

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:20,874

2

00:00:20,874 --> 00:00:26,490

Stefa, tell me what you  
remember of your impressions

3

00:00:26,490 --> 00:00:28,890

when the war began,  
how life changed.

4

00:00:28,890 --> 00:00:31,570

5

00:00:31,570 --> 00:00:38,200

Well, the whole summer  
people were whispering.

6

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:41,760

And men were  
politicking and talking

7

00:00:41,760 --> 00:00:44,100

about there's going to be a war.

8

00:00:44,100 --> 00:00:47,760

9

00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:52,090

Our-- my life was  
very beautiful.

10

00:00:52,090 --> 00:00:54,910

We lived in a nice house.

11

00:00:54,910 --> 00:00:57,760

My father had a good business.

12

00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:03,090

We just lived a very, very  
nice life, a comfortable life.

13

00:01:03,090 --> 00:01:06,960

It was the usual luxuries  
of middle class people.

14

00:01:06,960 --> 00:01:10,320

You know, a maid,  
and well dressed,

15

00:01:10,320 --> 00:01:16,470

and then going on vacations and  
having good times and all this.

16

00:01:16,470 --> 00:01:18,957

But there was always  
talk, and the men

17

00:01:18,957 --> 00:01:20,040

we were always whispering.

18

00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:22,410

The children were not  
even supposed to hear,

19

00:01:22,410 --> 00:01:27,600

but we knew  
something is cooking.

20

00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:35,880

And then just prior to  
September 1, my father left.

21

00:01:35,880 --> 00:01:39,300

22

00:01:39,300 --> 00:01:43,500

He left to escape the Germans.

23

00:01:43,500 --> 00:01:46,050

The rumor was that  
the children and women

24

00:01:46,050 --> 00:01:49,620  
will be treated civilly.

25  
00:01:49,620 --> 00:01:53,160  
The men would be put to work  
or sent to a concentration camp

26  
00:01:53,160 --> 00:01:55,920  
or whatever they  
would do with them.

27  
00:01:55,920 --> 00:02:01,680  
So my father, along with a few  
men, got a bus and a driver

28  
00:02:01,680 --> 00:02:06,270  
and decided to leave town and go  
to the other side, so to speak.

29  
00:02:06,270 --> 00:02:08,070  
You know, to the  
Russian side, which

30  
00:02:08,070 --> 00:02:12,420  
will be occupied by the  
Russians, and see what happens.

31  
00:02:12,420 --> 00:02:14,130  
Maybe come back, maybe what.

32  
00:02:14,130 --> 00:02:16,950

33  
00:02:16,950 --> 00:02:18,720  
And everything changed.

34  
00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:21,120  
My mother had to go to  
the store, which she never

35  
00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:22,530  
did before.

36

00:02:22,530 --> 00:02:26,250

I was left with my little  
sister, to take care of her.

37

00:02:26,250 --> 00:02:27,880

I was 10 years old.

38

00:02:27,880 --> 00:02:32,790

She was one, exactly  
one-year-old.

39

00:02:32,790 --> 00:02:38,160

And then the rationing  
came in, and we

40

00:02:38,160 --> 00:02:41,015

had to wear an armband,  
a white armband.

41

00:02:41,015 --> 00:02:42,390

There were-- every  
day there were

42

00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:46,500

different rules coming out.

43

00:02:46,500 --> 00:02:49,620

You know, wearing  
a white armband

44

00:02:49,620 --> 00:02:52,860

with the blue star of David.

45

00:02:52,860 --> 00:02:55,080

And there was a curfew.

46

00:02:55,080 --> 00:02:58,020

And number one, no school  
for Jewish children.

47

00:02:58,020 --> 00:03:00,510

September 3 was

supposed to be a school

48

00:03:00,510 --> 00:03:04,420

day, which never happened  
for the Jewish children.

49

00:03:04,420 --> 00:03:07,680

We couldn't go to school.

50

00:03:07,680 --> 00:03:09,720

My mother tried  
to get us private

51

00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:14,160

tutoring during that time,  
which was our older cousin, who

52

00:03:14,160 --> 00:03:17,310

has graduated already  
from gymnasium,

53

00:03:17,310 --> 00:03:19,620

and she was qualified  
enough to teach

54

00:03:19,620 --> 00:03:20,790

third, fourth, fifth grade.

55

00:03:20,790 --> 00:03:23,430

56

00:03:23,430 --> 00:03:26,640

The children were left  
more or less to themselves.

57

00:03:26,640 --> 00:03:30,000

The parents were busy, either  
worrying or doing something

58

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:36,480

or being occupied otherwise.

59

00:03:36,480 --> 00:03:41,520

But basically for myself,  
we stayed in the house

60

00:03:41,520 --> 00:03:44,670

for about two years, I think.

61

00:03:44,670 --> 00:03:50,910

Maybe a little less, until  
the whole thing changed.

62

00:03:50,910 --> 00:03:54,540

Tell me-- describe  
for me the Germans,

63

00:03:54,540 --> 00:03:55,920

your impressions of them.

64

00:03:55,920 --> 00:04:00,180

And describe the Gestapo and  
how you saw them with dogs,

65

00:04:00,180 --> 00:04:01,560

and what you thought about them.

66

00:04:01,560 --> 00:04:03,810

OK.

67

00:04:03,810 --> 00:04:08,370

They were walking-- well, when  
they first came in, they came.

68

00:04:08,370 --> 00:04:09,450

The army came in.

69

00:04:09,450 --> 00:04:11,850

They were throwing  
candy to the children.

70

00:04:11,850 --> 00:04:13,590

And the parents said,  
don't pick it up.

71

00:04:13,590 --> 00:04:15,030

It might be poisoned.

72

00:04:15,030 --> 00:04:16,980

And they obviously  
knew about it,

73

00:04:16,980 --> 00:04:20,820

because they took a bite out  
of it, to show it wasn't.

74

00:04:20,820 --> 00:04:22,710

But after they marched in--

75

00:04:22,710 --> 00:04:23,520

very quietly.

76

00:04:23,520 --> 00:04:27,030

Not one shot was fired--

77

00:04:27,030 --> 00:04:30,900

we watched the Gestapo  
walk with the dogs,

78

00:04:30,900 --> 00:04:33,870

with the two German  
Shepherds on each side

79

00:04:33,870 --> 00:04:37,080

with the polished  
boots, with the head,

80

00:04:37,080 --> 00:04:43,110

was the pride, with  
the Hakenkreuz.

81

00:04:43,110 --> 00:04:45,330

Very scary.

82

00:04:45,330 --> 00:04:48,720

Just to look at them was scary.

83

00:04:48,720 --> 00:04:52,740

They even confiscated a couple  
of dogs from our neighbor.

84

00:04:52,740 --> 00:04:56,040

They were Dalmatians.

