

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,800
I'm starting again.

2
00:00:01,800 --> 00:00:02,940
All right.

3
00:00:02,940 --> 00:00:03,630
OK.

4
00:00:03,630 --> 00:00:08,020
So, the coat was
hideous, for me.

5
00:00:08,020 --> 00:00:10,700
First of all, it
was a man's fabric.

6
00:00:10,700 --> 00:00:14,770
I was very unhappy,
but I understood.

7
00:00:14,770 --> 00:00:20,600
I was commuting by train, at
the time, in winter to school.

8
00:00:20,600 --> 00:00:22,220
And so that was the coat.

9
00:00:22,220 --> 00:00:23,960
And that was significant, too.

10
00:00:23,960 --> 00:00:24,460
So--

11
00:00:24,460 --> 00:00:26,590
What color was it, by the way?

12
00:00:26,590 --> 00:00:29,380
It was a deep gray,
kind of a dark gray.

13
00:00:29,380 --> 00:00:29,880
Oh.

14
00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:30,820
Mhm?

15
00:00:30,820 --> 00:00:33,650
And men wore a very dark--

16
00:00:33,650 --> 00:00:35,260
nothing colorful about it.

17
00:00:35,260 --> 00:00:40,270
And it was not my idea.

18
00:00:40,270 --> 00:00:43,780
The city girls who went to
school with me had nicer ones,

19
00:00:43,780 --> 00:00:45,970
with golden buttons and--

20
00:00:45,970 --> 00:00:49,640
you know [INAUDIBLE]---- I was
definitely a country bumpkin,

21
00:00:49,640 --> 00:00:50,800
in that.

22
00:00:50,800 --> 00:00:52,150
So that's the coat I put on.

23
00:00:52,150 --> 00:00:53,260
And we jumped out.

24
00:00:53,260 --> 00:00:56,260
And then they shouted,
yelling that men

25
00:00:56,260 --> 00:00:58,870
should go to one side and

women to the other side.

26

00:00:58,870 --> 00:01:01,720

And then my father and Moshe--

27

00:01:01,720 --> 00:01:05,319

16-year-old-- they
lined up in a big line,

28

00:01:05,319 --> 00:01:08,450

alongside one side
of the platform.

29

00:01:08,450 --> 00:01:10,330

And they disappeared then.

30

00:01:10,330 --> 00:01:11,890

Everything was very fast.

31

00:01:11,890 --> 00:01:13,140

[INAUDIBLE]

32

00:01:13,140 --> 00:01:16,420

And the women and children
and elderly women--

33

00:01:16,420 --> 00:01:20,070

34

00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:21,820

the crowd moved up.

35

00:01:21,820 --> 00:01:23,950

And you couldn't see the front.

36

00:01:23,950 --> 00:01:28,430

The entire platform was filled,
and the crowd was moving.

37

00:01:28,430 --> 00:01:30,530

And all of a sudden,
we were in the front.

38
00:01:30,530 --> 00:01:31,710
Mhm?

39
00:01:31,710 --> 00:01:35,020
Now we knew what was
going on in the front.

40
00:01:35,020 --> 00:01:40,790
And there were about a dozen
Nazi soldiers, in the front.

41
00:01:40,790 --> 00:01:44,300
Had you seen German soldiers,
up until that point?

42
00:01:44,300 --> 00:01:45,560
No, I did not.

43
00:01:45,560 --> 00:01:46,650
I did not.

44
00:01:46,650 --> 00:01:52,130
But yes, as we were
tumbling out of the train,

45
00:01:52,130 --> 00:01:53,480
they were all over.

46
00:01:53,480 --> 00:01:58,190
And they were blocking
the crowd, you know,

47
00:01:58,190 --> 00:02:00,530
we got to the edge
of the platform.

48
00:02:00,530 --> 00:02:03,980
And several were standing
right in front of us.

49
00:02:03,980 --> 00:02:05,930

Others were on the side.

50

00:02:05,930 --> 00:02:09,410

Some of them were a
little bit into the crowd.

51

00:02:09,410 --> 00:02:14,360

But they were all stationed
there to make sure the--

52

00:02:14,360 --> 00:02:16,700

what turned out to
be the selection--

53

00:02:16,700 --> 00:02:20,370

that was going smoothly
[INAUDIBLE] to go smoothly.

54

00:02:20,370 --> 00:02:23,630

So, what they were
doing is, one of them--

55

00:02:23,630 --> 00:02:27,230

which apparently turned out
to be a doctor by the name

56

00:02:27,230 --> 00:02:28,760

of Mengele--

57

00:02:28,760 --> 00:02:31,850

he was holding a
stick, a small stick.

58

00:02:31,850 --> 00:02:35,180

And he was separating
people with the stick.

59

00:02:35,180 --> 00:02:38,640

And the way it went-- very
quickly, very, very quickly.

60

00:02:38,640 --> 00:02:45,650

So, women and children

to one side, and also

61
00:02:45,650 --> 00:02:47,480
older women to that same--

62
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:49,340
to one side.

63
00:02:49,340 --> 00:02:53,300
Anybody who was holding a
child, going to that side,

64
00:02:53,300 --> 00:02:56,240
even if it was a young woman.

65
00:02:56,240 --> 00:03:00,800
And they immediately
went off on another road.

66
00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:02,420
They kept going.

67
00:03:02,420 --> 00:03:06,170
They disappeared
from the big crowd.

68
00:03:06,170 --> 00:03:11,930
Young women without children
went to another side.

69
00:03:11,930 --> 00:03:14,350
And that happened in seconds.

70
00:03:14,350 --> 00:03:18,097
It was not [INAUDIBLE]
not minutes; seconds.

71
00:03:18,097 --> 00:03:19,320
OK?

72
00:03:19,320 --> 00:03:26,370
So, when we got to the front,

the first person who was taken

73

00:03:26,370 --> 00:03:31,620
was my sister, actually, because
she stood out to one side,

74

00:03:31,620 --> 00:03:33,400
alone.

75

00:03:33,400 --> 00:03:37,690
My mother and two little
boys, immediately-- like,

76

00:03:37,690 --> 00:03:40,000
it was done it one move--

77

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:41,050
to the other side.

78

00:03:41,050 --> 00:03:42,850
She kept going.

79

00:03:42,850 --> 00:03:48,280
My younger sister and I were
sort of right next to it.

80

00:03:48,280 --> 00:03:52,120
Everybody was together
but kind of a little bit

81

00:03:52,120 --> 00:03:53,870
next to each other.

82

00:03:53,870 --> 00:03:58,270
So my younger sister, Edith,
who was about a year and a half

83

00:03:58,270 --> 00:04:00,940
younger, all of a sudden--

84

00:04:00,940 --> 00:04:02,920
we're holding hands, she and I.

85
00:04:02,920 --> 00:04:06,620
All of a sudden, the stick
comes down between us.

86
00:04:06,620 --> 00:04:09,440
And she's sent to
my mother's side,

87
00:04:09,440 --> 00:04:14,890
and I'm sent to my
older sister's side.

88
00:04:14,890 --> 00:04:17,627
And I am, all of
a sudden, stunned.

89
00:04:17,627 --> 00:04:18,820
I'm-- I'm--

90
00:04:18,820 --> 00:04:23,500
I went over to the side that
I was supposed to go, but I--

91
00:04:23,500 --> 00:04:26,710
I stopped, and I didn't leave.

92
00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:30,220
And that's when you see me in
the picture in the Auschwitz

93
00:04:30,220 --> 00:04:31,390
album.

94
00:04:31,390 --> 00:04:37,000
I didn't-- I didn't continue,
because I turned sideways

95
00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:41,260
and looked to see if Edith
caught up with our mother.

96

00:04:41,260 --> 00:04:44,290
And that's not possible to see.

97
00:04:44,290 --> 00:04:45,190
They're gone.

98
00:04:45,190 --> 00:04:48,760
She's just going by
herself in that direction.

99
00:04:48,760 --> 00:04:50,800
Immediately, other
people follow.

100
00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:53,200
I mean, there is
not a pause between,

101
00:04:53,200 --> 00:04:54,920
now I'm finished
with this family.

102
00:04:54,920 --> 00:04:56,140
There is no pause.

103
00:04:56,140 --> 00:04:57,550
You keep going.

104
00:04:57,550 --> 00:04:59,220
She's gone.

105
00:04:59,220 --> 00:05:00,780
And we had this--

106
00:05:00,780 --> 00:05:03,460

107
00:05:03,460 --> 00:05:06,970
interesting-- you always
build in some hope

108
00:05:06,970 --> 00:05:11,620

that it's not as bad as it
seems, or there is hope.

109
00:05:11,620 --> 00:05:14,890
And as soon as they
separated the men,

110
00:05:14,890 --> 00:05:19,790
and then we saw the separation
of the women by age,

111
00:05:19,790 --> 00:05:23,020
and we saw barracks
there, everybody

112
00:05:23,020 --> 00:05:25,540
assumed that it's a work camp.

113
00:05:25,540 --> 00:05:29,470
And if they take away women
and children and older people

114
00:05:29,470 --> 00:05:33,190
to one side, it means that
they will not be working.

115
00:05:33,190 --> 00:05:35,410
The young ones will be working.

116
00:05:35,410 --> 00:05:37,120
We all assume it.

117
00:05:37,120 --> 00:05:42,460
And we think, well, there will
be some reunion, at times, no?

118
00:05:42,460 --> 00:05:47,500
Because we have been saved
from the being machine-gunned,

119
00:05:47,500 --> 00:05:49,230
we can cope with this.

120
00:05:49,230 --> 00:05:50,620
Yeah.

121
00:05:50,620 --> 00:05:54,010
And so why should we
not think these things?

122
00:05:54,010 --> 00:05:57,340
It's very civilized and normal.

123
00:05:57,340 --> 00:06:01,360
But I am seeing
something in the flesh,

124
00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:05,310
that they're not so
keen on keeping children

125
00:06:05,310 --> 00:06:06,780
with their parents.

126
00:06:06,780 --> 00:06:09,000
They just took away
my little sister,

127
00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,430
and she will never
connect with our mother,

128
00:06:11,430 --> 00:06:14,280
because the crowd is flowing.

129
00:06:14,280 --> 00:06:19,470
And how is she going to catch
up, in this big crowd that's

130
00:06:19,470 --> 00:06:20,400
moving?

131
00:06:20,400 --> 00:06:22,860
And so, I couldn't leave.

132

00:06:22,860 --> 00:06:24,160

What happened, here?

133

00:06:24,160 --> 00:06:26,610

Why did they-- she
belongs to my mother.

134

00:06:26,610 --> 00:06:27,600

She's alone.

135

00:06:27,600 --> 00:06:31,350

And I'm-- that's-- and the
wheels are turning in my head.

136

00:06:31,350 --> 00:06:33,210

I-- I can't leave.

137

00:06:33,210 --> 00:06:36,030

And they were so busy, nobody--

138

00:06:36,030 --> 00:06:38,190

nobody said, go, you know?

139

00:06:38,190 --> 00:06:39,700

They were busy.

140

00:06:39,700 --> 00:06:42,930

And I'm there a few
seconds, not very long,

141

00:06:42,930 --> 00:06:46,840

but I'm standing long
enough to look and hope.

142

00:06:46,840 --> 00:06:51,250

And I am in despair, absolute
despair, that she's alone.

143

00:06:51,250 --> 00:06:55,870

I'm absolutely sure she's
not going to catch up.

144

00:06:55,870 --> 00:06:58,810

Finally, oh, somebody
motioned me to go,

145

00:06:58,810 --> 00:07:03,310

and I went where my sister went.

146

00:07:03,310 --> 00:07:07,180

Does your coat play a
significance, in any of this?

147

00:07:07,180 --> 00:07:08,560

Oh, yeah-- oh-- back to that.

148

00:07:08,560 --> 00:07:09,220

Yes.

149

00:07:09,220 --> 00:07:11,950

Why did he think I was an adult?

150

00:07:11,950 --> 00:07:16,330

Why did he think that I
was not a 13-year-old?

151

00:07:16,330 --> 00:07:19,990

Because my hair was cut,
and I had a kerchief on.

152

00:07:19,990 --> 00:07:26,620

I had this huge coat, and, yes,
I was holding on to a child,

153

00:07:26,620 --> 00:07:28,050

but I--

154

00:07:28,050 --> 00:07:31,700

he decided that I
was work material,

155

00:07:31,700 --> 00:07:37,520

that I was a young adult
or a woman you know.

156
00:07:37,520 --> 00:07:42,400
Often, with children, they
took the mothers too, for sure.

157
00:07:42,400 --> 00:07:45,430
But he did what he
felt like doing.

158
00:07:45,430 --> 00:07:50,170
This combination of two
girls seemed to him like,

159
00:07:50,170 --> 00:07:53,470
one is OK for labor and
the other is too young--

160
00:07:53,470 --> 00:07:56,260
whatever-- in
seconds, all seconds.

161
00:07:56,260 --> 00:08:01,700
And it was because of my
haircut, the kerchief,

162
00:08:01,700 --> 00:08:03,590
and the big coat.

163
00:08:03,590 --> 00:08:06,260
I didn't look my age, for
sure-- not with the haircut

164
00:08:06,260 --> 00:08:07,160
and a kerchief.

165
00:08:07,160 --> 00:08:10,160
It was like the other
married women, you know.

166
00:08:10,160 --> 00:08:12,990
So that ugly coat,
that ugly coat helped.

167

00:08:12,990 --> 00:08:14,780

Oh, that ugly coat,
but also I think

168

00:08:14,780 --> 00:08:16,670

the kerchief and the no hair.

169

00:08:16,670 --> 00:08:21,860

If I had come with my long hair,
blonde hair, a little girl,

170

00:08:21,860 --> 00:08:23,570

I would not be alive today.

171

00:08:23,570 --> 00:08:26,150

It was the kerchief
and the coat,

172

00:08:26,150 --> 00:08:28,580

but mainly the
kerchief and the hair--

173

00:08:28,580 --> 00:08:29,540

lack of hair.

174

00:08:29,540 --> 00:08:32,659

Because how many other
Jewish women did he--

175

00:08:32,659 --> 00:08:34,813

he came through, just
looking just like that,

176

00:08:34,813 --> 00:08:35,480

with a kerchief?

177

00:08:35,480 --> 00:08:37,830

Most of them.

178

00:08:37,830 --> 00:08:41,130

So that's why the cut
hair in the ghetto

179
00:08:41,130 --> 00:08:42,780
gave me this first chance.

180
00:08:42,780 --> 00:08:43,980
That's the story.

181
00:08:43,980 --> 00:08:45,750
I see.

182
00:08:45,750 --> 00:08:47,550
And that photograph that you--

183
00:08:47,550 --> 00:08:49,570
you just mentioned a photograph.

184
00:08:49,570 --> 00:08:50,070
Yes.

185
00:08:50,070 --> 00:08:55,290
Does that mean there's a
photograph of you at Auschwitz?

186
00:08:55,290 --> 00:08:57,370
You-- you haven't seen that?

187
00:08:57,370 --> 00:09:00,060
I have, but I want to
say it for the tape.

188
00:09:00,060 --> 00:09:00,960
Oh, I see.

189
00:09:00,960 --> 00:09:01,650
Yes.

190
00:09:01,650 --> 00:09:06,930
So I had no idea that
photograph-- somebody

191
00:09:06,930 --> 00:09:10,710

was photographing
the entire arrival

192
00:09:10,710 --> 00:09:15,450
of the train and the entire
separation and processing.

193
00:09:15,450 --> 00:09:16,765
I never saw it.

194
00:09:16,765 --> 00:09:19,530
And I don't think anybody else.

195
00:09:19,530 --> 00:09:21,420
It would seem,
from the pictures,

196
00:09:21,420 --> 00:09:25,890
that the photographer was on
the roof of the train that

197
00:09:25,890 --> 00:09:28,530
was still standing there.

198
00:09:28,530 --> 00:09:31,260
And so, I was caught
in that moment

199
00:09:31,260 --> 00:09:36,000
when I'm somewhat turning
towards where my sister went.

200
00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:39,090
And I'm just standing--
standing there.

201
00:09:39,090 --> 00:09:43,020
And I had no idea.

202
00:09:43,020 --> 00:09:50,570
And what's in that album is
this train and the way it was--

203

00:09:50,570 --> 00:09:53,720

everything that happened
there from the time

204

00:09:53,720 --> 00:09:58,190

the train arrived until the
entire thing was cleaned up,

205

00:09:58,190 --> 00:10:02,240

from the arrival of
these passengers,

206

00:10:02,240 --> 00:10:03,710

was being photographed.

207

00:10:03,710 --> 00:10:09,230

Now, I understand that other
trains from other ghettos

208

00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:10,130

were coming.

209

00:10:10,130 --> 00:10:12,830

I mean, there were--
like, every few minutes,

210

00:10:12,830 --> 00:10:15,110

there was a train coming.

211

00:10:15,110 --> 00:10:20,540

And the pictures of people are
also from Beregszsz ghetto,

212

00:10:20,540 --> 00:10:22,400

from [? Bilke ?].

213

00:10:22,400 --> 00:10:25,940

But it's all melded
together, you know,

214

00:10:25,940 --> 00:10:28,370

in-- there were

people from Munkács,

215

00:10:28,370 --> 00:10:31,490

people from the
Beregszász ghetto.

216

00:10:31,490 --> 00:10:35,240

But our train that we arrived
in got heavy covering,

217

00:10:35,240 --> 00:10:37,700

because a lot of them
are from Munkács.

218

00:10:37,700 --> 00:10:45,640

And, to finish up what happened
with this picture-taking,

219

00:10:45,640 --> 00:10:49,510

that we found out
after the war--

220

00:10:49,510 --> 00:10:51,710

like, 20 years after the war--

221

00:10:51,710 --> 00:10:53,470

didn't know that
album was available.

222

00:10:53,470 --> 00:10:57,640

Nobody knew, until
it was given up

223

00:10:57,640 --> 00:11:00,400

by the person who
found the photographs

224

00:11:00,400 --> 00:11:05,970

after the war and an album
was made from it, an Auschwitz

225

00:11:05,970 --> 00:11:07,590

album.

226
00:11:07,590 --> 00:11:12,720
But, if you look in
that album and follow

227
00:11:12,720 --> 00:11:16,710
where the people who
were separated ended up,

228
00:11:16,710 --> 00:11:22,660
so you see women and children
going in the direction--

229
00:11:22,660 --> 00:11:25,580
which was the direction
of the gas chamber.

230
00:11:25,580 --> 00:11:28,490
And then you see people,
women and children,

231
00:11:28,490 --> 00:11:33,640
sitting in a wooded
area, waiting.

232
00:11:33,640 --> 00:11:38,770
And what they are
waiting for is the backup

233
00:11:38,770 --> 00:11:40,810
of people being gassed.

234
00:11:40,810 --> 00:11:43,195
And they have to
wait their turn.

235
00:11:43,195 --> 00:11:43,695
Oh.

236
00:11:43,695 --> 00:11:48,060
Because, when the
Hungarian Jews arrived,

237

00:11:48,060 --> 00:11:50,700
there was always a backup.

238

00:11:50,700 --> 00:11:55,470
They couldn't keep up with
the burning and the gassing.

239

00:11:55,470 --> 00:11:58,890
And a whole lot of
women and children

240

00:11:58,890 --> 00:12:02,280
are sitting in kind
of a wooded area.

241

00:12:02,280 --> 00:12:12,080
When I saw the photograph,
I saw, your figure

242

00:12:12,080 --> 00:12:14,120
is quite distant.

243

00:12:14,120 --> 00:12:18,420
How did you recognize
that that is actually you?

244

00:12:18,420 --> 00:12:22,740
Well, I have the coat,
which was unmistakable.

245

00:12:22,740 --> 00:12:27,260
And I had my head
covered with a kerchief.

246

00:12:27,260 --> 00:12:33,710
And I remember, very distinctly,
how I got to that corner

247

00:12:33,710 --> 00:12:37,370
and why I was waiting there
and how I was leaning,

248

00:12:37,370 --> 00:12:39,780
to see where my sister went.

249
00:12:39,780 --> 00:12:45,870
And the entire
incident was exactly

250
00:12:45,870 --> 00:12:47,670
the way I remembered it--

251
00:12:47,670 --> 00:12:49,950
and why I was standing
there, and why

252
00:12:49,950 --> 00:12:52,480
I was not with anybody else.

253
00:12:52,480 --> 00:12:57,090
I mean, I recognized what
I needed to recognize.

254
00:12:57,090 --> 00:13:01,180
And, of course, I
know all the details.

255
00:13:01,180 --> 00:13:04,170
I know the coat, and I know--

256
00:13:04,170 --> 00:13:05,490
not just the coat--

257
00:13:05,490 --> 00:13:10,590
I recognized myself, as
I came out of the train,

258
00:13:10,590 --> 00:13:14,140
and how I got to that corner,
and why I stood there--

259
00:13:14,140 --> 00:13:19,360
and why I, after that, had
to run to find my sister.

260

00:13:19,360 --> 00:13:23,260

Because I was sent towards
her, and she had already

261

00:13:23,260 --> 00:13:27,780

left and was also out of sight.

262

00:13:27,780 --> 00:13:31,580

And as I was running,
I thought to myself,

263

00:13:31,580 --> 00:13:35,180

yes, my sister is
way up on the road,

264

00:13:35,180 --> 00:13:38,080

and I have to catch up to her.

265

00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:42,490

But I'm going to run and catch
up with my little sister.

266

00:13:42,490 --> 00:13:46,150

She's on a road with a lot
of other women and children,

267

00:13:46,150 --> 00:13:47,710

and she's alone.

268

00:13:47,710 --> 00:13:52,510

And she's not going to be able
to do what I'm doing-- sorting

269

00:13:52,510 --> 00:13:54,640

it out, to find my sister.

270

00:13:54,640 --> 00:13:59,390

And the whole time,
I am really crying,

271

00:13:59,390 --> 00:14:02,540

and finally I'm

shouting, to my sister.

272

00:14:02,540 --> 00:14:05,120

And way up on the road,
with young adults--

273

00:14:05,120 --> 00:14:06,380

she's with young adults--

274

00:14:06,380 --> 00:14:08,510

mind you, very few.

275

00:14:08,510 --> 00:14:10,050

This is another thing.

276

00:14:10,050 --> 00:14:14,290

I see her up the road with
maybe a dozen young women.

277

00:14:14,290 --> 00:14:21,100

And my little sister
was in a huge crowd,

278

00:14:21,100 --> 00:14:22,840

where she was being sent.

279

00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:23,380

Oh, my.

280

00:14:23,380 --> 00:14:23,920

Hm.

281

00:14:23,920 --> 00:14:24,490

You know.

282

00:14:24,490 --> 00:14:28,930

And so I'm thinking, look,
she is just as far away

283

00:14:28,930 --> 00:14:31,160

from my mother as I
am from my sister.

284
00:14:31,160 --> 00:14:32,740
And I'm thinking about all this.

285
00:14:32,740 --> 00:14:35,050
And I am devastated.

286
00:14:35,050 --> 00:14:37,280
I shout and shout,
and she hears me.

287
00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:37,780
And--

288
00:14:37,780 --> 00:14:40,210
Serena, Serena, wait for me.

289
00:14:40,210 --> 00:14:43,240
She turns around and stops.

290
00:14:43,240 --> 00:14:47,200
And I run up, and I said,
they took away Edith from me.

291
00:14:47,200 --> 00:14:49,285
I don't know what
will happen to Edith.

292
00:14:49,285 --> 00:14:50,770
Now, they separated me.

293
00:14:50,770 --> 00:14:51,910
I don't know why.

294
00:14:51,910 --> 00:14:53,970
She'll never catch
up with our mother.

295
00:14:53,970 --> 00:14:55,690
I-- it was just terrible.

296

00:14:55,690 --> 00:14:57,160
I-- I don't know what I did.

297
00:14:57,160 --> 00:14:58,390
Why did I let go of her?

