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Summary

Lisa Lehner born in Berlin, Germany on July 4, 1935; home life, growing up with antisemitism, father educated as electrical engineer but allowed only to be a movie projectionist; attended school with 900 Jewish kids, taught by some professors who had been kicked out of university positions because they were Jewish; becoming aware of notices others received "that they would be picked up" (according to Lisa), family apartment being sealed, doctors disappearing, ration cards, forced into one room apt, parents forced into factory labor, Lisa forced to wear star on school uniform, confusion being looked at as "sub-human"; family goes underground, Lisa placed in little village, rehearsed on her new identity as "Kristine Koch" (Christian name), parents adapted Christian guise but stayed in Berlin; childhood fears of being discovered; trauma age 7, family receives letter from uncle, telling of their fate at Riga, "His hands had been frozen but got the letter out," grandmother had been made to be walked into lime pit & shot; migraines begin at age 6, with no papers, led to believe that she may be thrown into the river; village's local priest protected (part of underground), but required Lisa to be christened; fondness for the village (located in Rhineland, between Koblenz & Trier); worse crisis of war for Lisa was "crisis of faith, trying to reconcile my faith in God"; after war, parents allow Lisa to continue attending church; post-war, mother arrives, they hide in locomotive crossing from American sector into Russia; return to Berlin, receive apt that had been assigned to family; in Berlin, introduced to American culture with Coca-Cola & peanuts; 1947 immigration to US; attend school in NY; post-war, discovering that she had a baby sister; strong affinity for US Bill of Rights; marriage, divorce, one son "brain-injured at birth"; other memories of The Holocaust "being spat at, seeing people loaded on trucks"; mixed feelings toward the Germans - appreciation for her rescuers, "putting their own families on the line for mine."