85

00:04:56,040 --> 00:04:58,200

To this day when  
I see a Dalmatian,

86

00:04:58,200 --> 00:05:03,330

a beautiful Dalmatian, I cannot  
help but think about this

87

00:05:03,330 --> 00:05:04,080

horrible thing.

88

00:05:04,080 --> 00:05:06,930

Because they just  
took it, I don't

89

00:05:06,930 --> 00:05:09,840

know, in order to give it  
back maybe later or what.

90

00:05:09,840 --> 00:05:12,090

In the meantime, they took him.

91

00:05:12,090 --> 00:05:13,950

They were walking  
with those dogs.

92

00:05:13,950 --> 00:05:16,140

They were walking with  
the German Shepherds.

93

00:05:16,140 --> 00:05:18,900

And they were  
carrying, I think--

94

00:05:18,900 --> 00:05:23,500



I don't know-- it was a stick or  
something next to them, like--

95  
00:05:23,500 --> 00:05:27,190  
God, they were--  
they were like gods.

96  
00:05:27,190 --> 00:05:30,670  
They were like-- they  
thought of them themselves.

97  
00:05:30,670 --> 00:05:33,190  
And we were petrified,  
just to look--

98  
00:05:33,190 --> 00:05:36,415  
You know, you were afraid  
to look at their face.

99  
00:05:36,415 --> 00:05:40,580  
And the children were afraid  
to look at their face.

100  
00:05:40,580 --> 00:05:42,790  
There was such power.

101  
00:05:42,790 --> 00:05:47,290  
There were such--  
and such fear in us.

102  
00:05:47,290 --> 00:05:52,930  
It was such-- you thought if  
you just looked at them they

103  
00:05:52,930 --> 00:05:54,580  
would smite you.

104  
00:05:54,580 --> 00:05:57,430  
They would just throw  
you against something.

105  
00:05:57,430 --> 00:06:00,070  
Because by now we

heard about the stories

106  
00:06:00,070 --> 00:06:02,608  
where they didn't waste  
a shot on a child,

107  
00:06:02,608 --> 00:06:04,150  
because the children  
were just thrown

108  
00:06:04,150 --> 00:06:08,270  
against a brick or a  
stone wall or something

109  
00:06:08,270 --> 00:06:10,240  
and smashed their heads.

110  
00:06:10,240 --> 00:06:13,275  
So as children we were  
very much afraid, very

111  
00:06:13,275 --> 00:06:14,650  
much afraid to  
just look at them.

112  
00:06:14,650 --> 00:06:19,485

113  
00:06:19,485 --> 00:06:21,310  
There was nothing you  
could do about it.

114  
00:06:21,310 --> 00:06:28,790

115  
00:06:28,790 --> 00:06:30,830  
Do you-- did your  
mother know what

116  
00:06:30,830 --> 00:06:32,840  
was going on during this time?

117

00:06:32,840 --> 00:06:35,480  
And how much did she tell  
you of what was going on?

118  
00:06:35,480 --> 00:06:38,150

119  
00:06:38,150 --> 00:06:41,090  
I don't know how much she knew.

120  
00:06:41,090 --> 00:06:43,240  
She prob-- she didn't tell much.

121  
00:06:43,240 --> 00:06:44,600  
She didn't want to.

122  
00:06:44,600 --> 00:06:45,460  
I don't know.

123  
00:06:45,460 --> 00:06:49,920  
The upbringing of children  
in Europe was such,

124  
00:06:49,920 --> 00:06:51,890  
you don't tell-- you  
don't upset the children.

125  
00:06:51,890 --> 00:06:54,080  
You don't tell the children.

126  
00:06:54,080 --> 00:06:57,230  
The children are protected.

127  
00:06:57,230 --> 00:06:58,890  
The children are gentle.

128  
00:06:58,890 --> 00:07:01,040  
You don't upset children.

129  
00:07:01,040 --> 00:07:07,730  
But every day there were  
people caught to go to labor.

130  
00:07:07,730 --> 00:07:10,730  
You know, to pull  
stones out of the river

131  
00:07:10,730 --> 00:07:14,750  
in order to make little  
bricks to build the roads.

132  
00:07:14,750 --> 00:07:16,430  
You know, when I  
was in Europe and I

133  
00:07:16,430 --> 00:07:23,200  
saw the roads built  
in a sort of pattern,

134  
00:07:23,200 --> 00:07:27,860  
like a scallop pattern, I  
know that the Jews built

135  
00:07:27,860 --> 00:07:32,000  
that road out of the stones that  
were pulled out of the water

136  
00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:36,750  
that they had to manually  
make into squares.

137  
00:07:36,750 --> 00:07:38,720  
This is what they were doing.

138  
00:07:38,720 --> 00:07:41,512  
And there were some people that  
couldn't do that kind of work.

139  
00:07:41,512 --> 00:07:42,470  
There were sick people.

140  
00:07:42,470 --> 00:07:43,850  
There were older people.

141

00:07:43,850 --> 00:07:46,250  
Some people never came  
back from that work,

142  
00:07:46,250 --> 00:07:50,730  
either they dropped or  
they got sick or whatever.

143  
00:07:50,730 --> 00:07:55,550  
So the first year and a half  
when they came into my town

144  
00:07:55,550 --> 00:07:57,860  
was mostly this sort of thing.

145  
00:07:57,860 --> 00:08:00,140  
They were catching  
people to go to work,

146  
00:08:00,140 --> 00:08:04,310  
and confiscating  
merchandise from the store.

147  
00:08:04,310 --> 00:08:08,570  
They would come with big trucks  
and confiscate a lot of--

148  
00:08:08,570 --> 00:08:12,650  
My father had a hardware store,  
and they needed a lot of stuff

149  
00:08:12,650 --> 00:08:14,330  
from the store.

150  
00:08:14,330 --> 00:08:16,370  
And they would  
always give my mother

151  
00:08:16,370 --> 00:08:23,840  
a Schein, a bill to collect  
100 years from now, whatever.

152  
00:08:23,840 --> 00:08:26,930

Nobody believed that.

153

00:08:26,930 --> 00:08:29,210

So this was mostly  
what was going on.

154

00:08:29,210 --> 00:08:30,440

There was a lot of hunger.

155

00:08:30,440 --> 00:08:33,380

There was-- food  
was not available.

156

00:08:33,380 --> 00:08:36,510

People stood in line for  
hours to get a piece of bread.

157

00:08:36,510 --> 00:08:41,270

You know, that was hard bread or  
so soft that it was almost raw.

158

00:08:41,270 --> 00:08:44,510

Either way.

159

00:08:44,510 --> 00:08:46,490

Personally, we were  
in a lucky position.

160

00:08:46,490 --> 00:08:50,750

Because before my father  
left, he provided.

161

00:08:50,750 --> 00:08:54,290

He called the mill  
and had delivered--

162

00:08:54,290 --> 00:08:59,120

had them deliver a sack of  
white flour and bread flour,

163

00:08:59,120 --> 00:09:03,800

and also told my mother to  
buy a sack of salt and sugar.

