

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,670
Take four.

2
00:00:00,670 --> 00:00:16,390

3
00:00:16,390 --> 00:00:21,300
Can you back up in that
story until how she--

4
00:00:21,300 --> 00:00:22,740
Until where?

5
00:00:22,740 --> 00:00:27,120
Until where you were
all standing around

6
00:00:27,120 --> 00:00:31,150
and the SS became uneasy
and the block elder--

7
00:00:31,150 --> 00:00:33,550
started to dance.

8
00:00:33,550 --> 00:00:38,050
Block elder-- I say
about the uneasy, too?

9
00:00:38,050 --> 00:00:39,470
Mm-mm.

10
00:00:39,470 --> 00:00:43,730
As we were standing around
waiting for our dresses,

11
00:00:43,730 --> 00:00:47,570
the SS became very restless
and the block elders

12
00:00:47,570 --> 00:00:51,140
wanted to distract

them, so she told them

13
00:00:51,140 --> 00:00:55,825
that she has a talented
ballet dancer and would

14
00:00:55,825 --> 00:00:58,070
they want her to dance?

15
00:00:58,070 --> 00:01:01,940
They agreed that they
want her to dance

16
00:01:01,940 --> 00:01:04,580
and there she was dancing--

17
00:01:04,580 --> 00:01:11,980
tears ran down her cheeks for
she remembered the times when

18
00:01:11,980 --> 00:01:17,810
she was dancing on stage to
the applause, to an audience,

19
00:01:17,810 --> 00:01:20,250
and to the pleasure
of her parents,

20
00:01:20,250 --> 00:01:25,730
and now she was dancing
in this godforsaken place,

21
00:01:25,730 --> 00:01:33,700
like in some arena, where there
were only dogs and SS watching

22
00:01:33,700 --> 00:01:35,600
her.

23
00:01:35,600 --> 00:01:40,550
When we received our dresses,
they took this beautiful child

24

00:01:40,550 --> 00:01:45,160

with them and we never
expected to see her again,

25

00:01:45,160 --> 00:01:49,210

because when they took somebody
away, they usually killed them

26

00:01:49,210 --> 00:01:52,090

and we never saw
those people again.

27

00:01:52,090 --> 00:01:56,080

But they did bring her
back three days later

28

00:01:56,080 --> 00:01:58,750

and we couldn't
even recognize her.

29

00:01:58,750 --> 00:02:02,410

She had been raped and
she had been tortured

30

00:02:02,410 --> 00:02:05,200

and she was like in a daze.

31

00:02:05,200 --> 00:02:08,229

She didn't know that she
has to get up in the morning

32

00:02:08,229 --> 00:02:10,550

to stand the roll call.

33

00:02:10,550 --> 00:02:13,370

And if somebody would
have been missing,

34

00:02:13,370 --> 00:02:15,130

and if they would
find her in the bunk,

35

00:02:15,130 --> 00:02:17,260
then she would be
beaten to death.

36
00:02:17,260 --> 00:02:21,160
So I would pick her up and take
her between me and my sister,

37
00:02:21,160 --> 00:02:24,220
she should stand.

38
00:02:24,220 --> 00:02:29,650
And then, we would
watch over her

39
00:02:29,650 --> 00:02:34,610
that she should get
her portion of food.

40
00:02:34,610 --> 00:02:38,640
But a few days later,
there was a selection,

41
00:02:38,640 --> 00:02:42,510
and we, luckily, again,
passed that's selection.

42
00:02:42,510 --> 00:02:48,850
But they took out from
that election 500 girls.

43
00:02:48,850 --> 00:02:53,650
We remained half and
one of those girls

44
00:02:53,650 --> 00:02:55,530
was this beautiful ballerina.

45
00:02:55,530 --> 00:02:58,390

46
00:02:58,390 --> 00:03:08,240
But she tried to run over to

our side and the SS quarter.

47

00:03:08,240 --> 00:03:15,160

And with the butt of the
rifles, they beat her to death.

48

00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:17,650

But it takes a long
time for somebody

49

00:03:17,650 --> 00:03:20,950

to die when you are
beaten to death.

50

00:03:20,950 --> 00:03:26,080

And all I remember
was praying to God

51

00:03:26,080 --> 00:03:28,900

that she should die already.

52

00:03:28,900 --> 00:03:35,500

And her screams were
following me forever.

53

00:03:35,500 --> 00:03:40,330

She was screaming to God, she
was screaming to her mother,

54

00:03:40,330 --> 00:03:43,150

nobody could help her.

55

00:03:43,150 --> 00:03:51,020

And then, when she was dead,
they took all the girls

56

00:03:51,020 --> 00:03:56,220

to the gas chamber and
they formed like a chain

57

00:03:56,220 --> 00:04:00,120

that nobody should
be able to run out.

58

00:04:00,120 --> 00:04:03,000

And like a chain,
in that chain, they

59

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,680

escorted them to
the gas chambers.

60

00:04:07,680 --> 00:04:15,230

And I promised myself then,
that I shall never forget her.

61

00:04:15,230 --> 00:04:21,500

And I memorialized her in one
of my poems, which I call,

62

00:04:21,500 --> 00:04:24,053

Ballerina.

63

00:04:24,053 --> 00:04:25,220

Do you want me say the poem?

64

00:04:25,220 --> 00:04:28,680

If not, I go on right now.

65

00:04:28,680 --> 00:04:31,380

Ballerina.

66

00:04:31,380 --> 00:04:36,120

Little ballerina, I
did not know your name,

67

00:04:36,120 --> 00:04:42,360

I only knew one thing that
from far away you came.

