,000 --> 00:53:05,470
It's probably ridiculous.

931

00:53:05,470 --> 00:53:10,120

But had this little
table with two chairs.

932

00:53:10,120 --> 00:53:14,290

One day, she puts this
orange thing on the table

933

00:53:14,290 --> 00:53:16,970

and said, here,
here's an orange.

934

00:53:16,970 --> 00:53:18,480

I've never seen
an orange before.

935

00:53:18,480 --> 00:53:21,590

936

00:53:21,590 --> 00:53:24,190

I tried bouncing it.

937

00:53:24,190 --> 00:53:26,760

It didn't bounce.

938

00:53:26,760 --> 00:53:27,860

I tried rolling it.

939

00:53:27,860 --> 00:53:29,810

I figured it'd make noise.

940

00:53:29,810 --> 00:53:31,460

It didn't make noise.

941

00:53:31,460 --> 00:53:34,220

What a weird toy.

942

00:53:34,220 --> 00:53:41,090

So then I said, there must be a
reason that she gave it to me.

943

00:53:41,090 --> 00:53:46,430

So I dug my thumb in, and
I saw something come off.

944
00:53:46,430 --> 00:53:48,760
And juice came out.

945
00:53:48,760 --> 00:53:52,310
I go, it's a drink.

946
00:53:52,310 --> 00:53:56,205
And I started peeling
it, and then I

947
00:53:56,205 --> 00:53:59,720
got the juice all over
myself, all over the table.

948
00:53:59,720 --> 00:54:03,110
But I discovered how
to peel an orange.

949
00:54:03,110 --> 00:54:04,610
And she never told?

950
00:54:04,610 --> 00:54:06,320
She never told me.

951
00:54:06,320 --> 00:54:09,710
It was self-exploration.

952
00:54:09,710 --> 00:54:12,710
And it was also, to her
mind, self-explanatory.

953
00:54:12,710 --> 00:54:15,455
How would you not know
that this is an orange?

954
00:54:15,455 --> 00:54:18,470
I did not know, no.

955
00:54:18,470 --> 00:54:22,450
I had orange, but
it's already here.

956
00:54:22,450 --> 00:54:27,290

But this was the first
time I was given an orange.

957
00:54:27,290 --> 00:54:29,090
So no, she was weird.

958
00:54:29,090 --> 00:54:32,150
She was weird.

959
00:54:32,150 --> 00:54:38,160
Do you remember anything about
the bakery or the business,

960
00:54:38,160 --> 00:54:40,280
how it looked?

961
00:54:40,280 --> 00:54:42,380
Yes.

962
00:54:42,380 --> 00:54:50,300
One of the reasons that I think
I've always tended to sweets,

963
00:54:50,300 --> 00:54:55,210
cook and stuff like that, was
every time I fell, they'd say,

964
00:54:55,210 --> 00:55:00,660
here, darling, have some
whipped cream on a cookie.

965
00:55:00,660 --> 00:55:03,360
Cholesterol City.

966
00:55:03,360 --> 00:55:04,530
And you'll be better.

967
00:55:04,530 --> 00:55:07,040

968
00:55:07,040 --> 00:55:12,120
And yes, it was a
very pretty bakery,

969

00:55:12,120 --> 00:55:13,900
my father was a master baker.

970
00:55:13,900 --> 00:55:19,480
And he decorated things
that were like fairy tales.

971
00:55:19,480 --> 00:55:25,320
They were fairy tales,
castles with moats around them

972
00:55:25,320 --> 00:55:31,880
and days and days of
work, beautiful things.

973
00:55:31,880 --> 00:55:33,950
And they tasted good, too.

974
00:55:33,950 --> 00:55:42,750
And he made me special
things for special days,

975
00:55:42,750 --> 00:55:44,830
and I didn't even
want to bite them

976
00:55:44,830 --> 00:55:47,950
because they were so pretty.

977
00:55:47,950 --> 00:55:50,140
But it's the café
I remember more.

978
00:55:50,140 --> 00:55:54,660
He would have the
nanny dress me,

979
00:55:54,660 --> 00:55:57,925
and he'd take me around the café
and say, this is my daughter.

980
00:55:57,925 --> 00:56:01,830

981
00:56:01,830 --> 00:56:03,740

Well, this was-- I was young.

982

00:56:03,740 --> 00:56:04,490
You were little.

983

00:56:04,490 --> 00:56:05,960
I was three.

984

00:56:05,960 --> 00:56:10,426

985

00:56:10,426 --> 00:56:14,330
And he'd introduce me,
especially to ladies,

986

00:56:14,330 --> 00:56:16,850
and all the ladies had hats on.

987

00:56:16,850 --> 00:56:23,590
And I remember that more,
beautiful tablecloths,

988

00:56:23,590 --> 00:56:26,390
and silverware,
and plates, and--

989

00:56:26,390 --> 00:56:29,410
it's so pretty--
flowers in the middle.

990

00:56:29,410 --> 00:56:35,140

991

00:56:35,140 --> 00:56:39,490
Did your parents-- did
your mother work with him,

992

00:56:39,490 --> 00:56:41,350
or did she have her hands full?

993

00:56:41,350 --> 00:56:44,080
Yes, she was also the
brain of the business.

994

00:56:44,080 --> 00:56:44,795
Was she?

995
00:56:44,795 --> 00:56:45,295
Yes.

996
00:56:45,295 --> 00:56:48,400

997
00:56:48,400 --> 00:56:56,490
My father was tremendously
innovative in business,

998
00:56:56,490 --> 00:56:58,795
but my mother was the director.

999
00:56:58,795 --> 00:57:01,340

1000
00:57:01,340 --> 00:57:05,950
And I think that's where
I got my inspiration from.

1001
00:57:05,950 --> 00:57:07,370
Really?

1002
00:57:07,370 --> 00:57:08,150
Yes.

1003
00:57:08,150 --> 00:57:10,186
In what way was she inspiring?

1004
00:57:10,186 --> 00:57:11,360
Pardon me?

1005
00:57:11,360 --> 00:57:13,310
In what way was she inspiring?

1006
00:57:13,310 --> 00:57:16,310

1007
00:57:16,310 --> 00:57:19,660
She would give orders,
and people would listen.

1008
00:57:19,660 --> 00:57:23,660
And I was-- gee, they're
listening to a woman.

1009
00:57:23,660 --> 00:57:27,260
So when I got married
and had four sons,

1010
00:57:27,260 --> 00:57:33,190
I said to myself, well, since
I'm the only female here, says,

1011
00:57:33,190 --> 00:57:36,040
"Guys, before you
start first grade,

1012
00:57:36,040 --> 00:57:39,755
you're going to learn
how to make your bed."

1013
00:57:39,755 --> 00:57:40,380
Well, they did.

1014
00:57:40,380 --> 00:57:43,950
It was a sloppy mess,
but they made it.

1015
00:57:43,950 --> 00:57:46,550
They learned to cook basics.

1016
00:57:46,550 --> 00:57:47,867
One would set the table.

1017
00:57:47,867 --> 00:57:48,950
One would clear the table.

1018
00:57:48,950 --> 00:57:51,100
One would sweep the floor.

1019
00:57:51,100 --> 00:57:53,750
We'd put them on wash away.

1020
00:57:53,750 --> 00:57:57,890

We were an equal
opportunity house.

1021
00:57:57,890 --> 00:58:00,590
And it started with
Mama, modeling after--

1022
00:58:00,590 --> 00:58:04,370
It started with
Mama, and I actually

1023
00:58:04,370 --> 00:58:05,720
trained very good husbands.

1024
00:58:05,720 --> 00:58:08,900

1025
00:58:08,900 --> 00:58:13,190
I'm sure your
daughters-in-law are grateful.

1026
00:58:13,190 --> 00:58:19,760
And they were wonderful
when they were little boys.

1027
00:58:19,760 --> 00:58:23,660
Mother's Day, they'd
bring me boxes of pansies,

1028
00:58:23,660 --> 00:58:27,350
and they would pick dandelions
and give them to me.

1029
00:58:27,350 --> 00:58:37,360
And it was a good melding
of mother and sons.

1030
00:58:37,360 --> 00:58:42,250
Did you ever become close to
your older siblings, Emile

1031
00:58:42,250 --> 00:58:43,570
and Betty?

1032
00:58:43,570 --> 00:58:48,680

Did you ever-- because they
left when you were so little.

1033
00:58:48,680 --> 00:58:49,480
No.

1034
00:58:49,480 --> 00:58:55,500
Well, I married
Sam when I was 19,

1035
00:58:55,500 --> 00:58:57,640
and my sister was 18 years old.

1036
00:58:57,640 --> 00:59:00,100
And she had a hard
time having children.

1037
00:59:00,100 --> 00:59:03,690
She just had one daughter
who was born handicapped

1038
00:59:03,690 --> 00:59:10,980
who just died last December,
and there, again, my sons

1039
00:59:10,980 --> 00:59:15,120
went down to New
York to visit her.

1040
00:59:15,120 --> 00:59:20,000
They took care of all
her affairs, her papers.

1041
00:59:20,000 --> 00:59:24,180
They made sure that she got the
proper service before she died.

1042
00:59:24,180 --> 00:59:26,940
They got hospice for her.

1043
00:59:26,940 --> 00:59:29,070
She had pancreatic cancer.

1044
00:59:29,070 --> 00:59:30,470
This is for your niece?

1045
00:59:30,470 --> 00:59:33,960
For my niece, my
sister's daughter.

1046
00:59:33,960 --> 00:59:42,370
And they were very good to her,
and I went down several times.

1047
00:59:42,370 --> 00:59:47,380
But it was very
difficult because she

1048
00:59:47,380 --> 00:59:49,360
was like my little sister.

1049
00:59:49,360 --> 00:59:52,810
My father opened a
bakery in New York,

1050
00:59:52,810 --> 00:59:59,060
and after school, I would go
over there, pick up Evelyn--

1051
00:59:59,060 --> 01:00:00,780
that was her name--

1052
01:00:00,780 --> 01:00:01,790
and bring her home.

1053
01:00:01,790 --> 01:00:04,630
And she had-- she
was born premature,

1054
01:00:04,630 --> 01:00:06,650
and she had several operations.

1055
01:00:06,650 --> 01:00:08,700
So she had a body
cast, and I used

1056
01:00:08,700 --> 01:00:13,110
to bring her into the
house and take care of her.

1057

01:00:13,110 --> 01:00:16,050

And so she was like
my little sister,

1058

01:00:16,050 --> 01:00:23,790

and it was hard when I lost her.