164  
00:09:03,800 --> 00:09:07,250  
Apparently, he remembered  
something from the first war.

165  
00:09:07,250 --> 00:09:10,520  
And personally,  
I was not hungry.

166  
00:09:10,520 --> 00:09:14,900  
We took the flour to the baker,  
and he baked bread for us.

167  
00:09:14,900 --> 00:09:17,990  
So I was quite fortunate,  
as far as that goes.

168  
00:09:17,990 --> 00:09:20,910

169  
00:09:20,910 --> 00:09:23,440  
Tell me about your  
responsibilities

170  
00:09:23,440 --> 00:09:25,980  
when your mother  
went to work for you.

171  
00:09:25,980 --> 00:09:28,440  
When my mother  
went to work, I had

172  
00:09:28,440 --> 00:09:31,110  
to take care of  
my little sister.

173  
00:09:31,110 --> 00:09:34,830  
I couldn't go to play.

174  
00:09:34,830 --> 00:09:38,490  
Naturally, she wanted  
to run after me.

175

00:09:38,490 --> 00:09:41,940

She was a year old.

176

00:09:41,940 --> 00:09:44,010

I trained her to  
go to the potty.

177

00:09:44,010 --> 00:09:47,230

And to this day she reminds  
me that after a while

178

00:09:47,230 --> 00:09:50,040

I also taught her how  
to carry the potty out.

179

00:09:50,040 --> 00:09:54,190

She still remembers this.

180

00:09:54,190 --> 00:09:58,680

I-- I was a child, too, I guess.

181

00:09:58,680 --> 00:10:01,680

So we were alone  
most of the time,

182

00:10:01,680 --> 00:10:06,060

until my mother got  
somebody to stay with us.

183

00:10:06,060 --> 00:10:08,520

She could very well afford it.

184

00:10:08,520 --> 00:10:12,150

And she got a woman to  
stay, clean the house,

185

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:13,560

and stay with the children.

186

00:10:13,560 --> 00:10:17,840

And this gave me an  
opportunity to go out and play.



187  
00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:21,250  
Not a whole lot, because we  
didn't want to be very visible.

188  
00:10:21,250 --> 00:10:23,160  
But in the backyard,  
a little bit we did.

189  
00:10:23,160 --> 00:10:29,950

190  
00:10:29,950 --> 00:10:33,470  
Your family refused to  
register, am I right about that?

191  
00:10:33,470 --> 00:10:33,970  
Yes.

192  
00:10:33,970 --> 00:10:35,020  
Tell me about that.

193  
00:10:35,020 --> 00:10:36,690  
OK.

194  
00:10:36,690 --> 00:10:41,590  
One day there was an order  
that everybody should come

195  
00:10:41,590 --> 00:10:44,830  
to the city hall and register.

196  
00:10:44,830 --> 00:10:45,700  
I don't know why.

197  
00:10:45,700 --> 00:10:48,190  
My mother said, I'm  
not going to register.

198  
00:10:48,190 --> 00:10:50,650  
Neither she, nor her  
parents, nor her sister

199

00:10:50,650 --> 00:10:54,100  
registered, including  
the children.

200

00:10:54,100 --> 00:10:57,970  
We had no idea what it was  
for, but we just didn't.

201

00:10:57,970 --> 00:11:01,480  
The day after, there  
was another order.

202

00:11:01,480 --> 00:11:04,150  
All people that  
registered had to come

203

00:11:04,150 --> 00:11:07,900  
to the city hall with whatever--  
if they wanted to carry

204

00:11:07,900 --> 00:11:12,310  
something, they'll be sent out.

205

00:11:12,310 --> 00:11:14,350  
And I'll never forget.

206

00:11:14,350 --> 00:11:16,480  
I was in my grandparents' house.

207

00:11:16,480 --> 00:11:18,970  
Then it was my  
aunt in the window.

208

00:11:18,970 --> 00:11:21,160  
And we saw people go.

209

00:11:21,160 --> 00:11:22,520  
It was a rainy day.

210

00:11:22,520 --> 00:11:24,610  
We have to do this one again.

211  
00:11:24,610 --> 00:11:26,980  
It just ran out, so we'll  
have to start that again

212  
00:11:26,980 --> 00:11:27,850  
on the next roll.

213  
00:11:27,850 --> 00:11:29,230  
OK.

214  
00:11:29,230 --> 00:11:31,540  
Now, when you tell me  
about registering--

215  
00:11:31,540 --> 00:11:33,940  
refusing to register, just  
start at the beginning

216  
00:11:33,940 --> 00:11:36,500  
as though you haven't  
told it already.

217  
00:11:36,500 --> 00:11:37,127  
All right.

218  
00:11:37,127 --> 00:11:38,710  
You have to ask me  
the question again.

219  
00:11:38,710 --> 00:11:39,680  
OK.

220  
00:11:39,680 --> 00:11:42,130  
Your family refused to register.

221  
00:11:42,130 --> 00:11:42,880  
Yes.

222  
00:11:42,880 --> 00:11:44,010  
Tell me about that.

223  
00:11:44,010 --> 00:11:44,920  
OK.

224  
00:11:44,920 --> 00:11:47,260  
One day, there was no order.

225  
00:11:47,260 --> 00:11:51,760  
Everybody has to come and  
register at the city hall.

226  
00:11:51,760 --> 00:11:54,520  
My mother, for some  
reason, refused to go.

227  
00:11:54,520 --> 00:12:00,460  
And also her sister, and her  
parents, and the children.

228  
00:12:00,460 --> 00:12:03,490  
I don't know why, but  
this was her decision,

229  
00:12:03,490 --> 00:12:05,560  
and we didn't register.

230  
00:12:05,560 --> 00:12:09,310  
The following day,  
there was another old.

231  
00:12:09,310 --> 00:12:14,440  
Everybody that registered  
yesterday, come to city hall,

232  
00:12:14,440 --> 00:12:18,570  
and get your belongings.

233  
00:12:18,570 --> 00:12:21,750  
So I remember standing  
in my grandparents' house

234  
00:12:21,750 --> 00:12:23,550  
with my aunt in the window.

235  
00:12:23,550 --> 00:12:26,580  
And it was a rainy day.

236  
00:12:26,580 --> 00:12:31,200  
And we saw all these people  
going with little packages,

237  
00:12:31,200 --> 00:12:33,930  
with little bundles  
in their hands,

238  
00:12:33,930 --> 00:12:37,770  
carrying children,  
children by the hand,

239  
00:12:37,770 --> 00:12:41,230  
going in the direction  
of the river.

240  
00:12:41,230 --> 00:12:43,060  
We had no idea  
where they're going,

241  
00:12:43,060 --> 00:12:49,050  
but later we found out they were  
all going toward the river San

242  
00:12:49,050 --> 00:12:54,870  
and across the border  
to the Russian side.