298
00:14:58,390 --> 00:14:59,425
Why did he take--

299
00:14:59,425 --> 00:15:02,290
I'm just babbling,
on and on and on,

300
00:15:02,290 --> 00:15:05,290
that this is a terrible
thing that happened.

301
00:15:05,290 --> 00:15:08,490
And I forgot all about what
happened to me and her, but--

302
00:15:08,490 --> 00:15:09,790
What happened to Edith?

303
00:15:09,790 --> 00:15:10,810
This is terrible.

304
00:15:10,810 --> 00:15:12,400
This is just awful.

305
00:15:12,400 --> 00:15:15,970
Now she'll never catch up,
and we're going to lose her.

306
00:15:15,970 --> 00:15:17,980
And this is
terrible-- terrible--

307
00:15:17,980 --> 00:15:20,590
and I'm babbling and--

308
00:15:20,590 --> 00:15:26,670

So this was one of
my real traumas, in--

309

00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:30,090

(EMPHASIS) the trauma-- for me,
when I arrived in Auschwitz.

310

00:15:30,090 --> 00:15:32,880

That is imprinted in my soul.

311

00:15:32,880 --> 00:15:35,190

I never forgot it.

312

00:15:35,190 --> 00:15:39,540

It was the biggest
kind of raw pain that--

313

00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:40,396

Yeah.

314

00:15:40,396 --> 00:15:43,830

[INAUDIBLE] You know, the
others are with our mother.

315

00:15:43,830 --> 00:15:44,370

You know.

316

00:15:44,370 --> 00:15:46,740

My brother is with my father.

317

00:15:46,740 --> 00:15:48,450

Now, I am with you.

318

00:15:48,450 --> 00:15:50,040

She's with no one.

319

00:15:50,040 --> 00:15:50,940

That's terrible.

320

00:15:50,940 --> 00:15:52,650

That's terrible-- that's awful.

321
00:15:52,650 --> 00:15:54,038
What's going to happen to her.

322
00:15:54,038 --> 00:15:56,790

323
00:15:56,790 --> 00:16:02,470
What was the feeling like,
when you saw this photograph

324
00:16:02,470 --> 00:16:04,790
after the war?

325
00:16:04,790 --> 00:16:07,000
It's not just any photograph.

326
00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:11,370
It's a photograph at this
moment that you just describe,

327
00:16:11,370 --> 00:16:15,050
which is so significant,
that moment when that--

328
00:16:15,050 --> 00:16:22,060
that hits, that-- that huge
wave of how horrible this is.

329
00:16:22,060 --> 00:16:26,470
Wasn't that weird, finding a
picture of yourself right at

330
00:16:26,470 --> 00:16:27,100
that time?

331
00:16:27,100 --> 00:16:29,470
I looked through that album.

332
00:16:29,470 --> 00:16:31,600
I didn't know it
existed, and all that.

333

00:16:31,600 --> 00:16:38,152

I looked through it carefully,
because it's, you know--

334

00:16:38,152 --> 00:16:41,860

it's people-- the
sequence of pictures

335

00:16:41,860 --> 00:16:43,110

were exactly what happened.

336

00:16:43,110 --> 00:16:43,950

The train arrives.

337

00:16:43,950 --> 00:16:44,700

You get out.

338

00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:47,680

Everything that
happened, happened--

339

00:16:47,680 --> 00:16:49,160

what's photographed
in that picture

340

00:16:49,160 --> 00:16:52,590

was exactly what I experienced.

341

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:55,680

And so, it was of
great interest to me,

342

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:57,600

that somebody captured this--

343

00:16:57,600 --> 00:17:02,730

that it showed exactly the way
it happened-- that I don't--

344

00:17:02,730 --> 00:17:07,560

if I think, sometimes,
that this was a nightmare

345
00:17:07,560 --> 00:17:11,910
and maybe I'm imagining
this whole thing, it's here.

346
00:17:11,910 --> 00:17:12,900
It's really true.

347
00:17:12,900 --> 00:17:16,410
My impression, the
first impression,

348
00:17:16,410 --> 00:17:18,480
was, my god, this is true.

349
00:17:18,480 --> 00:17:20,700
This is exactly how it happened.

350
00:17:20,700 --> 00:17:22,329
I didn't dream any of it.

351
00:17:22,329 --> 00:17:24,119
You didn't make it up.

352
00:17:24,119 --> 00:17:25,410
I didn't make it up.

353
00:17:25,410 --> 00:17:30,530
I had to convince myself that
what I saw really happened.

354
00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:31,730
And here is the proof.

355
00:17:31,730 --> 00:17:34,350
And not only that--
every step of the way

356
00:17:34,350 --> 00:17:36,800
is exactly the way it was.

357

00:17:36,800 --> 00:17:40,384
The men are standing
on one side, there.

358
00:17:40,384 --> 00:17:42,710
We're jumping off the train.

359
00:17:42,710 --> 00:17:43,850
We're lining up.

360
00:17:43,850 --> 00:17:46,450
We're being separated.

361
00:17:46,450 --> 00:17:49,790
It's all-- it's all
exactly like that.

362
00:17:49,790 --> 00:17:51,050
That's what amazed me.

363
00:17:51,050 --> 00:17:55,340
Now, next, I wanted to see
if I recognized anyone.

364
00:17:55,340 --> 00:17:57,610
I didn't know what train
it was or who was--

365
00:17:57,610 --> 00:17:58,110
Yeah.

366
00:17:58,110 --> 00:18:01,820
[INAUDIBLE] And when I came
to that picture with me

367
00:18:01,820 --> 00:18:05,240
with the big coat, oh my god.

368
00:18:05,240 --> 00:18:06,560
That's it.

369
00:18:06,560 --> 00:18:08,240

That's it.

370

00:18:08,240 --> 00:18:09,050

That's me.

371

00:18:09,050 --> 00:18:10,070

That's when it happened.

372

00:18:10,070 --> 00:18:11,780

That's what happened.

373

00:18:11,780 --> 00:18:12,280

Wow.

374

00:18:12,280 --> 00:18:13,040

I know.

375

00:18:13,040 --> 00:18:18,110

I-- I can't describe to you
any better than I'm saying it--

376

00:18:18,110 --> 00:18:22,820

the astonishment, the
memory, the realization--

377

00:18:22,820 --> 00:18:29,400

what happened-- the real proof
that I lost my little sister

378

00:18:29,400 --> 00:18:32,130

and I wouldn't leave, and--

379

00:18:32,130 --> 00:18:33,930

you know?

380

00:18:33,930 --> 00:18:37,860

So then, I continued
to look more.

381

00:18:37,860 --> 00:18:39,930

I couldn't find anybody else.

382

00:18:39,930 --> 00:18:42,450

I figured, if I'm
there, let's see--

383

00:18:42,450 --> 00:18:45,510

maybe they caught
somebody else that I know.

384

00:18:45,510 --> 00:18:46,840

I looked, I looked--

385

00:18:46,840 --> 00:18:50,480

I couldn't find-- there were
lots of people-- crowds--

386

00:18:50,480 --> 00:18:56,360

After I was done with looking at
that beginning with the train's

387

00:18:56,360 --> 00:19:01,080

arrival and us jumping out
and getting to this point,

388

00:19:01,080 --> 00:19:02,870

I couldn't find anyone--

389

00:19:02,870 --> 00:19:04,140

put it aside.

390

00:19:04,140 --> 00:19:06,650

But I kept coming back to it.

391

00:19:06,650 --> 00:19:09,640

And-- looked and I
looked and I looked.

392

00:19:09,640 --> 00:19:13,840

And I got myself a
magnifying glass,

393

00:19:13,840 --> 00:19:19,110

to see if I could see

faces better, and--

394
00:19:19,110 --> 00:19:20,420
nothing.

395
00:19:20,420 --> 00:19:26,020
And then, one day, one
day, I stopped dead

396
00:19:26,020 --> 00:19:27,910
at the picture
where my mother is

397
00:19:27,910 --> 00:19:31,360
sitting with the two little
boys, in this wooded area.

398
00:19:31,360 --> 00:19:34,540
[GASP] She was
amongst those waiting?

399
00:19:34,540 --> 00:19:36,080
Oh, yes.

400
00:19:36,080 --> 00:19:40,840
On another page of the album--

401
00:19:40,840 --> 00:19:45,430
not together, you know, because,
when they took my picture,

402
00:19:45,430 --> 00:19:46,810
she was already gone.

403
00:19:46,810 --> 00:19:47,600
Yeah, yeah.

404
00:19:47,600 --> 00:19:52,310
And see, these photographers
followed the ones who

405
00:19:52,310 --> 00:19:53,830

were going to the gas chambers.

406

00:19:53,830 --> 00:19:55,690

They followed the ones--

407

00:19:55,690 --> 00:19:59,230

young women-- they followed
us into the bathhouse.

408

00:19:59,230 --> 00:20:03,340

They followed us into the
processing of the young people.

409

00:20:03,340 --> 00:20:04,900

They followed us to the barrack.

410

00:20:04,900 --> 00:20:07,900

They continued to
finish the process

411

00:20:07,900 --> 00:20:11,470

of arriving, separating, and
arriving into the barrack.

412

00:20:11,470 --> 00:20:12,560

It was all there.

413

00:20:12,560 --> 00:20:15,970

And I got distracted with the
next step and the next step

414

00:20:15,970 --> 00:20:21,480

and in the barrack and, you
know, looking at faces--

415

00:20:21,480 --> 00:20:23,850

anything that--
since I was there,

416

00:20:23,850 --> 00:20:28,740

see, but it never occurred
to me that my mother would

417

00:20:28,740 --> 00:20:34,710

be in it, because, by the time
I am in the picture, she's gone.

418

00:20:34,710 --> 00:20:36,240

In other words, I--

419

00:20:36,240 --> 00:20:37,860

one day--

420

00:20:37,860 --> 00:20:41,190

And this still was not
a complete recognition

421

00:20:41,190 --> 00:20:43,380

of what I continued
to recognize.

422

00:20:43,380 --> 00:20:46,440

I recognized the
two little boys.

423

00:20:46,440 --> 00:20:49,850

And I stopped in my track.

424

00:20:49,850 --> 00:20:53,370

Gershon and Ruvayn [INAUDIBLE].

425

00:20:53,370 --> 00:20:58,370

I recognize the two little boys,
but I did not find my mother.

426

00:20:58,370 --> 00:21:00,780

I did not find my mother.

427

00:21:00,780 --> 00:21:03,680

I thought, well,
she has to be there.

428

00:21:03,680 --> 00:21:04,970

She went with them.

429

00:21:04,970 --> 00:21:06,620

Where is she?

430

00:21:06,620 --> 00:21:11,060

And I'm even looking at Edith,
in the surrounding crowd.

431

00:21:11,060 --> 00:21:12,110

Where is she?

432

00:21:12,110 --> 00:21:14,270

Well, I gave up with her.

433

00:21:14,270 --> 00:21:19,210

There was absolutely no
picture of her, in that group,

434

00:21:19,210 --> 00:21:21,795

I could tell without
a magnifying glass.

435

00:21:21,795 --> 00:21:25,320

But the little boys--
where is my mother?

436

00:21:25,320 --> 00:21:27,000

And I gave up.

437

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:31,050

And I never said anything
about it to anyone,

438

00:21:31,050 --> 00:21:35,010

because, unless I find my
mother, I'm in trouble, here.

439

00:21:35,010 --> 00:21:37,490

How did they get here without
her, what's going-- you know,

440

00:21:37,490 --> 00:21:38,490

I--

441
00:21:38,490 --> 00:21:43,140
But I was absolutely sure
and then-- took it out again.

442
00:21:43,140 --> 00:21:45,960
I looked at that many
times for hours--

443
00:21:45,960 --> 00:21:49,800
this time, again, with
a magnifying glass.

444
00:21:49,800 --> 00:21:54,960
And all of a sudden, this
little profile pops out,

445
00:21:54,960 --> 00:21:59,070
kind of almost completely
hidden behind the children--

446
00:21:59,070 --> 00:22:00,570
behind the two boys--

447
00:22:00,570 --> 00:22:05,660
but she has a little
profile sticking out, there.

448
00:22:05,660 --> 00:22:07,400
Oh my god, that's her.

449
00:22:07,400 --> 00:22:10,610
She's sitting there,
with the two children.

450
00:22:10,610 --> 00:22:14,720
And she's completely
hidden, except half

451
00:22:14,720 --> 00:22:17,980
of her head and the
profile is sticking out.

452
00:22:17,980 --> 00:22:19,300
And that's enough.

453
00:22:19,300 --> 00:22:20,200
There she is.

454
00:22:20,200 --> 00:22:22,330
Yes, yes, that's it.

455
00:22:22,330 --> 00:22:23,080
I found them.

456
00:22:23,080 --> 00:22:24,430
I found them.

457
00:22:24,430 --> 00:22:25,420
OK?

458
00:22:25,420 --> 00:22:27,930
That's how it happened.

459
00:22:27,930 --> 00:22:31,890
And I understood that
this whole bunch--

460
00:22:31,890 --> 00:22:34,720
the photographer--
followed them.

461
00:22:34,720 --> 00:22:36,930
They followed-- there
were two photographers.

462
00:22:36,930 --> 00:22:41,200
I don't know if they
separate or what, but they--

463
00:22:41,200 --> 00:22:44,110
they were followed
to the gas chamber.

464

00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:46,770
The young people were
followed all the way

465
00:22:46,770 --> 00:22:49,380
until they were processed
and ended up in the barrack.

466
00:22:49,380 --> 00:22:50,610
It's all there.

467
00:22:50,610 --> 00:22:53,550
And it's not from one
train; it's a mixture

468
00:22:53,550 --> 00:22:55,500
of more than one train.

469
00:22:55,500 --> 00:22:59,880
And that makes a lot of sense,
because the trains kept coming.

470
00:22:59,880 --> 00:23:03,660
When one was being sorted
out, the other train

471
00:23:03,660 --> 00:23:07,110
was waiting on the other
end of the platform

472
00:23:07,110 --> 00:23:10,110
and [INAUDIBLE]
[? they ?] moved right up.

473
00:23:10,110 --> 00:23:11,310
You know, they just--

474
00:23:11,310 --> 00:23:15,190
there was no big time lag
between the trains coming.

475
00:23:15,190 --> 00:23:17,060
They were lined up.

476
00:23:17,060 --> 00:23:20,420
And so, that's
how I found myself

477
00:23:20,420 --> 00:23:23,840
and everything fell into place.

478
00:23:23,840 --> 00:23:27,700
And I then attempted to look at
the men separated on the side.

479
00:23:27,700 --> 00:23:31,190
But that was, even with a
magnifying glass, impossible.

480
00:23:31,190 --> 00:23:35,010
Because, first of all,
they were in hats,

481
00:23:35,010 --> 00:23:39,530
and it's taken from the top.

482
00:23:39,530 --> 00:23:40,670
There is--

483
00:23:40,670 --> 00:23:45,680
You can distinguish a few people
that I dismissed, you know,

484
00:23:45,680 --> 00:23:48,860
as not the ones.

485
00:23:48,860 --> 00:23:51,440
It was a group picture
without distinction

486
00:23:51,440 --> 00:23:54,500
of heads and people.

487
00:23:54,500 --> 00:24:02,240
But if they were

standing there, and we

488
00:24:02,240 --> 00:24:05,120
were being separated
at that train,

489
00:24:05,120 --> 00:24:07,160
and we were being separated--

490
00:24:07,160 --> 00:24:11,300
they had a-- they were
looking right at the place

491
00:24:11,300 --> 00:24:13,110
where the separation
was taking place.

492
00:24:13,110 --> 00:24:13,610
They were--

493
00:24:13,610 --> 00:24:15,230
That's where the
lens was focused.

494
00:24:15,230 --> 00:24:16,850
That's where the-- yeah.

495
00:24:16,850 --> 00:24:17,390
Yes.

496
00:24:17,390 --> 00:24:22,550
But they could see how their
families were torn apart,

497
00:24:22,550 --> 00:24:28,950
because they had
the view of that.

498
00:24:28,950 --> 00:24:29,450
You know.

499
00:24:29,450 --> 00:24:33,770

And so I can imagine what they went through, because they

500
00:24:33,770 --> 00:24:35,145
were watching that.

501
00:24:35,145 --> 00:24:37,010
Ah-- you're saying
about the men.

502
00:24:37,010 --> 00:24:38,002
The men could see this.

503
00:24:38,002 --> 00:24:38,585
About the men.

504
00:24:38,585 --> 00:24:42,530
So, if I was in the
picture and my family

505
00:24:42,530 --> 00:24:46,730
was in this train and
this picture, then

506
00:24:46,730 --> 00:24:50,150
he, my father and brother,
are standing there.

507
00:24:50,150 --> 00:24:52,830
That's them, among
the others, you know.

508
00:24:52,830 --> 00:24:53,330
Yeah.

509
00:24:53,330 --> 00:24:54,410
You know that they're there.

510
00:24:54,410 --> 00:24:56,185
You just can't see
them in the photograph.

511

00:24:56,185 --> 00:24:57,095
No.

512
00:24:57,095 --> 00:24:57,980
I tried.

513
00:24:57,980 --> 00:25:00,450
No, it wasn't possible.

514
00:25:00,450 --> 00:25:02,750
There are some
people, on the edges,

515
00:25:02,750 --> 00:25:05,720
that, if you knew who they
were, you would recognize them.

516
00:25:05,720 --> 00:25:10,170
But it was not
clear, not at all.

517
00:25:10,170 --> 00:25:10,700
So--

518
00:25:10,700 --> 00:25:15,230
What is it like, for you
to have this visual proof

519
00:25:15,230 --> 00:25:17,130
of those moments?

520
00:25:17,130 --> 00:25:19,872
Because that's so rare.

521
00:25:19,872 --> 00:25:20,720
You know what?

522
00:25:20,720 --> 00:25:28,150
I had-- again, it was so
unusual, unbelievable,

523
00:25:28,150 --> 00:25:32,080

that it was happening,
that, when I saw this, like,

524
00:25:32,080 --> 00:25:36,340
more than 20 years
later, I had to keep

525
00:25:36,340 --> 00:25:39,140
saying "it really happened."

526
00:25:39,140 --> 00:25:39,670
OK.

527
00:25:39,670 --> 00:25:41,770
This is how it happened.

528
00:25:41,770 --> 00:25:47,230
All these moves-- the train, the
separation, me standing there,

529
00:25:47,230 --> 00:25:48,430
my mother--

530
00:25:48,430 --> 00:25:52,120
I-- this is what I
remember, exactly.

531
00:25:52,120 --> 00:25:55,360
And now I'm sure I
didn't make anything up.

532
00:25:55,360 --> 00:25:57,080
This is really happen.

533
00:25:57,080 --> 00:25:58,840
I had to convince myself.

534
00:25:58,840 --> 00:25:59,360
You know?

535
00:25:59,360 --> 00:25:59,860
[INAUDIBLE]

536
00:25:59,860 --> 00:26:02,830
You know, that's what--

537
00:26:02,830 --> 00:26:09,160
when people search for
genealogical documents

538
00:26:09,160 --> 00:26:13,510
about their families,
about various members that

539
00:26:13,510 --> 00:26:16,210
don't exist anymore--

540
00:26:16,210 --> 00:26:19,510
whether this is connected
to the Holocaust

541
00:26:19,510 --> 00:26:23,410
or just goes back 100 or
150 years or something

542
00:26:23,410 --> 00:26:26,860
like that, when they're trying
to find their family tree--

543
00:26:26,860 --> 00:26:30,550
very often, that
what you just said

544
00:26:30,550 --> 00:26:38,010
is that it's visual confirmation
of something that you knew.

545
00:26:38,010 --> 00:26:40,630
Let's say, if there
was family stories

546
00:26:40,630 --> 00:26:43,150
about a particular
person, and then

547

00:26:43,150 --> 00:26:46,330

you find documents that
that person had a birth

548

00:26:46,330 --> 00:26:49,840

record, a marriage record,
death record, that means

549

00:26:49,840 --> 00:26:51,670

that person really existed.

550

00:26:51,670 --> 00:26:52,170

You know?

551

00:26:52,170 --> 00:26:54,560

It confirms the story.

552

00:26:54,560 --> 00:26:55,060

Mhm.

553

00:26:55,060 --> 00:26:58,930

And that's what I'm
hearing you say, right now,

554

00:26:58,930 --> 00:27:04,330

is that you knew this, but
still a person in their mind,

555

00:27:04,330 --> 00:27:06,970

when it's such a out-of--

556

00:27:06,970 --> 00:27:13,760

unreal and horrific world,
you doubt your own memory.

557

00:27:13,760 --> 00:27:18,470

And what you see is,
this confirms my memory.

558

00:27:18,470 --> 00:27:20,300

That's exactly right.

559

00:27:20,300 --> 00:27:26,180

And, because I so vividly
remember the real thing

560

00:27:26,180 --> 00:27:29,090

and the emotions
that went with it,

561

00:27:29,090 --> 00:27:36,710

all those emotions came back,
with the added realization

562

00:27:36,710 --> 00:27:42,020

that, yes, this is
what I remember exactly

563

00:27:42,020 --> 00:27:44,150

and this happened.

564

00:27:44,150 --> 00:27:49,400

I just-- and that's what
you're saying and I'm saying.

565

00:27:49,400 --> 00:27:52,010

Why did I need confirmation?

566

00:27:52,010 --> 00:27:55,640

But it was, in a way-- and
I used to describe this,

567

00:27:55,640 --> 00:28:00,470

before, when I began to
speak to some family members,

568

00:28:00,470 --> 00:28:03,540

I described these
things like this.

569

00:28:03,540 --> 00:28:07,550

And then, it was
imprinted in my memory.

570

00:28:07,550 --> 00:28:09,260
And here I see, I was right.

571
00:28:09,260 --> 00:28:11,600
I was-- everything I said--

572
00:28:11,600 --> 00:28:15,710
Now I just-- all I have to
do is show them the picture

573
00:28:15,710 --> 00:28:18,050
and tell them I
was in this crowd,

574
00:28:18,050 --> 00:28:20,540
and then I was in this
crowd, and then I was here.

575
00:28:20,540 --> 00:28:22,160
And this is how it happened.

576
00:28:22,160 --> 00:28:26,340
I don't have to
convince them very much.

577
00:28:26,340 --> 00:28:28,406
I have-- you know?

578
00:28:28,406 --> 00:28:29,720
It's very weird.

579
00:28:29,720 --> 00:28:31,520
It's very sad.

580
00:28:31,520 --> 00:28:32,680
It never goes away.

581
00:28:32,680 --> 00:28:35,330

582
00:28:35,330 --> 00:28:37,115
Is the picture a

curse or a gift?

583

00:28:37,115 --> 00:28:40,320

584

00:28:40,320 --> 00:28:42,110

Oh, it's a gift.

585

00:28:42,110 --> 00:28:43,310

I need to know--

586

00:28:43,310 --> 00:28:46,230

587

00:28:46,230 --> 00:28:52,990

I-- I need to know, in a
very, very sad way, how

588

00:28:52,990 --> 00:28:55,400

it happened-- what happened.

589

00:28:55,400 --> 00:28:59,140

You know, later on, when
we were in Auschwitz

590

00:28:59,140 --> 00:29:03,570

and they were telling
us that everybody died,

591

00:29:03,570 --> 00:29:06,270

we didn't believe it.

592

00:29:06,270 --> 00:29:07,600

We didn't.

593

00:29:07,600 --> 00:29:13,200

And I, as a child,
I was dreaming

594

00:29:13,200 --> 00:29:17,370

that, when this is over and
I go home to my hometown,

595
00:29:17,370 --> 00:29:19,530
everybody's waiting
for me there.

596
00:29:19,530 --> 00:29:21,050
They're all there.

597
00:29:21,050 --> 00:29:26,010
I don't know how many
times that was a daydream.

598
00:29:26,010 --> 00:29:26,760
You know?

599
00:29:26,760 --> 00:29:31,800
And this one-- later on,
of course, I was told--

600
00:29:31,800 --> 00:29:37,950
but to see the route, to see
the way, to see the numbers,

601
00:29:37,950 --> 00:29:44,340
the many others, it can't be
denied anymore-- can't be--

602
00:29:44,340 --> 00:29:45,970
can't say it's a dream--

603
00:29:45,970 --> 00:29:48,390
it was a dream.

