

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,190

2
00:00:03,190 --> 00:00:06,520
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,520 --> 00:00:12,580
interview with Elise Garibaldi
on September 19th, 2019

4
00:00:12,580 --> 00:00:15,640
in Scarsdale, New York.

5
00:00:15,640 --> 00:00:19,420
Elise, we're going to have
an unusual kind of interview

6
00:00:19,420 --> 00:00:23,650
today because it is not
about the Holocaust,

7
00:00:23,650 --> 00:00:26,710
it is about post-Holocaust.

8
00:00:26,710 --> 00:00:31,300
And I want to talk to you
a little bit about how

9
00:00:31,300 --> 00:00:36,310
the events of that time has
affected you and influenced

10
00:00:36,310 --> 00:00:37,970
you, yourself.

11
00:00:37,970 --> 00:00:41,140
So I'm going to start
like I do all interviews,

12
00:00:41,140 --> 00:00:42,610

with basic questions.

13
00:00:42,610 --> 00:00:43,820
And we'll go from there.

14
00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:44,620
OK.

15
00:00:44,620 --> 00:00:46,090
Tell me, when were you born?

16
00:00:46,090 --> 00:00:47,530
What's the date of your birth?

17
00:00:47,530 --> 00:00:50,650
February 24th, 1978.

18
00:00:50,650 --> 00:00:51,910
And where were you born?

19
00:00:51,910 --> 00:00:53,350
In Queens, New York.

20
00:00:53,350 --> 00:00:56,170
And what was your name
when you were born?

21
00:00:56,170 --> 00:00:57,310
Elise Bahar.

22
00:00:57,310 --> 00:00:57,920
Elise Bahar.

23
00:00:57,920 --> 00:00:58,420
Mhm.

24
00:00:58,420 --> 00:00:59,470
OK.

25
00:00:59,470 --> 00:01:02,960
And do you have

brothers and sisters?

26

00:01:02,960 --> 00:01:04,780

Yes, I have one older brother.

27

00:01:04,780 --> 00:01:07,210

He's three years older,
and his name is Michael.

28

00:01:07,210 --> 00:01:08,410

OK.

29

00:01:08,410 --> 00:01:12,190

When you were
growing up, can you

30

00:01:12,190 --> 00:01:15,940

tell me a little bit about
your family, your parents

31

00:01:15,940 --> 00:01:17,500

and your grandparents?

32

00:01:17,500 --> 00:01:21,700

Did you know your grandparents
on both sides of your family?

33

00:01:21,700 --> 00:01:23,740

Yeah, I knew both.

34

00:01:23,740 --> 00:01:27,280

My paternal
grandparents live in--

35

00:01:27,280 --> 00:01:29,590

well, they used to live
in Istanbul, Turkey.

36

00:01:29,590 --> 00:01:31,600

So there was a distance there.

37

00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:34,360

So we'd go and visit
sometimes in the summers,

38
00:01:34,360 --> 00:01:35,800
but we weren't as close.

39
00:01:35,800 --> 00:01:39,310
It was mostly through
telephone conversations.

40
00:01:39,310 --> 00:01:42,670
But my maternal grandparents
live in Queens, New York,

41
00:01:42,670 --> 00:01:44,470
or lived in Queens, New York.

42
00:01:44,470 --> 00:01:47,830
And so they were
second parents to me.

43
00:01:47,830 --> 00:01:49,100
So we were very close.

44
00:01:49,100 --> 00:01:51,700
I even lived there
until the age of three.

45
00:01:51,700 --> 00:01:56,780
And I still see my grandmother
once a week, every other week.

46
00:01:56,780 --> 00:01:57,690
That's a lot.

47
00:01:57,690 --> 00:01:59,230
Yeah.

48
00:01:59,230 --> 00:02:02,350
So tell me your parents'
names, first of all.

49

00:02:02,350 --> 00:02:04,810
My mother's name is Ruth
Bahar, and my father's name

50
00:02:04,810 --> 00:02:05,890
is [? Salim ?] Bahar.

51
00:02:05,890 --> 00:02:06,790
OK.

52
00:02:06,790 --> 00:02:09,639
And your paternal
grandparents' names,

53
00:02:09,639 --> 00:02:11,410
the ones who live in Istanbul?

54
00:02:11,410 --> 00:02:13,890
Yes, [? Elias ?]
and [? Eliza. ?]

55
00:02:13,890 --> 00:02:14,390
OK.

56
00:02:14,390 --> 00:02:14,890
Bahar.

57
00:02:14,890 --> 00:02:15,580
Bahar.

58
00:02:15,580 --> 00:02:17,690
And your maternal grandparents.

59
00:02:17,690 --> 00:02:18,190
Yes.

60
00:02:18,190 --> 00:02:20,620
Inge Berger and Sam Berger.

61
00:02:20,620 --> 00:02:25,040
And can I ask, what is your--

62

00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:27,190
in Europe, we would
say confession.

63

00:02:27,190 --> 00:02:28,180
What is your religion?

64

00:02:28,180 --> 00:02:29,450
Oh, Jewish.

65

00:02:29,450 --> 00:02:29,950
OK.

66

00:02:29,950 --> 00:02:30,520
On both sides?

67

00:02:30,520 --> 00:02:31,320
On both sides, yes.

68

00:02:31,320 --> 00:02:32,890
On both sides of the family.

69

00:02:32,890 --> 00:02:38,410
And was your family in any
way touched or impacted

70

00:02:38,410 --> 00:02:40,990
by the Holocaust, the
older generations?

71

00:02:40,990 --> 00:02:42,670
Oh, tremendously.

72

00:02:42,670 --> 00:02:46,420
My grandparents are both
survivors, my grandmother

73

00:02:46,420 --> 00:02:48,970
from the concentration
camp Theresienstadt,

74

00:02:48,970 --> 00:02:52,300
and my grandfather met her
while he was in Theresienstadt,

75
00:02:52,300 --> 00:02:54,760
but then he also went to
Auschwitz and then Dachau.

76
00:02:54,760 --> 00:02:55,442
OK.

77
00:02:55,442 --> 00:02:57,400
So this is on your mother's
side of the family?

78
00:02:57,400 --> 00:02:58,690
On my mother's
side of the family.

79
00:02:58,690 --> 00:03:00,523
What about your father's
side of the family?

80
00:03:00,523 --> 00:03:03,070
They're actually descendants
of the Spanish Inquisition

81
00:03:03,070 --> 00:03:08,500
of 1492, so they were expelled
from Spain at that time,

82
00:03:08,500 --> 00:03:11,290
and they've been living
in Turkey ever since then,

83
00:03:11,290 --> 00:03:13,280
for the past 500 or so years.

84
00:03:13,280 --> 00:03:15,115
OK, so that's that
branch of the family.

85
00:03:15,115 --> 00:03:18,010

Yeah, so there's persecution
actually on both sides, yeah.

86
00:03:18,010 --> 00:03:19,570
Yeah.

87
00:03:19,570 --> 00:03:25,480
OK, let's focus on your
maternal grandparents.

88
00:03:25,480 --> 00:03:27,070
How well did you know--

89
00:03:27,070 --> 00:03:28,780
or do you know your grandfather?