243  
00:12:54,870 --> 00:12:59,910  
For some reason, that one day  
they opened up the border,

244  
00:12:59,910 --> 00:13:03,390  
and the Germans got  
rid of these people,

245  
00:13:03,390 --> 00:13:06,570  
and the Russians accepted them.

246

00:13:06,570 --> 00:13:09,150

We felt very, very  
sorry for them.

247

00:13:09,150 --> 00:13:10,590

"Look where they're going.

248

00:13:10,590 --> 00:13:12,900

We are still in our home.

249

00:13:12,900 --> 00:13:13,860

It's warm.

250

00:13:13,860 --> 00:13:15,540

It's not raining.

251

00:13:15,540 --> 00:13:17,820

We have what to eat.

252

00:13:17,820 --> 00:13:18,630

Poor people.

253

00:13:18,630 --> 00:13:20,160

They went."

254

00:13:20,160 --> 00:13:26,880

Little did we know that these  
people will remain alive

255

00:13:26,880 --> 00:13:30,270

because they would remain  
on the Russian side.

256

00:13:30,270 --> 00:13:33,030

Maybe they'll be sent  
to Siberia later on.

257

00:13:33,030 --> 00:13:35,880

All this we didn't know.

258

00:13:35,880 --> 00:13:39,270

We were safe in our homes.

259

00:13:39,270 --> 00:13:40,985

We didn't know.

260

00:13:40,985 --> 00:13:41,610

We didn't know.

261

00:13:41,610 --> 00:13:44,790

262

00:13:44,790 --> 00:13:50,430

Now describe to me the escape  
that you made on the train

263

00:13:50,430 --> 00:13:52,645

with your sister.

264

00:13:52,645 --> 00:13:53,145

OK.

265

00:13:53,145 --> 00:13:56,700

266

00:13:56,700 --> 00:13:59,940

At one time they were  
going to erect a ghetto.

267

00:13:59,940 --> 00:14:02,580

268

00:14:02,580 --> 00:14:10,620

And people between 18 and  
40 could go into the ghetto.

269

00:14:10,620 --> 00:14:14,310

Everybody else was going  
to be sent somewhere else.

270

00:14:14,310 --> 00:14:16,920

Nobody knew where.

271

00:14:16,920 --> 00:14:20,350

My mother had two children.

272

00:14:20,350 --> 00:14:24,330

10, at that time 11

and 1/2, probably.

273

00:14:24,330 --> 00:14:26,476

And 1 and 1/2 or two.

274

00:14:26,476 --> 00:14:30,880

Well, she knew she can't go with  
the children into the ghetto.

275

00:14:30,880 --> 00:14:34,320

So she decided to do  
something about it.

276

00:14:34,320 --> 00:14:38,580

My aunt-- she had a sister  
who lived in a different city.

277

00:14:38,580 --> 00:14:43,440

And the Action was  
over in that city.

278

00:14:43,440 --> 00:14:48,300

In other words, they went  
through their selection.

279

00:14:48,300 --> 00:14:52,850

And she said to me, get on  
the train and go to Krosno.

280

00:14:52,850 --> 00:14:55,740

This was the city  
where my aunt lived.

281

00:14:55,740 --> 00:14:57,840

Find out if they're alive.

282

00:14:57,840 --> 00:15:01,230



Maybe we can join them.

283  
00:15:01,230 --> 00:15:03,630  
I knew they weren't  
at their old address.

284  
00:15:03,630 --> 00:15:05,760  
This I knew.

285  
00:15:05,760 --> 00:15:08,850  
So I got on a train,  
and I went to Krosno,

286  
00:15:08,850 --> 00:15:14,100  
and I looked up the Jewish  
Community Center or whatever

287  
00:15:14,100 --> 00:15:15,240  
that was called there.

288  
00:15:15,240 --> 00:15:17,700  
That had a different  
name in Polish.

289  
00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:20,460  
And I went there, and they  
asked about the family.

290  
00:15:20,460 --> 00:15:22,470  
And they told me,  
yes, they're alive.

291  
00:15:22,470 --> 00:15:27,960  
They survived the selection, and  
they're working in a factory.

292  
00:15:27,960 --> 00:15:31,800  
And they told me where  
to go, and I did.

293  
00:15:31,800 --> 00:15:37,400  
When I came there, my aunt  
said just stay with us.

294  
00:15:37,400 --> 00:15:39,890  
Don't go back.

295  
00:15:39,890 --> 00:15:41,330  
We have to be here.

296  
00:15:41,330 --> 00:15:42,200  
We are working.

297  
00:15:42,200 --> 00:15:45,590  
And I had a cousin who  
was a year older than I.

298  
00:15:45,590 --> 00:15:49,970  
She said somehow we'll  
interchange the two of you,

299  
00:15:49,970 --> 00:15:51,200  
and you stay with us.

300  
00:15:51,200 --> 00:15:52,550  
Don't go back.

301  
00:15:52,550 --> 00:15:53,720  
There's no future there.

302  
00:15:53,720 --> 00:15:54,740  
You'll all get killed.

303  
00:15:54,740 --> 00:15:56,180  
Just stay here.

304  
00:15:56,180 --> 00:15:57,750  
I said, I can't do that.

305  
00:15:57,750 --> 00:16:00,980  
I have to go back.

306  
00:16:00,980 --> 00:16:03,620  
So I went back.

307  
00:16:03,620 --> 00:16:04,730  
It was a Friday night.

308  
00:16:04,730 --> 00:16:07,400  
I came home.

309  
00:16:07,400 --> 00:16:10,430  
And I don't know  
what made me say it.

310  
00:16:10,430 --> 00:16:13,100  
To this day, I  
really don't know.

311  
00:16:13,100 --> 00:16:17,600  
I said to my  
mother, "Tante Malka

312  
00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:21,660  
said we should come  
and stay with them."

313  
00:16:21,660 --> 00:16:24,520  
My mother took my word for it.

314  
00:16:24,520 --> 00:16:29,820  
So the next day, she  
contacted a Polish lady

315  
00:16:29,820 --> 00:16:32,250  
who was going to  
take my sister and me

316  
00:16:32,250 --> 00:16:36,600  
to Krosno and my mother--  
and come back and take

317  
00:16:36,600 --> 00:16:37,590  
my mother later.

318  
00:16:37,590 --> 00:16:39,690

She didn't want all of  
us to travel together

319  
00:16:39,690 --> 00:16:41,610  
because we would be recognized.

320  
00:16:41,610 --> 00:16:43,440  
Especially my mother.

321  
00:16:43,440 --> 00:16:46,870  
You know, children is different.

322  
00:16:46,870 --> 00:16:47,790  
And so it was.

323  
00:16:47,790 --> 00:16:49,420  
She packed a big suitcase.

324  
00:16:49,420 --> 00:16:52,500  
She gave me a briefcase  
with some stuff.

325  
00:16:52,500 --> 00:16:54,240  
I didn't know what was in it.