604
00:29:48,390 --> 00:29:53,590
You know, it's sort of a
confirmation, [LAUGH] in a way,

605
00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:59,880
[INAUDIBLE] a proof-- proof
which I didn't want to believe.

606
00:29:59,880 --> 00:30:02,170

You know, you have
to have some--

607
00:30:02,170 --> 00:30:03,690
I hate the word "closure."

608
00:30:03,690 --> 00:30:06,240
It's not closure--
never closure.

609
00:30:06,240 --> 00:30:12,800
Some kind of-- like, if
someone had gone with them but,

610
00:30:12,800 --> 00:30:15,380
the last minute, was saved
from the gas chamber,

611
00:30:15,380 --> 00:30:18,140
and she knew them and
she came back and told me

612
00:30:18,140 --> 00:30:22,430
this is how it was, it
was almost like that.

613
00:30:22,430 --> 00:30:24,190
I saw what happened.

614
00:30:24,190 --> 00:30:27,500
They show it to me in
pictures, and I remember, up

615
00:30:27,500 --> 00:30:29,420
to that point, what happened.

616
00:30:29,420 --> 00:30:37,220
Well, there is a particular pain
that people who don't know what

617
00:30:37,220 --> 00:30:42,410
happened to their families--
and this goes, I'd say,

618
00:30:42,410 --> 00:30:46,610
beyond the Holocaust,
but people whose--

619
00:30:46,610 --> 00:30:50,480
let's say, in South America,
who had disappeared, you know?

620
00:30:50,480 --> 00:30:51,075
Yeah.

621
00:30:51,075 --> 00:30:51,575
Yeah.

622
00:30:51,575 --> 00:30:55,580
And they never knew where that
child might have been buried

623
00:30:55,580 --> 00:31:02,420
or where the final moments
were, or-- this unknowing

624
00:31:02,420 --> 00:31:05,000
is an added sorrow.

625
00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:06,230
Yes, yes, yes.

626
00:31:06,230 --> 00:31:07,280
Yes.

627
00:31:07,280 --> 00:31:08,690
Absolutely.

628
00:31:08,690 --> 00:31:14,120
And to this-- if any of that
is still very, very painful,

629
00:31:14,120 --> 00:31:18,490
it's still the fact that
my little sister went

630
00:31:18,490 --> 00:31:20,410
into that gas chamber alone.

631
00:31:20,410 --> 00:31:22,360
That has never left me.

632
00:31:22,360 --> 00:31:26,920
Because I am convinced, from
what I saw at the moment--

633
00:31:26,920 --> 00:31:28,640
I saw-- I--

634
00:31:28,640 --> 00:31:32,530
you know, I assessed the
situation, right there when

635
00:31:32,530 --> 00:31:34,720
I wouldn't leave,
because the crowds

636
00:31:34,720 --> 00:31:36,910
were going-- huge
numbers of crowds

637
00:31:36,910 --> 00:31:39,700
were going all in that
direction-- women and children

638
00:31:39,700 --> 00:31:41,290
and grandmothers.

639
00:31:41,290 --> 00:31:44,770
And I knew that it
only took a second

640
00:31:44,770 --> 00:31:48,910
to be overwhelmed in the
line and that she would not.

641
00:31:48,910 --> 00:31:50,440

She would not find them.

642
00:31:50,440 --> 00:31:53,800
In a way, you know,
the thought that I

643
00:31:53,800 --> 00:31:56,410
get when you tell me
this and then retell me

644
00:31:56,410 --> 00:32:00,700
this is that your intuition
was telling you something

645
00:32:00,700 --> 00:32:03,010
that you could
only really process

646
00:32:03,010 --> 00:32:06,320
and understand the
significance of later.

647
00:32:06,320 --> 00:32:08,660
Because your intuition
is telling you,

648
00:32:08,660 --> 00:32:10,610
something's very bad here.

649
00:32:10,610 --> 00:32:13,500
Something is not the
way it should be.

650
00:32:13,500 --> 00:32:15,170
It's very, very bad.

651
00:32:15,170 --> 00:32:17,810
But you, at the same
time, don't want

652
00:32:17,810 --> 00:32:20,330
to think that that's
a gas chamber--

653
00:32:20,330 --> 00:32:21,260
that this is a--

654
00:32:21,260 --> 00:32:21,980
Oh.

655
00:32:21,980 --> 00:32:23,240
No idea.

656
00:32:23,240 --> 00:32:27,410
I'm thinking, what
was said quickly,

657
00:32:27,410 --> 00:32:32,830
by people in the train, that
it's a work camp and this

658
00:32:32,830 --> 00:32:34,910
separation, it's--

659
00:32:34,910 --> 00:32:36,690
see, the Germans
did it so cleverly.

660
00:32:36,690 --> 00:32:37,400
Yeah.

661
00:32:37,400 --> 00:32:40,670
Why would people coming
from civilized life think,

662
00:32:40,670 --> 00:32:43,520
when women and children,
elderly, are separated,

663
00:32:43,520 --> 00:32:46,640
and young people are separated,
and it's a work camp, see,

664
00:32:46,640 --> 00:32:49,490
barracks-- why would we think

that there won't be some kind

665
00:32:49,490 --> 00:32:50,390
of reunion--

666
00:32:50,390 --> 00:32:53,010
and that actually
it's comforting.

667
00:32:53,010 --> 00:32:54,980
They will not be working.

668
00:32:54,980 --> 00:32:55,910
Yeah.

669
00:32:55,910 --> 00:32:58,760
Women and children--
how nice of them.

670
00:32:58,760 --> 00:33:01,270
And, you know, and people
said things like, well,

671
00:33:01,270 --> 00:33:02,180
we can do that.

672
00:33:02,180 --> 00:33:03,020
We can do that.

673
00:33:03,020 --> 00:33:04,250
We can work.

674
00:33:04,250 --> 00:33:06,680
And all of a sudden,
at that point,

675
00:33:06,680 --> 00:33:11,750
when she was taken from me,
said, hey, families, children

676
00:33:11,750 --> 00:33:13,880
are separated from

their parents, here.

677

00:33:13,880 --> 00:33:16,820

That's what got into my head.

678

00:33:16,820 --> 00:33:19,400

No, there is something
wrong with this.

679

00:33:19,400 --> 00:33:22,520

And nobody asks your name.

680

00:33:22,520 --> 00:33:25,520

Nobody knows who
belongs to whom.

681

00:33:25,520 --> 00:33:30,110

Nobody-- you know,
there is no way,

682

00:33:30,110 --> 00:33:35,128

unless you're old enough to
ask, how is she going to get--

683

00:33:35,128 --> 00:33:35,670

That's right.

684

00:33:35,670 --> 00:33:38,130

--there is no
documentation of any kind.

685

00:33:38,130 --> 00:33:39,590

So she's lost.

686

00:33:39,590 --> 00:33:41,720

And I knew that immediately.

687

00:33:41,720 --> 00:33:48,080

And that is why I was absolutely
overwhelmed with grief.

688

00:33:48,080 --> 00:33:52,750

And, in the meantime, I
forgot that I was separated.

689
00:33:52,750 --> 00:33:59,480
I totally forgot that I
was standing there alone.

690
00:33:59,480 --> 00:34:03,920
But I knew I had a sister,
and I knew where they sent me.

691
00:34:03,920 --> 00:34:05,510
She was on that road.

692
00:34:05,510 --> 00:34:10,060
And I knew to get her attention.

693
00:34:10,060 --> 00:34:12,880
There is that difference in
the year, the year and a half,

694
00:34:12,880 --> 00:34:17,020
between the two of you, where
you're just old enough that you

695
00:34:17,020 --> 00:34:20,230
can bridge that distance.

696
00:34:20,230 --> 00:34:23,320
And your little sister is
just small enough and young

697
00:34:23,320 --> 00:34:24,969
enough that--

698
00:34:24,969 --> 00:34:28,400
how will she make her
way through that crowd

699
00:34:28,400 --> 00:34:29,060
to your mother?

700

00:34:29,060 --> 00:34:31,402
Well, you know, I have heard--

701
00:34:31,402 --> 00:34:33,230
I've told the story.

702
00:34:33,230 --> 00:34:35,379
And I've heard from
people to say, well,

703
00:34:35,379 --> 00:34:37,520
you know in the end what
happened to everybody.

704
00:34:37,520 --> 00:34:44,820
So, in other words, why is this
still the most painful thing

705
00:34:44,820 --> 00:34:48,360
that you feel even today?

706
00:34:48,360 --> 00:34:50,400
Because I need to know.

707
00:34:50,400 --> 00:34:54,070
I just need to know.

708
00:34:54,070 --> 00:34:58,490
And also, it was the
first, deepest trauma,

709
00:34:58,490 --> 00:35:00,767
arriving in this place.

710
00:35:00,767 --> 00:35:01,267
Mhm.

711
00:35:01,267 --> 00:35:04,261

712
00:35:04,261 --> 00:35:06,260
Yeah.

713
00:35:06,260 --> 00:35:09,290
I'd like to go on, if we can?

714
00:35:09,290 --> 00:35:12,870
I mean, as you
say it, I feel it.

715
00:35:12,870 --> 00:35:15,410
It's also, when
you love a person--

716
00:35:15,410 --> 00:35:17,510
and you loved your
little sister--

717
00:35:17,510 --> 00:35:22,190
what happens to them in
their final moments matters.

718
00:35:22,190 --> 00:35:24,270
It's amazing how
much it matters.

719
00:35:24,270 --> 00:35:25,830
It really is amazing.

720
00:35:25,830 --> 00:35:33,340
It's such a-- painful, painful.

721
00:35:33,340 --> 00:35:35,230
And it cannot be remedied.

722
00:35:35,230 --> 00:35:39,280
I mean, it keeps coming
back and coming back.

723
00:35:39,280 --> 00:35:43,810
Well, I appreciate that you have
gone over this in such detail

724
00:35:43,810 --> 00:35:44,770

with me.

725
00:35:44,770 --> 00:35:47,935
Because I know that,
as the whole interview,

726
00:35:47,935 --> 00:35:50,710
this brings up some things.

727
00:35:50,710 --> 00:35:53,890
But it is-- thank
you for it, because--

728
00:35:53,890 --> 00:35:55,330
thank you for this gift.

729
00:35:55,330 --> 00:35:57,610
I mean, it's for
the whole interview,

730
00:35:57,610 --> 00:36:03,100
but also for delving into this
part, which is, as you say,

731
00:36:03,100 --> 00:36:06,640
the most painful part,
and sharing it with me--

732
00:36:06,640 --> 00:36:11,650
and, by that, sharing it with
a much wider group of people

733
00:36:11,650 --> 00:36:13,540
who will listen to this.

734
00:36:13,540 --> 00:36:18,174
Well, you know, the
suffering, the separation,

735
00:36:18,174 --> 00:36:24,710
the cruelty that was
imposed on Jewish people

736

00:36:24,710 --> 00:36:28,960
is also a very deep pain to me.

737

00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:31,280
My family, sure.

738

00:36:31,280 --> 00:36:35,470
But all our Jews, all our
people, all those million

739

00:36:35,470 --> 00:36:38,890
children, all those mothers--

740

00:36:38,890 --> 00:36:43,210
[INAUDIBLE] you
know, 6,000 murdered,

741

00:36:43,210 --> 00:36:46,660
a day-- some people say
10,000 when the Hungarians

742

00:36:46,660 --> 00:36:49,960
were coming into Auschwitz.

743

00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:54,805
[INAUDIBLE] an
unimaginable slaughter.

744

00:36:54,805 --> 00:36:57,370
And nobody stops it.

745

00:36:57,370 --> 00:37:00,820
Nobody there to say,
what are you doing?

746

00:37:00,820 --> 00:37:03,330
Don't do that.

747

00:37:03,330 --> 00:37:06,280
It's like a license to kill.

748

00:37:06,280 --> 00:37:10,540
And one man, sitting there,
as the trains arrive,

749
00:37:10,540 --> 00:37:14,600
tells who will live and who
will die as soon as possible,

750
00:37:14,600 --> 00:37:16,660
as soon as you
walk down the road?

751
00:37:16,660 --> 00:37:19,240
All that is--

752
00:37:19,240 --> 00:37:21,987
I am a wounded
person, to be sure.

753
00:37:21,987 --> 00:37:23,355
Mm.

754
00:37:23,355 --> 00:37:23,855
Mm.

755
00:37:23,855 --> 00:37:27,130

756
00:37:27,130 --> 00:37:27,790
Yep.

757
00:37:27,790 --> 00:37:30,640
Shall we go on?

758
00:37:30,640 --> 00:37:31,140
Yeah.

759
00:37:31,140 --> 00:37:32,840
Yeah, let's go on.

760
00:37:32,840 --> 00:37:34,640
OK.

761
00:37:34,640 --> 00:37:44,190
So, when you find Serena
and you meet up with her,

762
00:37:44,190 --> 00:37:45,510
what happens then?

763
00:37:45,510 --> 00:37:50,100
And when do you realize
that what people are saying

764
00:37:50,100 --> 00:37:54,250
about the gas chambers
is the actual fact--

765
00:37:54,250 --> 00:37:54,750
the truth?

766
00:37:54,750 --> 00:37:57,720
When do you stop
thinking, this can't be?

767
00:37:57,720 --> 00:37:58,250
Yeah.

768
00:37:58,250 --> 00:38:00,680
Yeah, there is a
timeline, for sure.

769
00:38:00,680 --> 00:38:03,840

770
00:38:03,840 --> 00:38:06,460
You know, we-- we were then--

771
00:38:06,460 --> 00:38:09,960
[SIGHS] well,
[LAUGH] it's very--

772
00:38:09,960 --> 00:38:17,020
you explained to me something

that I understand better now,

773

00:38:17,020 --> 00:38:20,110
that my age at 13 and 1/2--

774

00:38:20,110 --> 00:38:24,660
that I was still
clinging to parents

775

00:38:24,660 --> 00:38:27,690
and I was a child, as
opposed to my sister--

776

00:38:27,690 --> 00:38:30,070
because there is a
very big difference.

777

00:38:30,070 --> 00:38:32,400
It's not that she
doesn't understand,

778

00:38:32,400 --> 00:38:36,960
but she understands--

779

00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:39,360
Many times, she
says to me, when I'm

780

00:38:39,360 --> 00:38:42,510
telling her of my
side of it, she

781

00:38:42,510 --> 00:38:43,990
says, I don't remember that.

782

00:38:43,990 --> 00:38:45,060
I don't remember that.

783

00:38:45,060 --> 00:38:45,780
You know?

784

00:38:45,780 --> 00:38:49,714

And I remember every inch of it.

785

00:38:49,714 --> 00:38:51,540

[LAUGH] Somehow.

786

00:38:51,540 --> 00:38:55,200

So, my separation
trauma isn't over.

787

00:38:55,200 --> 00:38:58,050

And for what I'm going to
tell you-- from now on--

788

00:38:58,050 --> 00:39:03,440

my separation anxiety
continues for days,

789

00:39:03,440 --> 00:39:06,080

because I have been torn away.

790

00:39:06,080 --> 00:39:07,220

And-- you know.

791

00:39:07,220 --> 00:39:09,500

But I didn't understand, until--

792

00:39:09,500 --> 00:39:13,340

you really helped me understand
that, because I had a conflict.

793

00:39:13,340 --> 00:39:18,870

Here I had this enormous
pain, being separated.

794

00:39:18,870 --> 00:39:23,790

And at the same time, I'm
telling myself, I am brave.

795

00:39:23,790 --> 00:39:24,750

I am brave.

796

00:39:24,750 --> 00:39:25,440

You know, I'm--

797

00:39:25,440 --> 00:39:26,860

Well, you are.

798

00:39:26,860 --> 00:39:28,770

You are being brave.

799

00:39:28,770 --> 00:39:30,440

All of that is true.

800

00:39:30,440 --> 00:39:31,320

[LAUGH]

801

00:39:31,320 --> 00:39:33,420

I wasn't brave, I was--

802

00:39:33,420 --> 00:39:38,820

I was-- [LAUGH]

this was impossible.

803

00:39:38,820 --> 00:39:41,340

That wasn't-- I don't know.

804

00:39:41,340 --> 00:39:44,820

My sister tells me one thing,
that, the first few days,

805

00:39:44,820 --> 00:39:46,050

I was crying a lot.

806

00:39:46,050 --> 00:39:47,790

She says I was
crying all the time.

807

00:39:47,790 --> 00:39:50,220

Now that, I don't
remember, you see?

808

00:39:50,220 --> 00:39:51,750

I said, no, no I was brave.

809

00:39:51,750 --> 00:39:53,218

[LAUGH] I was very brave.

810

00:39:53,218 --> 00:39:53,718

Oh.

811

00:39:53,718 --> 00:39:54,218

Oh.

812

00:39:54,218 --> 00:39:55,980

I didn't complain.

813

00:39:55,980 --> 00:39:58,440

I was just hurting
like the dickens.

814

00:39:58,440 --> 00:39:59,640

Yeah.

815

00:39:59,640 --> 00:40:01,630

So anyhow-- but you
helped me understand that.

816

00:40:01,630 --> 00:40:04,180

So, there is more pain
of separation coming.

817

00:40:04,180 --> 00:40:04,680

OK.

818

00:40:04,680 --> 00:40:08,280

So you said, what
happened after?

819

00:40:08,280 --> 00:40:11,080

Yeah, what happened after?

820

00:40:11,080 --> 00:40:15,310

Well, so, they had a
very efficient processing

821

00:40:15,310 --> 00:40:17,110
of all these people coming.

822
00:40:17,110 --> 00:40:20,350
And the processing was done
by our Jewish prisoners--

823
00:40:20,350 --> 00:40:22,010
[? our ?] [? young ?] [? men ?].

824
00:40:22,010 --> 00:40:25,680
And, in fact, the Germans--

825
00:40:25,680 --> 00:40:31,760
their cruelty and
their insisting

826
00:40:31,760 --> 00:40:35,870
on using us like animals, and
demeaning us, never stopped.

827
00:40:35,870 --> 00:40:40,220
They used our Jewish people to
do the most humiliating things

828
00:40:40,220 --> 00:40:41,430
to each other.

829
00:40:41,430 --> 00:40:48,470
So, the shaving, the
nakedness, was all

830
00:40:48,470 --> 00:40:52,550
done by our own men who
came before and were

831
00:40:52,550 --> 00:40:53,563
assigned to do this.

832
00:40:53,563 --> 00:40:54,230
And so you had--

833

00:40:54,230 --> 00:40:58,650
So you had your head
shaved by a man?

834
00:40:58,650 --> 00:41:01,950
Oh, yeah-- well,
this is the thing.

835
00:41:01,950 --> 00:41:07,610
My hair was shaved already, so
I actually skipped the station.

836
00:41:07,610 --> 00:41:08,960
Because it was, like, stations.

837
00:41:08,960 --> 00:41:10,430
You went from place to place.

838
00:41:10,430 --> 00:41:14,070
But they shaved our body
hair, our pubic hair.

839
00:41:14,070 --> 00:41:15,380
They shaved everything.

840
00:41:15,380 --> 00:41:19,100
And you stood naked in front
of a bunch of boys, who

841
00:41:19,100 --> 00:41:21,140
touched you there with a razor.

842
00:41:21,140 --> 00:41:23,060
And I was a child.

843
00:41:23,060 --> 00:41:25,370
The humiliation was plenty.

844
00:41:25,370 --> 00:41:29,540
But 25-year-old, 27-year-old,
young single mothers

845

00:41:29,540 --> 00:41:33,650
whose babies were taken
away, standing there, naked,

846
00:41:33,650 --> 00:41:35,840
with men doing that?

847
00:41:35,840 --> 00:41:36,780
Just think about it.

848
00:41:36,780 --> 00:41:40,340
Out of home, out of life--

849
00:41:40,340 --> 00:41:44,750
the religious or not
religious, just like animals.

850
00:41:44,750 --> 00:41:46,070
Yes.

851
00:41:46,070 --> 00:41:48,530
We were standing
there, naked, in rows,

852
00:41:48,530 --> 00:41:51,890
and-- one after another, naked.

853
00:41:51,890 --> 00:41:55,130
And then showering,
naked-- all supervised

854
00:41:55,130 --> 00:41:58,196
by men-- our men, you know?

855
00:41:58,196 --> 00:41:59,690
Our young guys.

856
00:41:59,690 --> 00:42:01,310
Just think of-- [LAUGH]

857
00:42:01,310 --> 00:42:05,710
You know, either you're

going to close your mind

858

00:42:05,710 --> 00:42:09,790

and think it's not
happening, or you're dying.

859

00:42:09,790 --> 00:42:12,640

Or-- you know?

860

00:42:12,640 --> 00:42:17,080

So my next terror of being
separation-- see, I am here--

861

00:42:17,080 --> 00:42:21,310

it's the separation anxiety
that I am now comparing

862

00:42:21,310 --> 00:42:23,710

to my sister's.

863

00:42:23,710 --> 00:42:25,870

She did not have that.

864

00:42:25,870 --> 00:42:30,790

I don't know why I--

865

00:42:30,790 --> 00:42:33,790

This thing just happened to
me, to full understanding,

866

00:42:33,790 --> 00:42:34,750

many years later.

867

00:42:34,750 --> 00:42:37,690

And you explained it better.

868

00:42:37,690 --> 00:42:40,690

I didn't know why I
was so distraught,

869

00:42:40,690 --> 00:42:43,930

and she seemed to function

better about that.

870
00:42:43,930 --> 00:42:50,110
So anyhow, so-- you
know, hundreds of women,

871
00:42:50,110 --> 00:42:52,630
and we're going through
the shaving and separation,

872
00:42:52,630 --> 00:42:59,280
and finally, in the bathhouse,
a shower and disinfection.

873
00:42:59,280 --> 00:43:00,900
And then they line you up.

874
00:43:00,900 --> 00:43:06,600
There were kind of long
desks with clothes on it.

875
00:43:06,600 --> 00:43:09,360
You walk by and
pick one of each--

876
00:43:09,360 --> 00:43:10,740
and none of it--

877
00:43:10,740 --> 00:43:13,190
not your size, not
your-- nothing.

878
00:43:13,190 --> 00:43:16,170
You know, [INAUDIBLE]
just one size fits--

879
00:43:16,170 --> 00:43:20,460
garment-- no underwear,
no socks, no shoes.

880
00:43:20,460 --> 00:43:24,390
Sometimes they let you take
the shoes that you came in.

881
00:43:24,390 --> 00:43:26,400
In our case, they
let us take the shoes

882
00:43:26,400 --> 00:43:28,440
or they don't let
them take-- they

883
00:43:28,440 --> 00:43:31,590
get some wooden clogs or
somebody else's [INAUDIBLE]

884
00:43:31,590 --> 00:43:32,250
size.

885
00:43:32,250 --> 00:43:33,900
Anyhow, this is the thing.

886
00:43:33,900 --> 00:43:35,730
When you finally
get your clothes

887
00:43:35,730 --> 00:43:38,190
and got through all this,
you've got your clothes,

888
00:43:38,190 --> 00:43:40,110
you're at the exit door.

889
00:43:40,110 --> 00:43:41,970
And you're pushed out.

890
00:43:41,970 --> 00:43:46,170
And when you're pushed
out, you begin to line up

891
00:43:46,170 --> 00:43:49,290
and waiting for the
entire group to be ready,

892
00:43:49,290 --> 00:43:52,710

when they are ready to march
you off into the camp itself

893
00:43:52,710 --> 00:43:54,170
and into a barrack.

894
00:43:54,170 --> 00:43:55,170
OK?

895
00:43:55,170 --> 00:43:59,650
So I skip a step, when it
comes to cutting the hair.

896
00:43:59,650 --> 00:44:01,300
I didn't have to cut my hair.

897
00:44:01,300 --> 00:44:03,870
So I'm pushed ahead,
to the next station.