90
00:03:28,780 --> 00:03:30,860
How well do you know
your grandmother?

91
00:03:30,860 --> 00:03:33,070
Yeah, I know them
both very well.

92
00:03:33,070 --> 00:03:38,380
I spent every weekend in
their homes growing up,

93
00:03:38,380 --> 00:03:40,420
probably until I was a teenager.

94
00:03:40,420 --> 00:03:45,280
And my grandfather
passed away 14 years ago.

95
00:03:45,280 --> 00:03:49,090
So up until then, he was a
very integral part of my life.

96
00:03:49,090 --> 00:03:51,620
And my grandmother
is still alive.

97

00:03:51,620 --> 00:03:54,730

She's 95 years old, and
I see her regularly.

98

00:03:54,730 --> 00:03:56,740

Can you tell me,
did they talk to you

99

00:03:56,740 --> 00:04:00,160

much about their own childhoods,
their own growing up years,

100

00:04:00,160 --> 00:04:01,570

their own youth?

101

00:04:01,570 --> 00:04:05,590

No, they never really
spoke about that.

102

00:04:05,590 --> 00:04:08,470

The furthest of their past
that they would speak about

103

00:04:08,470 --> 00:04:10,870

was during their time
in the Holocaust.

104

00:04:10,870 --> 00:04:13,820

They would actually-- that was
pretty regular conversations

105

00:04:13,820 --> 00:04:14,410

for us.

106

00:04:14,410 --> 00:04:18,760

So you did know about
the Holocaust years.

107

00:04:18,760 --> 00:04:20,649

Yeah, very much so.

108

00:04:20,649 --> 00:04:23,343

Since I was little,
like I said, when

109
00:04:23,343 --> 00:04:24,760
I'd spend the
weekends there and I

110
00:04:24,760 --> 00:04:27,400
wouldn't finish all
the food off my plate,

111
00:04:27,400 --> 00:04:28,510
I would get a lecture.

112
00:04:28,510 --> 00:04:30,970
You know, we were
starving, you're so lucky.

113
00:04:30,970 --> 00:04:33,550
And we were never allowed to
leave any food on our plate.

114
00:04:33,550 --> 00:04:35,890
So I didn't-- you know, it
was as much as a child could

115
00:04:35,890 --> 00:04:40,330
handle, but I did know that
they met in this period called

116
00:04:40,330 --> 00:04:43,000
the Holocaust, where they
never had enough food,

117
00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:44,710
and they were
treated very poorly.

118
00:04:44,710 --> 00:04:48,730
So I mean, as early
as the age of five on,

119
00:04:48,730 --> 00:04:52,630

I was hearing these things as a lesson for me.

120
00:04:52,630 --> 00:04:53,260
OK, so it--

121
00:04:53,260 --> 00:04:53,890
To shape me.

122
00:04:53,890 --> 00:04:57,610
--it wasn't so much of this is our story and these are

123
00:04:57,610 --> 00:05:00,940
the details as much as knowing that we-- well,

124
00:05:00,940 --> 00:05:03,830
you wouldn't know, but they knew what they had been through,

125
00:05:03,830 --> 00:05:06,625
and they saw you, and you didn't want to finish the food

126
00:05:06,625 --> 00:05:07,250
on your plate--

127
00:05:07,250 --> 00:05:07,990
Right, yeah.

128
00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:09,740
--and that's something that you had to do.

129
00:05:09,740 --> 00:05:10,100
Right.

130
00:05:10,100 --> 00:05:11,780
Well, those were my earliest memories.

131

00:05:11,780 --> 00:05:14,870
And then as I got older,
they would speak more about

132
00:05:14,870 --> 00:05:18,200
how they met and fell in love,
which I was fascinated with,

133
00:05:18,200 --> 00:05:22,070
about how they weren't
allowed to have flowers

134
00:05:22,070 --> 00:05:24,170
in the concentration
camps, and how

135
00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:26,960
my grandfather risked
his life on her birthday

136
00:05:26,960 --> 00:05:28,640
to give her this flower.

137
00:05:28,640 --> 00:05:33,240
So I was told about these heroic
and inspirational acts of love.

138
00:05:33,240 --> 00:05:35,120
And I think it was
through those stories,

139
00:05:35,120 --> 00:05:36,710
I mean, probably
as early as eight,

140
00:05:36,710 --> 00:05:43,550
on that made me have this
view, this ideal form

141
00:05:43,550 --> 00:05:46,640
and belief in the
value and the validity

142

00:05:46,640 --> 00:05:49,760
and the truth of real love.

143
00:05:49,760 --> 00:05:51,980
So they very much influenced me.

144
00:05:51,980 --> 00:05:53,060
That's a huge thing.

145
00:05:53,060 --> 00:05:54,170
It's enormous.

146
00:05:54,170 --> 00:05:57,410
I met my husband, actually,
around the same age

147
00:05:57,410 --> 00:06:00,170
my grandmother, as a teenager,
that my grandmother met.

148
00:06:00,170 --> 00:06:01,950
And everyone says,
oh, it's impossible,

149
00:06:01,950 --> 00:06:03,920
you can't find real
love as a teenager.

150
00:06:03,920 --> 00:06:06,590
And we're here together
25 years later.

151
00:06:06,590 --> 00:06:08,300
And that was because
of the stories.

152
00:06:08,300 --> 00:06:09,950
I said, well, if my
grandmother did it.

153
00:06:09,950 --> 00:06:12,510
And we got married at the
same age and everything.

154
00:06:12,510 --> 00:06:15,470
So she is a very big
influence on my life.

155
00:06:15,470 --> 00:06:20,360
And did you at school--

156
00:06:20,360 --> 00:06:22,310
you know, that's a
personal circle, that's

157
00:06:22,310 --> 00:06:24,170
a personal kind of influence.

158
00:06:24,170 --> 00:06:27,440
At school, what did
you learn or find out

159
00:06:27,440 --> 00:06:29,480
about the Holocaust,
if anything?

160
00:06:29,480 --> 00:06:33,590
Yeah, so we were educated
in the United States,

161
00:06:33,590 --> 00:06:36,260
or at least in New York,
in the seventh grade.

162
00:06:36,260 --> 00:06:41,390
And that was when I learned
more about the Holocaust

163
00:06:41,390 --> 00:06:44,930
and on a larger scale, not just
necessarily how it affected

164
00:06:44,930 --> 00:06:48,200
my grandparents, but how it
affected the Jewish community,

165

00:06:48,200 --> 00:06:49,580
and what it meant to the world.

166

00:06:49,580 --> 00:06:52,520
And to be honest, that was
extremely traumatizing.

167

00:06:52,520 --> 00:06:56,240
That was the first time I
had ever seen the images

168

00:06:56,240 --> 00:06:59,240
and found out about the numbers.

169

00:06:59,240 --> 00:07:06,230
And ironically, I was so
afraid, it was really a trauma,

170

00:07:06,230 --> 00:07:08,510
that I actually ran
from that history.

171

00:07:08,510 --> 00:07:11,030
It was almost too much
to bear, especially

172

00:07:11,030 --> 00:07:12,740
as a 13-year-old girl.

173

00:07:12,740 --> 00:07:16,910
I didn't have the emotional
capacity to really handle that.