326  
00:16:54,240 --> 00:16:55,980  
And we went to the station.

327  
00:16:55,980 --> 00:17:02,740  
And as soon as the train started  
moving, some people said,

328  
00:17:02,740 --> 00:17:06,450  
I think these are Sprecher's  
children traveling.

329  
00:17:06,450 --> 00:17:09,720  
My father was very  
well known in the city,

330  
00:17:09,720 --> 00:17:12,450  
and they recognized

the children.

331

00:17:12,450 --> 00:17:15,530

And the minute the woman  
heard this, she disappeared.

332

00:17:15,530 --> 00:17:18,190

She got out of the compartment,  
and she disappeared.

333

00:17:18,190 --> 00:17:20,970

334

00:17:20,970 --> 00:17:22,720

I didn't know what  
to think about it.

335

00:17:22,720 --> 00:17:28,079

But when we came to the station,  
my sister and I got off.

336

00:17:28,079 --> 00:17:32,790

And right there at the  
stairs, there were two very

337

00:17:32,790 --> 00:17:37,260

tall secret servicemen.

338

00:17:37,260 --> 00:17:41,280

And they asked me my name.

339

00:17:41,280 --> 00:17:45,630

And I said-- they  
asked me my name first.

340

00:17:45,630 --> 00:17:48,660

And I said Stefania--

341

00:17:48,660 --> 00:17:51,870

Gajewska.

342

00:17:51,870 --> 00:17:56,580

This was my neighbor's  
daughter's name.

343  
00:17:56,580 --> 00:17:59,730  
And they said to me,  
so where are you--

344  
00:17:59,730 --> 00:18:01,020  
who are you coming to?

345  
00:18:01,020 --> 00:18:03,040  
Where are you going?

346  
00:18:03,040 --> 00:18:07,830  
And I said, we're coming to  
my aunt, but she's not here.

347  
00:18:07,830 --> 00:18:10,660  
And I don't know what to do.

348  
00:18:10,660 --> 00:18:11,740  
I was petrified.

349  
00:18:11,740 --> 00:18:12,960  
I knew what all this meant.

350  
00:18:12,960 --> 00:18:15,960

351  
00:18:15,960 --> 00:18:19,410  
They did not wear a uniform,  
but we knew secret--

352  
00:18:19,410 --> 00:18:23,310  
you know what secret  
service looked like.

353  
00:18:23,310 --> 00:18:28,770  
And I'm looking around,  
I don't see that woman.

354  
00:18:28,770 --> 00:18:31,170

And I didn't know what to do.

355

00:18:31,170 --> 00:18:33,700

And anyways, they asked  
me if I was Jewish.

356

00:18:33,700 --> 00:18:35,700

I said no.

357

00:18:35,700 --> 00:18:38,460

And again, they asked me what--

358

00:18:38,460 --> 00:18:39,480

who are we coming to.

359

00:18:39,480 --> 00:18:41,460

I said, well, my  
aunt is not here.

360

00:18:41,460 --> 00:18:43,500

I don't know where she lives.

361

00:18:43,500 --> 00:18:45,390

And I don't know how  
to get to her house.

362

00:18:45,390 --> 00:18:48,550

363

00:18:48,550 --> 00:18:50,800

I really don't know  
what spoke through me.

364

00:18:50,800 --> 00:18:53,260

I wasn't prepared for it.

365

00:18:53,260 --> 00:18:56,100

And as a child, I never lied.

366

00:18:56,100 --> 00:19:00,580

I still don't to this day, but  
something spoke through me.

367  
00:19:00,580 --> 00:19:03,460  
I really believe it.

368  
00:19:03,460 --> 00:19:07,150  
And they said, well, then we'll  
have to take you to the police.

369  
00:19:07,150 --> 00:19:08,650  
I said, that's a very good idea.

370  
00:19:08,650 --> 00:19:13,120  
Maybe you can help  
me locate my aunt.

371  
00:19:13,120 --> 00:19:15,020  
And inside I was praying.

372  
00:19:15,020 --> 00:19:17,110  
I was hoping they  
won't ask for her name,

373  
00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:19,150  
because I didn't  
have a name for her.

374  
00:19:19,150 --> 00:19:20,500  
I couldn't.

375  
00:19:20,500 --> 00:19:23,080  
I could not have  
said her real name,

376  
00:19:23,080 --> 00:19:26,920  
and I was not prepared for a  
name, but they never asked.

377  
00:19:26,920 --> 00:19:29,800  
And we-- they  
started walking us.

378  
00:19:29,800 --> 00:19:33,825



And they asked me what  
was in my briefcase.

379  
00:19:33,825 --> 00:19:38,410  
It was actually a big school  
bag that I had, leather.

380  
00:19:38,410 --> 00:19:40,840  
And I said that I  
really don't know.

381  
00:19:40,840 --> 00:19:42,910  
My mother packed it.

382  
00:19:42,910 --> 00:19:44,980  
And one of them  
said, Oh, a couple

383  
00:19:44,980 --> 00:19:48,520  
of days ago a girl just  
like you, Jewish, came here,

384  
00:19:48,520 --> 00:19:51,910  
and she had a bag just  
like yours, leather bag.

385  
00:19:51,910 --> 00:19:53,710  
And you know what was in it?

386  
00:19:53,710 --> 00:19:56,440  
5 kilo of gold.

387  
00:19:56,440 --> 00:19:59,110  
I said, well, I don't think  
I have 5 kilos of gold,

388  
00:19:59,110 --> 00:20:02,380  
but you're welcome  
to open it up.

389  
00:20:02,380 --> 00:20:07,900  
And they opened it up, and  
I almost died on the spot.

390  
00:20:07,900 --> 00:20:12,010  
Because what was in that  
bag was some tomatoes

391  
00:20:12,010 --> 00:20:18,170  
that my mother picked from the  
garden, and a big Jewish bread,

392  
00:20:18,170 --> 00:20:21,280  
like a twisted challah.

393  
00:20:21,280 --> 00:20:26,380  
Now, everybody knows in  
Poland that only Jews eat

394  
00:20:26,380 --> 00:20:29,710  
a twisted challah on Shabbat.

395  
00:20:29,710 --> 00:20:35,170  
Polish people never eat a  
twist of challah on Shabbat.

396  
00:20:35,170 --> 00:20:42,654  
They may have a twisted  
bread for Easter, but not

397  
00:20:42,654 --> 00:20:44,430  
for Shabbat.

398  
00:20:44,430 --> 00:20:48,120  
When I saw this, I was sure  
that they will know who I am.

399  
00:20:48,120 --> 00:20:51,030

400  
00:20:51,030 --> 00:20:53,370  
I must have had  
a guardian angel.

401  
00:20:53,370 --> 00:20:57,660

Or maybe my dead father  
was watching over us.

402  
00:20:57,660 --> 00:20:59,980  
They didn't see it.