898
00:44:03,870 --> 00:44:06,760
My sister has to
have her hair cut.

899
00:44:06,760 --> 00:44:08,230
Now I lost her.

900
00:44:08,230 --> 00:44:12,460
And I'm not at the same
place where she is.

901
00:44:12,460 --> 00:44:16,960
And, when I am finished,
I'm pushed out the door,

902
00:44:16,960 --> 00:44:20,500
and there are already
lots of women who are--

903
00:44:20,500 --> 00:44:23,160
also been pushed out and ready.

904

00:44:23,160 --> 00:44:28,050
And I'm not moving away from
the door, because I'm waiting--

905
00:44:28,050 --> 00:44:29,100
when she comes out.

906
00:44:29,100 --> 00:44:30,290
I'm not.

907
00:44:30,290 --> 00:44:32,690
I'm just standing by the door.

908
00:44:32,690 --> 00:44:35,180
As the others are stepping
away from the door

909
00:44:35,180 --> 00:44:39,950
and beginning to be lined up,
I am deliberately falling back,

910
00:44:39,950 --> 00:44:41,000
falling back.

911
00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:43,550
I want to be close to the
door when she comes out.

912
00:44:43,550 --> 00:44:46,070
But she's not coming,
and she's not coming,

913
00:44:46,070 --> 00:44:47,690
and she's not coming.

914
00:44:47,690 --> 00:44:53,030
And it looks to me like I'll
have to line up and leave

915
00:44:53,030 --> 00:44:53,630
without her.

916

00:44:53,630 --> 00:44:56,720
They're counting people
off to go to the barracks.

917
00:44:56,720 --> 00:45:00,110
Every time the door
opens, I call her name--

918
00:45:00,110 --> 00:45:01,250
"Serena?"

919
00:45:01,250 --> 00:45:03,440
Because now I have a problem.

920
00:45:03,440 --> 00:45:06,020
All these women look alike.

921
00:45:06,020 --> 00:45:07,260
Everybody is shaved.

922
00:45:07,260 --> 00:45:10,610
Everybody's wearing
the same uniform.

923
00:45:10,610 --> 00:45:13,005
And I don't know who's who.

924
00:45:13,005 --> 00:45:14,990
It's impossible to tell.

925
00:45:14,990 --> 00:45:17,090
She can walk right by me.

926
00:45:17,090 --> 00:45:19,850
I mean, it wasn't
just my problem.

927
00:45:19,850 --> 00:45:23,960
Mothers, daughters, sisters
didn't recognize each other--

928
00:45:23,960 --> 00:45:26,220

totally, totally transfigured.

929

00:45:26,220 --> 00:45:26,720

Wow.

930

00:45:26,720 --> 00:45:31,010

And, every time the door opens,

I yell "Serena, Serena"--

931

00:45:31,010 --> 00:45:33,260

because I'm not going

to recognize her.

932

00:45:33,260 --> 00:45:35,240

And now I'm crying.

933

00:45:35,240 --> 00:45:36,140

She's not coming.

934

00:45:36,140 --> 00:45:38,360

She's not coming, and

I'll be counted off.

935

00:45:38,360 --> 00:45:39,620

And here I am--

936

00:45:39,620 --> 00:45:40,940

the separation.

937

00:45:40,940 --> 00:45:43,055

I can't go through that.

938

00:45:43,055 --> 00:45:44,150

That cannot be.

939

00:45:44,150 --> 00:45:45,115

I cannot do that.

940

00:45:45,115 --> 00:45:45,615

You know?

941

00:45:45,615 --> 00:45:46,115
[LAUGH]

942
00:45:46,115 --> 00:45:48,140
Yeah.

943
00:45:48,140 --> 00:45:49,100
That's trauma.

944
00:45:49,100 --> 00:45:52,550
So I had a couple of terrible
traumas, upon arriving,

945
00:45:52,550 --> 00:45:55,610
because I was no
longer with my family

946
00:45:55,610 --> 00:45:59,900
and I was being torned
further-- further apart alone.

947
00:45:59,900 --> 00:46:02,600
So, and I'm crying, and
I'm calling her name

948
00:46:02,600 --> 00:46:04,700
every time the door opens.

949
00:46:04,700 --> 00:46:08,890
So, a woman from our
town-- a young woman,

950
00:46:08,890 --> 00:46:10,840
who knew me very well--

951
00:46:10,840 --> 00:46:13,700
Elsa-- Elsa Klein.

952
00:46:13,700 --> 00:46:20,120
It seems that Elsa Klein
came in that transport

953

00:46:20,120 --> 00:46:23,510
on the other train--

954
00:46:23,510 --> 00:46:24,530
on another train.

955
00:46:24,530 --> 00:46:27,195
But she was mingled
into this train.

956
00:46:27,195 --> 00:46:29,570
She was-- you know, [INAUDIBLE]
pictures and everything--

957
00:46:29,570 --> 00:46:31,390
was mangled.

958
00:46:31,390 --> 00:46:34,960
And, as I am yelling
for my sister--

959
00:46:34,960 --> 00:46:36,100
Sery, I called her--

960
00:46:36,100 --> 00:46:37,840
Sery, Sery, Sery.

961
00:46:37,840 --> 00:46:39,200
She heard this.

962
00:46:39,200 --> 00:46:41,320
And she looked at me.

963
00:46:41,320 --> 00:46:42,520
And she-- oh.

964
00:46:42,520 --> 00:46:45,410
She recognized me.

965
00:46:45,410 --> 00:46:46,730
She knew exactly who I was.

966
00:46:46,730 --> 00:46:49,220
She said, don't worry.

967
00:46:49,220 --> 00:46:51,680
Sery didn't go through
all the lines yet.

968
00:46:51,680 --> 00:46:52,760
She's still in there.

969
00:46:52,760 --> 00:46:55,425
I saw her, and I'll help you.

970
00:46:55,425 --> 00:46:55,925
Oh.

971
00:46:55,925 --> 00:46:57,440
You know, she was--

972
00:46:57,440 --> 00:47:00,420
and she knew me very
well, and my family.

973
00:47:00,420 --> 00:47:04,470
And, when Sery came
out, she caught her.

974
00:47:04,470 --> 00:47:07,260
She recognized her
better than I would have,

975
00:47:07,260 --> 00:47:10,590
but she saw her in
there in the process.

976
00:47:10,590 --> 00:47:14,730
And so, I had my sister.

977
00:47:14,730 --> 00:47:20,560
But that period of waiting
and being counted off--

978

00:47:20,560 --> 00:47:24,070

and, had I been counted off,
it would have been the end.

979

00:47:24,070 --> 00:47:25,330

I would not have seen her.

980

00:47:25,330 --> 00:47:27,635

She would have gone to
another barrack, and so on.

981

00:47:27,635 --> 00:47:28,960

And I wouldn't have been alive.

982

00:47:28,960 --> 00:47:32,160

[LAUGH] There's no
doubt about that.

983

00:47:32,160 --> 00:47:37,420

So that kind of fear was
running through you-- that,

984

00:47:37,420 --> 00:47:39,520

I cannot be separated from her.

985

00:47:39,520 --> 00:47:42,754

And there was a chance
that you would be.

986

00:47:42,754 --> 00:47:43,570

A big chance.

987

00:47:43,570 --> 00:47:44,770

I saw the process.

988

00:47:44,770 --> 00:47:47,110

You know, as soon as
the women came out,

989

00:47:47,110 --> 00:47:49,462

they were lining them
up, away from the door.

990
00:47:49,462 --> 00:47:50,920
Because they were
going to get them

991
00:47:50,920 --> 00:47:54,130
all who were in there
and then march them off.

992
00:47:54,130 --> 00:47:57,580
And we were far from
the barracks, really.

993
00:47:57,580 --> 00:48:01,780
This was the arrival
place and the sorting out.

994
00:48:01,780 --> 00:48:05,410
And they take you deeper
into the actual camps,

995
00:48:05,410 --> 00:48:07,600
with the barracks.

996
00:48:07,600 --> 00:48:11,170
So, there was no
chance that, if I left,

997
00:48:11,170 --> 00:48:13,990
that I would see her
coming out, or that we

998
00:48:13,990 --> 00:48:16,840
would end up in the same place.

999
00:48:16,840 --> 00:48:18,340
But you did.

1000
00:48:18,340 --> 00:48:19,690
In the end, you did.

1001
00:48:19,690 --> 00:48:24,370

You ended up together, after she finished all her processing.

1002
00:48:24,370 --> 00:48:26,852
Yes, because of the help of this--

1003
00:48:26,852 --> 00:48:27,352
Elsa.

1004
00:48:27,352 --> 00:48:28,750
--girl from our town.

1005
00:48:28,750 --> 00:48:31,480
Elsa waited, and Elsa got me together.

1006
00:48:31,480 --> 00:48:35,040
And the funny thing is, when Elsa--

1007
00:48:35,040 --> 00:48:39,450
in the end, I was not with Elsa, for the rest of the time.

1008
00:48:39,450 --> 00:48:42,165
She actually was, somehow--

1009
00:48:42,165 --> 00:48:45,000
they separated people into different barracks,

1010
00:48:45,000 --> 00:48:49,460
and eventually they sent people to different camps.

1011
00:48:49,460 --> 00:48:56,040
And-- in other words, I never saw her, after that.

1012
00:48:56,040 --> 00:48:57,730
She ended up elsewhere.

1013

00:48:57,730 --> 00:49:00,900

But what she did
for me was amazing.

1014

00:49:00,900 --> 00:49:08,010

But, in the separations area,
for me, things all of a sudden

1015

00:49:08,010 --> 00:49:11,250

got so much better,
and that I could now

1016

00:49:11,250 --> 00:49:15,210

relax about being
alone and being--

1017

00:49:15,210 --> 00:49:18,390

you know, it was a very,
very frightening place.

1018

00:49:18,390 --> 00:49:22,050

[INAUDIBLE] and I wasn't
just afraid of separation.

1019

00:49:22,050 --> 00:49:24,660

I was afraid of
life unrecognizable.

1020

00:49:24,660 --> 00:49:25,860

[LAUGH]

1021

00:49:25,860 --> 00:49:28,860

Of course.

1022

00:49:28,860 --> 00:49:33,340

So I want to tell
you that, because--

1023

00:49:33,340 --> 00:49:38,170

again, I had some
incredible luck.

1024

00:49:38,170 --> 00:49:41,290
Why I survived, at the
age of 13 and 1/2--

1025
00:49:41,290 --> 00:49:47,380
it was all about attaining
some emotional comfort--

1026
00:49:47,380 --> 00:49:52,720
that I could no longer have
to tremble and have this fear.

1027
00:49:52,720 --> 00:49:56,590
So, finally, they
marched us off.

1028
00:49:56,590 --> 00:49:58,472
They put us in a barrack.

1029
00:49:58,472 --> 00:50:01,950
The first night
was unbelievable.

1030
00:50:01,950 --> 00:50:05,250
There were, like, six or
seven of us on this bunk--

1031
00:50:05,250 --> 00:50:07,080
one blanket.

1032
00:50:07,080 --> 00:50:08,670
All of us are new.

1033
00:50:08,670 --> 00:50:12,090
All of us-- everybody's pulling
on the edge of the blanket.

1034
00:50:12,090 --> 00:50:13,600
We're freezing.

1035
00:50:13,600 --> 00:50:15,930
We're sitting up,
leaning on each other.

1036
00:50:15,930 --> 00:50:17,790
No one can stretch out.

1037
00:50:17,790 --> 00:50:20,210
Everybody's wide awake.

1038
00:50:20,210 --> 00:50:24,060
We're like caged animals,
freezing, huddled together.

1039
00:50:24,060 --> 00:50:28,130
And, the next day,
they throw us out

1040
00:50:28,130 --> 00:50:30,200
at 5:00 in the
morning, freezing.

1041
00:50:30,200 --> 00:50:32,470
Our clothes is gone, you know?

1042
00:50:32,470 --> 00:50:34,640
Just-- just
terrible-- so terrible

1043
00:50:34,640 --> 00:50:36,200
that you can't
think it's terrible.

1044
00:50:36,200 --> 00:50:39,590
[LAUGH] You're just existing.

1045
00:50:39,590 --> 00:50:43,190
They didn't have any
jobs for us or things.

1046
00:50:43,190 --> 00:50:45,620
The crowds kept coming
from the trains.

1047
00:50:45,620 --> 00:50:49,370

They had to wait
until they sorted out

1048
00:50:49,370 --> 00:50:51,590
all these thousands
of people that they

1049
00:50:51,590 --> 00:50:55,680
have to put here and
there and everywhere.

1050
00:50:55,680 --> 00:51:01,100
And, in the morning,
they threw us out.

1051
00:51:01,100 --> 00:51:06,260
And the women sat on the
ground, on the ground outside.

1052
00:51:06,260 --> 00:51:08,330
They let us just sit there.

1053
00:51:08,330 --> 00:51:11,300
And some walked around.

1054
00:51:11,300 --> 00:51:12,760
Some sat with--

1055
00:51:12,760 --> 00:51:17,660
[INAUDIBLE] people-- we were
freezing, to begin with.

1056
00:51:17,660 --> 00:51:21,640
And that was the next day.

1057
00:51:21,640 --> 00:51:28,500
And Serena and I were
walking around a little bit.

1058
00:51:28,500 --> 00:51:35,150
And, all of a sudden, she
recognizes my mother's sister--

1059

00:51:35,150 --> 00:51:39,080
or my aunt recognizes her.

1060

00:51:39,080 --> 00:51:41,540
I don't know what came first.

1061

00:51:41,540 --> 00:51:45,860
They ran into each other
on the crowded ground.

1062

00:51:45,860 --> 00:51:47,610
She was-- not Rosie--

1063

00:51:47,610 --> 00:51:50,660
Rosie's sister--
called her "Piri"--

1064

00:51:50,660 --> 00:51:52,110
"Piri"-- mhm?

1065

00:51:52,110 --> 00:51:57,770
--Piri got herself a job,
that morning, immediately.

1066

00:51:57,770 --> 00:52:01,850
The kapo who was
guarding our barrack--

1067

00:52:01,850 --> 00:52:04,340
her barrack-- her barrack--

1068

00:52:04,340 --> 00:52:11,840
asked her, somehow, with
others, to go to a kitchen area

1069

00:52:11,840 --> 00:52:16,355
some distance away and
haul in the bread--

1070

00:52:16,355 --> 00:52:19,430
the rationed bread--
that day, into the camp.

1071
00:52:19,430 --> 00:52:22,760
Well, that's a privileged job.

1072
00:52:22,760 --> 00:52:24,140
It was a privileged job.

1073
00:52:24,140 --> 00:52:28,080
How Piri got it was incredible.

1074
00:52:28,080 --> 00:52:30,420
I don't know how it happened.

1075
00:52:30,420 --> 00:52:35,120
But she was coming back,
with her arms stretched out

1076
00:52:35,120 --> 00:52:38,300
and full of these
loaves of bread that

1077
00:52:38,300 --> 00:52:42,230
looked like the size
of bricks, you know?

1078
00:52:42,230 --> 00:52:43,640
She had a load.

1079
00:52:43,640 --> 00:52:46,520
And she was walking
to the barrack,

1080
00:52:46,520 --> 00:52:54,330
to put it in the barrack--
because, later on, the kapo was

1081
00:52:54,330 --> 00:52:56,790
giving out the bread ration.

1082
00:52:56,790 --> 00:52:58,800
She was bringing
it from the source.

1083
00:52:58,800 --> 00:53:02,460
And with this, she
was carrying-- she

1084
00:53:02,460 --> 00:53:06,860
and Serena practically bumped
each other in the grounds,

1085
00:53:06,860 --> 00:53:07,660
out there.

1086
00:53:07,660 --> 00:53:09,910
I was right nearby, but she--

1087
00:53:09,910 --> 00:53:11,900
they recognized each other.

1088
00:53:11,900 --> 00:53:13,220
Well.

1089
00:53:13,220 --> 00:53:16,310
And Rosie wasn't doing this job.

1090
00:53:16,310 --> 00:53:21,570
She was in the barrack, or in
the other side of the field--

1091
00:53:21,570 --> 00:53:23,550
I mean, they were
together, my two aunts.

1092
00:53:23,550 --> 00:53:25,870
They were together
in the barrack--

1093
00:53:25,870 --> 00:53:27,180
but not in my barrack--

1094
00:53:27,180 --> 00:53:30,600
well, not in my barrack.

1095

00:53:30,600 --> 00:53:33,650

Well, actually, it was-- yeah,
I guess not in my barrack.

1096

00:53:33,650 --> 00:53:34,560

Right.

1097

00:53:34,560 --> 00:53:40,800

Anyhow, when we met with
her and Rosie, well,

1098

00:53:40,800 --> 00:53:43,560

all my anxiety disappeared.

1099

00:53:43,560 --> 00:53:46,800

Because they were
like my parents.

1100

00:53:46,800 --> 00:53:49,860

I had the fondest
memories of them--

1101

00:53:49,860 --> 00:53:52,590

that [INAUDIBLE]
their love and their--

1102

00:53:52,590 --> 00:53:53,970

and they were adults.

1103

00:53:53,970 --> 00:53:55,380

I called her Aunt--

1104

00:53:55,380 --> 00:53:58,920

Aunt Rosie, Aunt Piri.

1105

00:53:58,920 --> 00:54:03,620

And, all my life, I addressed
her in the formal fashion,

1106

00:54:03,620 --> 00:54:04,440

you know?

1107
00:54:04,440 --> 00:54:05,730
Yeah.

1108
00:54:05,730 --> 00:54:07,080
And I never--

1109
00:54:07,080 --> 00:54:09,900
I changed my mind, after
a while in the camp,

1110
00:54:09,900 --> 00:54:12,900
that I could leave the "Aunt"
off and just call her Rosie.

1111
00:54:12,900 --> 00:54:15,680
It was such a big decision.

1112
00:54:15,680 --> 00:54:16,770
It just didn't fit.

1113
00:54:16,770 --> 00:54:17,440
How can I just--

1114
00:54:17,440 --> 00:54:18,660
[LAUGH]

1115
00:54:18,660 --> 00:54:20,760
It was, like, Aunt
Rosie-- and in Hungarian,

1116
00:54:20,760 --> 00:54:23,890
and it's even more important.

1117
00:54:23,890 --> 00:54:25,660
If you know Hungarian--

1118
00:54:25,660 --> 00:54:29,020
How do you say "Aunt
Rosie" in Hungarian?

1119
00:54:29,020 --> 00:54:30,520

"Rosie nÃ©ni."

1120
00:54:30,520 --> 00:54:31,900
"Rosie nÃ©ni."

1121
00:54:31,900 --> 00:54:32,980
"NÃ©ni."

1122
00:54:32,980 --> 00:54:39,520
And anybody-- any adult to
any child can call "nÃ©ni,"

1123
00:54:39,520 --> 00:54:41,230
even if it's not on an aunt.

1124
00:54:41,230 --> 00:54:43,100
It's the way you do it.

1125
00:54:43,100 --> 00:54:50,140
And a grown man
is, in Hungarian,

1126
00:54:50,140 --> 00:54:52,090
addressed like an uncle.

1127
00:54:52,090 --> 00:54:55,570
[INAUDIBLE] like, let's
say, [HUNGARIAN] bÃ©csi.

1128
00:54:55,570 --> 00:54:57,130
Everybody's a bÃ©csi.

1129
00:54:57,130 --> 00:54:58,990
"Everybody's a bÃ©csi."

1130
00:54:58,990 --> 00:55:00,760
And everybody's a nÃ©ni.

1131
00:55:00,760 --> 00:55:04,310
And you use the--

1132

00:55:04,310 --> 00:55:07,820
not the "you," simple "you,"
but all the other gradations

1133
00:55:07,820 --> 00:55:09,270
of honorary--

1134
00:55:09,270 --> 00:55:09,770
[LAUGH]

1135
00:55:09,770 --> 00:55:11,390
Well, English doesn't have that.

1136
00:55:11,390 --> 00:55:13,970
Other languages
have the distinction

1137
00:55:13,970 --> 00:55:17,960
between a familiar
"you" and a formal "you"

1138
00:55:17,960 --> 00:55:22,100
that you use as a sign of
both respect to someone elder

1139
00:55:22,100 --> 00:55:24,470
or someone who you don't know.

1140
00:55:24,470 --> 00:55:25,500
Oh.

1141
00:55:25,500 --> 00:55:29,300
And it goes down the entire
grammatical structure.

1142
00:55:29,300 --> 00:55:29,920
Of course.

1143
00:55:29,920 --> 00:55:32,270
And if you know-- for example,
when you learn in German,

1144

00:55:32,270 --> 00:55:35,786
they do it too--
and the Hungarian.

1145
00:55:35,786 --> 00:55:40,430
If you don't learn
that and have it right,

1146
00:55:40,430 --> 00:55:44,360
it is incredibly rude
and disrespectful

1147
00:55:44,360 --> 00:55:45,190
to do it otherwise

1148
00:55:45,190 --> 00:55:47,140
Of course.

1149
00:55:47,140 --> 00:55:51,720
It's built into the
respect of the language.

1150
00:55:51,720 --> 00:55:54,780
You cannot mistake that.

1151
00:55:54,780 --> 00:55:56,310
This is essential.

1152
00:55:56,310 --> 00:55:57,690
[LAUGH] You know?

1153
00:55:57,690 --> 00:56:00,570
So I called her "Rosie
nÄ©ni" for a very long time--

1154
00:56:00,570 --> 00:56:01,500
and "Piri nÄ©ni."

1155
00:56:01,500 --> 00:56:02,340
OK.

1156
00:56:02,340 --> 00:56:06,460

So here we are, these people
who represent parents and love

1157
00:56:06,460 --> 00:56:06,960
to me.

1158
00:56:06,960 --> 00:56:07,950
Yeah.

1159
00:56:07,950 --> 00:56:09,130
Oh my god.

1160
00:56:09,130 --> 00:56:09,630
You know?

1161
00:56:09,630 --> 00:56:13,350
And it's really-- my emotional
state would have killed me,

1162
00:56:13,350 --> 00:56:16,240
if I hadn't run into them,
because I was a wreck.

1163
00:56:16,240 --> 00:56:18,870
I was really a frightened wreck.

1164
00:56:18,870 --> 00:56:21,396
So what they did is--

1165
00:56:21,396 --> 00:56:26,030
Piri already seemed to have
had some connection with a kapo

1166
00:56:26,030 --> 00:56:29,070
that she never knew
till that moment.

1167
00:56:29,070 --> 00:56:32,750
She said to [INAUDIBLE]---- they
scooped us up, the two of them,

1168
00:56:32,750 --> 00:56:36,230

and they went to the kapo,
and they said, look--

1169
00:56:36,230 --> 00:56:41,770
we want these two girls to be in
our bunk, with us in our bunk.

1170
00:56:41,770 --> 00:56:45,160
So, explain-- do us a favor.

1171
00:56:45,160 --> 00:56:47,320
See if anybody
from our bunk would

1172
00:56:47,320 --> 00:56:50,050
like to change
into another bunk,

1173
00:56:50,050 --> 00:56:52,870
and let them come into our bunk.

1174
00:56:52,870 --> 00:56:55,480
At this point, it
doesn't matter.

1175
00:56:55,480 --> 00:56:57,880
All bunks are the same.

1176
00:56:57,880 --> 00:56:58,380
[INAUDIBLE]

1177
00:56:58,380 --> 00:57:00,340
And they arranged it.

1178
00:57:00,340 --> 00:57:04,110
The kapo asked all
of them, together--

1179
00:57:04,110 --> 00:57:08,160
they talked to the women
in that bunk and said,

1180

00:57:08,160 --> 00:57:10,350
would you please
do us this favor?

1181
00:57:10,350 --> 00:57:13,020
You know, let them come
here, and you go there.

1182
00:57:13,020 --> 00:57:14,490
And they did-- whoever it was.

1183
00:57:14,490 --> 00:57:15,780
I have no idea.

1184
00:57:15,780 --> 00:57:21,030
But, from that moment, we
were with them in their bunk.