174

00:07:16,910 --> 00:07:19,730
And because I was always
told, for example,

175

00:07:19,730 --> 00:07:22,700
we always had to have a passport
ready because you never know

176

00:07:22,700 --> 00:07:24,740

when something would happen.

177

00:07:24,740 --> 00:07:26,510

And that was just what
I grew up knowing.

178

00:07:26,510 --> 00:07:28,790

And then at 13 in
school, when I found out

179

00:07:28,790 --> 00:07:31,760

what would happen if we
didn't have our passport,

180

00:07:31,760 --> 00:07:34,650

it's very much a reality.

181

00:07:34,650 --> 00:07:37,160

And I really couldn't
handle it, and I ran away

182

00:07:37,160 --> 00:07:41,280

from that for many years.

183

00:07:41,280 --> 00:07:42,870

Did you come back to it?

184

00:07:42,870 --> 00:07:44,340

Yes.

185

00:07:44,340 --> 00:07:46,770

How and why?

186

00:07:46,770 --> 00:07:47,820

It's strange.

187

00:07:47,820 --> 00:07:50,820

One day-- well, my
grandfather had passed,

188

00:07:50,820 --> 00:07:54,390

and my grandmother

was turning 88.

189

00:07:54,390 --> 00:07:59,070

And all of a sudden, through
of a moment of inspiration--

190

00:07:59,070 --> 00:08:00,600

I was getting ready
in the morning--

191

00:08:00,600 --> 00:08:03,870

I just felt, you have
to write her story.

192

00:08:03,870 --> 00:08:06,095

And I don't know who
I was speaking to--

193

00:08:06,095 --> 00:08:08,220

I was speaking to myself,
I guess-- and I was like,

194

00:08:08,220 --> 00:08:10,290

no, no, I can't handle that.

195

00:08:10,290 --> 00:08:12,690

I can't handle the
emotional burden, and also

196

00:08:12,690 --> 00:08:15,330

the responsibility
to those who have

197

00:08:15,330 --> 00:08:19,650

been lost, to the history of
it, to the people alive today.

198

00:08:19,650 --> 00:08:23,280

It was too large a task, I
thought, for me to handle.

199

00:08:23,280 --> 00:08:25,440

And like I said, I had

always run away from it.

200
00:08:25,440 --> 00:08:27,960

201
00:08:27,960 --> 00:08:31,230
But it was just compelling, no,
you have to write the story,

202
00:08:31,230 --> 00:08:32,610
you have to tell the story.

203
00:08:32,610 --> 00:08:34,380
Was this like an inner voice?

204
00:08:34,380 --> 00:08:36,429
Yeah, exactly.

205
00:08:36,429 --> 00:08:39,419
And I was really
afraid, so immediately

206
00:08:39,419 --> 00:08:42,539
after these five
minutes of epiphany

207
00:08:42,539 --> 00:08:44,670
that I had to write her
story, I immediately

208
00:08:44,670 --> 00:08:46,080
called my grandmother.

209
00:08:46,080 --> 00:08:48,400
And I told her, I'm going
to write your story.

210
00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:50,100
And the reason I
did that is that,

211
00:08:50,100 --> 00:08:53,520

once I told her and voiced
it and made that commitment

212
00:08:53,520 --> 00:08:55,500
that I would be the one
responsible for telling

213
00:08:55,500 --> 00:08:58,050
her story, then I couldn't
back out from fear.

214
00:08:58,050 --> 00:09:01,080
So I held myself, I made
that contract with her

215
00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:04,290
in that moment
because I knew somehow

216
00:09:04,290 --> 00:09:05,402
it's what I needed to do.

217
00:09:05,402 --> 00:09:06,360
It was the right thing.

218
00:09:06,360 --> 00:09:07,277
And how did she react?

219
00:09:07,277 --> 00:09:09,940

220
00:09:09,940 --> 00:09:12,660
So it's a long process.

221
00:09:12,660 --> 00:09:14,893
At first-- she's
very private, and she

222
00:09:14,893 --> 00:09:16,560
doesn't like to--
like I said, she never

223

00:09:16,560 --> 00:09:18,727
really spoke about the
particulars of the Holocaust,

224
00:09:18,727 --> 00:09:20,640
just really about
her relationship

225
00:09:20,640 --> 00:09:23,710
with my grandfather and they
didn't have enough to eat.

226
00:09:23,710 --> 00:09:27,330
So she's very private, and
so she didn't really want to.

227
00:09:27,330 --> 00:09:29,548
And but she's like, you
know what, I'll do that.

228
00:09:29,548 --> 00:09:31,590
She was always very
supportive and loving for me,

229
00:09:31,590 --> 00:09:34,310
but she would agree
to do it for me.

230
00:09:34,310 --> 00:09:37,122
But she would say, but
this is only for our family

231
00:09:37,122 --> 00:09:38,580
so we have a record
for the family.

232
00:09:38,580 --> 00:09:40,470
And I said, well,
no, I would really--

233
00:09:40,470 --> 00:09:42,600
I always found her
story so inspirational,

234

00:09:42,600 --> 00:09:46,980

like I said, about love
and about their morality

235

00:09:46,980 --> 00:09:48,870

and they never lost
their faith, I always

236

00:09:48,870 --> 00:09:50,470

found her very inspiring.

237

00:09:50,470 --> 00:09:52,530

So I said, the world
should hear about that,

238

00:09:52,530 --> 00:09:55,450

because others would
also find that inspiring.

239

00:09:55,450 --> 00:09:58,110

So I told her I'd really
want to publish it.

240

00:09:58,110 --> 00:10:00,300

And she's like, oh, so
OK, just for the family.

241

00:10:00,300 --> 00:10:05,370

And I was like, no, but
OK, if that helps you.

242

00:10:05,370 --> 00:10:09,270

I was very clear, but
I had to remind her.

243

00:10:09,270 --> 00:10:11,790

I interviewed her for
about a year and a half.

244

00:10:11,790 --> 00:10:12,550

Oh, wow.

245

00:10:12,550 --> 00:10:14,130
It took a long time.

246
00:10:14,130 --> 00:10:16,500
Did you interview her
on tape, or did you

247
00:10:16,500 --> 00:10:17,970
just sit down and talk to her?

248
00:10:17,970 --> 00:10:21,150
no it's actually funny, I
sat down and talked to her,

249
00:10:21,150 --> 00:10:23,730
and she gave me this
stack of papers.

250
00:10:23,730 --> 00:10:25,890
My son was little
and liked to draw,

251
00:10:25,890 --> 00:10:27,750
and she gave a stack
of papers for him.

252
00:10:27,750 --> 00:10:30,990
And it was actually
the stationery

253
00:10:30,990 --> 00:10:35,010
of her father in Bremen,
from his company.

254
00:10:35,010 --> 00:10:37,350
And my mother says,
oh, why don't you

255
00:10:37,350 --> 00:10:38,910
write all your notes on this?

256
00:10:38,910 --> 00:10:42,090
And I just thought that

was just such an amazing--

257
00:10:42,090 --> 00:10:42,750
Idea.

258
00:10:42,750 --> 00:10:46,070
Yeah, I was like that's
really beautiful and poetic.