403  
00:20:59,980 --> 00:21:01,530  
They didn't acknowledge it.

404  
00:21:01,530 --> 00:21:03,990  
They didn't pay attention to it.

405  
00:21:03,990 --> 00:21:05,340  
They closed the bag.

406  
00:21:05,340 --> 00:21:09,120  
But they questioned us  
again, and again, and again.

407  
00:21:09,120 --> 00:21:10,320  
Your name?

408  
00:21:10,320 --> 00:21:11,160  
Why did you come?

409  
00:21:11,160 --> 00:21:12,660  
This.

410  
00:21:12,660 --> 00:21:14,850  
In the meantime,  
it was a hot day,

411  
00:21:14,850 --> 00:21:18,150  
and my little sister got tired.

412  
00:21:18,150 --> 00:21:23,580  
And she called me by my  
Jewish name that she is tired.

413  
00:21:23,580 --> 00:21:24,930  
[? "Saloniu, ?] I'm tired.

414

00:21:24,930 --> 00:21:26,580

I can't walk."

415

00:21:26,580 --> 00:21:29,910

And I said, "Stefcia  
cannot help you.

416

00:21:29,910 --> 00:21:31,410

I'm tired myself."

417

00:21:31,410 --> 00:21:32,590

She said "Saloniu."

418

00:21:32,590 --> 00:21:35,430

And I said "Stefcia."

419

00:21:35,430 --> 00:21:40,710

Now, any Polish man knows that  
Sala, Sarah, [? Saloniu ?]

420

00:21:40,710 --> 00:21:44,220

is a Jewish name.

421

00:21:44,220 --> 00:21:48,702

Stefa, Stefcia is  
a Christian name

422

00:21:48,702 --> 00:21:52,320

They didn't hear  
my little sister.

423

00:21:52,320 --> 00:21:56,610

I truly consider this a miracle.

424

00:21:56,610 --> 00:22:03,330

Finally, they said to  
me, "OK, you can go.

425

00:22:03,330 --> 00:22:05,790

You can go."

426

00:22:05,790 --> 00:22:08,850

So I said to myself,  
"all right, we'll go.

427

00:22:08,850 --> 00:22:10,680

And they'll follow me.

428

00:22:10,680 --> 00:22:12,750

And they'll know exactly  
where I'm going."

429

00:22:12,750 --> 00:22:16,020

Because I knew where my  
aunt had an apartment.

430

00:22:16,020 --> 00:22:18,570

Even though they were  
working in a camp,

431

00:22:18,570 --> 00:22:22,050

they still kept an apartment.

432

00:22:22,050 --> 00:22:24,390

So we were going around  
and around in a circle,

433

00:22:24,390 --> 00:22:26,080

and the heat was incredible.

434

00:22:26,080 --> 00:22:28,350

But we walked around,  
and I kept looking back,

435

00:22:28,350 --> 00:22:30,450

but I didn't see them.

436

00:22:30,450 --> 00:22:33,060

Finally, I decided  
to take a walk.

437

00:22:33,060 --> 00:22:35,720

And we walked to the apartment.

438

00:22:35,720 --> 00:22:37,100

OK, we have to reload.

439

00:22:37,100 --> 00:22:42,325

440

00:22:42,325 --> 00:22:44,680

[BEEP]

441

00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:45,180

442

00:22:45,180 --> 00:22:47,580

OK, let's just pick  
that up, and then I'm

443

00:22:47,580 --> 00:22:50,650

going to jump right  
to Mrs. Olefska.

444

00:22:50,650 --> 00:22:51,150

OK.

445

00:22:51,150 --> 00:22:53,663

446

00:22:53,663 --> 00:22:54,830

You remember where you were?

447

00:22:54,830 --> 00:22:57,080

You and your sister  
starting to walk?

448

00:22:57,080 --> 00:22:59,270

OK.

449

00:22:59,270 --> 00:23:03,650

We started to walk toward  
my aunt's apartment.

450

00:23:03,650 --> 00:23:07,760

When we came there,  
the house was locked.

451  
00:23:07,760 --> 00:23:09,810  
There was nobody in the house.

452  
00:23:09,810 --> 00:23:12,320  
There were two  
outhouses, so I decided

453  
00:23:12,320 --> 00:23:17,900  
to go and sit in the outhouse  
until the landlady would come.

454  
00:23:17,900 --> 00:23:20,840  
Because we were  
afraid to sit outside.

455  
00:23:20,840 --> 00:23:26,750  
We sat in that stinking  
outhouse for a long time,

456  
00:23:26,750 --> 00:23:28,310  
until the landlady came.

457  
00:23:28,310 --> 00:23:31,380  
When she came, we came out.

458  
00:23:31,380 --> 00:23:35,030  
And she has met me  
before, because that one

459  
00:23:35,030 --> 00:23:37,670  
time that I was there, my  
cousin took me to the place

460  
00:23:37,670 --> 00:23:40,410  
and she knew who I was.

461  
00:23:40,410 --> 00:23:43,310  
And I asked her could we  
come in, and she says, yeah,

462

00:23:43,310 --> 00:23:47,040

I'll let you into  
your aunt's apartment.

463

00:23:47,040 --> 00:23:49,580

And she let us in.

464

00:23:49,580 --> 00:23:53,960

But nobody knew where we  
were, because the lady

465

00:23:53,960 --> 00:23:59,900

that took us across  
never showed up.

466

00:23:59,900 --> 00:24:02,450

And we were sitting in  
the apartment all alone,

467

00:24:02,450 --> 00:24:06,510

the two of us, until somebody  
from the family came.

468

00:24:06,510 --> 00:24:10,400

I don't know how many days later  
sitting and crying we were.

469

00:24:10,400 --> 00:24:12,470

I didn't know about my  
mother, if she's alive.

470

00:24:12,470 --> 00:24:14,510

She didn't know about  
us, if we were alive.

471

00:24:14,510 --> 00:24:16,010

She had no idea  
what happened to us.

472

00:24:16,010 --> 00:24:21,080

She kept going back  
to the woman's house.



473

00:24:21,080 --> 00:24:23,060

And she must have  
been hiding from her,

474

00:24:23,060 --> 00:24:25,820

because her husband only  
kept saying "because of you I

475

00:24:25,820 --> 00:24:27,710

lost my wife."

476

00:24:27,710 --> 00:24:29,970

She never came back.

477

00:24:29,970 --> 00:24:33,200

Which in retrospect,  
I realized that she

478

00:24:33,200 --> 00:24:35,270

did come back, because  
nothing did happen to her.

479

00:24:35,270 --> 00:24:37,940

Nobody caught her.

480

00:24:37,940 --> 00:24:40,190

So my mother didn't know  
what happened to us,

481

00:24:40,190 --> 00:24:43,580

and she subsequently went  
into hiding for a few days

482

00:24:43,580 --> 00:24:47,550

in order to be  
out of the ghetto,

483

00:24:47,550 --> 00:24:51,860

so she should be  
reconnected with us.