1185
00:57:21,030 --> 00:57:24,780
And so, the next night,
if I happened to--

1186
00:57:24,780 --> 00:57:28,590
we all still sat up,
knees pulled up--

1187
00:57:28,590 --> 00:57:30,210
didn't have room.

1188
00:57:30,210 --> 00:57:33,240
But if I happened to
lean on one of my aunts,

1189
00:57:33,240 --> 00:57:35,760
they didn't shove
me off angrily,

1190
00:57:35,760 --> 00:57:37,560
because that's what they did.

1191
00:57:37,560 --> 00:57:39,285
They couldn't support
another person.

1192
00:57:39,285 --> 00:57:41,140
[LAUGH] I don't blame them.

1193
00:57:41,140 --> 00:57:43,470
But if I leaned on
them, it wasn't so bad.

1194
00:57:43,470 --> 00:57:44,250
Yeah.

1195
00:57:44,250 --> 00:57:46,470
They took it.

1196
00:57:46,470 --> 00:57:47,567
It was family.

1197
00:57:47,567 --> 00:57:48,150
It was family.

1198
00:57:48,150 --> 00:57:49,440
It was family.

1199
00:57:49,440 --> 00:57:53,490
And that raw anxiety
and fear left me.

1200
00:57:53,490 --> 00:58:00,250
Now, I wasn't free, and I
wasn't looked upon that way

1201
00:58:00,250 --> 00:58:04,600
by the Nazis, and my concern
about being recognized

1202
00:58:04,600 --> 00:58:08,200
as a child by the
Nazis never ended,

1203
00:58:08,200 --> 00:58:10,920
because now I didn't
have my kerchief

1204
00:58:10,920 --> 00:58:13,690
and I didn't have my
big coat, and I was

1205
00:58:13,690 --> 00:58:17,100
just very recognizably a child.

1206
00:58:17,100 --> 00:58:19,920
And I was in trouble
a lot, you know?

1207
00:58:19,920 --> 00:58:21,540
And they had to
hide me, and they

1208
00:58:21,540 --> 00:58:25,830
had to protect me and hope that,
every day when they lined up

1209
00:58:25,830 --> 00:58:28,650
to count us and to
look at us carefully,

1210
00:58:28,650 --> 00:58:32,010
that they didn't pull me
out of line, on the line,

1211
00:58:32,010 --> 00:58:36,420
because I observed-- we all
observed-- people being pulled

1212
00:58:36,420 --> 00:58:37,770
out of line.

1213
00:58:37,770 --> 00:58:39,510
And that was the end of you.

1214
00:58:39,510 --> 00:58:42,150
Just a motion with a finger.

1215
00:58:42,150 --> 00:58:45,240

You come out of the
line, and you were

1216
00:58:45,240 --> 00:58:46,680
marched to the gas chamber.

1217
00:58:46,680 --> 00:58:47,790
That's it.

1218
00:58:47,790 --> 00:58:49,600
They always reduced the numbers.

1219
00:58:49,600 --> 00:58:52,500
They always took out
more-- they missed somebody

1220
00:58:52,500 --> 00:58:55,350
at the original separation.

1221
00:58:55,350 --> 00:58:58,380
Had your aunts been in
the camp longer than you?

1222
00:58:58,380 --> 00:59:01,740
Or had they been on
the same transports?

1223
00:59:01,740 --> 00:59:04,920
They came from the Beregszsz--
they came from another ghetto.

1224
00:59:04,920 --> 00:59:07,890
[INAUDIBLE] even though
they were neighbor towns,

1225
00:59:07,890 --> 00:59:10,080
we were taken to
the Munkcs ghetto.

1226
00:59:10,080 --> 00:59:12,750
They were taken to the
Beregszsz ghetto, which,

1227

00:59:12,750 --> 00:59:16,320

when the train went to
the opposite direction,

1228

00:59:16,320 --> 00:59:18,930

it was close to [PLACE NAME]
and to everything--

1229

00:59:18,930 --> 00:59:21,340

But they took them
to Beregszsz.

1230

00:59:21,340 --> 00:59:24,390

And so we were not
together in the ghetto.

1231

00:59:24,390 --> 00:59:27,630

But we arrived-- they
arrived the night before.

1232

00:59:27,630 --> 00:59:28,920

I see.

1233

00:59:28,920 --> 00:59:32,370

Rosie told me, when we
discussed when they arrived.

1234

00:59:32,370 --> 00:59:37,560

They-- it must have been
not that morning, not that--

1235

00:59:37,560 --> 00:59:40,650

the day before,
but in the night.

1236

00:59:40,650 --> 00:59:43,080

They arrived in the
night, because that

1237

00:59:43,080 --> 00:59:44,770

had a significance.

1238

00:59:44,770 --> 00:59:47,270

That was very, very significant, whether you

1239

00:59:47,270 --> 00:59:48,270

arrived at day or night.

1240

00:59:48,270 --> 00:59:52,560

Did they know what was going on with the gas chambers?

1241

00:59:52,560 --> 00:59:54,090

They were told.

1242

00:59:54,090 --> 00:59:55,917

And we all denied it.

1243

00:59:55,917 --> 00:59:57,000

That's all there is to it.

1244

00:59:57,000 --> 01:00:02,640

We just-- you know, I don't know if it's even possible to put

1245

01:00:02,640 --> 01:00:07,200

yourself in the position where you're coming from home

1246

01:00:07,200 --> 01:00:11,520

and certain rules and certain presumptions--

1247

01:00:11,520 --> 01:00:14,610

and, the very day you arrive, your family

1248

01:00:14,610 --> 01:00:17,290

is marched into a prepared gas chamber, and--

1249

01:00:17,290 --> 01:00:18,120

No, you wouldn't.

1250

01:00:18,120 --> 01:00:21,150

It's too much for a
human brain to take.

1251

01:00:21,150 --> 01:00:21,750

No.

1252

01:00:21,750 --> 01:00:24,180

You just can't-- you can't.

1253

01:00:24,180 --> 01:00:25,500

And so we all denied it.

1254

01:00:25,500 --> 01:00:28,410

But, because they
arrived at night,

1255

01:00:28,410 --> 01:00:34,120

and I think that
denying it for them

1256

01:00:34,120 --> 01:00:37,310

was a little harder,
because what was seen

1257

01:00:37,310 --> 01:00:40,450

at night was much more evident--

1258

01:00:40,450 --> 01:00:44,950

you know, like, you saw
fire from the chimneys

1259

01:00:44,950 --> 01:00:48,370

and [INAUDIBLE] you had
to try hard, to deny.

1260

01:00:48,370 --> 01:00:49,810

[INAUDIBLE] denied--

1261

01:00:49,810 --> 01:00:54,450

And, in fact, Rosie, who
was so, so sensible--

1262
01:00:54,450 --> 01:00:59,260
long after that, when we all
knew it, we all accepted it,

1263
01:00:59,260 --> 01:01:01,140
we all understood--

1264
01:01:01,140 --> 01:01:06,870
she said, [INAUDIBLE] we were
located, some time later on--

1265
01:01:06,870 --> 01:01:15,630
our workplace was adjacent
to gas chamber number 4.

1266
01:01:15,630 --> 01:01:19,380
We were just the fence
separated from the actual gas

1267
01:01:19,380 --> 01:01:21,420
chamber and crematorium.

1268
01:01:21,420 --> 01:01:27,840
And we witnessed women
and children, long lines,

1269
01:01:27,840 --> 01:01:30,990
heading into the
gate of the gas--

1270
01:01:30,990 --> 01:01:32,850
into the gas chamber.

1271
01:01:32,850 --> 01:01:34,470
We knew-- we saw.

1272
01:01:34,470 --> 01:01:39,540
And Rosie, at one point, said,
you know, we see them going in,

1273
01:01:39,540 --> 01:01:43,650

but we don't see them coming
out on the other side.

1274
01:01:43,650 --> 01:01:46,440
And even I was
stunned, at that point.

1275
01:01:46,440 --> 01:01:49,650
All this time, you
still think, this

1276
01:01:49,650 --> 01:01:53,230
is-- they're coming
out on the other side.

1277
01:01:53,230 --> 01:01:55,590
And what we saw,
when they went in--

1278
01:01:55,590 --> 01:02:00,570
the fire in the chimney
was billowing and making

1279
01:02:00,570 --> 01:02:03,720
a noise like a
storm, [INAUDIBLE]

1280
01:02:03,720 --> 01:02:06,960
burning bodies in open
pits, right there.

1281
01:02:06,960 --> 01:02:09,370
And in the night,
when they arrived,

1282
01:02:09,370 --> 01:02:12,300
they saw being bodies
dumped into it,

1283
01:02:12,300 --> 01:02:15,380
dead or alive, into the fire.

1284
01:02:15,380 --> 01:02:17,000

They saw everything.

1285

01:02:17,000 --> 01:02:18,720

We didn't see that.

1286

01:02:18,720 --> 01:02:22,700

And, months later, she
would say such a thing--

1287

01:02:22,700 --> 01:02:25,220

that, we don't see
them coming out.

1288

01:02:25,220 --> 01:02:28,760

And that is an
incredible denial.

1289

01:02:28,760 --> 01:02:30,770

Because she was not a child.

1290

01:02:30,770 --> 01:02:34,170

She was the one who had been
in Poland and was retrieved.

1291

01:02:34,170 --> 01:02:34,830

Yeah.

1292

01:02:34,830 --> 01:02:35,330

Yeah.

1293

01:02:35,330 --> 01:02:36,500

She knew things.

1294

01:02:36,500 --> 01:02:37,820

She knew things.

1295

01:02:37,820 --> 01:02:42,230

But, you know, you couldn't--
you could not believe that they

1296

01:02:42,230 --> 01:02:44,180

brought you here to be killed.

1297
01:02:44,180 --> 01:02:45,710
You could not.

1298
01:02:45,710 --> 01:02:46,610
Yeah.

1299
01:02:46,610 --> 01:02:48,647
And your children, and
your grandchildren,

1300
01:02:48,647 --> 01:02:49,355
and your parents.

1301
01:02:49,355 --> 01:02:52,250

1302
01:02:52,250 --> 01:02:53,045
Was there a smell?

1303
01:02:53,045 --> 01:02:55,770

1304
01:02:55,770 --> 01:03:01,410
You know, I've spoken to
survivors, and they all say so.

1305
01:03:01,410 --> 01:03:06,030
And I was stationed-- and
Serena and all of us--

1306
01:03:06,030 --> 01:03:08,310
very, very near,
like I describe it--

1307
01:03:08,310 --> 01:03:11,430
I do not remember a smell.

1308
01:03:11,430 --> 01:03:13,840
They all say there was a smell.

1309

01:03:13,840 --> 01:03:15,540
I do not remember a smell.

1310
01:03:15,540 --> 01:03:16,330
I don't know why.

1311
01:03:16,330 --> 01:03:17,770
Maybe that was my denial.

1312
01:03:17,770 --> 01:03:18,370
I don't know.

1313
01:03:18,370 --> 01:03:21,030
Or maybe it's not
something you remember.

1314
01:03:21,030 --> 01:03:22,830
That's just as
legitimate as people

1315
01:03:22,830 --> 01:03:24,270
who say they do remember.

1316
01:03:24,270 --> 01:03:26,310
I was just wondering.

1317
01:03:26,310 --> 01:03:26,820
Yeah.

1318
01:03:26,820 --> 01:03:27,320
Yeah.

1319
01:03:27,320 --> 01:03:30,420
I don't-- I can't
say that I did.

1320
01:03:30,420 --> 01:03:32,460
But I saw too much.

1321
01:03:32,460 --> 01:03:36,540
I saw everything, after we
were stationed in this place.

1322
01:03:36,540 --> 01:03:38,340
So we were then stationed--

1323
01:03:38,340 --> 01:03:43,350
we were in a camp where we
arrived for about a month.

1324
01:03:43,350 --> 01:03:47,760
And then they began
to assign sorting out

1325
01:03:47,760 --> 01:03:53,485
these thousands of women
for various work places.

1326
01:03:53,485 --> 01:03:57,130
Some were sent out of
Auschwitz to other camps

1327
01:03:57,130 --> 01:04:00,460
or to other kind of assignments.

1328
01:04:00,460 --> 01:04:04,360
They used the people for
slave labor, wherever.

1329
01:04:04,360 --> 01:04:08,210
Some were assigned to some
kind of labor within the camp,

1330
01:04:08,210 --> 01:04:10,660
and they had to go from
one barrack to the other.

1331
01:04:10,660 --> 01:04:16,870
We were, after a month, assigned
to work what was nicknamed

1332
01:04:16,870 --> 01:04:18,440
"Kanada," in the camp.

1333

01:04:18,440 --> 01:04:18,970
Ah.

1334
01:04:18,970 --> 01:04:19,470
Kanada.

1335
01:04:19,470 --> 01:04:20,950
[? That's it ?] Yes.

1336
01:04:20,950 --> 01:04:25,510
Tell us, what was Kanada, and
why was it nicknamed that way?

1337
01:04:25,510 --> 01:04:29,520
Well, first of all, we
didn't know it existed.

1338
01:04:29,520 --> 01:04:31,800
We didn't know
anything about it.

1339
01:04:31,800 --> 01:04:36,720
You know-- but, in Kanada
was-- that was Birkenau.

1340
01:04:36,720 --> 01:04:39,600
And that's where the
gas chambers were.

1341
01:04:39,600 --> 01:04:43,530
Four of them were right
in Birkenau, back to back.

1342
01:04:43,530 --> 01:04:44,250
One of them--

1343
01:04:44,250 --> 01:04:48,150
And there were-- they apparently
had built barracks just

1344
01:04:48,150 --> 01:04:53,930
for the purpose of
housing the materials,

1345
01:04:53,930 --> 01:04:59,530
the stuff, that came out
of the hundreds of trains.

1346
01:04:59,530 --> 01:05:01,780
And people were going
to the gas chambers

1347
01:05:01,780 --> 01:05:04,670
and left clothing
and stuff behind--

1348
01:05:04,670 --> 01:05:06,020
a lot of it.

1349
01:05:06,020 --> 01:05:09,260
And they had these
barracks, there,

1350
01:05:09,260 --> 01:05:12,470
to put this stuff
into the barracks.

1351
01:05:12,470 --> 01:05:17,510
And from the train, a lot more
stuff that came out into those

1352
01:05:17,510 --> 01:05:18,440
barracks.

1353
01:05:18,440 --> 01:05:22,850
And then they needed
workers to sort them out

1354
01:05:22,850 --> 01:05:26,960
and to get them ready
to return to Germany.

1355
01:05:26,960 --> 01:05:31,250
Because they used all of it,
[INAUDIBLE] [? back ?] shipment

1356

01:05:31,250 --> 01:05:32,090
to Germany--

1357

01:05:32,090 --> 01:05:34,260
all that clothes--
whatever was usable

1358

01:05:34,260 --> 01:05:36,260
would have to be sorted out.

1359

01:05:36,260 --> 01:05:39,120
And it was sent back to Germany.

1360

01:05:39,120 --> 01:05:43,160
And we were assigned to do that.

1361

01:05:43,160 --> 01:05:45,350
And we had no idea--

1362

01:05:45,350 --> 01:05:49,910
because, you know, rumors would
have it, in the mornings--

1363

01:05:49,910 --> 01:05:54,380
you know, the kapos would
say, we need 1,000 women

1364

01:05:54,380 --> 01:05:57,080
to go to a workplace--
or, I don't know

1365

01:05:57,080 --> 01:05:58,760
how exactly they framed it.

1366

01:05:58,760 --> 01:06:01,370
And the rumor would start.

1367

01:06:01,370 --> 01:06:02,870
You think it's a good place?

1368

01:06:02,870 --> 01:06:04,102

Should we volunteer?

1369

01:06:04,102 --> 01:06:04,602

Ah.

1370

01:06:04,602 --> 01:06:06,980

They'll pick us anyway.

1371

01:06:06,980 --> 01:06:09,740

You think we should
go-- we should not?

1372

01:06:09,740 --> 01:06:11,850

They had no idea,
but there was rumors.

1373

01:06:11,850 --> 01:06:13,160

OK.

1374

01:06:13,160 --> 01:06:15,530

When this announcement
was made--

1375

01:06:15,530 --> 01:06:20,430

1,000 women, to
come to a place--

1376

01:06:20,430 --> 01:06:24,260

and, at this point, because
they were separating us,

1377

01:06:24,260 --> 01:06:28,490

they needed to ship
us to workplaces.

1378

01:06:28,490 --> 01:06:30,500

People had a chance
to volunteer.

1379

01:06:30,500 --> 01:06:31,910

You know.

1380

01:06:31,910 --> 01:06:37,370
So I remember Piri saying, I
hear rumors it's a good place.

1381
01:06:37,370 --> 01:06:39,650
Rosie had no opinion.

1382
01:06:39,650 --> 01:06:41,840
I think we should
volunteer for this.

1383
01:06:41,840 --> 01:06:43,950
And the rumors, back and forth.

1384
01:06:43,950 --> 01:06:48,810
So, OK, she said
she heard something.

1385
01:06:48,810 --> 01:06:50,370
Rosie agreed.

1386
01:06:50,370 --> 01:06:52,970
We lined up, all four of us.

1387
01:06:52,970 --> 01:06:58,010
And [INAUDIBLE] the very
same time, they tattooed us.

1388
01:06:58,010 --> 01:07:00,320
You were designated for here.

1389
01:07:00,320 --> 01:07:05,450
You are going to be tattooed
and go whatever this place is.

1390
01:07:05,450 --> 01:07:06,855
That's all it was--

1391
01:07:06,855 --> 01:07:07,805
no idea.

1392
01:07:07,805 --> 01:07:08,755

Aha.

1393

01:07:08,755 --> 01:07:09,710

OK.

1394

01:07:09,710 --> 01:07:14,330

In the meantime, you're
always looking for some hope.

1395

01:07:14,330 --> 01:07:16,670

This is so desperate.

1396

01:07:16,670 --> 01:07:18,990

Oh, they're tattooing you?

1397

01:07:18,990 --> 01:07:20,270

That's a good thing.

1398

01:07:20,270 --> 01:07:22,040

Why do you think
that's a good thing?

1399

01:07:22,040 --> 01:07:24,170

Well, they don't take our name.

1400

01:07:24,170 --> 01:07:25,190

They don't know who--

1401

01:07:25,190 --> 01:07:27,260

[INAUDIBLE] they
don't have documents.

1402

01:07:27,260 --> 01:07:29,720

This is the way they'll
keep track of us.

1403

01:07:29,720 --> 01:07:32,390

And there will be a name
to go with the tattoo.

1404

01:07:32,390 --> 01:07:34,820

And now they can't

deny we exist.

1405
01:07:34,820 --> 01:07:35,810
This is our name.

1406
01:07:35,810 --> 01:07:36,653
This is our--

1407
01:07:36,653 --> 01:07:40,210

1408
01:07:40,210 --> 01:07:43,720
In the future, after
all of this is over,

1409
01:07:43,720 --> 01:07:49,330
did you ever find your name
listed among Auschwitz records?

1410
01:07:49,330 --> 01:07:54,670
My daughter Leslie has done
an immense amount of research.

1411
01:07:54,670 --> 01:07:58,480
She is an expert on
Holocaust and all things

1412
01:07:58,480 --> 01:08:02,290
related to it, because she
spent all their adult life

1413
01:08:02,290 --> 01:08:04,550
researching-- and not
only in this country

1414
01:08:04,550 --> 01:08:09,190
but in all the Russian
republics and all over Europe.

1415
01:08:09,190 --> 01:08:11,410
That was her job, and
she was able to get

1416

01:08:11,410 --> 01:08:13,990
to [INAUDIBLE] in Auschwitz.

1417

01:08:13,990 --> 01:08:16,569
She saw the archives
there, and so on.

1418

01:08:16,569 --> 01:08:19,120
And we found that,
in the beginning,

1419

01:08:19,120 --> 01:08:27,080
there were some names
correlating with the numbers.

1420

01:08:27,080 --> 01:08:30,859
But, after a while, they
abandoned that altogether.

1421

01:08:30,859 --> 01:08:35,109
And what happened when
she did find names--

1422

01:08:35,109 --> 01:08:37,990
we found out that, like,
for example, Rosie,

1423

01:08:37,990 --> 01:08:40,670
she was called
Rosie Mermelstein.

1424

01:08:40,670 --> 01:08:45,430
And we knew her age and
whatever more information.

1425

01:08:45,430 --> 01:08:49,609
It didn't coincide with
our Rosie Mermelstein.

1426

01:08:49,609 --> 01:08:50,109
You know?

1427

01:08:50,109 --> 01:08:54,220
And so there were so many Rosie
Mermelsteins and so many other

1428
01:08:54,220 --> 01:08:56,210
that it was hit-and-miss.

1429
01:08:56,210 --> 01:08:56,710
I see.

1430
01:08:56,710 --> 01:09:00,910
But I understand that
some people actually

1431
01:09:00,910 --> 01:09:03,040
were able to trace it.

1432
01:09:03,040 --> 01:09:04,899
It depended on the rush.

1433
01:09:04,899 --> 01:09:08,710
It depended on who
you were dealing with

1434
01:09:08,710 --> 01:09:12,729
or if the records were accurate.

1435
01:09:12,729 --> 01:09:15,590
There were some who
could connect with it.

1436
01:09:15,590 --> 01:09:19,060
So there was some reason
to think that that will

1437
01:09:19,060 --> 01:09:21,340
be a record of your existence.

1438
01:09:21,340 --> 01:09:22,300
Mhm?

1439
01:09:22,300 --> 01:09:27,541

But, [INAUDIBLE] to who you are-- because, you know, your--

1440
01:09:27,541 --> 01:09:28,779
everything that you had--

1441
01:09:28,779 --> 01:09:32,800
papers and names and location
where you come from--

1442
01:09:32,800 --> 01:09:34,609
was destroyed, you know.

1443
01:09:34,609 --> 01:09:35,229
So--

1444
01:09:35,229 --> 01:09:38,200
All that Hungarian
citizenship that your father

1445
01:09:38,200 --> 01:09:40,945
was so busy trying to acquire--

1446
01:09:40,945 --> 01:09:41,920
Oh, my god.

1447
01:09:41,920 --> 01:09:47,229
That was long-- that was long
confiscated-- in the ghetto.

1448
01:09:47,229 --> 01:09:48,640
They took all our papers.

1449
01:09:48,640 --> 01:09:51,490
There were fires, bonfires.

1450
01:09:51,490 --> 01:09:54,290
Any books you brought, any
papers-- it was burned,

1451
01:09:54,290 --> 01:09:56,350
long burned [INAUDIBLE].

1452
01:09:56,350 --> 01:09:59,515
We should have known then,
we didn't exist anymore.

1453
01:09:59,515 --> 01:10:03,340
[INAUDIBLE] what my
father worked so hard for.

1454
01:10:03,340 --> 01:10:07,960
We didn't come with papers
anymore, anyhow, to Auschwitz.

1455
01:10:07,960 --> 01:10:09,580
So here you get a tattoo--

1456
01:10:09,580 --> 01:10:12,700
which is, in essence,
a comfort, because it

1457
01:10:12,700 --> 01:10:14,740
confirms that you exist--

1458
01:10:14,740 --> 01:10:16,720
that there has to
be some roster--

1459
01:10:16,720 --> 01:10:19,310
Yes, but nobody
knows who we are.

1460
01:10:19,310 --> 01:10:21,235
This is connected with the name.

1461
01:10:21,235 --> 01:10:24,010
And I was thinking
that we exist.

1462
01:10:24,010 --> 01:10:27,700
[INAUDIBLE] [LAUGH] We've got
to make sure that there's some

1463

01:10:27,700 --> 01:10:31,320
record that a human being lived
here-- whatever they call you--

1464
01:10:31,320 --> 01:10:32,210
[INAUDIBLE]

1465
01:10:32,210 --> 01:10:33,220
And it was foolish.

1466
01:10:33,220 --> 01:10:34,300
We didn't understand.

1467
01:10:34,300 --> 01:10:36,170
We did not.