259
00:10:46,070 --> 00:10:49,230
And so I wrote down the
interview completely

260
00:10:49,230 --> 00:10:51,480
on his stationery,
just with my hand.

261
00:10:51,480 --> 00:10:52,530
So you would take notes.

262
00:10:52,530 --> 00:10:53,380
I just took notes.

263
00:10:53,380 --> 00:10:53,880
Notes.

264
00:10:53,880 --> 00:10:55,140
And then I'd go back.

265
00:10:55,140 --> 00:10:57,180
We'd meet once a week
or every other week,

266
00:10:57,180 --> 00:10:59,790
and I would write everything
that I understood.

267
00:10:59,790 --> 00:11:04,020
And then she's very
German in that everything

268
00:11:04,020 --> 00:11:07,240

has to be very, very
perfect and accurate.

269
00:11:07,240 --> 00:11:11,040
And so she'd go over
everything that I possibly

270
00:11:11,040 --> 00:11:12,720
didn't get accurately.

271
00:11:12,720 --> 00:11:15,780
Those were tense moments.

272
00:11:15,780 --> 00:11:17,580
Yeah, but we did it.

273
00:11:17,580 --> 00:11:20,460
Yeah, it took a year and a half,
but we got through those years,

274
00:11:20,460 --> 00:11:20,960
yeah.

275
00:11:20,960 --> 00:11:23,040
And those were which years?

276
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:24,330
So that was--

277
00:11:24,330 --> 00:11:28,260
I wanted to start when did it
become real to her, when did--

278
00:11:28,260 --> 00:11:32,100
No, no, I'm asking
the year that you

279
00:11:32,100 --> 00:11:36,030
started this process, these
interviews, what year was that.

280
00:11:36,030 --> 00:11:38,290

Oh, so that was seven years ago.

281

00:11:38,290 --> 00:11:39,670

So that would be 2012?

282

00:11:39,670 --> 00:11:40,170

Yeah.

283

00:11:40,170 --> 00:11:41,070

2012, 2013.

284

00:11:41,070 --> 00:11:41,570

Mhm.

285

00:11:41,570 --> 00:11:42,240

Yeah.

286

00:11:42,240 --> 00:11:44,730

And then let's go to the other
what years did you start,

287

00:11:44,730 --> 00:11:46,810

meaning the way
you understood it.

288

00:11:46,810 --> 00:11:50,560

So I just said, when did
the war become real to you?

289

00:11:50,560 --> 00:11:51,060

OK.

290

00:11:51,060 --> 00:11:52,920

So for her, it was
when she was 13

291

00:11:52,920 --> 00:11:54,240

and the night of Kristallnacht.

292

00:11:54,240 --> 00:11:56,310

And I said, well, then
that's a perfect time

293
00:11:56,310 --> 00:11:57,530
to start the story.

294
00:11:57,530 --> 00:11:58,860
OK.

295
00:11:58,860 --> 00:12:01,980
And I knew where I wanted to
end it, as well, which was easy.

296
00:12:01,980 --> 00:12:08,850
It was after she and her
now husband separated,

297
00:12:08,850 --> 00:12:11,790
when they would find each
other again after the war.

298
00:12:11,790 --> 00:12:12,570
OK.

299
00:12:12,570 --> 00:12:15,270
So is it basically a love story?

300
00:12:15,270 --> 00:12:16,470
It is a love story.

301
00:12:16,470 --> 00:12:19,110
It's not only a
romantic love story.

302
00:12:19,110 --> 00:12:22,440
Yes, that was the initial
idea, was how beautiful

303
00:12:22,440 --> 00:12:27,120
their relationship was, but
it's a much larger love story.

304
00:12:27,120 --> 00:12:28,980
It's the only

reason they survived

305

00:12:28,980 --> 00:12:31,530

is because the family
was really so close

306

00:12:31,530 --> 00:12:34,360

and they risked their lives for
each other on a daily basis.

307

00:12:34,360 --> 00:12:39,090

So it was love of a daughter
to a mother and to a father

308

00:12:39,090 --> 00:12:42,260

and to the cousin, her
best friend that she lost,

309

00:12:42,260 --> 00:12:44,900

and the other relatives
that she lost,

310

00:12:44,900 --> 00:12:48,560

as well as it was a love
for the Jewish people,

311

00:12:48,560 --> 00:12:50,450

because even when
they had nothing,

312

00:12:50,450 --> 00:12:52,920

they never turned on each
other, and they always shared

313

00:12:52,920 --> 00:12:54,320

the little bit that they had.

314

00:12:54,320 --> 00:12:57,350

And that meant the
difference of life and death.

315

00:12:57,350 --> 00:12:58,490

And they would always--

316
00:12:58,490 --> 00:13:02,328
I talk about in the book when
my grandfather was working

317
00:13:02,328 --> 00:13:04,370
in the bakery, and he had
just had his first date

318
00:13:04,370 --> 00:13:05,660
with my grandmother.

319
00:13:05,660 --> 00:13:09,230
And when he dropped her off, he
saw that her mother was really

320
00:13:09,230 --> 00:13:10,760
in bad shape and starving.

321
00:13:10,760 --> 00:13:12,860
And he was always given
a little extra food

322
00:13:12,860 --> 00:13:14,240
for working in the bakery.

323
00:13:14,240 --> 00:13:16,760
And he then, from then
on, after that first night

324
00:13:16,760 --> 00:13:19,533
of meeting her, would give
it to the family to share.

325
00:13:19,533 --> 00:13:21,950
And that could have meant the
difference of life and death

326
00:13:21,950 --> 00:13:22,910
for himself.

327
00:13:22,910 --> 00:13:25,250

And he had that, and he gave it.

328

00:13:25,250 --> 00:13:27,610

And with other
prisoners, as well.

329

00:13:27,610 --> 00:13:31,460

So it was not only a love story
romantically, but of family

330

00:13:31,460 --> 00:13:34,070

and of community, and of God.

331

00:13:34,070 --> 00:13:35,900

They never lost
their faith in God.

332

00:13:35,900 --> 00:13:37,850

Well, that's also crucial.

333

00:13:37,850 --> 00:13:39,020

It was extremely crucial.

334

00:13:39,020 --> 00:13:40,437

That's the only
way they survived.

335

00:13:40,437 --> 00:13:42,710

336

00:13:42,710 --> 00:13:44,810

Before your grandfather
passed, did you ever

337

00:13:44,810 --> 00:13:47,240

have a chance to
interview him or talk

338

00:13:47,240 --> 00:13:51,620

to him about how he would have
expressed the same experiences?

339

00:13:51,620 --> 00:13:53,030
Well, he did write a book.

340
00:13:53,030 --> 00:13:53,705
Oh, he did?

341
00:13:53,705 --> 00:13:56,050
He also did write a book,
yeah, about his time.

342
00:13:56,050 --> 00:13:58,850
And so when my
book branches off,

343
00:13:58,850 --> 00:14:04,250
a lot of the information that
I used was from his own words

344
00:14:04,250 --> 00:14:05,930
when he wrote his own story.

345
00:14:05,930 --> 00:14:08,030
And it was published, his book?

346
00:14:08,030 --> 00:14:10,490
It was-- was it
officially published?