1059

01:00:23,790 --> 01:00:28,900

And I called her a
couple of times a week.

1060

01:00:28,900 --> 01:00:30,700

When she was younger,
she always just

1061

01:00:30,700 --> 01:00:33,900

come up here for
part of the summer,

1062

01:00:33,900 --> 01:00:36,370

and she always came
up for Thanksgiving.

1063

01:00:36,370 --> 01:00:46,060

My sons would go and pick her
up and bring her back, and even

1064

01:00:46,060 --> 01:00:50,620

my youngest granddaughter,
Joselyn, who's nine--

1065

01:00:50,620 --> 01:00:54,700

she remembers Evelyn
would send her \$2

1066

01:00:54,700 --> 01:00:59,350

for her birthday and
a card, so this year I

1067

01:00:59,350 --> 01:01:03,910

sent her a card with \$2 in it.

1068

01:01:03,910 --> 01:01:05,740

And what about your
sister herself?

1069
01:01:05,740 --> 01:01:10,300
When did-- did she
live a long time?

1070
01:01:10,300 --> 01:01:13,120
My sister died at
the age of 69--

1071
01:01:13,120 --> 01:01:14,330
So it was rather young--

1072
01:01:14,330 --> 01:01:17,490
--from liver cancer.

1073
01:01:17,490 --> 01:01:21,850
And so Evelyn lived
alone for a long time.

1074
01:01:21,850 --> 01:01:22,380
I see.

1075
01:01:22,380 --> 01:01:24,940

1076
01:01:24,940 --> 01:01:29,880
As close as we could be because
our lives were so different.

1077
01:01:29,880 --> 01:01:32,730
What did she do when she
came to the United States?

1078
01:01:32,730 --> 01:01:34,970
Your mother had sent
her away to protect her?

1079
01:01:34,970 --> 01:01:38,400
Actually, she was a maid
for wealthy Jewish families.

1080
01:01:38,400 --> 01:01:41,170

1081

01:01:41,170 --> 01:01:43,730

Did she stay in
the New York area?

1082

01:01:43,730 --> 01:01:48,700

Manhattan, upper Manhattan.

1083

01:01:48,700 --> 01:01:53,110

Near Inwood or-- there's
that area in Upper Manhattan.

1084

01:01:53,110 --> 01:01:55,380

What is it, Washington Heights?

1085

01:01:55,380 --> 01:01:58,480

That's there.

1086

01:01:58,480 --> 01:01:59,470

Excuse me.

1087

01:01:59,470 --> 01:02:02,150

And Emile-- what became of him?

1088

01:02:02,150 --> 01:02:03,610

Emile never came.

1089

01:02:03,610 --> 01:02:05,380

He stayed in Palestine?

1090

01:02:05,380 --> 01:02:10,240

He died in 1969, the
same year as my mother.

1091

01:02:10,240 --> 01:02:11,530

He was obese.

1092

01:02:11,530 --> 01:02:14,260

1093

01:02:14,260 --> 01:02:22,270

For a while, he was in the
Israeli army, the Hagana,

1094

01:02:22,270 --> 01:02:25,530

but he--

1095

01:02:25,530 --> 01:02:29,080

let's put it this way.

1096

01:02:29,080 --> 01:02:31,080

He was spoiled rotten.

1097

01:02:31,080 --> 01:02:37,840

Like when a bunch of them
would go to the Alps hiking,

1098

01:02:37,840 --> 01:02:40,600

his idea of hiking
was paying other guys

1099

01:02:40,600 --> 01:02:42,280

to pull him up the mountain.

1100

01:02:42,280 --> 01:02:47,920

1101

01:02:47,920 --> 01:02:49,000

Well, it's inventive.

1102

01:02:49,000 --> 01:02:51,700

1103

01:02:51,700 --> 01:02:55,510

And I never knew him.

1104

01:02:55,510 --> 01:02:56,740

I never met him.

1105

01:02:56,740 --> 01:02:59,650

He left when I was three.

1106

01:02:59,650 --> 01:03:09,900

However, my sister
called me one day,

1107

01:03:09,900 --> 01:03:12,090

and she said, I
just received a call

1108
01:03:12,090 --> 01:03:18,660
from someone who said
they were with Emile's

1109
01:03:18,660 --> 01:03:23,730
daughter in Manhattan,
and she was visiting.

1110
01:03:23,730 --> 01:03:25,810
I said, so what'd you do?

1111
01:03:25,810 --> 01:03:26,740
She said she hung up.

1112
01:03:26,740 --> 01:03:29,580
I figured it was just a joke.

1113
01:03:29,580 --> 01:03:31,710
So I said, the next
time they called,

1114
01:03:31,710 --> 01:03:34,110
give them my telephone number.

1115
01:03:34,110 --> 01:03:41,290
So they called me, and I went
down to New York and met them.

1116
01:03:41,290 --> 01:03:45,030
And they came up here.

1117
01:03:45,030 --> 01:03:50,170
So this was my brother's oldest
daughter and her husband.

1118
01:03:50,170 --> 01:03:55,890
And so we went to
Israel three times,

1119
01:03:55,890 --> 01:03:59,220
and we met a whole
family to Israel.

1120

01:03:59,220 --> 01:04:03,600
And now my five grandchildren,
who have been to Israel,

1121
01:04:03,600 --> 01:04:08,010
have stayed with my
grandnephew, [? Nitson. ?]

1122
01:04:08,010 --> 01:04:13,990
He built a house with one
room just for our family.

1123
01:04:13,990 --> 01:04:14,720
The grandnephew?

1124
01:04:14,720 --> 01:04:15,220
Yeah.

1125
01:04:15,220 --> 01:04:18,020

1126
01:04:18,020 --> 01:04:20,900
How nice because a
relationship that

1127
01:04:20,900 --> 01:04:23,930
was fractured that never really
was able to grow-- you never

1128
01:04:23,930 --> 01:04:29,390
really met him after he left,
and yet the other generations

1129
01:04:29,390 --> 01:04:31,970
have been able to connect again.

1130
01:04:31,970 --> 01:04:37,930
Yeah, and he's so
funny, and he's a riot.

1131
01:04:37,930 --> 01:04:39,580
And we got so close.

1132
01:04:39,580 --> 01:04:41,570
He's like our fifth son.

1133
01:04:41,570 --> 01:04:44,900
And he's 44.

1134
01:04:44,900 --> 01:04:50,900
He taught our oldest grandson,
Nicholas, how to play soccer.

1135
01:04:50,900 --> 01:04:56,450
He's been here a few times, and
there's one story, very funny.

1136
01:04:56,450 --> 01:05:00,350
They came here one
year, he and his wife,

1137
01:05:00,350 --> 01:05:01,790
and they said they
were traveling

1138
01:05:01,790 --> 01:05:05,890
with another Israeli couple.

1139
01:05:05,890 --> 01:05:08,850
And I said, OK.

1140
01:05:08,850 --> 01:05:11,300
So one night he said, Sam,
we have to go to Boston

1141
01:05:11,300 --> 01:05:13,580
and pick up our friends.

1142
01:05:13,580 --> 01:05:15,620
And as they're
walking out the door--

1143
01:05:15,620 --> 01:05:18,170
they were coming
down from Canada.

1144
01:05:18,170 --> 01:05:20,110
I said, where are they staying?

1145

01:05:20,110 --> 01:05:20,900
He says, here.

1146
01:05:20,900 --> 01:05:24,350

1147
01:05:24,350 --> 01:05:25,280
Surprise, surprise.

1148
01:05:25,280 --> 01:05:28,000

1149
01:05:28,000 --> 01:05:30,560
So luckily at that time
our oldest son, Russell,

1150
01:05:30,560 --> 01:05:33,180
was living in
Brockton, so I sent

1151
01:05:33,180 --> 01:05:37,200
Jeffery, who was
home on winter break,

1152
01:05:37,200 --> 01:05:40,400
and Scott to his house to sleep.

1153
01:05:40,400 --> 01:05:41,405
Change the sheets.

1154
01:05:41,405 --> 01:05:44,240

1155
01:05:44,240 --> 01:05:45,515
Like you, command central.

1156
01:05:45,515 --> 01:05:48,740

1157
01:05:48,740 --> 01:05:50,630
So it sounds like
from this that you're

1158
01:05:50,630 --> 01:05:54,720

the only one who went back to
Germany ever of the family.

1159
01:05:54,720 --> 01:05:55,220
Yes.

1160
01:05:55,220 --> 01:06:02,220

1161
01:06:02,220 --> 01:06:04,770
Let's go back then
to the question

1162
01:06:04,770 --> 01:06:06,585
I asked earlier about leaving.

1163
01:06:06,585 --> 01:06:12,980

1164
01:06:12,980 --> 01:06:17,210
You mentioned your mother
bringing some extra items

1165
01:06:17,210 --> 01:06:19,580
to where the Biedermeier
and the Baroque furniture

1166
01:06:19,580 --> 01:06:22,190
was being packed up.

1167
01:06:22,190 --> 01:06:26,480
Do you remember anything
from the journey itself?

1168
01:06:26,480 --> 01:06:28,040
Very much so.

1169
01:06:28,040 --> 01:06:31,700
We came over in
February from Germany.

1170
01:06:31,700 --> 01:06:40,220
We left the Port of
Bremen, and we had a cabin.

1171
01:06:40,220 --> 01:06:42,410
My mother and I
never left the beds

1172
01:06:42,410 --> 01:06:46,560
because we were deathly seasick.

1173
01:06:46,560 --> 01:06:48,990
One time we were
feeling a little better,

1174
01:06:48,990 --> 01:06:51,420
and we decided to go
to the dining room.

1175
01:06:51,420 --> 01:06:56,080
And we were watching
the other patrons eat,

1176
01:06:56,080 --> 01:06:59,380
and my mother says
to me, look, they're

1177
01:06:59,380 --> 01:07:03,160
eating food that we
feed to the pigs.

1178
01:07:03,160 --> 01:07:05,470
They were eating
corn on the cob.

1179
01:07:05,470 --> 01:07:07,500
Yes, Europeans don't do that.

1180
01:07:07,500 --> 01:07:09,460
No.

1181
01:07:09,460 --> 01:07:11,320
So we sat there for
like 10 minutes,

1182
01:07:11,320 --> 01:07:15,580
went back to our
cabins and got sick.

1183

01:07:15,580 --> 01:07:19,495

Now, how is it that you're able
to come to the United States?

1184

01:07:19,495 --> 01:07:20,870

So many people
had difficulties--

1185

01:07:20,870 --> 01:07:22,755

How have you opened
another book?