1468
01:10:36,170 --> 01:10:38,630
And I don't really
know why they tattooed.

1469
01:10:38,630 --> 01:10:43,160
It certainly wasn't to
keep a record of our names

1470
01:10:43,160 --> 01:10:45,270
or who we are or
where we come from.

1471
01:10:45,270 --> 01:10:50,000
It was some kind of bookkeeping
for them, it seems to me.

1472
01:10:50,000 --> 01:10:51,320
I don't really know.

1473
01:10:51,320 --> 01:10:53,900
Not everybody was tattooed
in Auschwitz [INAUDIBLE]

1474
01:10:53,900 --> 01:10:58,910
Yeah, well, the later
transports, we read,

1475

01:10:58,910 --> 01:11:04,010

particularly in November
of '44, when, really,

1476

01:11:04,010 --> 01:11:06,500

we're coming close to
the end of the war,

1477

01:11:06,500 --> 01:11:09,480

many people then
were not tattooed--

1478

01:11:09,480 --> 01:11:09,980

Yes.

1479

01:11:09,980 --> 01:11:10,490

--by then.

1480

01:11:10,490 --> 01:11:13,890

But, in the beginning
that's different.

1481

01:11:13,890 --> 01:11:15,680

[INAUDIBLE] Yeah, yeah.

1482

01:11:15,680 --> 01:11:17,540

So you're sent to
Kanada, which is

1483

01:11:17,540 --> 01:11:21,640

Birkenau, which
has these four gas

1484

01:11:21,640 --> 01:11:26,060

chambers and, it sounds like,
a huge warehouse of goods--

1485

01:11:26,060 --> 01:11:26,560

Yes.

1486

01:11:26,560 --> 01:11:29,500

--that have been

confiscated from the trains.

1487

01:11:29,500 --> 01:11:33,010

Well, it became-- it sort
of was a city of its own

1488

01:11:33,010 --> 01:11:34,730

or a region of its own.

1489

01:11:34,730 --> 01:11:39,520

And we had no idea what it was.

1490

01:11:39,520 --> 01:11:43,150

From what Piri heard, it
was a good assignment--

1491

01:11:43,150 --> 01:11:48,470

if you were able to absorb
what went with that.

1492

01:11:48,470 --> 01:11:48,970

OK.

1493

01:11:48,970 --> 01:11:56,530

And, unfortunately, to get
used to what went with that,

1494

01:11:56,530 --> 01:12:01,650

for me was devastating.

1495

01:12:01,650 --> 01:12:06,960

Again, I feel-- you could--

1496

01:12:06,960 --> 01:12:08,760

I mean, everybody suffered.

1497

01:12:08,760 --> 01:12:13,820

Everybody suffered cruelty
and starvation and--

1498

01:12:13,820 --> 01:12:19,580

and dehumanization and knowing

your parents and family

1499
01:12:19,580 --> 01:12:20,150
are killed.

1500
01:12:20,150 --> 01:12:25,960
And [? a ?] just
unspeakable place

1501
01:12:25,960 --> 01:12:30,390
to be, and almost sure that
you'll never get out alive.

1502
01:12:30,390 --> 01:12:33,920
And, you know, everybody did.

1503
01:12:33,920 --> 01:12:34,420
Yeah.

1504
01:12:34,420 --> 01:12:41,490
But, to be there and see
the process of gassing

1505
01:12:41,490 --> 01:12:47,580
and to see the thousands of
people go in and not come out--

1506
01:12:47,580 --> 01:12:53,150
to see it day and night had
an entirely different effect.

1507
01:12:53,150 --> 01:12:55,480
Those who were not near it--

1508
01:12:55,480 --> 01:12:59,370
Auschwitz is an
enormous piece of land--

1509
01:12:59,370 --> 01:13:00,500
acres and acres.

1510
01:13:00,500 --> 01:13:03,080

And if you were far
away, in barracks,

1511
01:13:03,080 --> 01:13:05,420
you could always deny--

1512
01:13:05,420 --> 01:13:07,850
half-deny, deny--

1513
01:13:07,850 --> 01:13:10,715
But what I went through
and we went through,

1514
01:13:10,715 --> 01:13:13,820
with actually seeing
the process and hearing

1515
01:13:13,820 --> 01:13:20,720
the people pray and cry and
scream, and then silence--

1516
01:13:20,720 --> 01:13:26,280
I I'm not going to say that--

1517
01:13:26,280 --> 01:13:31,660
I don't want to say that I
was affected more than others.

1518
01:13:31,660 --> 01:13:35,580
But, if you saw it,
and if you heard it,

1519
01:13:35,580 --> 01:13:41,830
it was another experience
than if you heard it far away.

1520
01:13:41,830 --> 01:13:45,100
They told you, just like when
we came in, into [INAUDIBLE]

1521
01:13:45,100 --> 01:13:47,690
Auschwitz [? was, ?]
you can deny it.

1522
01:13:47,690 --> 01:13:49,400
You can deny it.

1523
01:13:49,400 --> 01:13:52,770
But we were there
for eight months--

1524
01:13:52,770 --> 01:13:53,270
Wow.

1525
01:13:53,270 --> 01:14:01,960
[INAUDIBLE] and what I witnessed
and we witnessed was about two

1526
01:14:01,960 --> 01:14:03,850
months, for sure--

1527
01:14:03,850 --> 01:14:05,620
two and a half months--

1528
01:14:05,620 --> 01:14:13,430
where 400,000 Hungarian Jews
were brought into Auschwitz,

1529
01:14:13,430 --> 01:14:15,630
in two months.

1530
01:14:15,630 --> 01:14:19,680
So it was [INAUDIBLE] trains
kept coming, day and night, day

1531
01:14:19,680 --> 01:14:20,820
and night.

1532
01:14:20,820 --> 01:14:25,530
And we saw the
flames, and the people

1533
01:14:25,530 --> 01:14:29,370
going in there, and the
screaming and crying.

1534
01:14:29,370 --> 01:14:31,510
We saw it day and night.

1535
01:14:31,510 --> 01:14:32,950
That was our view.

1536
01:14:32,950 --> 01:14:34,780
That was our sound.

1537
01:14:34,780 --> 01:14:36,770
That was our vision.

1538
01:14:36,770 --> 01:14:40,840
No one had to tell us
it wasn't happening.

1539
01:14:40,840 --> 01:14:51,000
And I think that we suffered
a kind of agony that cannot be

1540
01:14:51,000 --> 01:14:54,550
described, because nobody had
ever experienced anything like

1541
01:14:54,550 --> 01:14:55,050
that.

1542
01:14:55,050 --> 01:14:56,160
No.

1543
01:14:56,160 --> 01:14:57,690
[INAUDIBLE]-- no.

1544
01:14:57,690 --> 01:15:02,320
Your-- it's-- there is--

1545
01:15:02,320 --> 01:15:06,420
when people witness somebody
being murdered, the--

1546

01:15:06,420 --> 01:15:07,470
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1547
01:15:07,470 --> 01:15:11,310
Yeah, there's-- one
person being murdered,

1548
01:15:11,310 --> 01:15:14,930
and it stays with a
human being for life.

1549
01:15:14,930 --> 01:15:20,720
But it was-- what it was
is the absolute realization

1550
01:15:20,720 --> 01:15:24,820
that they're killing our
Jewish people deliberately,

1551
01:15:24,820 --> 01:15:27,250
with a plan.

1552
01:15:27,250 --> 01:15:29,650
The plan is smooth.

1553
01:15:29,650 --> 01:15:33,040
It's working.

1554
01:15:33,040 --> 01:15:36,370
It's happening day and night.

1555
01:15:36,370 --> 01:15:40,560
It's an enclosed
area whose purpose

1556
01:15:40,560 --> 01:15:45,000
is to kill [INAUDIBLE] they're
brought in here to be killed,

1557
01:15:45,000 --> 01:15:46,140
for no other reason.

1558

01:15:46,140 --> 01:15:47,770
The trains are coming.

1559
01:15:47,770 --> 01:15:49,850
This is a killing place.

1560
01:15:49,850 --> 01:15:51,150
This is some kind of--

1561
01:15:51,150 --> 01:15:56,430
[INAUDIBLE] I, as a
young girl, I concluded,

1562
01:15:56,430 --> 01:16:00,780
this is not on Earth,
and it's not in Europe.

1563
01:16:00,780 --> 01:16:03,780
And it's not anywhere--
that, somehow, we're

1564
01:16:03,780 --> 01:16:07,660
on another planet and
nobody knows about it.

1565
01:16:07,660 --> 01:16:08,910
It's a big secret.

1566
01:16:08,910 --> 01:16:10,840
We didn't know about it.

1567
01:16:10,840 --> 01:16:13,740
And all the Jews
are being killed.

1568
01:16:13,740 --> 01:16:16,560
And all our Jewish
children are being killed.

1569
01:16:16,560 --> 01:16:20,700
And it will never end, because
nobody knows this is here.

1570

01:16:20,700 --> 01:16:25,500

And we are captured here into a fenced-in, electrified fencing.

1571

01:16:25,500 --> 01:16:27,030

We can't go out.

1572

01:16:27,030 --> 01:16:30,225

We're guarded by cruel monsters.

1573

01:16:30,225 --> 01:16:33,180

1574

01:16:33,180 --> 01:16:38,550

And the only people who are in charge of this horrific event

1575

01:16:38,550 --> 01:16:40,950

are a bunch of soldiers.

1576

01:16:40,950 --> 01:16:42,840

They're not even civilians.

1577

01:16:42,840 --> 01:16:45,090

Nobody is charged with anything.

1578

01:16:45,090 --> 01:16:47,640

You got off the train, and you're marched in here,

1579

01:16:47,640 --> 01:16:51,240

and you're little children and your parents and your elderly--

1580

01:16:51,240 --> 01:16:53,610

day in and day out.

1581

01:16:53,610 --> 01:16:54,630

You build up--

1582

01:16:54,630 --> 01:17:00,570

I built up a story of
where I am and why I'm here

1583
01:17:00,570 --> 01:17:03,900
and that this is a
planned destruction

1584
01:17:03,900 --> 01:17:10,260
of our Jewish people
and our own families.

1585
01:17:10,260 --> 01:17:14,286
It happened to them, in the
way that I see it happening.

1586
01:17:14,286 --> 01:17:19,240
, And even though we had more
food, we had more clothes,

1587
01:17:19,240 --> 01:17:25,250
we had more comforts,
in retrospect--

1588
01:17:25,250 --> 01:17:29,120
I don't know-- maybe, even
there-- nobody asked me--

1589
01:17:29,120 --> 01:17:31,910
but, in retrospect,
what effect it

1590
01:17:31,910 --> 01:17:35,510
had on me for the rest
of my life and forever--

1591
01:17:35,510 --> 01:17:39,950
I think, I would have rather
have been in a faraway camp

1592
01:17:39,950 --> 01:17:42,800
from this, so that
this would not have

1593

01:17:42,800 --> 01:17:45,440
gotten imprinted upon my soul.

1594
01:17:45,440 --> 01:17:47,930
Because that was not bearable.

1595
01:17:47,930 --> 01:17:49,700
And so--

1596
01:17:49,700 --> 01:17:51,080
I can't imagine it.

1597
01:17:51,080 --> 01:17:52,850
I can't imagine it.

1598
01:17:52,850 --> 01:17:53,960
No, you can't.

1599
01:17:53,960 --> 01:17:56,420
[LAUGH] I agree with you.

1600
01:17:56,420 --> 01:17:57,830
But I was--

1601
01:17:57,830 --> 01:18:01,340

1602
01:18:01,340 --> 01:18:03,350
I was impressionable, for sure.

1603
01:18:03,350 --> 01:18:05,480
You were 13 and 1/2.

1604
01:18:05,480 --> 01:18:07,280
But I sorted out.

1605
01:18:07,280 --> 01:18:11,960
And I made a fantasy
story out of it.

1606
01:18:11,960 --> 01:18:15,530

But it was, we were
captured into a killing

1607
01:18:15,530 --> 01:18:17,810
place that no one knows about.

1608
01:18:17,810 --> 01:18:19,430
And we're guarded.

1609
01:18:19,430 --> 01:18:24,440
And we're-- eventually, all
our families are being funneled

1610
01:18:24,440 --> 01:18:25,370
in there.

1611
01:18:25,370 --> 01:18:30,560
And the fire was
constant, day and night.

1612
01:18:30,560 --> 01:18:34,210
Well, your fantasy wasn't
far from the truth.

1613
01:18:34,210 --> 01:18:36,180
But I thought, we're
not on this planet.

1614
01:18:36,180 --> 01:18:39,690
It couldn't be--
cannot be [INAUDIBLE]---

1615
01:18:39,690 --> 01:18:42,350
and [INAUDIBLE]
close enough to the--

1616
01:18:42,350 --> 01:18:47,030
the location is close
enough to the platform

1617
01:18:47,030 --> 01:18:48,590
where the trains arrive.

1618

01:18:48,590 --> 01:18:53,083
And, day and night, you hear
the hissing of the steam engine,

1619

01:18:53,083 --> 01:18:54,420
[INAUDIBLE] they're coming.

1620

01:18:54,420 --> 01:19:00,050
They're all-- at night, you
[INAUDIBLE] hear you hear--

1621

01:19:00,050 --> 01:19:03,980
We worked night
shifts and day shifts.

1622

01:19:03,980 --> 01:19:04,940
We worked around--

1623

01:19:04,940 --> 01:19:07,740
What was your particular job?

1624

01:19:07,740 --> 01:19:13,680
So our particular job was,
they dumped the belongings

1625

01:19:13,680 --> 01:19:17,720
that people brought on the
platform, when we arrived.

1626

01:19:17,720 --> 01:19:20,480
There were trucks
waiting for it, there.

1627

01:19:20,480 --> 01:19:25,090
Our men prisoners,
our Jewish prisoners,

1628

01:19:25,090 --> 01:19:28,120
loaded them in the
trucks and brought them

1629

01:19:28,120 --> 01:19:33,400

to this prepared place, a
barracks, to be sorted out.

1630
01:19:33,400 --> 01:19:38,090
But first, they dumped it on
the ground between the barracks,

1631
01:19:38,090 --> 01:19:40,720
because they just
had to go run back

1632
01:19:40,720 --> 01:19:43,100
for more and more and more.

1633
01:19:43,100 --> 01:19:47,870
And so, the accumulation
outside, between the barracks--

1634
01:19:47,870 --> 01:19:51,700
you will see some
pictures, in the album--

1635
01:19:51,700 --> 01:19:55,400
the stuff is as high as the roof
of the barracks, all the way up

1636
01:19:55,400 --> 01:19:57,280
on the roof, outside.

1637
01:19:57,280 --> 01:20:02,320
Our job was to bring the
stuffing to the barrack,

1638
01:20:02,320 --> 01:20:06,880
out of the weather, and
then, when it slowed down--

1639
01:20:06,880 --> 01:20:10,000
eventually, in about two
and a half months, when

1640
01:20:10,000 --> 01:20:12,760
the Hungarian Jews

were done with it.

1641

01:20:12,760 --> 01:20:17,700

That after that, the
trains came but much less--

1642

01:20:17,700 --> 01:20:20,400

then we would be
in the barracks,

1643

01:20:20,400 --> 01:20:24,780

sorting it out, for eight
months, to make use of it

1644

01:20:24,780 --> 01:20:26,220

for the Germans.

1645

01:20:26,220 --> 01:20:30,630

And the thousands and
thousands of people

1646

01:20:30,630 --> 01:20:34,530

who were killed in the gas
chambers, their clothing

1647

01:20:34,530 --> 01:20:39,160

and belongings were also
brought to this place.

1648

01:20:39,160 --> 01:20:39,660

[INAUDIBLE]

1649

01:20:39,660 --> 01:20:44,330

So what were some of the
items that you would handle?

1650

01:20:44,330 --> 01:20:48,350

Well, if you see [INAUDIBLE]
in the museum and in pictures,

1651

01:20:48,350 --> 01:20:50,270

you see mountains of shoes?

1652

01:20:50,270 --> 01:20:50,780

Yeah.

1653

01:20:50,780 --> 01:20:53,630

You see mountains of suitcases--

1654

01:20:53,630 --> 01:20:56,090

But I'm thinking of
you, particularly.

1655

01:20:56,090 --> 01:20:59,720

Is there anything that you
remember that you would find?

1656

01:20:59,720 --> 01:21:00,860

Was it papers?

1657

01:21:00,860 --> 01:21:02,390

Was it photographs?

1658

01:21:02,390 --> 01:21:04,460

Was it-- and
whatever-- you know,

1659

01:21:04,460 --> 01:21:07,437

besides the photos
that we all see now--

1660

01:21:07,437 --> 01:21:08,270

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1661

01:21:08,270 --> 01:21:09,800

--were books.

1662

01:21:09,800 --> 01:21:13,340

There were pots and pans.

1663

01:21:13,340 --> 01:21:15,390

I don't remember--

1664

01:21:15,390 --> 01:21:21,510

I remember books, but typically,
they took away these things,

1665
01:21:21,510 --> 01:21:24,750
you know, said, get out and
leave everything behind.

1666
01:21:24,750 --> 01:21:30,645
But, depending on where
the people came from,

1667
01:21:30,645 --> 01:21:33,020
they brought things and then
they left them in the train.

1668
01:21:33,020 --> 01:21:34,062
Because-- you know, and--

1669
01:21:34,062 --> 01:21:35,270
That's what they were told.

1670
01:21:35,270 --> 01:21:36,395
That's what they were told.

1671
01:21:36,395 --> 01:21:38,030
And so it all came here.

1672
01:21:38,030 --> 01:21:41,960
Like, would be mountains
of eyeglasses, mountains

1673
01:21:41,960 --> 01:21:44,840
of toothbrushes,
mountains of baby

1674
01:21:44,840 --> 01:21:48,590
shoes, mountains of
all kinds of boots,

1675
01:21:48,590 --> 01:21:52,700
mountains of various
kinds of food products.

1676

01:21:52,700 --> 01:21:55,070

And we could eat it, because
they couldn't keep track

1677

01:21:55,070 --> 01:22:01,430

of us-- you know, broken
[INAUDIBLE],, spoiled rice,

1678

01:22:01,430 --> 01:22:03,095

spoiled sugar--

1679

01:22:03,095 --> 01:22:06,770

but, every now and then,
something very delicious.

1680

01:22:06,770 --> 01:22:10,580

And the women-- we ate it, yes.

1681

01:22:10,580 --> 01:22:12,035

And that was a--

1682

01:22:12,035 --> 01:22:14,090

and we could change
our underwear,

1683

01:22:14,090 --> 01:22:15,960

and we could change our socks.

1684

01:22:15,960 --> 01:22:18,650

They simply could not
keep track of all that.

1685

01:22:18,650 --> 01:22:20,000

There was too much.

1686

01:22:20,000 --> 01:22:23,430

And we were physically,
in every way--

1687

01:22:23,430 --> 01:22:26,270

There were showers that
we were able to take.

1688
01:22:26,270 --> 01:22:29,150
And you would have
thought, well, this

1689
01:22:29,150 --> 01:22:31,900
is a huge improvement--
and it was.

1690
01:22:31,900 --> 01:22:36,930
And it was a
survivable condition--

1691
01:22:36,930 --> 01:22:43,610
if you could look away and
not see and not hear and not

1692
01:22:43,610 --> 01:22:47,380
understand what was really
going on here-- a genocide.

1693
01:22:47,380 --> 01:22:48,090
Yeah.

1694
01:22:48,090 --> 01:22:48,770
Yeah.

1695
01:22:48,770 --> 01:22:53,400
And I-- for some
reason, I don't--

1696
01:22:53,400 --> 01:22:56,100
I shouldn't put
myself out as I was

1697
01:22:56,100 --> 01:23:01,420
the only one who was sensitive,
but I was extremely troubled.

1698
01:23:01,420 --> 01:23:03,610
I was extremely sensitive.

1699

01:23:03,610 --> 01:23:05,325
I was extremely affected.

1700
01:23:05,325 --> 01:23:08,010

1701
01:23:08,010 --> 01:23:11,210
I just think that
that's the part

1702
01:23:11,210 --> 01:23:14,840
that Auschwitz means to me--

1703
01:23:14,840 --> 01:23:17,840
that my suffering, my--

1704
01:23:17,840 --> 01:23:20,300
to this day, to this very day.

1705
01:23:20,300 --> 01:23:23,750
You know, it's very difficult
to explain that part

1706
01:23:23,750 --> 01:23:25,700
to other people, what you feel.

1707
01:23:25,700 --> 01:23:27,620
But this was not--

1708
01:23:27,620 --> 01:23:30,570
I witnessed genocide
of our people.

1709
01:23:30,570 --> 01:23:31,070
Yeah.

1710
01:23:31,070 --> 01:23:34,280
And I witnessed-- you know, it--

1711
01:23:34,280 --> 01:23:40,540
you see people, women,
holding little babies,

1712
01:23:40,540 --> 01:23:42,760
holding little
children-- grandmothers,

1713
01:23:42,760 --> 01:23:46,090
holding onto little children--
the gorgeous children.

1714
01:23:46,090 --> 01:23:49,630
They are talking to
us, as they're waiting.

1715
01:23:49,630 --> 01:23:52,270
They're talking to
us-- in Hungarian--

1716
01:23:52,270 --> 01:23:53,540
say, where are you from?

1717
01:23:53,540 --> 01:23:54,670
What's your name?

1718
01:23:54,670 --> 01:23:56,540
We're inside the building.

1719
01:23:56,540 --> 01:23:58,270
We're not supposed
to touch them.

1720
01:23:58,270 --> 01:24:00,220
But we're inside this barrack--

1721
01:24:00,220 --> 01:24:03,610
barrack, facing this road
where they're entering

1722
01:24:03,610 --> 01:24:06,070
the gate to the gas chamber.

1723
01:24:06,070 --> 01:24:09,790
They are talking to us,

these gorgeous children--

1724
01:24:09,790 --> 01:24:11,270
hundreds of them.

1725
01:24:11,270 --> 01:24:14,770
And I know that, in a half
hour, they'll all be dead,

1726
01:24:14,770 --> 01:24:17,870
and we'll be sorting
out their clothes.

1727
01:24:17,870 --> 01:24:21,500
And the chimney
is belching fire.

1728
01:24:21,500 --> 01:24:23,840
You can't go on
like that very long.

1729
01:24:23,840 --> 01:24:24,910
No.

1730
01:24:24,910 --> 01:24:28,900
No amount of extra
comforts that you have--

1731
01:24:28,900 --> 01:24:34,690
and that's my-- that's
my Auschwitz story.

1732
01:24:34,690 --> 01:24:36,790
And I need not say anymore.

1733
01:24:36,790 --> 01:24:42,770
And the effect on me is--

1734
01:24:42,770 --> 01:24:46,050
it-- it-- it-- it's
understandably horrific.

1735

01:24:46,050 --> 01:24:46,550
[INAUDIBLE]

1736
01:24:46,550 --> 01:24:50,570
Did you ever have
nightmares, later?

1737
01:24:50,570 --> 01:24:53,610
You know, I didn't
have nightmares.

1738
01:24:53,610 --> 01:24:55,072
I don't understand it.

1739
01:24:55,072 --> 01:24:56,030
I think I [INAUDIBLE]--

1740
01:24:56,030 --> 01:24:59,750
[LAUGH] I lived it
too much in the day.

1741
01:24:59,750 --> 01:25:02,750
My daily absorption
of what was going on,

1742
01:25:02,750 --> 01:25:07,040
and my fantasy of
where I am, sort of--

1743
01:25:07,040 --> 01:25:08,660
it took over.

1744
01:25:08,660 --> 01:25:13,770
The nightmare was in the
daytime, in a way, really.

1745
01:25:13,770 --> 01:25:17,690
And so, I still--

1746
01:25:17,690 --> 01:25:22,250
to be honest to
what I experienced--

1747

01:25:22,250 --> 01:25:25,250

had I-- in the end,
[INAUDIBLE] had

1748

01:25:25,250 --> 01:25:29,810

I had a very rough, starving
time for the entire eight

1749

01:25:29,810 --> 01:25:33,230

months, elsewhere, I probably
would have not made it.