347
00:14:10,490 --> 00:14:11,700
Yeah, I think so.

348
00:14:11,700 --> 00:14:12,350
OK.

349
00:14:12,350 --> 00:14:14,330
OK, all right.

350
00:14:14,330 --> 00:14:15,720
Do you know the title of it?

351
00:14:15,720 --> 00:14:17,690
Yeah, it's The Face of Hell.

352
00:14:17,690 --> 00:14:18,660
The Face of Hell.

353
00:14:18,660 --> 00:14:19,160
Mhm.

354
00:14:19,160 --> 00:14:21,110
And it's by Samuel Berger?

355
00:14:21,110 --> 00:14:21,890
Sam Berger.

356
00:14:21,890 --> 00:14:24,620
Sam Berger.

357
00:14:24,620 --> 00:14:27,020
OK, so what happened
with your book?

358
00:14:27,020 --> 00:14:29,960
Once you did all this and you
wrote it down, what happened?

359
00:14:29,960 --> 00:14:31,970
It really just took
off right away.

360
00:14:31,970 --> 00:14:33,030
It was amazing.

361
00:14:33,030 --> 00:14:35,750
And it was funny because a
lot of publishers and people

362
00:14:35,750 --> 00:14:39,500
in general told me, well, the
Holocaust is such a sad subject

363
00:14:39,500 --> 00:14:43,670
matter, no one's going to be
interested in hearing about it.

364
00:14:43,670 --> 00:14:46,490
And it was quite the opposite.

365
00:14:46,490 --> 00:14:48,140
A few months after
I released it,

366
00:14:48,140 --> 00:14:49,910
it was already a bestseller.

367
00:14:49,910 --> 00:14:53,480
And with no promotions
and no publicity.

368
00:14:53,480 --> 00:14:55,070
And it was just
through word of mouth.

369
00:14:55,070 --> 00:14:55,460
And that was it.

370
00:14:55,460 --> 00:14:56,627
What's the name of the book?

371
00:14:56,627 --> 00:14:59,810
Roses in a Forbidden Garden:
A Holocaust Love Story.

372
00:14:59,810 --> 00:15:02,060
And who published it?

373
00:15:02,060 --> 00:15:03,970
Decalogue Books.

374
00:15:03,970 --> 00:15:04,490
Deca?

375
00:15:04,490 --> 00:15:05,660
Decalogue Books.

376

00:15:05,660 --> 00:15:07,855
How do you spell that?

377
00:15:07,855 --> 00:15:12,260
D-E-C-A-L-O-G-U-E.

378
00:15:12,260 --> 00:15:14,130
OK.

379
00:15:14,130 --> 00:15:15,380
Are they a New York publisher?

380
00:15:15,380 --> 00:15:16,600
Yeah, they're in New York.

381
00:15:16,600 --> 00:15:17,510
OK.

382
00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:20,630
And so you started
having book sales?

383
00:15:20,630 --> 00:15:21,350
Yeah.

384
00:15:21,350 --> 00:15:23,160
All right.

385
00:15:23,160 --> 00:15:25,490
And then people
just heard about it,

386
00:15:25,490 --> 00:15:28,070
and I had articles,
which generated

387
00:15:28,070 --> 00:15:30,260
more sales and more interest.

388
00:15:30,260 --> 00:15:35,900
And I even made it into
a play, because people

389
00:15:35,900 --> 00:15:37,940
were saying, well,
wouldn't it be a great idea

390
00:15:37,940 --> 00:15:41,280
if schools could have like
a multimedia approach?

391
00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:44,300
And so I wrote it
as a play, and then

392
00:15:44,300 --> 00:15:47,090
I didn't really like it
because I don't actually

393
00:15:47,090 --> 00:15:50,700
like dramatic theater that much,
but I love musical theater.

394
00:15:50,700 --> 00:15:53,390
So then I wrote music
for it, and so now it's

395
00:15:53,390 --> 00:15:54,865
a musical theater production.

396
00:15:54,865 --> 00:15:55,490
Oh my goodness.

397
00:15:55,490 --> 00:15:55,990
Yeah.

398
00:15:55,990 --> 00:15:59,800
And has it been
produced already here?

399
00:15:59,800 --> 00:16:02,660
It has been performed, but
we're looking for producers.

400

00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:06,020
So we've performed it in New
York and in several venues,

401

00:16:06,020 --> 00:16:10,590
even in the town hall of Bremen,
Germany to their parliament.

402

00:16:10,590 --> 00:16:12,800
So it was very
well-received, and we

403

00:16:12,800 --> 00:16:14,300
had great coverage on it.

404

00:16:14,300 --> 00:16:16,440
And that was just
not even a year ago.

405

00:16:16,440 --> 00:16:19,580
So we're looking to-- we've had
many invitations to bring it

406

00:16:19,580 --> 00:16:22,880
to other theaters, and so now
we just need a good production

407

00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:24,390
company to help us do that.

408

00:16:24,390 --> 00:16:26,420
So in other words, you
brought it to Germany.

409

00:16:26,420 --> 00:16:29,570
It ended up in Germany, and that
is where your grandmother came

410

00:16:29,570 --> 00:16:30,650
from, is that correct?

411

00:16:30,650 --> 00:16:31,940
Yes, from her city in Germany.

412
00:16:31,940 --> 00:16:33,440
And that city is?

413
00:16:33,440 --> 00:16:34,580
Bremen, Germany.

414
00:16:34,580 --> 00:16:35,720
OK.

415
00:16:35,720 --> 00:16:38,690
So was your book--

416
00:16:38,690 --> 00:16:39,830
did it reach Germany?

417
00:16:39,830 --> 00:16:41,030
Was it translated?

418
00:16:41,030 --> 00:16:42,830
Yeah, so it was--

419
00:16:42,830 --> 00:16:48,230
after we attained a
lot of success already,

420
00:16:48,230 --> 00:16:52,910
it showed that people are really
interested in these stories

421
00:16:52,910 --> 00:16:54,320
from the Holocaust.

422
00:16:54,320 --> 00:16:59,840
And so they translated
it and published it

423
00:16:59,840 --> 00:17:01,480
outside of Berlin, Germany.

424
00:17:01,480 --> 00:17:01,980

OK.

425

00:17:01,980 --> 00:17:04,220

So it's now in Germany, and
taught in schools there.

426

00:17:04,220 --> 00:17:04,869

That's amazing.

427

00:17:04,869 --> 00:17:05,369

Yeah.

428

00:17:05,369 --> 00:17:08,599

That's amazing, from
five minutes one day

429

00:17:08,599 --> 00:17:11,329

when you were getting ready
and an inner voice tells you

430

00:17:11,329 --> 00:17:12,730

I've got to write this story.

431

00:17:12,730 --> 00:17:13,880

Yeah.

432

00:17:13,880 --> 00:17:16,200

Do you know the
German publisher?

433

00:17:16,200 --> 00:17:16,700

Yes.

434

00:17:16,700 --> 00:17:19,284

My mother has a better
pronunciation of it.

435

00:17:19,284 --> 00:17:20,260

[GERMAN]

436

00:17:20,260 --> 00:17:21,619

[GERMAN]

437
00:17:21,619 --> 00:17:22,369
OK.