1186

01:07:22,755 --> 01:07:23,255

Please.

1187

01:07:23,255 --> 01:07:29,070

1188

01:07:29,070 --> 01:07:34,030

My mother kept saying we
had cousins down South.

1189

01:07:34,030 --> 01:07:37,315

When my sister died--

1190

01:07:37,315 --> 01:07:39,280

In 1969?

1191

01:07:39,280 --> 01:07:41,325

No, my sister died--

1192

01:07:41,325 --> 01:07:44,370

Oh, that was Emile
who died in '69?

1193

01:07:44,370 --> 01:07:46,970

I'm trying to think
what year she died.

1194

01:07:46,970 --> 01:07:51,060

No, my brother died in '69,
and my mother died in '69.

1195

01:07:51,060 --> 01:07:54,300

My sister died-- wait.

1196

01:07:54,300 --> 01:07:57,810

I have to figure my
daughter-in-law's age.

1197

01:07:57,810 --> 01:07:59,820

My daughter-in-law is 62.

1198

01:07:59,820 --> 01:08:03,930

She died when she turned
30, so 32 years ago

1199

01:08:03,930 --> 01:08:06,182

was when my sister died.

1200

01:08:06,182 --> 01:08:11,490

So that would have
been '84, 1984.

1201

01:08:11,490 --> 01:08:15,630

So I went down
with my son, Paul,

1202

01:08:15,630 --> 01:08:20,649

and my niece asked me to
go through her papers.

1203

01:08:20,649 --> 01:08:23,939

And so Paul and I
went through them,

1204

01:08:23,939 --> 01:08:28,710

and I found a letter
from a Janie Miller

1205

01:08:28,710 --> 01:08:30,300

from Memphis, Tennessee.

1206

01:08:30,300 --> 01:08:31,680

A Janie Miller?

1207

01:08:31,680 --> 01:08:33,660

Janie Miller.

1208

01:08:33,660 --> 01:08:39,390

And said, I do genealogy,
and I believe--

1209

01:08:39,390 --> 01:08:41,010

this was addressed
to my sister--

1210

01:08:41,010 --> 01:08:41,855

that you're related.

1211

01:08:41,855 --> 01:08:44,550

1212

01:08:44,550 --> 01:08:46,999

And the letter
was two years old.

1213

01:08:46,999 --> 01:08:50,630

So it was 1982 that
it was written?

1214

01:08:50,630 --> 01:08:52,899

And with it was
a genealogy tree.

1215

01:08:52,899 --> 01:08:54,890

And I'm saying, ugh.

1216

01:08:54,890 --> 01:08:57,779

But Paul pulled this stuff
out of the trash basket

1217

01:08:57,779 --> 01:09:01,319

and says, take it home.

1218

01:09:01,319 --> 01:09:03,560

We'll look at it.

1219

01:09:03,560 --> 01:09:11,399

And when we got home, Scott was
home on winter break or spring

1220

01:09:11,399 --> 01:09:12,470

break from college.

1221

01:09:12,470 --> 01:09:14,529
He went to UMass Amherst.

1222

01:09:14,529 --> 01:09:18,960
And he loves research, so I
said, Scott, look at this,

1223

01:09:18,960 --> 01:09:21,510
and see what you
can come up with.

1224

01:09:21,510 --> 01:09:22,920
And he looked at
it, and he says,

1225

01:09:22,920 --> 01:09:27,770
mom, the closest I can
come is that there's

1226

01:09:27,770 --> 01:09:32,040
a family name Kamien in
Cleveland, Mississippi--

1227

01:09:32,040 --> 01:09:33,750
Kamien in Cleveland,
Mississippi?

1228

01:09:33,750 --> 01:09:35,042
Kamien.

1229

01:09:35,042 --> 01:09:36,960
--that are related to you.

1230

01:09:36,960 --> 01:09:39,930
And I said, I bet you
those are the cousins.

1231

01:09:39,930 --> 01:09:45,359
Now, this man put up the money
for all of us to come over

1232

01:09:45,359 --> 01:09:47,399
and sponsored us.

1233
01:09:47,399 --> 01:09:52,200
At the time, I think you had
to put up \$1,000 a person

1234
01:09:52,200 --> 01:09:54,680
and leave it in the
bank for five years

1235
01:09:54,680 --> 01:09:58,740
so that a the immigrants
would not become

1236
01:09:58,740 --> 01:10:01,440
a burden to this country.

1237
01:10:01,440 --> 01:10:03,030
He never knew us.

1238
01:10:03,030 --> 01:10:04,550
He never knew us.

1239
01:10:04,550 --> 01:10:05,775
So you never met him?

1240
01:10:05,775 --> 01:10:08,690
I never met him.

1241
01:10:08,690 --> 01:10:12,270
Anyway, I pick up
the phone, and I say,

1242
01:10:12,270 --> 01:10:15,870
I'd like Kamien in
Cleveland, Mississippi.

1243
01:10:15,870 --> 01:10:17,940
And the operator
said to me, there's

1244
01:10:17,940 --> 01:10:20,390
a Kamien's Department Store.

1245
01:10:20,390 --> 01:10:22,750

I said, put me in
touch with them.

1246
01:10:22,750 --> 01:10:24,900
So a woman answered,
and she says, Kamien's.

1247
01:10:24,900 --> 01:10:27,360
I said, this sounds
weird, but I'm

1248
01:10:27,360 --> 01:10:30,510
calling from the
Boston area, and I

1249
01:10:30,510 --> 01:10:34,070
think I'm related to
the owner of this store.

1250
01:10:34,070 --> 01:10:36,720
And she says, well,
honey child, I'll

1251
01:10:36,720 --> 01:10:38,265
put you in touch
with the president

1252
01:10:38,265 --> 01:10:42,120
of the company, I.A. Kamien.

1253
01:10:42,120 --> 01:10:46,350
And I spoke to him, and
he said, oh, my aunt--

1254
01:10:46,350 --> 01:10:48,840
she has all the information.

1255
01:10:48,840 --> 01:10:55,530
Her name is Rosebud
Davis, not Rosa, Rosebud.

1256
01:10:55,530 --> 01:11:02,070
And I called her, and it seems
my maternal grandfather had

1257

01:11:02,070 --> 01:11:07,650
eight brothers and sisters that
came to the southern United

1258
01:11:07,650 --> 01:11:11,980
States in the early 1900s.

1259
01:11:11,980 --> 01:11:14,490
And I have relatives
all over this country

1260
01:11:14,490 --> 01:11:16,770
where I thought I had nobody.

1261
01:11:16,770 --> 01:11:18,760
Oh my goodness.

1262
01:11:18,760 --> 01:11:24,000
So we invited Rosebud
and her husband up here,

1263
01:11:24,000 --> 01:11:29,690
and we went down
South and met them.

1264
01:11:29,690 --> 01:11:35,240
And it was this Kamien
that sponsored us and also

1265
01:11:35,240 --> 01:11:40,080
said he had jobs for
us, which was not true.

1266
01:11:40,080 --> 01:11:43,770
He did, but he was
also an amazing man.

1267
01:11:43,770 --> 01:11:47,390
He hired the first
black in Mississippi

1268
01:11:47,390 --> 01:11:50,630
to work to manage his
store, and it was a woman.

1269

01:11:50,630 --> 01:11:51,640
Oh my goodness.

1270
01:11:51,640 --> 01:12:01,190
And he gave land to both the
Baptist and Methodist churches,

1271
01:12:01,190 --> 01:12:05,750
and as a matter of fact,
Sam's 90th birthday,

1272
01:12:05,750 --> 01:12:12,100
which was June 4 of this year,
Janie Miller came up here

1273
01:12:12,100 --> 01:12:15,260
with her husband, and her
brother came from Los Angeles.

1274
01:12:15,260 --> 01:12:19,650

1275
01:12:19,650 --> 01:12:21,190
Wow.

1276
01:12:21,190 --> 01:12:25,850
So your grandfather,
the dapper Mr--

1277
01:12:25,850 --> 01:12:27,650
Yeah, he cleaned the
bottom of this cane

1278
01:12:27,650 --> 01:12:29,260
and the sole of his shoes.

1279
01:12:29,260 --> 01:12:31,750
So it was one of his siblings?

1280
01:12:31,750 --> 01:12:32,920
No, it was my mother's.

1281
01:12:32,920 --> 01:12:35,320
It was the Riechenberg family.

1282

01:12:35,320 --> 01:12:36,500

That's what I mean.

1283

01:12:36,500 --> 01:12:38,158

Oh, I see, but I
thought he was--

1284

01:12:38,158 --> 01:12:38,700

Oh, yes, yes.

1285

01:12:38,700 --> 01:12:39,550

You're right.

1286

01:12:39,550 --> 01:12:40,300

Yes, you're right.

1287

01:12:40,300 --> 01:12:43,050

So it was one of his
siblings who sponsored--

1288

01:12:43,050 --> 01:12:44,470

It was eight of
his siblings that

1289

01:12:44,470 --> 01:12:48,670

came to the United
States, the southern part.

1290

01:12:48,670 --> 01:12:53,530

And do you know how the
Kamiens were related to him?

1291

01:12:53,530 --> 01:12:56,380

This Kamien who
sponsored us was married

1292

01:12:56,380 --> 01:13:09,450

to my grandfather's sister, so
she was married to Riechenberg.

1293

01:13:09,450 --> 01:13:12,160

1294

01:13:12,160 --> 01:13:15,220

So when you came to
the United States,

1295
01:13:15,220 --> 01:13:17,460
was it just your
mother and yourself,

1296
01:13:17,460 --> 01:13:19,190
or did your grandfather
come with you?

1297
01:13:19,190 --> 01:13:21,910
My grandfather came
with my father after--

1298
01:13:21,910 --> 01:13:26,110

1299
01:13:26,110 --> 01:13:28,220
I can't remember how
many months later,

1300
01:13:28,220 --> 01:13:32,660
but it was just before
Germany invaded Poland.

1301
01:13:32,660 --> 01:13:35,810
So it was the same year, but
Germany invaded September 1,

1302
01:13:35,810 --> 01:13:42,400
1939, and you left the
last days of January 1939.

1303
01:13:42,400 --> 01:13:47,960
So it's sometime between
early February and late August

1304
01:13:47,960 --> 01:13:52,130
that your grandfather and
father would have come.

1305
01:13:52,130 --> 01:13:54,800
So tell me, how was it that
your father was released?

1306

01:13:54,800 --> 01:13:55,865

Many people were not.