484

00:24:51,860 --> 00:24:54,960

485  
00:24:54,960 --> 00:25:05,130  
Now, the way we were  
reconnected is another miracle.

486  
00:25:05,130 --> 00:25:08,490  
My mother went into hiding.

487  
00:25:08,490 --> 00:25:12,870  
And after a few days, she  
sent a man into Krosno

488  
00:25:12,870 --> 00:25:15,190  
to look for two children.

489  
00:25:15,190 --> 00:25:18,370  
She had no idea where  
her sister lived.

490  
00:25:18,370 --> 00:25:21,360  
She had no idea  
what happened to us.

491  
00:25:21,360 --> 00:25:25,080  
The poor man was  
walking the streets.

492  
00:25:25,080 --> 00:25:27,120  
He didn't know who to ask.

493  
00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:28,420  
He didn't know where to go.

494  
00:25:28,420 --> 00:25:31,650  
Finally, he approached  
a young woman

495  
00:25:31,650 --> 00:25:34,425  
and asked her if she knew  
about Ettinger family.

496

00:25:34,425 --> 00:25:37,260

497

00:25:37,260 --> 00:25:38,430

And that was my cousin.

498

00:25:38,430 --> 00:25:43,310

499

00:25:43,310 --> 00:25:46,250

Why he asked her  
only, I don't know.

500

00:25:46,250 --> 00:25:51,590

She brought him over, and he  
told me, your mother is alive.

501

00:25:51,590 --> 00:25:56,110

I'm going to bring  
her in a few days.

502

00:25:56,110 --> 00:25:58,480

And he did.

503

00:25:58,480 --> 00:26:02,020

At night, he bandaged  
her face, supposedly

504

00:26:02,020 --> 00:26:04,690

that she has a big toothache.

505

00:26:04,690 --> 00:26:08,710

And she came with  
his wife's Ausweis.

506

00:26:08,710 --> 00:26:14,260

And we got reconnected.

507

00:26:14,260 --> 00:26:20,230

Now, we stayed in my aunt's  
apartment for a few days.

508

00:26:20,230 --> 00:26:24,280  
And my mother talked to Mrs.  
Olefska, who was the landlady.

509  
00:26:24,280 --> 00:26:28,510  
And she said, "what  
are we to do?"

510  
00:26:28,510 --> 00:26:31,810  
She says, "I'll tell you what.

511  
00:26:31,810 --> 00:26:35,060  
Your sister paid a month's rent.

512  
00:26:35,060 --> 00:26:37,930  
She only stayed here two weeks.

513  
00:26:37,930 --> 00:26:41,140  
She didn't want any money back.

514  
00:26:41,140 --> 00:26:45,910  
You can stay for two weeks  
of the remainder of the month

515  
00:26:45,910 --> 00:26:48,630  
for what your sister paid."

516  
00:26:48,630 --> 00:26:51,990  
My mother said,  
"fine, very nice."

517  
00:26:51,990 --> 00:26:56,580  
After two weeks, she  
said to Mrs. Olefska,

518  
00:26:56,580 --> 00:27:00,150  
what do we do now?

519  
00:27:00,150 --> 00:27:03,960  
And she said, "I don't  
think I can throw you out.

520

00:27:03,960 --> 00:27:06,780  
You have nowhere to go.

521  
00:27:06,780 --> 00:27:09,270  
I'm going to keep you  
as long as I can."

522  
00:27:09,270 --> 00:27:12,990  
All right, now I'm  
going to interrupt you.

523  
00:27:12,990 --> 00:27:16,230  
Describe Mrs. Olefska  
for me, and then

524  
00:27:16,230 --> 00:27:20,430  
just tell me in general  
what she did for you,

525  
00:27:20,430 --> 00:27:21,990  
your mother, and your sister.

526  
00:27:21,990 --> 00:27:25,380

527  
00:27:25,380 --> 00:27:32,010  
Mrs. Olefska was-- well, first  
I have to say, she's an angel.

528  
00:27:32,010 --> 00:27:34,860  
She went straight to heaven.

529  
00:27:34,860 --> 00:27:37,440  
She was a beautiful--

530  
00:27:37,440 --> 00:27:43,125  
physically, beautiful woman,  
tall with swept-up hair,

531  
00:27:43,125 --> 00:27:50,900  
with a beautiful smile,  
deeply religious, with a heart

532

00:27:50,900 --> 00:27:52,400  
of gold, obviously.

533

00:27:52,400 --> 00:27:55,100

534

00:27:55,100 --> 00:27:58,360  
The woman went to  
mass every single day.

535

00:27:58,360 --> 00:28:01,240

536

00:28:01,240 --> 00:28:04,110  
And if she sold a  
piece of jewelry

537

00:28:04,110 --> 00:28:07,980  
for us, what my mother gave  
her, and my mother would

538

00:28:07,980 --> 00:28:13,890  
say, "take a little money from  
this," she would not accept.

539

00:28:13,890 --> 00:28:16,740  
And Mama would say,  
"take a little money

540

00:28:16,740 --> 00:28:20,280  
when you go to mass and  
give it to the poor."

541

00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:24,600  
And she would say, "there are  
no poorer people than you.

542

00:28:24,600 --> 00:28:28,290  
Your children have no fresh air.

543

00:28:28,290 --> 00:28:29,610  
You have no light.

544  
00:28:29,610 --> 00:28:31,620  
You have no freedom.

545  
00:28:31,620 --> 00:28:34,080  
Nobody is poorer than you."

546  
00:28:34,080 --> 00:28:37,350  
She wouldn't take a penny.

547  
00:28:37,350 --> 00:28:39,120  
Never.

548  
00:28:39,120 --> 00:28:42,300  
She never took a penny.

549  
00:28:42,300 --> 00:28:45,315  
She did it out of the  
goodness of her heart.

550  
00:28:45,315 --> 00:28:48,810

551  
00:28:48,810 --> 00:28:51,780  
She was incredible.

552  
00:28:51,780 --> 00:28:54,990  
And we didn't even have  
a chance to thank her.

553  
00:28:54,990 --> 00:28:57,960

554  
00:28:57,960 --> 00:28:59,700  
Because after the war--

555  
00:28:59,700 --> 00:29:00,660  
not after the war.

556  
00:29:00,660 --> 00:29:07,725  
Actually, after the liberation,

when my mother went back to her

557

00:29:07,725 --> 00:29:12,060

and you know, just to tell  
her that we're going back

558

00:29:12,060 --> 00:29:15,270

to our hometown, and  
she says, "please,

559

00:29:15,270 --> 00:29:17,340

don't stay in touch with me.

560

00:29:17,340 --> 00:29:19,320

Don't ever come back.

561

00:29:19,320 --> 00:29:22,350

I don't want my  
neighbors to see you.

562

00:29:22,350 --> 00:29:29,270

I'm afraid for the  
safety of my life.