438
00:17:22,369 --> 00:17:26,805
And do you know its title
in Germany, in German?

439
00:17:26,805 --> 00:17:27,680
It's OK, [INAUDIBLE].

440
00:17:27,680 --> 00:17:29,030
It's the direct translation.

441
00:17:29,030 --> 00:17:31,130
[GERMAN]

442
00:17:31,130 --> 00:17:33,200
[GERMAN]

443
00:17:33,200 --> 00:17:34,640
Yeah.

444
00:17:34,640 --> 00:17:35,480
OK.

445
00:17:35,480 --> 00:17:38,660
How has the story
developed within Bremen?

446
00:17:38,660 --> 00:17:41,910
That is, your book comes out.

447
00:17:41,910 --> 00:17:42,410
Yeah.

448
00:17:42,410 --> 00:17:46,490
Did you go and you
give book talks

449
00:17:46,490 --> 00:17:48,330

and meet people and so on?

450
00:17:48,330 --> 00:17:49,550
So tell me how that has gone.

451
00:17:49,550 --> 00:17:53,090
So we had the premiere
in December of 2018.

452
00:17:53,090 --> 00:17:57,320
And I used it as an opportunity
to also bring a bit of a show

453
00:17:57,320 --> 00:17:59,992
there, as well, just to
make it more interesting.

454
00:17:59,992 --> 00:18:01,700
I like everything to
be a big production.

455
00:18:01,700 --> 00:18:02,360
OK.

456
00:18:02,360 --> 00:18:04,850
So we did that.

457
00:18:04,850 --> 00:18:07,610
And while we were there,
we met with the parliament

458
00:18:07,610 --> 00:18:09,680
and the vice president
of the parliament.

459
00:18:09,680 --> 00:18:11,090
And it was so well-received.

460
00:18:11,090 --> 00:18:13,340
I mean, we spoke to
so many journalists.

461

00:18:13,340 --> 00:18:16,160

462

00:18:16,160 --> 00:18:19,290

We went to maybe 10
different schools.

463

00:18:19,290 --> 00:18:21,350

And one of them,
interestingly enough,

464

00:18:21,350 --> 00:18:23,390

was the school
that my grandmother

465

00:18:23,390 --> 00:18:27,290

was no longer allowed to
attend from the age of 13 on.

466

00:18:27,290 --> 00:18:29,447

And so you gave a performance
there, or reading.

467

00:18:29,447 --> 00:18:30,530

That wasn't a performance.

468

00:18:30,530 --> 00:18:33,040

They fortunately didn't
have the technological setup

469

00:18:33,040 --> 00:18:35,340

to support that.

470

00:18:35,340 --> 00:18:39,050

But my mother and
a few other people

471

00:18:39,050 --> 00:18:41,090

spoke and gave the presentation.

472

00:18:41,090 --> 00:18:42,980

And it was very emotional.

473

00:18:42,980 --> 00:18:47,030

And the staff and
the students were so

474

00:18:47,030 --> 00:18:49,670

moved that they're
actually trying

475

00:18:49,670 --> 00:18:53,030

to rename the school
after my grandmother.

476

00:18:53,030 --> 00:18:54,080

That's huge.

477

00:18:54,080 --> 00:18:54,710

Yeah.

478

00:18:54,710 --> 00:18:58,190

And it's already passed, I
think, three rounds of votes,

479

00:18:58,190 --> 00:18:59,977

and it has one more step to go.

480

00:18:59,977 --> 00:19:02,060

So we're crossing our
fingers, because that's just

481

00:19:02,060 --> 00:19:03,740

so beautiful.

482

00:19:03,740 --> 00:19:05,510

She was forced to
sit way in the back,

483

00:19:05,510 --> 00:19:09,560

and she was forced to
listen to the principal

484

00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:14,810

in his Nazi uniform give lesson

plans about how the Jews were

485

00:19:14,810 --> 00:19:18,470
subhuman and they're
the-- you know,

486

00:19:18,470 --> 00:19:22,837
every bit of Nazi ideology
against the Jewish people.

487

00:19:22,837 --> 00:19:24,920
And she was forced to sit
in the back of the class

488

00:19:24,920 --> 00:19:27,860
with her cousin, eventually
expelled from school,

489

00:19:27,860 --> 00:19:30,650
and now, because of
her story they want

490

00:19:30,650 --> 00:19:32,040
to name the school after her.

491

00:19:32,040 --> 00:19:33,450
I mean, it's just incredible.

492

00:19:33,450 --> 00:19:33,950
That's huge.

493

00:19:33,950 --> 00:19:38,150
Well, it's also because
you had that inspiration.

494

00:19:38,150 --> 00:19:41,750
So did you meet anybody there
who knew your grandparents?

495

00:19:41,750 --> 00:19:45,350
Was there anybody
left in Bremen who

496

00:19:45,350 --> 00:19:48,680

might have even known the family or anything like that?

497

00:19:48,680 --> 00:19:52,070

They knew of him more than they knew him.

498

00:19:52,070 --> 00:19:56,000

His old secretary is still alive, and we met with her.

499

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:58,910

But for the most part, he was very influential.

500

00:19:58,910 --> 00:20:01,670

He was a large name in his community,

501

00:20:01,670 --> 00:20:03,620

and in West Germany in general.

502

00:20:03,620 --> 00:20:06,200

He was very integral in the East-West relations

503

00:20:06,200 --> 00:20:07,070

after the war.

504

00:20:07,070 --> 00:20:07,830

Was he really?

505

00:20:07,830 --> 00:20:11,420

Yeah, so he's a very known personality there.

506

00:20:11,420 --> 00:20:12,920

Tell me, what was his name?

507

00:20:12,920 --> 00:20:13,970

Carl Katz.

508
00:20:13,970 --> 00:20:16,160
And how do I spell Katz?

509
00:20:16,160 --> 00:20:17,690
K-A-T-Z.

510
00:20:17,690 --> 00:20:19,400
And Carl also with
a K, or with a--

511
00:20:19,400 --> 00:20:19,900
C.

512
00:20:19,900 --> 00:20:20,540
--with a C.

513
00:20:20,540 --> 00:20:21,040
Mhm.

514
00:20:21,040 --> 00:20:23,410
So it's C-A-R-L K-A-T-Z.

515
00:20:23,410 --> 00:20:23,960
Yeah.

516
00:20:23,960 --> 00:20:24,890
OK.

517
00:20:24,890 --> 00:20:27,720
And so you knew of
people who knew of him.

518
00:20:27,720 --> 00:20:28,220
Mhm.

519
00:20:28,220 --> 00:20:30,930
You met them who
knew who he was.

520
00:20:30,930 --> 00:20:31,430

Yes.

521
00:20:31,430 --> 00:20:33,590
Do you know how
he was influential

522
00:20:33,590 --> 00:20:35,990
in East-West relations?

523
00:20:35,990 --> 00:20:39,620
He was in the Commerce
and the trade of--

524
00:20:39,620 --> 00:20:42,770
and just bridging the
divide of the two, correct?

525
00:20:42,770 --> 00:20:45,050
He was the president
of the Commerce

526
00:20:45,050 --> 00:20:49,550
Group, which was the initial
link between East and West

527
00:20:49,550 --> 00:20:50,130
Germany.