1307

01:13:55,865 --> 01:14:00,430

1308

01:14:00,430 --> 01:14:05,700

I had told my doctor
that Lauren was

1309

01:14:05,700 --> 01:14:12,190

doing this project on my
family to the Holocaust Museum.

1310

01:14:12,190 --> 01:14:13,690

The interview
we're having today?

1311

01:14:13,690 --> 01:14:16,060

Mm-hm.

1312

01:14:16,060 --> 01:14:22,570

And we couldn't understand how
my father, German Jewish man,

1313

01:14:22,570 --> 01:14:25,740

was released from two of
the worse concentration

1314

01:14:25,740 --> 01:14:28,180

camps in Europe.

1315

01:14:28,180 --> 01:14:33,910

So he said, when he was in
college, he read this book,

1316

01:14:33,910 --> 01:14:37,000

and it was titled
The Extermination

1317

01:14:37,000 --> 01:14:40,990

of the European Jew.

1318

01:14:40,990 --> 01:14:48,270

Now, I started calling
around different libraries,

1319
01:14:48,270 --> 01:14:49,860
and none of them had it.

1320
01:14:49,860 --> 01:14:56,220
But the Brockton, the main
library, had one copy.

1321
01:14:56,220 --> 01:14:58,560
And I went down,
and I got it, and I

1322
01:14:58,560 --> 01:15:01,020
read it, a very difficult
book to read because it

1323
01:15:01,020 --> 01:15:05,300
had so many notes and things.

1324
01:15:05,300 --> 01:15:09,630
But I found out that
the Nazis decided

1325
01:15:09,630 --> 01:15:13,080
that Jewish men who had
fought in World War I

1326
01:15:13,080 --> 01:15:14,520
and won a medal--

1327
01:15:14,520 --> 01:15:18,480
my father won the
Iron Cross, which

1328
01:15:18,480 --> 01:15:22,035
was like the Distinguished
Service Cross.

1329
01:15:22,035 --> 01:15:24,800
He would be given
more liberties,

1330
01:15:24,800 --> 01:15:26,900

and so I guess that's
why he was released.

1331
01:15:26,900 --> 01:15:29,580
It's the only thing
I could think of.

1332
01:15:29,580 --> 01:15:33,180
So he had had military service
during the First World War.

1333
01:15:33,180 --> 01:15:37,410

1334
01:15:37,410 --> 01:15:41,120
Was the book written
by Raul Hilberg?

1335
01:15:41,120 --> 01:15:41,820
By who?

1336
01:15:41,820 --> 01:15:43,200
Raul Hilberg.

1337
01:15:43,200 --> 01:15:47,125
Is that the book, The
Destruction of European Jewry

1338
01:15:47,125 --> 01:15:48,500
Is that the book
you're talking--

1339
01:15:48,500 --> 01:15:50,820
The Destruction
of European Jewry?

1340
01:15:50,820 --> 01:15:51,780
Yeah.

1341
01:15:51,780 --> 01:15:54,060
I can't remember the--

1342
01:15:54,060 --> 01:15:58,650
I actually went online.

1343

01:15:58,650 --> 01:16:01,260

I can use a computer.

1344

01:16:01,260 --> 01:16:03,960

As I told you, I'm impressed.

1345

01:16:03,960 --> 01:16:07,440

I went online, and I got two
paperback copies, sent one

1346

01:16:07,440 --> 01:16:08,790

to Lauren.

1347

01:16:08,790 --> 01:16:10,200

And I have it upstairs.

1348

01:16:10,200 --> 01:16:11,360

We'll take a look later.

1349

01:16:11,360 --> 01:16:13,350

We'll take a look
which book it is.

1350

01:16:13,350 --> 01:16:15,610

So you were calling
around to find out,

1351

01:16:15,610 --> 01:16:18,110

and this book is the only one
that gave you a sense of--

1352

01:16:18,110 --> 01:16:19,890

--that gave me that information.

1353

01:16:19,890 --> 01:16:20,700

Yeah.

1354

01:16:20,700 --> 01:16:24,050

Your father-- did he ever talk
about his time in Buchenwald

1355

01:16:24,050 --> 01:16:24,550

or Dachau.

1356

01:16:24,550 --> 01:16:27,480

No, never.

1357

01:16:27,480 --> 01:16:31,370

He had a lot of
scars on his back.

1358

01:16:31,370 --> 01:16:32,775

I guess that was from beatings.

1359

01:16:32,775 --> 01:16:35,860

1360

01:16:35,860 --> 01:16:40,300

He never talked about it,
and to tell you the truth,

1361

01:16:40,300 --> 01:16:41,877

I didn't want to hear it.

1362

01:16:41,877 --> 01:16:50,842

1363

01:16:50,842 --> 01:16:54,870

I had a very horrific childhood.

1364

01:16:54,870 --> 01:16:55,640

I had.

1365

01:16:55,640 --> 01:16:58,160

1366

01:16:58,160 --> 01:17:05,880

And I didn't know I was such a
pusher as a child, but I was.

1367

01:17:05,880 --> 01:17:10,780

But I was determined
to survive and to bring

1368

01:17:10,780 --> 01:17:14,530

some good into this world.

1369

01:17:14,530 --> 01:17:16,940
When you say, I was a pusher--

1370
01:17:16,940 --> 01:17:18,635
A pusher to survive.

1371
01:17:18,635 --> 01:17:21,540

1372
01:17:21,540 --> 01:17:25,990
And I wasn't going to let
anybody destroy my will.

1373
01:17:25,990 --> 01:17:29,440

1374
01:17:29,440 --> 01:17:34,640
And when I came to
this country and saw

1375
01:17:34,640 --> 01:17:37,390
this unbelievable freedom--

1376
01:17:37,390 --> 01:17:39,950
like we lived in
our first apartment.

1377
01:17:39,950 --> 01:17:42,500
We lived across street
from the school,

1378
01:17:42,500 --> 01:17:44,550
and there was a playground.

1379
01:17:44,550 --> 01:17:48,600
And I saw these kids keep
throwing a ball through a round

1380
01:17:48,600 --> 01:17:49,100
thing.

1381
01:17:49,100 --> 01:17:52,280

1382

01:17:52,280 --> 01:17:57,630
In the evening, I went across
the street with a little ball,

1383
01:17:57,630 --> 01:18:01,770
and I kept practicing throwing
the ball through the hoop

1384
01:18:01,770 --> 01:18:04,850
because I wanted
to be like them.

1385
01:18:04,850 --> 01:18:07,680
Well, I ended up being
captain of the basketball

1386
01:18:07,680 --> 01:18:09,070
team in high school.

1387
01:18:09,070 --> 01:18:10,620
Good for you.

1388
01:18:10,620 --> 01:18:12,370
Good for you.

1389
01:18:12,370 --> 01:18:17,860
And I was in all the
accelerated classes,

1390
01:18:17,860 --> 01:18:20,820
but then when it was
time, I got accepted

1391
01:18:20,820 --> 01:18:22,720
by City College in New York.

1392
01:18:22,720 --> 01:18:25,600
And my father
wouldn't let me go.

1393
01:18:25,600 --> 01:18:30,230
He said, women don't
need an education.

1394
01:18:30,230 --> 01:18:32,550

But I did go.

1395

01:18:32,550 --> 01:18:34,490
I applied for a job--

1396

01:18:34,490 --> 01:18:37,050
that's where I met Sam--

1397

01:18:37,050 --> 01:18:40,380
and I went at night.

1398

01:18:40,380 --> 01:18:46,030
I went from work to
CCNY, then from the CCNY

1399

01:18:46,030 --> 01:18:52,140
took the train to the Bronx, was
up until 3:00, 4:00 studying,

1400

01:18:52,140 --> 01:18:54,105
got up at 5:30, go to work.

1401

01:18:54,105 --> 01:18:56,740
I had a breakdown.

1402

01:18:56,740 --> 01:18:58,690
I couldn't do it anymore.

1403

01:18:58,690 --> 01:18:59,925
It's a huge stress.

1404

01:18:59,925 --> 01:19:02,680

1405

01:19:02,680 --> 01:19:04,410
But I completed one semester.

1406

01:19:04,410 --> 01:19:06,000
It was better than nothing.

1407

01:19:06,000 --> 01:19:07,690
Of course.

1408

01:19:07,690 --> 01:19:09,093
So where were you working?

1409
01:19:09,093 --> 01:19:11,010
When you were working,
where were you working?

1410
01:19:11,010 --> 01:19:12,530
[INAUDIBLE] Johnson's.

1411
01:19:12,530 --> 01:19:19,540
They were a shoe company, and I
was secretary to the treasurer.

1412
01:19:19,540 --> 01:19:24,420
And I learned a lot
about the stock market,

1413
01:19:24,420 --> 01:19:29,410
and Sam was training
to be a road salesman.

1414
01:19:29,410 --> 01:19:31,590
That's how we met.

1415
01:19:31,590 --> 01:19:34,410
I'd like to take
a break right now.

1416
01:19:34,410 --> 01:19:36,350
I'd like to take a break, too.

1417
01:19:36,350 --> 01:19:40,020
OK, so let's do that
and have some lunch.

1418
01:19:40,020 --> 01:19:43,620
Your father and your
grandfather came over separately

1419
01:19:43,620 --> 01:19:46,530
than you and your mother.

1420
01:19:46,530 --> 01:19:50,580
Did your grandfather--

why did he stay behind?

1421
01:19:50,580 --> 01:19:52,815
I don't know.

1422
01:19:52,815 --> 01:19:55,890
I don't know.

1423
01:19:55,890 --> 01:20:00,690
And the only time you
had seen your father

1424
01:20:00,690 --> 01:20:03,090
was when your
mother lifted you up

1425
01:20:03,090 --> 01:20:05,970
to press you against
that pane of glass

1426
01:20:05,970 --> 01:20:08,995
as he was being transferred
from one concentration camp

1427
01:20:08,995 --> 01:20:09,495
to another?

1428
01:20:09,495 --> 01:20:11,160
Right.

1429
01:20:11,160 --> 01:20:14,700
Do you remember the moment
you saw him again after that?

1430
01:20:14,700 --> 01:20:19,830
Yes, but I was afraid of him.

1431
01:20:19,830 --> 01:20:24,120
I didn't recognize him.

1432
01:20:24,120 --> 01:20:25,380
He had turned gray.

1433
01:20:25,380 --> 01:20:28,410

1434

01:20:28,410 --> 01:20:36,690

He was very thin,
and I held back.