563

00:29:29,270 --> 00:29:33,500

My Polish people,  
my Polish brothers

564

00:29:33,500 --> 00:29:38,920

will not forgive me for  
saving a Jewish life."

565

00:29:38,920 --> 00:29:44,343

She was in jeopardy, and we  
never could say thank you.

566

00:29:44,343 --> 00:29:50,630

567

00:29:50,630 --> 00:29:55,820

Tell me for how  
long she hid you,



568

00:29:55,820 --> 00:29:59,420

and tell me some of the  
logistics of hiding you.

569

00:29:59,420 --> 00:30:03,050

How hard was it for  
her to hide you?

570

00:30:03,050 --> 00:30:07,360

Well, at first we  
were in this room.

571

00:30:07,360 --> 00:30:10,400

572

00:30:10,400 --> 00:30:14,790

I don't exactly know if it was  
a year, or two, or maybe 18

573

00:30:14,790 --> 00:30:15,290

months.

574

00:30:15,290 --> 00:30:18,290

It really is difficult for  
me to put a time on it,

575

00:30:18,290 --> 00:30:21,260

but it was for a long time.

576

00:30:21,260 --> 00:30:26,180

So at first we were in  
my aunt's apartment.

577

00:30:26,180 --> 00:30:31,190

But because housing was  
scarce, people around her

578

00:30:31,190 --> 00:30:33,152

back to rent it out.

579

00:30:33,152 --> 00:30:35,110

You know, why don't you

rent out the apartment?

580

00:30:35,110 --> 00:30:37,790

It's an empty apartment.

581

00:30:37,790 --> 00:30:40,010

And she always found an excuse.

582

00:30:40,010 --> 00:30:43,070

But finally a member  
of her family,

583

00:30:43,070 --> 00:30:46,890

a distant member of her family  
said he needed an apartment,

584

00:30:46,890 --> 00:30:51,900

and she had to let him have it.

585

00:30:51,900 --> 00:30:56,030

So she put us up in an attic.

586

00:30:56,030 --> 00:31:00,570

It was actually an attic  
room, you know, one of those.

587

00:31:00,570 --> 00:31:03,170

And we had to be  
extremely quiet,

588

00:31:03,170 --> 00:31:07,100

because we walk upstairs,  
you can hear it downstairs.

589

00:31:07,100 --> 00:31:11,570

There is-- excuse me.

590

00:31:11,570 --> 00:31:12,560

So we were quiet.

591

00:31:12,560 --> 00:31:17,600

We were either walking on tippy

toes or just sitting on a bed.

592

00:31:17,600 --> 00:31:20,945

She would bring us a pot  
of soup and some bread.

593

00:31:20,945 --> 00:31:23,510

594

00:31:23,510 --> 00:31:28,040

And-- again, her goodness--

595

00:31:28,040 --> 00:31:31,760

the bread was sometimes  
two or three weeks old.

596

00:31:31,760 --> 00:31:34,850

Because you know,  
bread was rationed.

597

00:31:34,850 --> 00:31:39,140

So her brother would go  
to the army to buy bread.

598

00:31:39,140 --> 00:31:42,830

He had to go to the other  
side of town to buy bread.

599

00:31:42,830 --> 00:31:45,980

And it was stamped with a date,  
and we were laughing about it.

600

00:31:45,980 --> 00:31:49,130

Sometimes it was 10 days  
old, sometimes two weeks old.

601

00:31:49,130 --> 00:31:51,830

It was hard as rock.

602

00:31:51,830 --> 00:31:53,540

So she came up with  
the idea that she's

603

00:31:53,540 --> 00:31:56,100  
going to buy some apples.

604

00:31:56,100 --> 00:32:00,140  
And if you scrub apples  
and put them on bread,

605

00:32:00,140 --> 00:32:01,870  
it'll soften the bread  
for the children.

606

00:32:01,870 --> 00:32:04,440

607

00:32:04,440 --> 00:32:06,050  
This is how concerned she was.

608

00:32:06,050 --> 00:32:09,020

609

00:32:09,020 --> 00:32:12,620  
But this, too, had to end,  
because somebody else needed

610

00:32:12,620 --> 00:32:14,300  
the room upstairs.

611

00:32:14,300 --> 00:32:18,740  
A young student wanted a room.

612

00:32:18,740 --> 00:32:24,410  
And she did not have any  
excuse not to rent it out.

613

00:32:24,410 --> 00:32:26,795  
Can I get a tissue?

614

00:32:26,795 --> 00:32:28,160  
Yeah.

615

00:32:28,160 --> 00:32:29,900

Please?

616  
00:32:29,900 --> 00:32:31,100  
I don't know if you can st--

617  
00:32:31,100 --> 00:32:31,620  
[BEEP]

618  
00:32:31,620 --> 00:32:33,920  
Yeah, wait a minute.

619  
00:32:33,920 --> 00:32:35,870  
Let's just back up a  
little bit to the food.

620  
00:32:35,870 --> 00:32:38,540  
And also, tell me  
how she respected

621  
00:32:38,540 --> 00:32:40,680  
your mother's religiousness.

622  
00:32:40,680 --> 00:32:41,250  
I will.

623  
00:32:41,250 --> 00:32:43,280  
OK.

624  
00:32:43,280 --> 00:32:47,420  
I told you that she  
cooked soup for us.

625  
00:32:47,420 --> 00:32:50,180  
Now, my mother  
was very Orthodox.

626  
00:32:50,180 --> 00:32:53,840  
Mrs. Olefska was  
deeply religious,

627  
00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:58,130  
and she respected my

mother's religion, also.

628  
00:32:58,130 --> 00:33:01,140  
She knew that it  
had to be kosher.

629  
00:33:01,140 --> 00:33:04,100  
So she took one  
pot, which she said

630  
00:33:04,100 --> 00:33:06,990  
she'll scrub it up real good.

631  
00:33:06,990 --> 00:33:11,090  
And she won't use  
any fat at all.

632  
00:33:11,090 --> 00:33:15,290  
So she cooked potato soup  
for us every single day.

633  
00:33:15,290 --> 00:33:19,820  
She ground some flour  
first, never touched--

634  
00:33:19,820 --> 00:33:21,110  
and she had one spoon.

635  
00:33:21,110 --> 00:33:24,830  
She bought a new spoon, and  
she had this one pot which

636  
00:33:24,830 --> 00:33:27,500  
she always used only for us.

637  
00:33:27,500 --> 00:33:30,590  
My mother didn't have  
any unkosher food

638  
00:33:30,590 --> 00:33:32,870  
for the duration of the hiding.

639

00:33:32,870 --> 00:33:36,120

Never in her life,  
for that matter.

640

00:33:36,120 --> 00:33:41,660

But this is how she respected  
my mother's religiousness.

641

00:33:41,660 --> 00:33:45,550

This by itself should  
tell you something.

642

00:33:45,550 --> 00:33:52,000