1750

01:25:33,230 --> 01:25:37,430

I would have died of some
illness or something else.

1751

01:25:37,430 --> 01:25:44,570

But the trade off-of
the advantages I had

1752

01:25:44,570 --> 01:25:47,350

didn't outweigh what
I came away with--

1753

01:25:47,350 --> 01:25:48,560

we came away with.

1754

01:25:48,560 --> 01:25:49,880

It was a high price.

1755

01:25:49,880 --> 01:25:51,440

It was a very high price.

1756

01:25:51,440 --> 01:25:53,030

Very high price.

1757

01:25:53,030 --> 01:25:56,540

And it's not the kind
that I can say, oh,

1758

01:25:56,540 --> 01:25:58,996

once upon a time this happened.

1759
01:25:58,996 --> 01:26:03,100
No, it happened to my people--

1760
01:26:03,100 --> 01:26:06,600
all my babies and all my people.

1761
01:26:06,600 --> 01:26:11,870
And then, in addition to
that, we found out that--

1762
01:26:11,870 --> 01:26:13,100
you know what they did?

1763
01:26:13,100 --> 01:26:17,240
They used our own men
to pull the bodies out

1764
01:26:17,240 --> 01:26:24,320
of the gas chamber, to but
their hair, pull out their gold

1765
01:26:24,320 --> 01:26:28,970
teeth, separate them with
pitchforks-- because they

1766
01:26:28,970 --> 01:26:31,280
were mangled.

1767
01:26:31,280 --> 01:26:34,100
It was hard, hard
labor, [INAUDIBLE]

1768
01:26:34,100 --> 01:26:37,220
getting them into
the gas chambers,

1769
01:26:37,220 --> 01:26:40,760
dealing with the ashes.

1770
01:26:40,760 --> 01:26:42,890
Our own men had to do that.

1771
01:26:42,890 --> 01:26:46,220
And then we found out
that, for a while,

1772
01:26:46,220 --> 01:26:48,860
my father was picked
to work there.

1773
01:26:48,860 --> 01:26:53,620
And when I tell you that my
father was a gentle person--

1774
01:26:53,620 --> 01:26:54,700
he was killed, there.

1775
01:26:54,700 --> 01:26:58,600
He was killed because they--

1776
01:26:58,600 --> 01:27:01,480
First of all, what
we heard from someone

1777
01:27:01,480 --> 01:27:03,430
who was also killed after--

1778
01:27:03,430 --> 01:27:08,900
that he wasn't doing it very
well, and he wasn't suitable.

1779
01:27:08,900 --> 01:27:10,600
So they shot him.

1780
01:27:10,600 --> 01:27:13,750
But typically what they
did to these, our men,

1781
01:27:13,750 --> 01:27:17,050
is, they had them do this
work for about three months,

1782
01:27:17,050 --> 01:27:20,410

and then they marched
them off into a field

1783
01:27:20,410 --> 01:27:24,340
and they shot them and picked
new ones from the newcomers.

1784
01:27:24,340 --> 01:27:27,010
Because obviously they
couldn't do the work.

1785
01:27:27,010 --> 01:27:30,910
But to find out that my
father, my kind of father,

1786
01:27:30,910 --> 01:27:33,070
the kind of person that he was--

1787
01:27:33,070 --> 01:27:42,640
to imagine that, for him
to be aware and participate

1788
01:27:42,640 --> 01:27:50,230
in the murder of
all his people--

1789
01:27:50,230 --> 01:27:52,630
his children, his family--

1790
01:27:52,630 --> 01:27:55,330
you can't live very
well with that image.

1791
01:27:55,330 --> 01:27:55,900
No.

1792
01:27:55,900 --> 01:27:57,430
No.

1793
01:27:57,430 --> 01:28:00,130
What about your brother, who
had been with your father?

1794

01:28:00,130 --> 01:28:03,190

Did you ever find out about
him-- what happened to him?

1795

01:28:03,190 --> 01:28:06,300

Well, he's another
painful story,

1796

01:28:06,300 --> 01:28:10,380

because he would not have
been picked for that job,

1797

01:28:10,380 --> 01:28:15,090

because we know that
they picked stronger

1798

01:28:15,090 --> 01:28:19,800

people-- although my father
didn't seem so strong.

1799

01:28:19,800 --> 01:28:22,260

I read, there were some of--

1800

01:28:22,260 --> 01:28:24,900

they were called
"Sonderkommandos."

1801

01:28:24,900 --> 01:28:26,000

a couple of them survived.

1802

01:28:26,000 --> 01:28:30,370

I read the book of one of them.

1803

01:28:30,370 --> 01:28:33,130

I learned a lot,
how they worked,

1804

01:28:33,130 --> 01:28:36,940

who they were, how long they
lived, who these people were.

1805

01:28:36,940 --> 01:28:40,690

But the emphasis was
that it was heavy labor.

1806
01:28:40,690 --> 01:28:44,890
And he was a slight
16-year-old, you know--

1807
01:28:44,890 --> 01:28:46,480
a skinny kid.

1808
01:28:46,480 --> 01:28:48,730
So, he must have been separated.

1809
01:28:48,730 --> 01:28:51,940
This is all-- makes sense.

1810
01:28:51,940 --> 01:28:54,060
But what we don't understand--

1811
01:28:54,060 --> 01:28:58,560
my daughter and my sister--
my daughter, especially--

1812
01:28:58,560 --> 01:29:07,910
she has had opportunity
to be in Auschwitz museum,

1813
01:29:07,910 --> 01:29:13,790
where they have lists in
Israel, Yad Vashem has lists.

1814
01:29:13,790 --> 01:29:18,680
She contacted the Red
Cross, who do search.

1815
01:29:18,680 --> 01:29:22,530
She searched here
at this museum.

1816
01:29:22,530 --> 01:29:27,090
He disappeared, entirely--
no record of him.

1817

01:29:27,090 --> 01:29:30,540

We asked survivors.

1818

01:29:30,540 --> 01:29:34,940

Nobody knew or heard of him.

1819

01:29:34,940 --> 01:29:40,290

He-- to this day, we know he died but we don't know how

1820

01:29:40,290 --> 01:29:42,570

and where, because--

1821

01:29:42,570 --> 01:29:43,080

He vanished.

1822

01:29:43,080 --> 01:29:46,270

He vanished.

1823

01:29:46,270 --> 01:29:51,490

And, since there is no follow-up there, to-- but [INAUDIBLE]

1824

01:29:51,490 --> 01:29:53,500

it's also terribly painful.

1825

01:29:53,500 --> 01:29:57,880

I'm not finished with losing my family, one way or another.

1826

01:29:57,880 --> 01:30:00,010

Why should I be finished with that?

1827

01:30:00,010 --> 01:30:03,450

But Leslie, till just recent months,

1828

01:30:03,450 --> 01:30:08,210

she was in Russia, in the Ukraine.

1829

01:30:08,210 --> 01:30:12,860

She had access to documents there.

1830

01:30:12,860 --> 01:30:17,120

She came back with some documents-- for example,

1831

01:30:17,120 --> 01:30:21,980

she came back with the birth certificates of all my family,

1832

01:30:21,980 --> 01:30:23,720

from Ukraine.

1833

01:30:23,720 --> 01:30:27,770

They had these places where people helped her to find it.

1834

01:30:27,770 --> 01:30:29,300

She has copies of it.

1835

01:30:29,300 --> 01:30:30,650

That's amazing.

1836

01:30:30,650 --> 01:30:31,220

Yes.

1837

01:30:31,220 --> 01:30:32,930

Oh, she dug deep.

1838

01:30:32,930 --> 01:30:38,750

But, because she was an American, assigned

1839

01:30:38,750 --> 01:30:44,630

to do work in this Russian republics and in the Ukraine,

1840

01:30:44,630 --> 01:30:48,420

the people there in charge of these things--

1841
01:30:48,420 --> 01:30:50,270
especially if you paid them--

1842
01:30:50,270 --> 01:30:51,830
they were happy to dig for you.

1843
01:30:51,830 --> 01:30:54,200
And-- and it took years.

1844
01:30:54,200 --> 01:30:54,920
She went there.

1845
01:30:54,920 --> 01:30:57,920
She was working there and
made many, many, many trips

1846
01:30:57,920 --> 01:31:00,260
to these places, until recently.

1847
01:31:00,260 --> 01:31:01,520
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1848
01:31:01,520 --> 01:31:04,670
For those who will be
listening to this later,

1849
01:31:04,670 --> 01:31:07,520
the explanation
for why the Ukraine

1850
01:31:07,520 --> 01:31:10,220
is because your hometown
where you were born

1851
01:31:10,220 --> 01:31:11,930
is now in the Ukraine.

1852
01:31:11,930 --> 01:31:13,910
And so birth records
would be there.

1853

01:31:13,910 --> 01:31:16,040
Is that what we should assume?

1854

01:31:16,040 --> 01:31:22,190
Well, yes, but it wasn't simple
at all, because they had--

1855

01:31:22,190 --> 01:31:25,930
when, you know,
the Ukrainians then

1856

01:31:25,930 --> 01:31:28,320
occupied it, after
the war right--

1857

01:31:28,320 --> 01:31:32,110
they changed the places
where records were kept.

1858

01:31:32,110 --> 01:31:35,560
And she would [INAUDIBLE] go
to this city or that city.

1859

01:31:35,560 --> 01:31:38,610
Where were the-- you
know, the Ukrainians

1860

01:31:38,610 --> 01:31:42,420
weren't so happy
keeping records.

1861

01:31:42,420 --> 01:31:44,080
But there was a chaos, there.

1862

01:31:44,080 --> 01:31:45,820
But she managed.

1863

01:31:45,820 --> 01:31:48,700
She had a lot of help
from a lot of people.

1864

01:31:48,700 --> 01:31:54,610

She was able to work with local diplomats and Jewish survivors.

1865
01:31:54,610 --> 01:31:55,690
I had a lot--

1866
01:31:55,690 --> 01:32:00,310
I have about-- when
we were deported,

1867
01:32:00,310 --> 01:32:02,900
even my grandparents
when they arrived--

1868
01:32:02,900 --> 01:32:05,770
how many people,
how many trains--

1869
01:32:05,770 --> 01:32:09,820
For example, to emphasize
the size, the number

1870
01:32:09,820 --> 01:32:12,730
of Hungarians-- you know,
the Hungarian tragedy

1871
01:32:12,730 --> 01:32:17,500
is extra tragic, because the
war was over a year later.

1872
01:32:17,500 --> 01:32:18,310
Yes.

1873
01:32:18,310 --> 01:32:22,630
In some areas, six months,
seven months later, as the war

1874
01:32:22,630 --> 01:32:23,740
proceeded.

1875
01:32:23,740 --> 01:32:29,140
But they managed
to kill 400,000,

1876
01:32:29,140 --> 01:32:34,420
because they kept the gas
chambers going day and night.

1877
01:32:34,420 --> 01:32:46,660
And so, somebody has a record
of 114 cattle trains arrived

1878
01:32:46,660 --> 01:32:48,580
in Auschwitz from Hungary--

1879
01:32:48,580 --> 01:32:52,980
114 long cattle trains--

1880
01:32:52,980 --> 01:32:57,670
14-- 114-- in two months.

1881
01:32:57,670 --> 01:32:58,170
Amazing.

1882
01:32:58,170 --> 01:33:04,000
And that many-- 114 trains,
with thousands and--

1883
01:33:04,000 --> 01:33:07,650
400,000-- mostly
in Auschwitz-- they

1884
01:33:07,650 --> 01:33:09,960
had to do a lot of killing.

1885
01:33:09,960 --> 01:33:13,470
The killing was day and
night, around the clock.

1886
01:33:13,470 --> 01:33:16,710
And that's what I'm talking
about, that I witnessed.

1887
01:33:16,710 --> 01:33:17,210
Yes.

1888
01:33:17,210 --> 01:33:17,730
Yes.

1889
01:33:17,730 --> 01:33:19,810
Not just an occasional--

1890
01:33:19,810 --> 01:33:20,310
No--

1891
01:33:20,310 --> 01:33:23,370
--killing.

1892
01:33:23,370 --> 01:33:26,370
It was a 24-hour operation.

1893
01:33:26,370 --> 01:33:32,470
It was a weird
understanding which was--

1894
01:33:32,470 --> 01:33:38,200
I could not understand
[INAUDIBLE] the weird awareness

1895
01:33:38,200 --> 01:33:42,500
that nobody knows
that this is going on,

1896
01:33:42,500 --> 01:33:47,690
and that this is a special-built
case just for killing.

1897
01:33:47,690 --> 01:33:52,010
And, since nobody knows-- and
the soldiers are in charge,

1898
01:33:52,010 --> 01:33:53,240
and they have--

1899
01:33:53,240 --> 01:33:54,640
not too many, either.

1900

01:33:54,640 --> 01:33:55,140

Mhm?

1901

01:33:55,140 --> 01:33:57,110

We weren't mobbed
with soldiers--

1902

01:33:57,110 --> 01:34:00,020

where are we, and why
is this happening?

1903

01:34:00,020 --> 01:34:02,690

And why is this not stopped?

1904

01:34:02,690 --> 01:34:05,810

And why are they doing
this to our Jews?

1905

01:34:05,810 --> 01:34:10,140

And why are they making us--

1906

01:34:10,140 --> 01:34:11,590

treating us this way?

1907

01:34:11,590 --> 01:34:13,800

And why are they
using our own people

1908

01:34:13,800 --> 01:34:15,330

to kill their own people?

1909

01:34:15,330 --> 01:34:17,490

And-- you know?

1910

01:34:17,490 --> 01:34:19,210

And participate in it.

1911

01:34:19,210 --> 01:34:23,520

And why are they
treating us like animals?

1912

01:34:23,520 --> 01:34:25,020
And where am I?

1913
01:34:25,020 --> 01:34:25,980
And what is this?

1914
01:34:25,980 --> 01:34:27,810
And-- [LAUGH] you know--

1915
01:34:27,810 --> 01:34:31,290
All of these are
huge questions that I

1916
01:34:31,290 --> 01:34:33,060
don't know that,
even up till now,

1917
01:34:33,060 --> 01:34:37,170
have been sufficiently and
satisfactorily answered.

1918
01:34:37,170 --> 01:34:38,100
You know?

1919
01:34:38,100 --> 01:34:39,840
[INAUDIBLE] I never intend to.

1920
01:34:39,840 --> 01:34:44,570
I just live with explanations
of the Holocaust,

1921
01:34:44,570 --> 01:34:47,270
by many, many types of people.

1922
01:34:47,270 --> 01:34:51,590
And some come close
to understanding

1923
01:34:51,590 --> 01:34:54,830
the tragedy, and some--

1924
01:34:54,830 --> 01:34:56,930

even though they
know the facts--

1925
01:34:56,930 --> 01:35:01,160
are very far from understanding
this incredible tragedy

1926
01:35:01,160 --> 01:35:03,280
in the 20th century.

1927
01:35:03,280 --> 01:35:05,320
You made a very good
distinction, there.

1928
01:35:05,320 --> 01:35:08,950
You can know the facts
and still, in some ways,

1929
01:35:08,950 --> 01:35:11,280
not know the truth.

1930
01:35:11,280 --> 01:35:13,780
Well, and [INAUDIBLE]
this kind of truth

1931
01:35:13,780 --> 01:35:17,650
and emotion is exceptionally
difficult. And 6 million

1932
01:35:17,650 --> 01:35:20,740
is not an understandable number.

1933
01:35:20,740 --> 01:35:25,430
And so, I--

1934
01:35:25,430 --> 01:35:31,470
Well, you know, I'm telling
you about some deep feelings.

1935
01:35:31,470 --> 01:35:32,870
I think I'm normal.

1936

01:35:32,870 --> 01:35:36,480
[LAUGH] I have always
been questioned about it.

1937
01:35:36,480 --> 01:35:37,950
People say, oh,
you're so normal.

1938
01:35:37,950 --> 01:35:38,730
Yeah.

1939
01:35:38,730 --> 01:35:43,560
And I say, yeah, I'm not crazy.

1940
01:35:43,560 --> 01:35:47,130
I haven't lost
touch with reality.

1941
01:35:47,130 --> 01:35:48,870
But there is
something not normal,

1942
01:35:48,870 --> 01:35:52,110
for anyone to know such things.

1943
01:35:52,110 --> 01:35:53,600
That's what's not normal.

1944
01:35:53,600 --> 01:35:54,650
Exactly.

1945
01:35:54,650 --> 01:35:55,430
Exactly.

1946
01:35:55,430 --> 01:35:58,310
It's, when you put
a normal person

1947
01:35:58,310 --> 01:36:04,250
into a surreal nightmare, it
can't help but affect you,

1948

01:36:04,250 --> 01:36:06,410
because you're a normal person.

1949
01:36:06,410 --> 01:36:09,230
An abnormal person
would not be affected,

1950
01:36:09,230 --> 01:36:13,070
but a normal person is affected.

1951
01:36:13,070 --> 01:36:14,538
So--

1952
01:36:14,538 --> 01:36:15,080
Well, we're--

1953
01:36:15,080 --> 01:36:22,550
I am almost 90 years old,
and I'm totally affected.

1954
01:36:22,550 --> 01:36:25,760
And I still think
I'm normal, but I

1955
01:36:25,760 --> 01:36:30,270
have a very special
understanding

1956
01:36:30,270 --> 01:36:35,790
about human beings, which is
true and shouldn't be there.

1957
01:36:35,790 --> 01:36:39,240
I shouldn't think of people--

1958
01:36:39,240 --> 01:36:45,620
of what they can really be like
and what they really are like.

1959
01:36:45,620 --> 01:36:54,710
And when people
ask questions like,

1960

01:36:54,710 --> 01:36:57,340

could this happen
in this country,

1961

01:36:57,340 --> 01:37:01,604

my answer is a profound
and strong "yes."

1962

01:37:01,604 --> 01:37:02,104

Hm.

1963

01:37:02,104 --> 01:37:04,420

What happened happened here--

1964

01:37:04,420 --> 01:37:08,110

some other way-- can
happen in any country.

1965

01:37:08,110 --> 01:37:11,550

And I grew up--

1966

01:37:11,550 --> 01:37:15,360

now, as an adult,
reading, understanding

1967

01:37:15,360 --> 01:37:20,370

what the world is like, it
never stopped after Auschwitz.

1968

01:37:20,370 --> 01:37:27,030

If the Jews were done
with, Hitler succeeded.

1969

01:37:27,030 --> 01:37:30,964

His genocide was a success.

1970

01:37:30,964 --> 01:37:36,940

You know, and the few thousands
of European Jews that survived,

1971

01:37:36,940 --> 01:37:40,040

you can consider that

a complete genocide.

1972

01:37:40,040 --> 01:37:46,610

But, even as Auschwitz ended,
genocides and mass killings

1973

01:37:46,610 --> 01:37:50,360

continue in Asia, Africa, China.

1974

01:37:50,360 --> 01:37:54,620

And it's continuing today,
and it never stopped.

1975

01:37:54,620 --> 01:37:56,750

It's just another form.

1976

01:37:56,750 --> 01:38:03,820

And there is something about
mankind that is not right.

1977

01:38:03,820 --> 01:38:07,160

And so I can't say that
we learned from this,

1978

01:38:07,160 --> 01:38:10,900

and I can't say that
it will never happen.

1979

01:38:10,900 --> 01:38:13,650

It sort of-- it never stopped.

1980

01:38:13,650 --> 01:38:16,950

And so there is
something that I need

1981

01:38:16,950 --> 01:38:23,350

to deal with, about how I view
human nature and human beings,

1982

01:38:23,350 --> 01:38:23,850

and--

1983

01:38:23,850 --> 01:38:25,485
How do you view human beings?

1984
01:38:25,485 --> 01:38:28,250

1985
01:38:28,250 --> 01:38:32,000
Oh, very, very
unflatteringly, for sure.

1986
01:38:32,000 --> 01:38:32,970
[LAUGH]

1987
01:38:32,970 --> 01:38:33,470
Mhm?

1988
01:38:33,470 --> 01:38:36,970
Well, I lost trust
in human beings.

1989
01:38:36,970 --> 01:38:38,690
So that's a terrible thing.

1990
01:38:38,690 --> 01:38:42,230
You know, in nice times,
people are polite.

1991
01:38:42,230 --> 01:38:45,710
There is a veneer
of civilization.

1992
01:38:45,710 --> 01:38:50,420
But I don't care if they're
Americans, Germans--

1993
01:38:50,420 --> 01:38:52,970
whatever-- what-- Chinese.

1994
01:38:52,970 --> 01:38:55,190
The veneer is very thin.

1995
01:38:55,190 --> 01:38:58,920

And it comes off quickly.

1996

01:38:58,920 --> 01:39:04,180

And when it comes off,
it's cruel and barbaric.

1997

01:39:04,180 --> 01:39:06,690

And is that our true nature?

1998

01:39:06,690 --> 01:39:12,390

That is the man's nature,
and he's not civilized,

1999

01:39:12,390 --> 01:39:17,720

and he is not altruistic and--

2000

01:39:17,720 --> 01:39:19,970

I think he--

2001

01:39:19,970 --> 01:39:28,100

I will go as far as,
evolution is proceeding,

2002

01:39:28,100 --> 01:39:30,470

but you can't see evolution--

2003

01:39:30,470 --> 01:39:37,370

but man's evolution to this
so-called higher civilization

2004

01:39:37,370 --> 01:39:39,380

hasn't arrived--

2005

01:39:39,380 --> 01:39:44,360

hasn't-- it's in the process
[INAUDIBLE] they're stuck

2006

01:39:44,360 --> 01:39:48,710

at the level that they can
revert to killing their own

2007

01:39:48,710 --> 01:39:54,560

kind, killing other
people's babies, without--

2008
01:39:54,560 --> 01:39:59,940
you know-- doing the
cruellest things that--

2009
01:39:59,940 --> 01:40:03,420
in evolution, they're
not there yet.

2010
01:40:03,420 --> 01:40:08,900
And if they don't destroy the
planet, thousands of years

2011
01:40:08,900 --> 01:40:14,700
from now, they'll evolve to a
better level of civilization--

2012
01:40:14,700 --> 01:40:18,990
and not in hundreds of years,
because that doesn't count.

2013
01:40:18,990 --> 01:40:22,800
And so it's sort
of a, I give up.

2014
01:40:22,800 --> 01:40:24,175
This is it.

2015
01:40:24,175 --> 01:40:27,720
[LAUGH] This is where
you were born into.

2016
01:40:27,720 --> 01:40:31,500
Unfortunately, as
a 13-year-old, I

2017
01:40:31,500 --> 01:40:35,400
was unhappy enough
and unlucky enough

2018
01:40:35,400 --> 01:40:41,990

to be caught up in a
stampede of killing.

2019
01:40:41,990 --> 01:40:45,480
And when it was over,
people want to forget.

2020
01:40:45,480 --> 01:40:47,930
And even the ones
who survived, there

2021
01:40:47,930 --> 01:40:52,850
is an instinct to go
back into life and--

2022
01:40:52,850 --> 01:40:54,470
happy they survived.

2023
01:40:54,470 --> 01:40:57,350
And young people married
and had children.

2024
01:40:57,350 --> 01:40:59,420
I married-- had children--

2025
01:40:59,420 --> 01:41:03,730
we're interested in petty
things, like everybody else.

2026
01:41:03,730 --> 01:41:05,180
Life goes on.

2027
01:41:05,180 --> 01:41:07,880
Memory fades.

2028
01:41:07,880 --> 01:41:13,630
But I feel that I was tainted.

2029
01:41:13,630 --> 01:41:17,090
[LAUGH] But I go on, also.

2030
01:41:17,090 --> 01:41:17,590

And--

2031

01:41:17,590 --> 01:41:20,230

Well, you know that-- when
you say things like that,

2032

01:41:20,230 --> 01:41:26,400

it begs the question, how do
you come back to a normal world?

2033

01:41:26,400 --> 01:41:28,830

How do you have children?