1435

01:20:36,690 --> 01:20:40,590

And I couldn't hug
him at the beginning

1436

01:20:40,590 --> 01:20:45,990

because I thought he was another
man who was a threat to me.

1437

01:20:45,990 --> 01:20:48,960

1438

01:20:48,960 --> 01:20:51,703

Did you see him as
he got off the boat,

1439

01:20:51,703 --> 01:20:53,370

or did he come to
where you were living?

1440

01:20:53,370 --> 01:20:57,630

No, to the apartment,
came to our apartment.

1441

01:20:57,630 --> 01:21:01,500

Can you paint a picture of how
he looked to you at that moment

1442

01:21:01,500 --> 01:21:02,620

when you saw him again?

1443

01:21:02,620 --> 01:21:05,830

1444

01:21:05,830 --> 01:21:15,650

Stranger, a stranger because
when he left he wasn't fat,

1445

01:21:15,650 --> 01:21:22,930

but he was a little over normal.

1446
01:21:22,930 --> 01:21:31,330
My father had red hair, and
a red mustache, and a goatee,

1447
01:21:31,330 --> 01:21:36,365
and now this skinny
person who's all gray--

1448
01:21:36,365 --> 01:21:39,050

1449
01:21:39,050 --> 01:21:42,400
I didn't know who he was.

1450
01:21:42,400 --> 01:21:43,285
How did he behave?

1451
01:21:43,285 --> 01:21:47,470

1452
01:21:47,470 --> 01:21:50,110
Geez, it's hard to tell.

1453
01:21:50,110 --> 01:21:58,530
All I know is he was here in
this country for two days,

1454
01:21:58,530 --> 01:22:04,630
and we lived in Manhattan
then in the 80s, 87th Street,

1455
01:22:04,630 --> 01:22:06,730
something like that.

1456
01:22:06,730 --> 01:22:14,500
And he went into a bakery, and
it was a German Jewish section.

1457
01:22:14,500 --> 01:22:17,710
And he said, my
name is Max Mayer.

1458
01:22:17,710 --> 01:22:22,550

I'm a master baker,
and I want a job.

1459
01:22:22,550 --> 01:22:23,940
This was two days after.

1460
01:22:23,940 --> 01:22:25,190
And he got it.

1461
01:22:25,190 --> 01:22:29,320

1462
01:22:29,320 --> 01:22:32,900
And a very hard worker.

1463
01:22:32,900 --> 01:22:36,520

1464
01:22:36,520 --> 01:22:38,800
Was he someone that--

1465
01:22:38,800 --> 01:22:41,650
how long did it take
or did it happen

1466
01:22:41,650 --> 01:22:46,630
that you got used to him again
and weren't afraid of him?

1467
01:22:46,630 --> 01:22:53,815
I can't really pin a time on it,
but I was the apple of his eye.

1468
01:22:53,815 --> 01:22:57,590

1469
01:22:57,590 --> 01:23:02,140
On the Jewish high
holidays, he would

1470
01:23:02,140 --> 01:23:06,460
have my mother buy me
a new dress, new shoes,

1471

01:23:06,460 --> 01:23:11,320
and he'd go to the
synagogue and--

1472
01:23:11,320 --> 01:23:13,720
in New York at that time--

1473
01:23:13,720 --> 01:23:17,830
this is-- I hate to say
it-- a long time ago--

1474
01:23:17,830 --> 01:23:20,530
children could walk
the streets safely.

1475
01:23:20,530 --> 01:23:23,530
So my father would go
to the services early,

1476
01:23:23,530 --> 01:23:28,330
and then I'd go about to
10:00, 11:00, all dressed up,

1477
01:23:28,330 --> 01:23:30,460
walk to the synagogue.

1478
01:23:30,460 --> 01:23:35,680
And he'd look back to see me,
and he'd bring me and sit me

1479
01:23:35,680 --> 01:23:38,080
next to him.

1480
01:23:38,080 --> 01:23:42,850
This was so wonderful
because he was strutting.

1481
01:23:42,850 --> 01:23:48,430
However, at the age
of 11, I developed,

1482
01:23:48,430 --> 01:23:50,950
and that year my mother
bought me a white dress.

1483

01:23:50,950 --> 01:23:53,560

1484

01:23:53,560 --> 01:23:56,036

And I did my usual.

1485

01:23:56,036 --> 01:24:01,090

I went to the synagogue not
thinking about anything,

1486

01:24:01,090 --> 01:24:05,230

and my father looked
back, saw me, escorted me,

1487

01:24:05,230 --> 01:24:07,000

sat me next to him.

1488

01:24:07,000 --> 01:24:10,525

All of a sudden, Jewish men--

1489

01:24:10,525 --> 01:24:12,660

you call what they do daven.

1490

01:24:12,660 --> 01:24:15,580

They say their prayers
out loud, and they're

1491

01:24:15,580 --> 01:24:22,210

davening the crescendo
rose because they saw now

1492

01:24:22,210 --> 01:24:24,910

I was developed.

1493

01:24:24,910 --> 01:24:27,070

The rabbi comes
down from what they

1494

01:24:27,070 --> 01:24:30,880

call the bima or
the platform, and he

1495

01:24:30,880 --> 01:24:36,880

asks my father and me to come
to the back of the synagogue.

1496
01:24:36,880 --> 01:24:42,730
And he says, Max, your daughter
has to sit with the women.

1497
01:24:42,730 --> 01:24:44,572
She's a woman now.

1498
01:24:44,572 --> 01:24:51,100
He says, my daughter
is my equal,

1499
01:24:51,100 --> 01:24:53,960
and she will sit next to me.

1500
01:24:53,960 --> 01:24:58,330
And if you don't approve,
I'm leaving this synagogue.

1501
01:24:58,330 --> 01:25:02,990
And he took off his shawl,
and he took me by my hand,

1502
01:25:02,990 --> 01:25:04,300
and he walked out.

1503
01:25:04,300 --> 01:25:06,080
He joined another synagogue.

1504
01:25:06,080 --> 01:25:11,540

1505
01:25:11,540 --> 01:25:17,150
So that made a big
impression on me, that--

1506
01:25:17,150 --> 01:25:20,030
well, I always thought
of myself as his equal.

1507
01:25:20,030 --> 01:25:24,650

1508
01:25:24,650 --> 01:25:30,410

I was no I never felt
different until I

1509
01:25:30,410 --> 01:25:31,555
wanted to go to college.

1510
01:25:31,555 --> 01:25:34,100

1511
01:25:34,100 --> 01:25:35,450
Then there was a conflict.

1512
01:25:35,450 --> 01:25:42,650
But as I was growing up,
we would have conversations

1513
01:25:42,650 --> 01:25:47,210
about everything, and
he respected my opinion,

1514
01:25:47,210 --> 01:25:51,500
even at the age of
12, and 13, or 14.

1515
01:25:51,500 --> 01:25:57,080
And I respected his.

1516
01:25:57,080 --> 01:25:59,830
Were you closer to him than
to your mother eventually?

1517
01:25:59,830 --> 01:26:02,230
Yes, yeah.

1518
01:26:02,230 --> 01:26:05,590
But I loved my mother more.

1519
01:26:05,590 --> 01:26:13,870
But for this very reason
I owe my life to her.

1520
01:26:13,870 --> 01:26:16,820
Even as young as I
was, I realized it.

1521

01:26:16,820 --> 01:26:20,950

And with the jewelry,
and the bribery,

1522

01:26:20,950 --> 01:26:30,150

and going to Gestapo
headquarters, my mother--

1523

01:26:30,150 --> 01:26:34,540

I usually had a hard-boiled
egg and toast for breakfast.

1524

01:26:34,540 --> 01:26:37,630

She would peel the
egg, slice the toast

1525

01:26:37,630 --> 01:26:40,660

in little bite-sized pieces.

1526

01:26:40,660 --> 01:26:41,815

This is when I was 18.

1527

01:26:41,815 --> 01:26:44,780

1528

01:26:44,780 --> 01:26:51,220

And it was a love-hate
relationship.

1529

01:26:51,220 --> 01:26:56,260

I don't know how I can
explain it other than that.

1530

01:26:56,260 --> 01:27:01,310

There were things I'd rather
not go into about that.

1531

01:27:01,310 --> 01:27:07,600

But it sounds to me that you
were also the apple of her eye.

1532

01:27:07,600 --> 01:27:10,690

Who would cut the
egg and the toast

1533

01:27:10,690 --> 01:27:13,420

when you already have a
teenager in the house?

1534

01:27:13,420 --> 01:27:14,590

They do it themselves.

1535

01:27:14,590 --> 01:27:19,910

1536

01:27:19,910 --> 01:27:23,910

Yeah, and I would
have conversations

1537

01:27:23,910 --> 01:27:27,986

with both of them, but I never
recall having a conversation

1538

01:27:27,986 --> 01:27:30,060

with the three of us.

1539

01:27:30,060 --> 01:27:32,880

It was always me
and one of them.

1540

01:27:32,880 --> 01:27:36,740

Did they get on
with one another?

1541

01:27:36,740 --> 01:27:37,990

I never saw much love.

1542

01:27:37,990 --> 01:27:41,020

1543

01:27:41,020 --> 01:27:41,980

No, they didn't.

1544

01:27:41,980 --> 01:27:44,950

1545

01:27:44,950 --> 01:27:51,400

It's not like Sam and I.
We're always kissing, even

1546
01:27:51,400 --> 01:27:53,660
at this stage of our life.

1547
01:27:53,660 --> 01:27:54,310
That's lovely.

1548
01:27:54,310 --> 01:27:57,180

1549
01:27:57,180 --> 01:28:00,785
No, I never saw much
love between them.

1550
01:28:00,785 --> 01:28:05,560
But yes, they both adored me.

1551
01:28:05,560 --> 01:28:12,220
Did they ever speak of what had
gone on in Germany in the 1930s

1552
01:28:12,220 --> 01:28:13,750
when you were older?

1553
01:28:13,750 --> 01:28:15,370
Never.

1554
01:28:15,370 --> 01:28:16,300
Never?

1555
01:28:16,300 --> 01:28:19,060
Never, never.

1556
01:28:19,060 --> 01:28:22,910
The only thing my
mother ever said

1557
01:28:22,910 --> 01:28:26,840
is America is the most
beautiful country in the world.

1558
01:28:26,840 --> 01:28:29,540
You can be anything you want.

1559

01:28:29,540 --> 01:28:32,980

This is the land of opportunity.

1560

01:28:32,980 --> 01:28:35,350

But they never spoke
about what went on.