528
00:20:50,130 --> 00:20:50,630
OK.

529
00:20:50,630 --> 00:20:52,250
He was its president.

530
00:20:52,250 --> 00:20:54,500
In Bremen, or in West Germany?

531
00:20:54,500 --> 00:20:57,590
No, no, this was in
West-East Germany,

532
00:20:57,590 --> 00:21:02,150

because he was the link between
East when the wall was still

533
00:21:02,150 --> 00:21:02,940
up.

534
00:21:02,940 --> 00:21:03,440
OK.

535
00:21:03,440 --> 00:21:04,590
He was bridging the wall.

536
00:21:04,590 --> 00:21:06,920
So this was before the
wall came down, of course.

537
00:21:06,920 --> 00:21:08,450
Yes.

538
00:21:08,450 --> 00:21:10,940
And the headquarters
of this organization,

539
00:21:10,940 --> 00:21:13,730
because he was the president,
was in Bremen, Germany.

540
00:21:13,730 --> 00:21:17,270
OK, so your mother just
spoke and she's not miked up,

541
00:21:17,270 --> 00:21:22,424
but she said that this was
his role in this trade--

542
00:21:22,424 --> 00:21:23,300
Commerce Group.

543
00:21:23,300 --> 00:21:27,650
--Commerce Group was for
the entire West Germany.

544

00:21:27,650 --> 00:21:30,590
It happened to be
headquartered in Bremen.

545
00:21:30,590 --> 00:21:33,260
And it was while
the wall was up.

546
00:21:33,260 --> 00:21:36,500
So that would have
been after 1961,

547
00:21:36,500 --> 00:21:40,520
when the wall did come up,
and before it came down.

548
00:21:40,520 --> 00:21:44,290
At any rate, he had a prominent
role in post-war Germany.

549
00:21:44,290 --> 00:21:44,790
Yes.

550
00:21:44,790 --> 00:21:45,080
Very much so.

551
00:21:45,080 --> 00:21:46,730
So there are people
who knew of him.

552
00:21:46,730 --> 00:21:50,075
In other words, one could even
say there's a story about him.

553
00:21:50,075 --> 00:21:53,360
We may not have it written
down, but his story

554
00:21:53,360 --> 00:21:56,570
didn't end when the war ended.

555
00:21:56,570 --> 00:22:01,850
No, he loved-- he fought in

World War I for his fatherland.

556

00:22:01,850 --> 00:22:03,350

He loved Germany.

557

00:22:03,350 --> 00:22:06,260

He saw the Holocaust
and World War II

558

00:22:06,260 --> 00:22:09,500

as a very small amount of time.

559

00:22:09,500 --> 00:22:14,910

He was about 40 years
old when World War II--

560

00:22:14,910 --> 00:22:15,410

Happened.

561

00:22:15,410 --> 00:22:15,770

--broke out.

562

00:22:15,770 --> 00:22:16,400

Exactly.

563

00:22:16,400 --> 00:22:19,670

So for him, that was like
a glitch in his experience.

564

00:22:19,670 --> 00:22:22,220

He, first and foremost,
loved Germany,

565

00:22:22,220 --> 00:22:25,580

and believed he was a German
before he was even a Jew.

566

00:22:25,580 --> 00:22:27,613

Obviously, Germany
disagreed with that,

567

00:22:27,613 --> 00:22:29,030

but he had a love
for the country.

568
00:22:29,030 --> 00:22:31,190
So he wanted to actually,
believe it or not,

569
00:22:31,190 --> 00:22:35,120
wanted to rebuild
Germany after the war.

570
00:22:35,120 --> 00:22:38,060
And so he stayed, whereas
almost everyone else left.

571
00:22:38,060 --> 00:22:39,620
They were the only
family to actually

572
00:22:39,620 --> 00:22:41,660
return alive to Bremen.

573
00:22:41,660 --> 00:22:45,055
And he wanted to stay
there and help recover it.

574
00:22:45,055 --> 00:22:45,555
OK.

575
00:22:45,555 --> 00:22:46,160
Yeah.

576
00:22:46,160 --> 00:22:52,550
So when you're-- did you ever
know your great grandfather?

577
00:22:52,550 --> 00:22:54,590
No, he passed away
before I was born.

578
00:22:54,590 --> 00:22:55,640
OK.

579

00:22:55,640 --> 00:23:01,330

And what kind of
reception did your book

580

00:23:01,330 --> 00:23:04,390

have in Bremen amongst--

581

00:23:04,390 --> 00:23:07,180

you talked about the parliament,
you talked about the schools.

582

00:23:07,180 --> 00:23:07,690

Yeah.

583

00:23:07,690 --> 00:23:12,310

Did you get any kind of
response from the public?

584

00:23:12,310 --> 00:23:14,710

Yeah, it was a bit divided.

585

00:23:14,710 --> 00:23:17,650

I was shocked at how
well it was received,

586

00:23:17,650 --> 00:23:19,720

and that gave me so much hope.

587

00:23:19,720 --> 00:23:23,260

And back to that
initial feeling,

588

00:23:23,260 --> 00:23:25,280

I was like, OK,
this is important,

589

00:23:25,280 --> 00:23:27,970

I'm glad I followed
my instincts.

590

00:23:27,970 --> 00:23:31,390

And then we did receive

opposition, which I did expect.

591

00:23:31,390 --> 00:23:32,470

I expected more of.

592

00:23:32,470 --> 00:23:35,350

593

00:23:35,350 --> 00:23:36,760

Talk to me about that.

594

00:23:36,760 --> 00:23:38,200

Talk to me about
that opposition.

595

00:23:38,200 --> 00:23:39,910

What form did it take?

596

00:23:39,910 --> 00:23:41,560

Well, it was still--

597

00:23:41,560 --> 00:23:46,630

we were still faced
with, I guess, racism.

598

00:23:46,630 --> 00:23:48,490

We were interviewed
by journalists,

599

00:23:48,490 --> 00:23:53,050

and they would ask questions,
well, because I'm blonde

600

00:23:53,050 --> 00:23:57,370

and I didn't fit into the
stereotype of the Jew that

601

00:23:57,370 --> 00:23:59,260

were on the Nazi
propaganda posters,

602

00:23:59,260 --> 00:24:00,940

they're like, well,
how Jewish are you?

603
00:24:00,940 --> 00:24:01,900
Are you really Jewish?

604
00:24:01,900 --> 00:24:03,310
Are your grandparents?

605
00:24:03,310 --> 00:24:07,120
So things like that, where
I saw that they still

606
00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:10,090
had their preconceived
notions of who Jews were.

607
00:24:10,090 --> 00:24:12,340
They couldn't believe
that I could be Jew,

608
00:24:12,340 --> 00:24:14,710
whatever that meant.

609
00:24:14,710 --> 00:24:17,200
Another journalist
was saying to me, oh,

610
00:24:17,200 --> 00:24:20,080
so you want us to
perceive you as normal.

611
00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:24,490
And I'm like, well,
no, we are normal.

612
00:24:24,490 --> 00:24:26,570
I'm just telling their story.

613
00:24:26,570 --> 00:24:28,600
So just little things like that.