2034

01:41:28,830 --> 01:41:33,090

How do you resemble--
can you again live

2035

01:41:33,090 --> 01:41:40,890

a life that can be fulfilling
and authentic and sincere, when

2036

01:41:40,890 --> 01:41:44,420

you have seen and gone
through such things?

2037

01:41:44,420 --> 01:41:45,230

And--

2038

01:41:45,230 --> 01:41:46,280

Well, yeah, right.

2039

01:41:46,280 --> 01:41:49,190

[LAUGH] Yeah-- go on.

2040

01:41:49,190 --> 01:41:52,490

Well, all of that [INAUDIBLE]--

2041

01:41:52,490 --> 01:41:54,350

can you laugh again?

2042

01:41:54,350 --> 01:41:58,460

Can you take joy

in things again?

2043

01:41:58,460 --> 01:42:01,130

Those are all questions
that come to mind,

2044

01:42:01,130 --> 01:42:02,872

as I hear you speak.

2045

01:42:02,872 --> 01:42:04,800

Mhm.

2046

01:42:04,800 --> 01:42:07,250

And did you-- and did
that happen for you?

2047

01:42:07,250 --> 01:42:10,240

2048

01:42:10,240 --> 01:42:15,960

You know, as I am condemning
man at his stunted evolutionary

2049

01:42:15,960 --> 01:42:21,500

development, I think the
thing that people like me--

2050

01:42:21,500 --> 01:42:25,740

what I just told you, and
it's still very painful,

2051

01:42:25,740 --> 01:42:29,390

and it will never go away--

2052

01:42:29,390 --> 01:42:33,400

somehow, I am able
to have another side.

2053

01:42:33,400 --> 01:42:34,280

Mhm.

2054

01:42:34,280 --> 01:42:34,880

You know?

2055

01:42:34,880 --> 01:42:38,090

And that's also kind of
an evolutionary thing.

2056

01:42:38,090 --> 01:42:41,670

Because, if I weren't
able to do that,

2057

01:42:41,670 --> 01:42:46,020

then there would be suicide, and
there would be mental illness.

2058

01:42:46,020 --> 01:42:53,100

And somehow, you know, not too
many survivors are any worse,

2059

01:42:53,100 --> 01:42:59,310

emotionally, mentally, about
suicide and mental illness than

2060

01:42:59,310 --> 01:43:02,930

the general population,
who didn't--

2061

01:43:02,930 --> 01:43:06,210

I mean, I don't know
statistics, but I

2062

01:43:06,210 --> 01:43:10,440

see plenty of people who
grew up in normal times,

2063

01:43:10,440 --> 01:43:14,450

in the United States,
and they're not normal.

2064

01:43:14,450 --> 01:43:14,950

[LAUGH]

2065

01:43:14,950 --> 01:43:15,450

Yeah.

2066
01:43:15,450 --> 01:43:16,050
Yeah.

2067
01:43:16,050 --> 01:43:19,320
And then I see a
lot of survivors

2068
01:43:19,320 --> 01:43:23,530
who are doing pretty well
and actually our children--

2069
01:43:23,530 --> 01:43:28,130
[INAUDIBLE] not my children,
ever, because my daughter

2070
01:43:28,130 --> 01:43:34,830
has entirely devoted her
life to the facts of this,

2071
01:43:34,830 --> 01:43:39,150
the memory of this, the
retribution, the outcome,

2072
01:43:39,150 --> 01:43:42,540
the trying to make
it whole again,

2073
01:43:42,540 --> 01:43:48,040
and restoring human Jewish
life in the Russian republics

2074
01:43:48,040 --> 01:43:49,710
[INAUDIBLE] and so on.

2075
01:43:49,710 --> 01:43:55,440
That's her job-- and
restoring Jewish communities.

2076
01:43:55,440 --> 01:43:58,920
But, there are a lot of--

2077

01:43:58,920 --> 01:44:01,680
quite a few children
of survivors

2078
01:44:01,680 --> 01:44:07,320
who blame their unhappiness or
their need of psychiatric care

2079
01:44:07,320 --> 01:44:12,170
because their parents
made them mentally ill

2080
01:44:12,170 --> 01:44:13,940
because they are survivors.

2081
01:44:13,940 --> 01:44:15,500
And I dismiss that.

2082
01:44:15,500 --> 01:44:19,000
I will not agree to that.

2083
01:44:19,000 --> 01:44:20,740
But that's not why they're sick.

2084
01:44:20,740 --> 01:44:21,578
[LAUGH]

2085
01:44:21,578 --> 01:44:22,078
Mm.

2086
01:44:22,078 --> 01:44:22,970
Mm.

2087
01:44:22,970 --> 01:44:24,040
I mean, to make--

2088
01:44:24,040 --> 01:44:27,010
I'm not a psychiatrist.

2089
01:44:27,010 --> 01:44:30,490
There may be some
surviving parents

2090
01:44:30,490 --> 01:44:35,890
who don't understand that the
way they raised their children

2091
01:44:35,890 --> 01:44:40,960
has a bad effect, because they
are so terribly affected by it.

2092
01:44:40,960 --> 01:44:42,980
But--

2093
01:44:42,980 --> 01:44:44,930
But, I guess, the
question that I had--

2094
01:44:44,930 --> 01:44:46,190
I'm sorry I'm interrupting.

2095
01:44:46,190 --> 01:44:51,710
But the question I
had was more, how

2096
01:44:51,710 --> 01:44:58,997
were you able to integrate both
of these aspects, both the--

2097
01:44:58,997 --> 01:44:59,830
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

2098
01:44:59,830 --> 01:45:02,420
--yeah, your belief in--

2099
01:45:02,420 --> 01:45:10,680
or your loss of belief, your
loss of trust, in human beings,

2100
01:45:10,680 --> 01:45:15,440
and yet to have a family, to
have normal human connections

2101
01:45:15,440 --> 01:45:21,290

again, to reach out,
to love and be loved,

2102
01:45:21,290 --> 01:45:22,740
and all of what that means.

2103
01:45:22,740 --> 01:45:23,240
Yes.

2104
01:45:23,240 --> 01:45:27,950
Because those are opposite ends.

2105
01:45:27,950 --> 01:45:31,310
Yes, well, and, you
know, my sister also--

2106
01:45:31,310 --> 01:45:32,100
she married.

2107
01:45:32,100 --> 01:45:35,160
She has children.

2108
01:45:35,160 --> 01:45:42,700
I just am-- you know,
there is another path.

2109
01:45:42,700 --> 01:45:44,650
I became a teenager
in this country.

2110
01:45:44,650 --> 01:45:46,660
I came at 16.

2111
01:45:46,660 --> 01:45:51,670
I was suddenly distracted by
what was happening to me here

2112
01:45:51,670 --> 01:45:54,020
and how I have to adapt to that.

2113
01:45:54,020 --> 01:45:56,840
You know-- sent

me to high school.

2114

01:45:56,840 --> 01:45:57,635

I had to function.

2115

01:45:57,635 --> 01:46:00,520

2116

01:46:00,520 --> 01:46:03,820

I was growing into a young lady.

2117

01:46:03,820 --> 01:46:07,045

I realized, I looked in the mirror and I said, who am I?

2118

01:46:07,045 --> 01:46:09,100

I've got to comb my hair.

2119

01:46:09,100 --> 01:46:11,140

The girls at school wore lipstick.

2120

01:46:11,140 --> 01:46:14,286

Well, how do I fit into this new situation?

2121

01:46:14,286 --> 01:46:15,100

[LAUGH] you know?

2122

01:46:15,100 --> 01:46:18,610

Who am I, what am I, where am I--

2123

01:46:18,610 --> 01:46:25,280

And you become distracted by the new pressures on you.

2124

01:46:25,280 --> 01:46:31,730

And after-- I think that, for me, I married.

2125

01:46:31,730 --> 01:46:34,430

I was not even 19.

2126

01:46:34,430 --> 01:46:39,950
[LAUGH] And, by the time I
was 20, I had my first child.

2127

01:46:39,950 --> 01:46:44,820
And that was such an
incredible healing,

2128

01:46:44,820 --> 01:46:47,660
such an incredible
emotional healing,

2129

01:46:47,660 --> 01:46:51,710
that I'm sure all mothers who
have babies feel like that.

2130

01:46:51,710 --> 01:46:56,920
But I was too young
to, somehow, think

2131

01:46:56,920 --> 01:46:58,530
that everybody felt that way--

2132

01:46:58,530 --> 01:47:04,570
that this miracle
that, after all that,

2133

01:47:04,570 --> 01:47:07,550
I had this, my own
miracle, [LAUGH] you know,

2134

01:47:07,550 --> 01:47:11,020
was so strong.

2135

01:47:11,020 --> 01:47:14,100
And, you know, the
devotion to that child--

2136

01:47:14,100 --> 01:47:19,240
so strong-- and the taking
care of him and making sure--

2137
01:47:19,240 --> 01:47:22,780
I did use a lot
of my experience,

2138
01:47:22,780 --> 01:47:27,190
in ways that, deliberately,
I hope, it helped.

2139
01:47:27,190 --> 01:47:31,115
For example, when he was born--

2140
01:47:31,115 --> 01:47:35,160

2141
01:47:35,160 --> 01:47:39,280
I don't know whether I'm
giving myself too much credit.

2142
01:47:39,280 --> 01:47:41,460
But I did feel this--

2143
01:47:41,460 --> 01:47:48,070
that I don't want him to have
fear and resentment of people.

2144
01:47:48,070 --> 01:47:51,040
He needs to start a new way.

2145
01:47:51,040 --> 01:47:53,880
If he does not-- he
should trust people.

2146
01:47:53,880 --> 01:47:56,430
He should not be
disillusioned in people.

2147
01:47:56,430 --> 01:47:59,220
And he should never
have that feeling.

2148
01:47:59,220 --> 01:48:01,226

It's a new world.

2149

01:48:01,226 --> 01:48:03,180

I'm not in a concentration camp.

2150

01:48:03,180 --> 01:48:07,800

He should have-- make up his own
mind about people, as he grows.

2151

01:48:07,800 --> 01:48:12,930

And one of the things I did
is, I kept him very clean

2152

01:48:12,930 --> 01:48:16,740

and dressed him in a
very beautiful way--

2153

01:48:16,740 --> 01:48:18,390

even though he was a boy--

2154

01:48:18,390 --> 01:48:20,100

in a fancy carriage.

2155

01:48:20,100 --> 01:48:21,930

And I would put
him in the carriage

2156

01:48:21,930 --> 01:48:25,260

and push him in the street.

2157

01:48:25,260 --> 01:48:28,140

And people would stop
and look in the carriage,

2158

01:48:28,140 --> 01:48:33,030

the way you do, and they,
oh, what a nice little boy.

2159

01:48:33,030 --> 01:48:34,620

And he would grin.

2160

01:48:34,620 --> 01:48:38,070

And I [INAUDIBLE] OK,
keep him attractive.

2161
01:48:38,070 --> 01:48:41,880
So, everybody who looks at
him, they'll say nice things,

2162
01:48:41,880 --> 01:48:43,320
and he will smile.

2163
01:48:43,320 --> 01:48:46,050
And he will have good
feelings about people.

2164
01:48:46,050 --> 01:48:51,450
Don't leave him with nose
running and whatever,

2165
01:48:51,450 --> 01:48:55,830
because he may have a glance
from someone who thinks,

2166
01:48:55,830 --> 01:48:58,980
oh, this isn't a
good mother, or not--

2167
01:48:58,980 --> 01:49:02,580
you know, in other words,
[INAUDIBLE] good vibes

2168
01:49:02,580 --> 01:49:05,310
from all people,
from the carriage

2169
01:49:05,310 --> 01:49:10,080
on up, that people can be
trusted and they smile at him.

2170
01:49:10,080 --> 01:49:14,460
So, isn't that interesting,
that you have--

2171
01:49:14,460 --> 01:49:17,430

because of what you went
through, because of what

2172
01:49:17,430 --> 01:49:21,260
you saw and you experienced--

2173
01:49:21,260 --> 01:49:25,400
have, in some fundamental
way, lost a trust in people,

2174
01:49:25,400 --> 01:49:27,710
but it was incredibly
important for you

2175
01:49:27,710 --> 01:49:30,950
that your son would
have such a trust.

2176
01:49:30,950 --> 01:49:34,310
Oh, absolutely, because
it's a terrible feeling.

2177
01:49:34,310 --> 01:49:37,490
Mine is deep and justified.

2178
01:49:37,490 --> 01:49:43,040
I don't carry it on my shoulder
all the time, but the way

2179
01:49:43,040 --> 01:49:49,190
I observe political things,
group things, associations,

2180
01:49:49,190 --> 01:49:52,160
even philosophers--

2181
01:49:52,160 --> 01:49:55,260
people who study human nature--

2182
01:49:55,260 --> 01:49:59,720
you know, and deep,
ancient ones--

2183

01:49:59,720 --> 01:50:03,170

religious people, who think
they have the answers--

2184

01:50:03,170 --> 01:50:07,530

none of that rings true to
me-- none of that at all.

2185

01:50:07,530 --> 01:50:08,030

That's all.

2186

01:50:08,030 --> 01:50:15,050

[LAUGH] They have a veneer,
but when the veneer comes out,

2187

01:50:15,050 --> 01:50:19,600

I know exactly what people
can do, and I'm not going--

2188

01:50:19,600 --> 01:50:21,290

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

2189

01:50:21,290 --> 01:50:23,380

When the rubber meets the road--

2190

01:50:23,380 --> 01:50:24,320

[LAUGH] Yeah.

2191

01:50:24,320 --> 01:50:28,640

--as you saw it, you know,
you get lice in your hair,

2192

01:50:28,640 --> 01:50:33,530

you have no way of changing
your clothes, you-- you know,

2193

01:50:33,530 --> 01:50:37,450

all of this dehumanization,
step by step--

2194

01:50:37,450 --> 01:50:39,970

you see what we are

capable of becoming

2195

01:50:39,970 --> 01:50:42,880

and what we're capable
of doing to others--

2196

01:50:42,880 --> 01:50:46,570

To the ultimate, to
the ultimate, and,

2197

01:50:46,570 --> 01:50:53,080

you know, in uncivilized
jungles in Africa

2198

01:50:53,080 --> 01:50:56,890

but in the most civilized
country in Europe

2199

01:50:56,890 --> 01:51:01,540

in the 20th century, in
Germany, France, Hungary.

2200

01:51:01,540 --> 01:51:04,060

So, the die is cast.

2201

01:51:04,060 --> 01:51:05,740

These people are finished.

2202

01:51:05,740 --> 01:51:08,680

They have made their--

2203

01:51:08,680 --> 01:51:11,200

they have researched
their understanding

2204

01:51:11,200 --> 01:51:15,100

of what is man, what-- you
know, who is man, and all that,

2205

01:51:15,100 --> 01:51:19,030

from politics to
science to religion.

2206

01:51:19,030 --> 01:51:22,310

They have a system that
they think is working.

2207

01:51:22,310 --> 01:51:24,400

And it isn't working.

2208

01:51:24,400 --> 01:51:26,530

It's a veneer.

2209

01:51:26,530 --> 01:51:28,840

But I don't want this
for my child, who

2210

01:51:28,840 --> 01:51:30,730

is brand-new in this world.

2211

01:51:30,730 --> 01:51:32,560

It's a terrible feeling.

2212

01:51:32,560 --> 01:51:35,430

I want him to trust.

2213

01:51:35,430 --> 01:51:40,490

And I had that in mind,
with the first one--

2214

01:51:40,490 --> 01:51:44,000

and, in particular, that
he should be attractive,

2215

01:51:44,000 --> 01:51:46,940

so that he should
get attractive vibes.

2216

01:51:46,940 --> 01:51:49,940

Because that would
condition him to trust.

2217

01:51:49,940 --> 01:51:51,590

And did it work?

2218
01:51:51,590 --> 01:51:52,520
Yes, it worked.

2219
01:51:52,520 --> 01:51:53,666
[LAUGH] It really worked.

2220
01:51:53,666 --> 01:51:55,540
[LAUGH] Wonderful.

2221
01:51:55,540 --> 01:51:58,970
There is a funny
saying, that everybody

2222
01:51:58,970 --> 01:52:03,310
laughs when I tell my
children and grandchildren--

2223
01:52:03,310 --> 01:52:07,730
we eventually moved to
Ann Arbor, Michigan--

2224
01:52:07,730 --> 01:52:11,520
University of Michigan--
my son was born there.

2225
01:52:11,520 --> 01:52:15,106
And my husband was getting
a PhD there, you know,

2226
01:52:15,106 --> 01:52:17,610
and the child was born there.

2227
01:52:17,610 --> 01:52:21,170
So we lived in this
house that we rented.

2228
01:52:21,170 --> 01:52:24,350
And he was maybe two years old.

2229
01:52:24,350 --> 01:52:26,330
And we had a front porch.

2230

01:52:26,330 --> 01:52:28,550

And I put him out
there, in a playpen.

2231

01:52:28,550 --> 01:52:32,930

And I was at the window,
[LAUGH] 99% of the time.

2232

01:52:32,930 --> 01:52:34,340

So I hear him.

2233

01:52:34,340 --> 01:52:37,580

He's standing in the playpen.

2234

01:52:37,580 --> 01:52:40,270

And it's very close to
the sidewalks, you know?

2235

01:52:40,270 --> 01:52:43,370

[INAUDIBLE] edge
of the sidewalk.

2236

01:52:43,370 --> 01:52:46,100

And I hear him say, "Hi, man.

2237

01:52:46,100 --> 01:52:46,910

Hi, man."

2238

01:52:46,910 --> 01:52:51,620

[LAUGHTER] "Hi, man."

2239

01:52:51,620 --> 01:52:55,040

And the people stopped,
surprised, and they laughed,

2240

01:52:55,040 --> 01:52:56,150

you know?

2241

01:52:56,150 --> 01:52:57,320

Who did this--

2242

01:52:57,320 --> 01:52:59,080
Because we taught
him words, you know,

2243
01:52:59,080 --> 01:53:02,210
he knew that that was a
man and that was a woman.

2244
01:53:02,210 --> 01:53:05,720
So that's not the
complete story,

2245
01:53:05,720 --> 01:53:09,770
but it is a bit of an example
that he wasn't frightened

2246
01:53:09,770 --> 01:53:11,960
of them or anything like that.

2247
01:53:11,960 --> 01:53:13,460
He greeted them.

2248
01:53:13,460 --> 01:53:16,850
I don't know whether
what I'm saying worked.

2249
01:53:16,850 --> 01:53:21,230
But I'm very proud
of my children.

2250
01:53:21,230 --> 01:53:24,460
You know, they're
excellent character

2251
01:53:24,460 --> 01:53:29,380
and very introspective
and very honest and smart.

2252
01:53:29,380 --> 01:53:34,540
And they all devote their
life to helping humanity

2253
01:53:34,540 --> 01:53:36,200

in one way or another.

2254

01:53:36,200 --> 01:53:41,380

And I think that I
honestly feel that they're

2255

01:53:41,380 --> 01:53:44,890

the kind of people
who contribute

2256

01:53:44,890 --> 01:53:49,060

to society by knowing
what's right and wrong

2257

01:53:49,060 --> 01:53:52,360

and having high ideals
and high character.

2258

01:53:52,360 --> 01:53:54,400

Well, I have a feeling
that your children

2259

01:53:54,400 --> 01:53:56,590

feel the same way about you.

2260

01:53:56,590 --> 01:54:00,120

And I wouldn't be
surprised at all.

2261

01:54:00,120 --> 01:54:05,220

Well, in my old age, they
pay a lot of attention to me.

2262

01:54:05,220 --> 01:54:07,335

So I'm really happy about that.

2263

01:54:07,335 --> 01:54:07,835

Yeah.

2264

01:54:07,835 --> 01:54:12,670

Well, Irene, you know, there
are lots of parts of your story

2265

01:54:12,670 --> 01:54:14,710
that we're not covering.

2266

01:54:14,710 --> 01:54:15,430
That's right.

2267

01:54:15,430 --> 01:54:19,310
There is a section
that I would like to,

2268

01:54:19,310 --> 01:54:23,560
but I don't know if this
is the right moment for it.

2269

01:54:23,560 --> 01:54:26,440
Let me share that with you, and
you tell me whether we do it

2270

01:54:26,440 --> 01:54:28,780
now or we do it another day.

2271

01:54:28,780 --> 01:54:33,100
And that is your
experience at the museum

2272

01:54:33,100 --> 01:54:37,480
and being part of the museum
and working as a volunteer

2273

01:54:37,480 --> 01:54:39,230
there and so on.

2274

01:54:39,230 --> 01:54:40,210
Uh-huh?

2275

01:54:40,210 --> 01:54:42,580
That's easier than
everything else

2276

01:54:42,580 --> 01:54:44,830
that we have been talking about.

2277

01:54:44,830 --> 01:54:45,340

Yes.

2278

01:54:45,340 --> 01:54:49,000

But my question is, do
you want to do that now?

2279

01:54:49,000 --> 01:54:51,940

Or would you be
willing to do that--

2280

01:54:51,940 --> 01:54:57,400

to talk to me about that,
to some degree of detail,

2281

01:54:57,400 --> 01:55:00,095

on another day?

2282

01:55:00,095 --> 01:55:01,470

I'm looking at the clock.

2283

01:55:01,470 --> 01:55:03,470

I think maybe another day.

2284

01:55:03,470 --> 01:55:04,030

OK.

2285

01:55:04,030 --> 01:55:08,160

I can give you a morning
or whatever it takes.

2286

01:55:08,160 --> 01:55:10,620

I'm certainly locked in here.

2287

01:55:10,620 --> 01:55:13,860

And yeah, I--

2288

01:55:13,860 --> 01:55:14,490

Thank you.

2289

01:55:14,490 --> 01:55:17,793

Thank you, because we've
really talked a lot today.

2290
01:55:17,793 --> 01:55:18,626
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

2291
01:55:18,626 --> 01:55:23,095
[LAUGH]

2292
01:55:23,095 --> 01:55:24,460
Enough, enough.

2293
01:55:24,460 --> 01:55:25,670
You've get the message.

2294
01:55:25,670 --> 01:55:27,520
You get the idea.

2295
01:55:27,520 --> 01:55:29,636
I guess, you know.

2296
01:55:29,636 --> 01:55:31,780
[INAUDIBLE]

2297
01:55:31,780 --> 01:55:32,673
Sure.

2298
01:55:32,673 --> 01:55:33,810
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

2299
01:55:33,810 --> 01:55:38,260
[INAUDIBLE] large part
in my older years.

2300
01:55:38,260 --> 01:55:40,420
You know, [INAUDIBLE]--

2301
01:55:40,420 --> 01:55:41,110
OK.

2302
01:55:41,110 --> 01:55:44,560

So what I'll say is
that, for right now,

2303
01:55:44,560 --> 01:55:46,750
we're going to pause
this interview.

2304
01:55:46,750 --> 01:55:51,730
It is May 22, 2020.

2305
01:55:51,730 --> 01:55:57,460
And, when I stop recording,
we'll set another date and time

2306
01:55:57,460 --> 01:55:58,750
and continue.

2307
01:55:58,750 --> 01:56:01,960
We'll finish up with
the horrible place

2308
01:56:01,960 --> 01:56:06,310
that you landed in, in
Kanada, in Birkenau,

2309
01:56:06,310 --> 01:56:10,990
and talk then a little
bit about liberation.

2310
01:56:10,990 --> 01:56:14,260
And then we'll go
into your experience

2311
01:56:14,260 --> 01:56:19,890
with the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

2312
01:56:19,890 --> 01:56:21,240
Does that seem like a plan?

2313
01:56:21,240 --> 01:56:21,828
OK.

2314

01:56:21,828 --> 01:56:22,995

Yes, yeah, it's a good plan.

2315

01:56:22,995 --> 01:56:23,250

Yes.

2316

01:56:23,250 --> 01:56:23,910

OK.

2317

01:56:23,910 --> 01:56:27,020

So I'm going to stop
recording right now.