1561

01:28:35,350 --> 01:28:40,440

As a matter of fact, I didn't
even know about the property.

1562

01:28:40,440 --> 01:28:41,710

I didn't know anything.

1563

01:28:41,710 --> 01:28:43,720

They never told me anything.

1564

01:28:43,720 --> 01:28:48,160

I didn't know that my mother's
father had eight brothers

1565

01:28:48,160 --> 01:28:50,410

and sisters that came
to the United States

1566

01:28:50,410 --> 01:28:53,530

in the early 1900s.

1567

01:28:53,530 --> 01:28:56,530

I knew nothing.

1568

01:28:56,530 --> 01:29:00,430

And people ask me, and it's
so hard for me to understand.

1569

01:29:00,430 --> 01:29:04,250

1570

01:29:04,250 --> 01:29:07,090

I also couldn't understand
why she didn't bring

1571

01:29:07,090 --> 01:29:08,860

my brother over from Israel.

1572
01:29:08,860 --> 01:29:15,190

1573
01:29:15,190 --> 01:29:21,280
And I'd ask questions, but if
you know me for a little while,

1574
01:29:21,280 --> 01:29:25,150
I ask a lot of questions.

1575
01:29:25,150 --> 01:29:27,150
But I wasn't given any answer.

1576
01:29:27,150 --> 01:29:28,815
I was given evasive answers.

1577
01:29:28,815 --> 01:29:32,920

1578
01:29:32,920 --> 01:29:37,130
But you accept them, you know?

1579
01:29:37,130 --> 01:29:40,010
Your grandfather-- did
he live on his own,

1580
01:29:40,010 --> 01:29:41,660
or did he live with you?

1581
01:29:41,660 --> 01:29:43,490
He lived with us for a while.

1582
01:29:43,490 --> 01:29:47,120

1583
01:29:47,120 --> 01:29:49,310
That's why-- he
was so clean, I had

1584
01:29:49,310 --> 01:29:52,650
to learn to control my
bladder because he monopolized

1585

01:29:52,650 --> 01:29:55,740
the bathroom.

1586

01:29:55,740 --> 01:29:58,730
The one bathroom.

1587

01:29:58,730 --> 01:30:03,860
And then for a little while
he went into a nursing home,

1588

01:30:03,860 --> 01:30:06,890
and I recall visiting him.

1589

01:30:06,890 --> 01:30:09,575
And then when I
was nine he died.

1590

01:30:09,575 --> 01:30:12,920
Oh, so he died very soon
after arriving here.

1591

01:30:12,920 --> 01:30:15,180
Yes, yeah.

1592

01:30:15,180 --> 01:30:18,530
Had he had his own business
when he was in Würzburg?

1593

01:30:18,530 --> 01:30:21,348
I don't know.

1594

01:30:21,348 --> 01:30:21,890
I don't know.

1595

01:30:21,890 --> 01:30:25,430

1596

01:30:25,430 --> 01:30:27,710
I tell this to my children.

1597

01:30:27,710 --> 01:30:32,630
I want them to know as
much as possible about me,

1598

01:30:32,630 --> 01:30:38,690
and Sam tells them about him
and his Spartan Greek heritage

1599

01:30:38,690 --> 01:30:44,870
because I was left with
so many blank spaces.

1600

01:30:44,870 --> 01:30:47,030
I can't answer.

1601

01:30:47,030 --> 01:30:48,480
I want to.

1602

01:30:48,480 --> 01:30:50,000
But you don't know.

1603

01:30:50,000 --> 01:30:52,910
But I don't know.

1604

01:30:52,910 --> 01:31:00,490
And Ursula-- when we went
to Germany on the survivors

1605

01:31:00,490 --> 01:31:02,090
group--

1606

01:31:02,090 --> 01:31:05,270
she's the retired OB-GYN.

1607

01:31:05,270 --> 01:31:10,530
She went to Munich and found
out so much about my father

1608

01:31:10,530 --> 01:31:12,435
that I didn't know.

1609

01:31:12,435 --> 01:31:12,935
For example?

1610

01:31:12,935 --> 01:31:16,046

1611

01:31:16,046 --> 01:31:18,660
I don't want to tell you.

1612
01:31:18,660 --> 01:31:24,480
My brother, Emile, was born--

1613
01:31:24,480 --> 01:31:31,080
I can't remember exactly the
year, but let's just say 1910.

1614
01:31:31,080 --> 01:31:36,330
He was born in April
of 1910, and they were

1615
01:31:36,330 --> 01:31:41,070
married in February of 1910.

1616
01:31:41,070 --> 01:31:43,570
I go, I wish I would have known
this when they were alive.

1617
01:31:43,570 --> 01:31:44,945
I've could have
blackmailed them.

1618
01:31:44,945 --> 01:31:46,130
Yeah, exactly.

1619
01:31:46,130 --> 01:31:48,640
Don't put that.

1620
01:31:48,640 --> 01:31:52,810
Such information
is worth something.

1621
01:31:52,810 --> 01:31:58,420
And there are so
a blanks, and she

1622
01:31:58,420 --> 01:32:04,450
was able to give me the
city he was born in.

1623
01:32:04,450 --> 01:32:08,170
There were only seven Jews

there and when he left and went

1624

01:32:08,170 --> 01:32:13,570
to Würzburg, how ambitious
he was to buy this building

1625

01:32:13,570 --> 01:32:23,140
at the age of 22, how well
respected he was and obviously

1626

01:32:23,140 --> 01:32:27,130
by the students
at the university.

1627

01:32:27,130 --> 01:32:31,780
And even the packers
down at the pier that

1628

01:32:31,780 --> 01:32:34,540
packed my mother's furniture--

1629

01:32:34,540 --> 01:32:35,785
they knew her on sight.

1630

01:32:35,785 --> 01:32:41,110

1631

01:32:41,110 --> 01:32:45,540
So there are a lot
of spaces in my life,

1632

01:32:45,540 --> 01:32:47,780
and I have no
information on them.

1633

01:32:47,780 --> 01:32:49,570
I wish I did, but I don't.

1634

01:32:49,570 --> 01:32:52,390
Did your parents
ever talk about--

1635

01:32:52,390 --> 01:32:55,690
if they didn't talk
about the bad times,

1636
01:32:55,690 --> 01:32:58,510
did they ever talk about
their own childhoods?

1637
01:32:58,510 --> 01:33:01,023
No.

1638
01:33:01,023 --> 01:33:02,440
And your grandfather--
did he ever

1639
01:33:02,440 --> 01:33:04,460
talk about when your
mother was little?

1640
01:33:04,460 --> 01:33:06,960
No.

1641
01:33:06,960 --> 01:33:09,030
Or himself when he was little?

1642
01:33:09,030 --> 01:33:10,990
No.

1643
01:33:10,990 --> 01:33:13,015
I had to figure
everything out for myself.

1644
01:33:13,015 --> 01:33:15,640

1645
01:33:15,640 --> 01:33:18,140
I learned to play basketball.

1646
01:33:18,140 --> 01:33:20,140
I learned English.

1647
01:33:20,140 --> 01:33:25,000
There was a teacher when I went
to first grade, and I was old.

1648
01:33:25,000 --> 01:33:26,980
I was seven and a half.

1649
01:33:26,980 --> 01:33:31,210
And she indicated to me
that she wanted me to stay

1650
01:33:31,210 --> 01:33:32,860
after school every day--

1651
01:33:32,860 --> 01:33:35,690

1652
01:33:35,690 --> 01:33:38,660
I didn't understand
her, but I figured it--

1653
01:33:38,660 --> 01:33:41,050
to teach me English.

1654
01:33:41,050 --> 01:33:46,900
For a year, every day
this Polish teacher

1655
01:33:46,900 --> 01:33:54,040
taught me English, and I
credit her with so much for--

1656
01:33:54,040 --> 01:33:58,120
and also in teaching
me the language, making

1657
01:33:58,120 --> 01:34:04,390
me aware of things in
science, in the animal world.

1658
01:34:04,390 --> 01:34:08,020
And she taught me well.

1659
01:34:08,020 --> 01:34:11,470
Halloween, when she
hid pennies, I always

1660
01:34:11,470 --> 01:34:14,560
found the most of them.

1661

01:34:14,560 --> 01:34:16,570
Do you remember her name?

1662
01:34:16,570 --> 01:34:20,473
Yes, Mrs. [PERSONAL NAME].

1663
01:34:20,473 --> 01:34:21,140
[PERSONAL NAME]?

1664
01:34:21,140 --> 01:34:21,410
[PERSONAL NAME]

1665
01:34:21,410 --> 01:34:22,035
[PERSONAL NAME]

1666
01:34:22,035 --> 01:34:24,600

1667
01:34:24,600 --> 01:34:26,260
Yes.

1668
01:34:26,260 --> 01:34:28,390
And you went to school where?

1669
01:34:28,390 --> 01:34:29,170
In what part of--

1670
01:34:29,170 --> 01:34:30,450
In Manhattan.

1671
01:34:30,450 --> 01:34:31,990
In the Upper West Side?

1672
01:34:31,990 --> 01:34:32,810
Yes.

1673
01:34:32,810 --> 01:34:33,760
Oh, no.

1674
01:34:33,760 --> 01:34:34,550
Wait a minute.

1675
01:34:34,550 --> 01:34:35,780

Let me think now.

1676

01:34:35,780 --> 01:34:39,130

Yeah, I started
school in Manhattan,

1677

01:34:39,130 --> 01:34:42,640

but then we moved to the Bronx.

1678

01:34:42,640 --> 01:34:44,650

But I can't remember what year.

1679

01:34:44,650 --> 01:34:53,340

We moved to the Bronx
maybe after two years,

1680

01:34:53,340 --> 01:34:59,760

but by that time, I
was really well-versed

1681

01:34:59,760 --> 01:35:00,960

in the English language.

1682

01:35:00,960 --> 01:35:04,260

As a matter of fact, I became
my parents' interpreter.

1683

01:35:04,260 --> 01:35:06,240

Well, that was going
to be my next question

1684

01:35:06,240 --> 01:35:08,430

is, what language did
you speak at home still?

1685

01:35:08,430 --> 01:35:09,360

German.

1686

01:35:09,360 --> 01:35:11,070

And they continued
to speak German?

1687

01:35:11,070 --> 01:35:14,370

Yes, yeah.

1688

01:35:14,370 --> 01:35:16,640

That's why I was on--

1689

01:35:16,640 --> 01:35:20,900

one of the committees

that in here in Brockton

1690

01:35:20,900 --> 01:35:26,820

was the linguistic-- the

Immersion of Children

1691

01:35:26,820 --> 01:35:32,520

from Foreign Countries into

the Second Language class.