614

00:24:28,600 --> 00:24:34,970
And also, there was not an
outcry, but all of a sudden,

615
00:24:34,970 --> 00:24:35,930
we started to--

616
00:24:35,930 --> 00:24:38,140
for example, we were
actually supposed

617
00:24:38,140 --> 00:24:41,260
to premiere the book, the
translated version a year

618
00:24:41,260 --> 00:24:43,570
before it actually was.

619
00:24:43,570 --> 00:24:48,640
But mysteriously, publishers
no longer wanted to publish it,

620
00:24:48,640 --> 00:24:54,070
and we were removed from the
venue in favor of somebody

621
00:24:54,070 --> 00:24:59,920
who is actually anti-Semitic,
who is known and actually puts

622
00:24:59,920 --> 00:25:02,490
out anti-Semitic literature.

623
00:25:02,490 --> 00:25:05,610
And so we were told--

624
00:25:05,610 --> 00:25:08,760
different accusations
were placed on Carl Katz.

625
00:25:08,760 --> 00:25:09,900
Such as?

626

00:25:09,900 --> 00:25:14,880

Such as he was complicit,
and he was as responsible,

627

00:25:14,880 --> 00:25:19,978

if not more so, for Jews dying
as were the Gestapo, that he

628

00:25:19,978 --> 00:25:21,270

was somehow responsible for it.

629

00:25:21,270 --> 00:25:22,860

How did you hear of this?

630

00:25:22,860 --> 00:25:26,040

How did that news come to you?

631

00:25:26,040 --> 00:25:27,990

So basically, when
we were planning

632

00:25:27,990 --> 00:25:31,380

to go to Germany for the
premiere of the book,

633

00:25:31,380 --> 00:25:32,910

we had made contacts.

634

00:25:32,910 --> 00:25:36,210

And one such resident
actually told us

635

00:25:36,210 --> 00:25:37,260

about what was happening.

636

00:25:37,260 --> 00:25:39,630

And interestingly
enough, his father

637

00:25:39,630 --> 00:25:42,720

was Carl Katz's
apprentice, and not Jewish.

638

00:25:42,720 --> 00:25:46,950
But he had grown up with stories
about this amazing man, Carl

639

00:25:46,950 --> 00:25:49,290
Katz, and it was actually
a role model to him,

640

00:25:49,290 --> 00:25:51,030
even though he
had never met him.

641

00:25:51,030 --> 00:25:53,310
So he was appalled,
and he recognized

642

00:25:53,310 --> 00:25:57,480
that this is very typical
anti-Semitic rhetoric.

643

00:25:57,480 --> 00:26:01,110
But tell me, I mean,
what did he hear

644

00:26:01,110 --> 00:26:05,250
and where did he hear it from?

645

00:26:05,250 --> 00:26:07,920
He passes on to you
some kind of information

646

00:26:07,920 --> 00:26:11,370
about your own blood
relative, a grandfather who

647

00:26:11,370 --> 00:26:12,980
happens to have been prominent.

648

00:26:12,980 --> 00:26:13,950
Yeah.

649

00:26:13,950 --> 00:26:16,350
What did he base his news on?

650
00:26:16,350 --> 00:26:19,170
So the person that
was replacing us

651
00:26:19,170 --> 00:26:22,540
for this speech at
a commemoration of--

652
00:26:22,540 --> 00:26:23,170
Can we cut?

653
00:26:23,170 --> 00:26:23,670
What?

654
00:26:23,670 --> 00:26:24,900
Oh, you don't want
to talk about this.

655
00:26:24,900 --> 00:26:25,530
No.

656
00:26:25,530 --> 00:26:27,360
OK.

657
00:26:27,360 --> 00:26:30,600
So Elise, tell me, were
you really familiar

658
00:26:30,600 --> 00:26:34,020
with the sources
that this apprentice,

659
00:26:34,020 --> 00:26:36,180
the son of the apprentice
of your father had?

660
00:26:36,180 --> 00:26:38,210
Did you know anything
about those sources?

661

00:26:38,210 --> 00:26:41,700

No, I didn't personally
know anything about that.

662

00:26:41,700 --> 00:26:44,460

He then communicated
with my mother.

663

00:26:44,460 --> 00:26:48,210

And that's where this
investigation and everything

664

00:26:48,210 --> 00:26:49,117

took off from there.

665

00:26:49,117 --> 00:26:50,700

So this would have
been the first time

666

00:26:50,700 --> 00:26:55,680

you had heard anything negative
about your great grandfather?

667

00:26:55,680 --> 00:26:57,720

Up until that point,
I had only known

668

00:26:57,720 --> 00:26:59,040

that he was very celebrated.

669

00:26:59,040 --> 00:27:03,690

They still have his name up
on his old office building.

670

00:27:03,690 --> 00:27:06,810

There's a street named
after him in Bremen.

671

00:27:06,810 --> 00:27:09,510

And I had only heard stories
about all the amazing things

672

00:27:09,510 --> 00:27:12,540
he had done from relatives, that
he had taken in after the war

673
00:27:12,540 --> 00:27:14,610
and gotten them
back on their feet.

674
00:27:14,610 --> 00:27:18,660
So we were very, very
shocked at this news

675
00:27:18,660 --> 00:27:24,090
that basically they're painting
him as evil, as a face of evil.

676
00:27:24,090 --> 00:27:26,940
And that was in direct
opposition of anything

677
00:27:26,940 --> 00:27:29,250
that we had either
experienced or heard.

678
00:27:29,250 --> 00:27:30,450
OK.

679
00:27:30,450 --> 00:27:33,300
Well, Elise, I know
that there would

680
00:27:33,300 --> 00:27:38,070
be more to talk about, but
thank you very much for sharing

681
00:27:38,070 --> 00:27:42,000
what you have and what you did.

682
00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:45,030
As I said, this interview
was a little bit different

683
00:27:45,030 --> 00:27:47,760

from most of those,
because most of the time,

684
00:27:47,760 --> 00:27:51,854
the story of the Holocaust
ends with the Holocaust.

685
00:27:51,854 --> 00:27:53,880
Yeah.

686
00:27:53,880 --> 00:28:00,300
And your involvement sounds
like it had an amazing effect,

687
00:28:00,300 --> 00:28:04,410
but it also brought up
something that hadn't been

688
00:28:04,410 --> 00:28:05,865
known before by the family.

689
00:28:05,865 --> 00:28:06,750
Right.

690
00:28:06,750 --> 00:28:07,500
OK?

691
00:28:07,500 --> 00:28:09,065
Well, thank you for sharing it.

692
00:28:09,065 --> 00:28:09,690
Yes, thank you.

693
00:28:09,690 --> 00:28:13,800
And I'll say that this concludes
the United States Holocaust

694
00:28:13,800 --> 00:28:18,510
Memorial Museum with Elise
Garibaldi on September 19th,

695
00:28:18,510 --> 00:28:20,230

2019.

696

00:28:20,230 --> 00:28:21,990

And now we're going
to welcome your mom,

697

00:28:21,990 --> 00:28:25,240

because she's going to pick up
on some of what happened there.

698

00:28:25,240 --> 00:28:25,740

Perfect.

699

00:28:25,740 --> 00:28:27,620

Thank you.