1692

01:35:32,520 --> 01:35:35,160

And I said I didn't

think it was necessary,

1693

01:35:35,160 --> 01:35:38,650

that it was a waste of

money, and the superintendent

1694

01:35:38,650 --> 01:35:41,880

of the school and

I were like this.

1695

01:35:41,880 --> 01:35:47,950

So the woman who was in charge

of the bilingual program said,

1696

01:35:47,950 --> 01:35:52,200

oh, you cannot imagine how hard

it is for a child who comes

1697

01:35:52,200 --> 01:35:56,130

from a foreign country,

doesn't know a word of English,

1698

01:35:56,130 --> 01:36:00,430

and goes into a class where

only English is spoken.

1699

01:36:00,430 --> 01:36:02,990

And the superintendent of the

school is sitting next to me

1700

01:36:02,990 --> 01:36:04,320
there, smiling.

1701

01:36:04,320 --> 01:36:09,870
He says, I'd like Inge Protentis
to discuss this with you.

1702

01:36:09,870 --> 01:36:14,550
I can't remember her name, but
I knew she hated me after this.

1703

01:36:14,550 --> 01:36:19,560
I said, I'm one of those
children who came from Germany.

1704

01:36:19,560 --> 01:36:21,480
I went into a classroom.

1705

01:36:21,480 --> 01:36:24,420
I had no idea what the
teacher would want.

1706

01:36:24,420 --> 01:36:25,320
She pointed.

1707

01:36:25,320 --> 01:36:26,730
I sat.

1708

01:36:26,730 --> 01:36:28,240
She said, get up.

1709

01:36:28,240 --> 01:36:28,740
I got up.

1710

01:36:28,740 --> 01:36:31,530

1711

01:36:31,530 --> 01:36:33,670
She said it was time to go home.

1712

01:36:33,670 --> 01:36:36,060
She showed me to

put on her coat.

1713

01:36:36,060 --> 01:36:43,030

I said, and I learned English,
and I skipped three classes

1714

01:36:43,030 --> 01:36:46,000

and graduated before I
was 18, even though I

1715

01:36:46,000 --> 01:36:48,480

was a year and a half behind.

1716

01:36:48,480 --> 01:36:53,080

So after that, that woman
wouldn't talk to me.

1717

01:36:53,080 --> 01:36:55,180

I mean I understand
it's her job,

1718

01:36:55,180 --> 01:37:00,250

and I understand that
with some children

1719

01:37:00,250 --> 01:37:05,530

it probably is very necessary,
especially if they're older.

1720

01:37:05,530 --> 01:37:09,300

But I still think immersion
into a language totally--

1721

01:37:09,300 --> 01:37:10,930

you learn quickly.

1722

01:37:10,930 --> 01:37:11,740

Usually.

1723

01:37:11,740 --> 01:37:15,260

Younger children, of course--
they're like sponges.

1724

01:37:15,260 --> 01:37:16,900

They pick this up very easily.

1725
01:37:16,900 --> 01:37:19,550

1726
01:37:19,550 --> 01:37:23,720
So it sounds like that was a
difference in policy decision,

1727
01:37:23,720 --> 01:37:26,330
and with policy
decision comes money,

1728
01:37:26,330 --> 01:37:28,210
so whether something
is going to be funded

1729
01:37:28,210 --> 01:37:32,560
or won't be funded and so on.

1730
01:37:32,560 --> 01:37:34,750
When you came to
the United States

1731
01:37:34,750 --> 01:37:40,140
on that ship where you
were seasick and so on

1732
01:37:40,140 --> 01:37:44,320
and saw corn that people were
eating in that dining room--

1733
01:37:44,320 --> 01:37:47,800
and so do you remember
when you first saw land?

1734
01:37:47,800 --> 01:37:50,860
Do you remember seeing
the Statue of Liberty?

1735
01:37:50,860 --> 01:38:00,030
Yes, the ship stopped
rocking from side

1736
01:38:00,030 --> 01:38:03,810
to side for quite a

while, and my mother

1737

01:38:03,810 --> 01:38:08,730
said, Inge, get dressed
in your best dress.

1738

01:38:08,730 --> 01:38:10,970
We're going to go
upstairs to the deck.

1739

01:38:10,970 --> 01:38:13,490

1740

01:38:13,490 --> 01:38:14,510
And I did.

1741

01:38:14,510 --> 01:38:18,612
We went upstairs, and it
was crowded with people.

1742

01:38:18,612 --> 01:38:23,090
But it was like, you
could hear a pin drop.

1743

01:38:23,090 --> 01:38:28,460
You would hear a woman
sobbing every once in a while,

1744

01:38:28,460 --> 01:38:29,930
and it was lined--

1745

01:38:29,930 --> 01:38:33,490
my mother pushed
me to the front,

1746

01:38:33,490 --> 01:38:41,330
and I couldn't understand what
there was about this big stone

1747

01:38:41,330 --> 01:38:47,790
lady that made people
cry until I knew

1748

01:38:47,790 --> 01:38:49,355
it was the Statue of Liberty.

1749
01:38:49,355 --> 01:38:52,350

1750
01:38:52,350 --> 01:38:54,270
As far as you know,
were other people

1751
01:38:54,270 --> 01:38:59,130
on that ship also
Jewish refugees?

1752
01:38:59,130 --> 01:39:00,270
I don't know.

1753
01:39:00,270 --> 01:39:04,890
I assume so, but there were
also Americans on this ship.

1754
01:39:04,890 --> 01:39:08,290
It was a huge ocean
liner called the Bremen.

1755
01:39:08,290 --> 01:39:08,790
The Bremen?

1756
01:39:08,790 --> 01:39:09,990
Bremen, SS--

1757
01:39:09,990 --> 01:39:11,010
Was it a German ship?

1758
01:39:11,010 --> 01:39:12,630
Yes.

1759
01:39:12,630 --> 01:39:14,850
And so that meant German
personnel on the ship?

1760
01:39:14,850 --> 01:39:16,940
Yes.

1761
01:39:16,940 --> 01:39:19,900
And here's the amazing thing.

1762
01:39:19,900 --> 01:39:24,620
Our room steward-- you
usually give them something.

1763
01:39:24,620 --> 01:39:26,630
At the end of the
voyage that day

1764
01:39:26,630 --> 01:39:28,520
when I saw the
Statue of Liberty,

1765
01:39:28,520 --> 01:39:31,780
he brought us a
huge fruit basket.

1766
01:39:31,780 --> 01:39:32,840
Did he?

1767
01:39:32,840 --> 01:39:34,080
Yes.

1768
01:39:34,080 --> 01:39:36,860
And we hadn't eaten
anything in five days.

1769
01:39:36,860 --> 01:39:39,440

1770
01:39:39,440 --> 01:39:42,680
Yeah, yeah.

1771
01:39:42,680 --> 01:39:44,500
And I tell this--

1772
01:39:44,500 --> 01:39:52,610
when I've spoken at the
schools, I've told the children,

1773
01:39:52,610 --> 01:39:58,040
they cannot imagine the feeling
that I had later on when I

1774

01:39:58,040 --> 01:40:04,820
realized what that
big stone lady meant.

1775
01:40:04,820 --> 01:40:06,360
And of course, they all knew.

1776
01:40:06,360 --> 01:40:09,170
They said, oh, it's
the Statue of Liberty.

1777
01:40:09,170 --> 01:40:13,410
And I said, yes, but it's
more than just a statue.

1778
01:40:13,410 --> 01:40:15,840
It has so much meaning.

1779
01:40:15,840 --> 01:40:19,040
It means you have freedom.

1780
01:40:19,040 --> 01:40:21,890
It means that no
one is watching you,

1781
01:40:21,890 --> 01:40:24,470
that no one is
judging you on where

1782
01:40:24,470 --> 01:40:31,640
you go to church or synagogue
or what country you come from.

1783
01:40:31,640 --> 01:40:35,600
It means that you are
free, free American.

1784
01:40:35,600 --> 01:40:42,190

1785
01:40:42,190 --> 01:40:46,240
And that moment will
always stay with me.

1786
01:40:46,240 --> 01:40:48,880

Did someone meet
you at the pier?

1787
01:40:48,880 --> 01:40:54,160
Yes, my uncle, my
uncle who originally--

1788
01:40:54,160 --> 01:40:55,050
Ludwig?

1789
01:40:55,050 --> 01:40:55,850
That uncle?

1790
01:40:55,850 --> 01:40:56,350
Ludwig?

1791
01:40:56,350 --> 01:40:57,510
Ludwig, good memory.

1792
01:40:57,510 --> 01:41:00,760
Ludwig met us at the pier, yes.

1793
01:41:00,760 --> 01:41:07,390
And we were driving to his
apartment through Times Square,

1794
01:41:07,390 --> 01:41:11,695
and I said, what's
wrong with these people?

1795
01:41:11,695 --> 01:41:13,940
They're not pulling
their shades down.

1796
01:41:13,940 --> 01:41:16,120
They have all the lights on.

1797
01:41:16,120 --> 01:41:19,390
Because in Germany, you
had to pull the shades

1798
01:41:19,390 --> 01:41:22,330
and keep it dark.

1799

01:41:22,330 --> 01:41:27,250
And I said, I don't see anybody
walking with the Star of David

1800
01:41:27,250 --> 01:41:33,010
on their sleeve,
and my uncle was

1801
01:41:33,010 --> 01:41:37,560
trying to explain to me
that they don't have to.

1802
01:41:37,560 --> 01:41:39,950
Did you stay with him?

1803
01:41:39,950 --> 01:41:43,350
We stayed with him
for about a week,

1804
01:41:43,350 --> 01:41:45,780
and then we got an apartment.

1805
01:41:45,780 --> 01:41:46,890
Your own apartment?

1806
01:41:46,890 --> 01:41:48,050
Our own apartment.

1807
01:41:48,050 --> 01:41:51,120
Now, here's my mother.

1808
01:41:51,120 --> 01:41:54,000
Most of her jewelry went
to save my father, which

1809
01:41:54,000 --> 01:41:56,730
was a very good cause.

1810
01:41:56,730 --> 01:42:02,820
But I saw her putting
a couple of things

1811
01:42:02,820 --> 01:42:08,040
into a cotton cloth which she
put into a teapot, which-- she

1812
01:42:08,040 --> 01:42:11,430
put the teapot into a
big pot and the big pot

1813
01:42:11,430 --> 01:42:14,430
into a bigger pot.

1814
01:42:14,430 --> 01:42:19,050
We get to Manhattan, and
there are the customs agents.

1815
01:42:19,050 --> 01:42:22,380
She got it out of Germany.

1816
01:42:22,380 --> 01:42:23,400
She comes down.

1817
01:42:23,400 --> 01:42:24,770
She says, let me help.

1818
01:42:24,770 --> 01:42:32,470
She starts carrying linens
up, pillows up, pots up,

1819
01:42:32,470 --> 01:42:33,730
and the pot.

1820
01:42:33,730 --> 01:42:37,020

1821
01:42:37,020 --> 01:42:39,350
And in the pot was--

1822
01:42:39,350 --> 01:42:40,560
there wasn't much left.

1823
01:42:40,560 --> 01:42:43,680

1824
01:42:43,680 --> 01:42:47,400
If you have time at the
end, I'll show you the pin.

1825

01:42:47,400 --> 01:42:48,770

I'd love to see it.

1826

01:42:48,770 --> 01:42:50,730

Do you still have a
piece of her jewelry?

1827

01:42:50,730 --> 01:42:51,630

Yes.

1828

01:42:51,630 --> 01:42:53,470

Oh, that's amazing.

1829

01:42:53,470 --> 01:42:54,310

That's amazing.

1830

01:42:54,310 --> 01:42:57,750

I would love to film it.

1831

01:42:57,750 --> 01:43:01,050

So she brings up the
pot, in which was--

1832

01:43:01,050 --> 01:43:02,070

The jewelry was.

1833

01:43:02,070 --> 01:43:04,800

1834

01:43:04,800 --> 01:43:07,520

So she got it passed
the Germans, got

1835

01:43:07,520 --> 01:43:09,960

it passed the customs agent.

1836

01:43:09,960 --> 01:43:16,270

That's why I said she was
daring, and she was a brave.

1837

01:43:16,270 --> 01:43:18,830

And she was smart.

1838

01:43:18,830 --> 01:43:21,370
Yeah.

1839
01:43:21,370 --> 01:43:26,500
And so she had enough money to
at least start, at least rent

1840
01:43:26,500 --> 01:43:29,440
the apartment, at
least be on her own

1841
01:43:29,440 --> 01:43:32,830
rather than live in the corner
of somebody else's place?

1842
01:43:32,830 --> 01:43:37,230
As far as I know because
we lived on our own.

1843
01:43:37,230 --> 01:43:39,220
And so you got all
of that furniture

1844
01:43:39,220 --> 01:43:42,010
that you didn't like so
much, the Baroque furniture

1845
01:43:42,010 --> 01:43:44,360
with the curlicues that
you'd have to dust later?

1846
01:43:44,360 --> 01:43:47,310
Well, [INAUDIBLE],, but
she had to buy beds,

1847
01:43:47,310 --> 01:43:50,140
and kitchen set, and
things like that.

1848
01:43:50,140 --> 01:43:53,980

1849
01:43:53,980 --> 01:43:58,540
And I was amazed that we
had just like five rooms.

1850

01:43:58,540 --> 01:44:00,845

1851

01:44:00,845 --> 01:44:02,095

Where's the rest of the rooms?

1852

01:44:02,095 --> 01:44:04,810

1853

01:44:04,810 --> 01:44:07,810

This is it.

1854

01:44:07,810 --> 01:44:10,360

Five rooms, upper Manhattan?

1855

01:44:10,360 --> 01:44:11,260

Not so bad.

1856

01:44:11,260 --> 01:44:12,280

No, but--

1857

01:44:12,280 --> 01:44:13,735

But you're used
to a whole house.

1858

01:44:13,735 --> 01:44:16,240

1859

01:44:16,240 --> 01:44:19,660

When your father came and
the second day he's here he

1860

01:44:19,660 --> 01:44:22,390

finds a job as a master baker--

1861

01:44:22,390 --> 01:44:26,620

tell me a little bit about
how things developed for him.

1862

01:44:26,620 --> 01:44:30,400

Did he eventually
strike out on his own?

1863

01:44:30,400 --> 01:44:31,510
Did he stay there?

1864
01:44:31,510 --> 01:44:32,070
Did he--

1865
01:44:32,070 --> 01:44:32,862
He opened a bakery.

1866
01:44:32,862 --> 01:44:36,430

1867
01:44:36,430 --> 01:44:46,430
He opened a bakery in the West
Bronx, and he was the baker.

1868
01:44:46,430 --> 01:44:48,935
My mother worked at
the counter, my sister

1869
01:44:48,935 --> 01:44:51,050
and my brother-in-law.

1870
01:44:51,050 --> 01:44:59,370
And as a matter of
fact, our best friends,

1871
01:44:59,370 --> 01:45:03,210
Charlie and Thelma
[PERSONAL NAME]----

1872
01:45:03,210 --> 01:45:08,530
her sister-in-law
lived in New York,

1873
01:45:08,530 --> 01:45:14,060
and when I told the story,
she goes, the Mayer bakery--

1874
01:45:14,060 --> 01:45:20,140
we used to stand in line
every Sunday to get in there.

1875
01:45:20,140 --> 01:45:24,270
I said, yeah, yeah.

1876
01:45:24,270 --> 01:45:25,980
Wow.

1877
01:45:25,980 --> 01:45:28,350
So he repeated his success?

1878
01:45:28,350 --> 01:45:29,500
He did.

1879
01:45:29,500 --> 01:45:33,660
But he was older now, and it
was getting harder for him.

1880
01:45:33,660 --> 01:45:37,635

1881
01:45:37,635 --> 01:45:39,532
And there were little
family squabbles.

1882
01:45:39,532 --> 01:45:42,930

1883
01:45:42,930 --> 01:45:49,390
Eventually they closed
the-- it was a huge success,

1884
01:45:49,390 --> 01:45:51,720
but my father made
it a success, and not

1885
01:45:51,720 --> 01:45:54,570
just was he a master baker.

1886
01:45:54,570 --> 01:45:59,190
His breads and rolls
were out of this world.

1887
01:45:59,190 --> 01:46:04,950
They were light and fluffy,
so it's not just cakes

1888
01:46:04,950 --> 01:46:07,680

which were works of art.

1889

01:46:07,680 --> 01:46:09,870

It was the whole thing.

1890

01:46:09,870 --> 01:46:11,370

Did you help him in the--

1891

01:46:11,370 --> 01:46:13,290

I did work there, yes.

1892

01:46:13,290 --> 01:46:14,220

What did you do?

1893

01:46:14,220 --> 01:46:15,820

What was your job?

1894

01:46:15,820 --> 01:46:18,140

I was behind the counter.

1895

01:46:18,140 --> 01:46:22,020

I sliced rye bread
on the slicer, yeah.

1896

01:46:22,020 --> 01:46:24,120

I weighed the stuff.

1897

01:46:24,120 --> 01:46:26,910

I looked up on the
chart how much it was.

1898

01:46:26,910 --> 01:46:28,927

And did you talk to
the customers in German

1899

01:46:28,927 --> 01:46:29,510

or in English?

1900

01:46:29,510 --> 01:46:30,320

English.

1901

01:46:30,320 --> 01:46:30,960

In English?

1902

01:46:30,960 --> 01:46:36,510

Oh, no, I spoke
only English, yeah.

1903

01:46:36,510 --> 01:46:39,090

And when you started
to grow up, you

1904

01:46:39,090 --> 01:46:43,110

said that that's when
your dad already--

1905

01:46:43,110 --> 01:46:46,920

it was harder for him to see
an equal sign between a girl

1906

01:46:46,920 --> 01:46:48,690

and a boy and have you--

1907

01:46:48,690 --> 01:46:51,810

how did this start,
this discussion of you

1908

01:46:51,810 --> 01:46:55,720

wanting to go to college
and him saying no?

1909

01:46:55,720 --> 01:47:00,330

Well, my teachers told
me-- at that time,

1910

01:47:00,330 --> 01:47:03,360

the City College New York
was very hard to get into.

1911

01:47:03,360 --> 01:47:06,120

It was very selective.

1912

01:47:06,120 --> 01:47:08,630

You had to have--

1913

01:47:08,630 --> 01:47:13,020

I can't remember if it was all
As and maybe a couple of Bs,

1914

01:47:13,020 --> 01:47:15,270
but I had them.

1915

01:47:15,270 --> 01:47:17,870
I was an all-As student.

1916

01:47:17,870 --> 01:47:19,840
I got a B once in something.

1917

01:47:19,840 --> 01:47:23,670
I can remember, probably art
because I'm a lousy artist.

1918

01:47:23,670 --> 01:47:28,170

1919

01:47:28,170 --> 01:47:32,460
And they encouraged me
to go, and they asked me

1920

01:47:32,460 --> 01:47:33,820
what I wanted to do.

1921

01:47:33,820 --> 01:47:40,620
And I said I wanted to be a
scientist like Madam Curie.

1922

01:47:40,620 --> 01:47:45,000
I wanted to find a
cure for something.

1923

01:47:45,000 --> 01:47:51,120
So they helped me fill out
the forms for City College.

1924

01:47:51,120 --> 01:47:52,470
I got accepted.

1925

01:47:52,470 --> 01:47:54,690
And like I said, it was
competitive at the time.

1926

01:47:54,690 --> 01:47:57,656
Right now all you need is a high

school diploma to get in there.

1927

01:47:57,656 --> 01:48:02,742

1928

01:48:02,742 --> 01:48:07,480

But it cost money, just
like a state school.

1929

01:48:07,480 --> 01:48:12,740

And my father said, I don't have
the money, and you're a woman.

1930

01:48:12,740 --> 01:48:15,060

And women don't
need an education.

1931

01:48:15,060 --> 01:48:17,660

1932

01:48:17,660 --> 01:48:21,440

And I said, so why'd
you let me go to school?

1933

01:48:21,440 --> 01:48:23,890

We had big arguments.

1934

01:48:23,890 --> 01:48:26,790

I said, why do we have
all these discussions?

1935

01:48:26,790 --> 01:48:30,970

You said you
respected my opinion.

1936

01:48:30,970 --> 01:48:32,510

But it didn't work.

1937

01:48:32,510 --> 01:48:36,030

So anyway, I got the job.

1938

01:48:36,030 --> 01:48:39,355

I met Sam, so it worked out.

1939

01:48:39,355 --> 01:48:40,690

Can we cut just for a second?

1940

01:48:40,690 --> 01:48:42,330

Of course.