68

00:04:42,360 --> 00:04:47,460

It was said about you
that you were once a star,

69

00:04:47,460 --> 00:04:53,700

and you were privileged as
to sing before the King.

70
00:04:53,700 --> 00:04:59,040
Look at what they are doing
to this beautiful ballerina.

71
00:04:59,040 --> 00:05:04,050
They force her to dance
naked, like in some arena.

72
00:05:04,050 --> 00:05:09,810
You blacked out the present
and turned back a page,

73
00:05:09,810 --> 00:05:13,290
and you made believe
you were on stage.

74
00:05:13,290 --> 00:05:18,220

75
00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:22,270
Can you stop for
me for a second?

76
00:05:22,270 --> 00:05:23,748
Can you stop filming?

77
00:05:23,748 --> 00:05:25,242
Yes.

78
00:05:25,242 --> 00:05:26,740
I need my glasses.

79
00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:28,990
Where can I go back?

80
00:05:28,990 --> 00:05:30,660
How about, arena?

81
00:05:30,660 --> 00:05:31,590

Go back to there.

82
00:05:31,590 --> 00:05:43,542

83
00:05:43,542 --> 00:05:49,230
You blacked out the present
and turned back a page,

84
00:05:49,230 --> 00:05:52,320
and you made believe
you were on stage.

85
00:05:52,320 --> 00:05:56,790
When the SS stared at you,
tears welled in your eyes.

86
00:05:56,790 --> 00:06:01,800
You swallow them bravely,
and held back your cries.

87
00:06:01,800 --> 00:06:05,910
They led you away and
brought you back bruised.

88
00:06:05,910 --> 00:06:10,110
I knew what they did and
how you had been used.

89
00:06:10,110 --> 00:06:16,020
I took your hands in mine,
and held them very tight.

90
00:06:16,020 --> 00:06:20,490
You opened up your eyes and
said you'll be all right.

91
00:06:20,490 --> 00:06:24,030
Three days later,
I watched you die.

92
00:06:24,030 --> 00:06:29,760
You were only 14 and

I could not even cry.

93

00:06:29,760 --> 00:06:35,370

I didn't know your name, you
beautiful little stranger.

94

00:06:35,370 --> 00:06:39,750

Yet we were sisters
in the same danger.

95

00:06:39,750 --> 00:06:44,760

I curse them with a
passion for this awful sin.

96

00:06:44,760 --> 00:06:49,290

I don't even know
whether you had any kin.

97

00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:54,150

Little Ballerina,
I'm naming you, Lori.

98

00:06:54,150 --> 00:07:00,690

And in your name, I'm
writing this true story.

99

00:07:00,690 --> 00:07:05,100

Beautiful young Lori,
you surely are in heaven.

100

00:07:05,100 --> 00:07:08,700

For this sin against you
they will never be forgiven.

101

00:07:08,700 --> 00:07:13,240

102

00:07:13,240 --> 00:07:23,080

She was not the only one that
I have seen beaten to death.

103

00:07:23,080 --> 00:07:25,810

104

00:07:25,810 --> 00:07:37,010

I have watched so many beaten to death for as little as being--

105

00:07:37,010 --> 00:07:42,440

because one of the girls took out a blanket

106

00:07:42,440 --> 00:07:45,835

to cover herself while we were standing at roll

107

00:07:45,835 --> 00:07:51,630

call and it was very cold early in the morning.

108

00:07:51,630 --> 00:07:55,760

This was enough of a reason to be beaten to death.

109

00:07:55,760 --> 00:07:59,260

110

00:07:59,260 --> 00:08:04,540

After this incident, with the ballerina, the plot

111

00:08:04,540 --> 00:08:10,480

and the block eldest, every time there was a selection,

112

00:08:10,480 --> 00:08:15,250

she would hide me and my sister in one

113

00:08:15,250 --> 00:08:21,580

of the blocks that had-- that was stored with blankets.

114

00:08:21,580 --> 00:08:25,630

There were hundreds of hundreds of blankets which were

115
00:08:25,630 --> 00:08:27,770
eventually shipped to Germany.

116
00:08:27,770 --> 00:08:30,340
So every time there
would be a selection,

117
00:08:30,340 --> 00:08:34,030
she would send us into
that storage place

118
00:08:34,030 --> 00:08:39,010
and when the selection would
be over, she would take us out.

119
00:08:39,010 --> 00:08:44,770
In a way, I really owe my
life and my sister's life

120
00:08:44,770 --> 00:08:46,210
to this block eldest.

121
00:08:46,210 --> 00:08:49,820
Her name was Fella.

122
00:08:49,820 --> 00:08:58,280
But my sister never
gave up the idea

123
00:08:58,280 --> 00:09:01,030
of wanting to kill herself.

124
00:09:01,030 --> 00:09:06,290
So one day, being very
desperate and trying always

125
00:09:06,290 --> 00:09:11,040
to find a way that
she should live,

126
00:09:11,040 --> 00:09:13,550

when they were going
everybody would

127
00:09:13,550 --> 00:09:18,320
try to hide from going to--

128
00:09:18,320 --> 00:09:22,130
this disinfect, to have
the dress disinfecting

129
00:09:22,130 --> 00:09:25,100
and have that shower.

130
00:09:25,100 --> 00:09:32,630
But I went and I told a
girl that because each time

131
00:09:32,630 --> 00:09:34,910
they took a
different block, then

132
00:09:34,910 --> 00:09:39,230
I found out that a certain block
was going to be disinfected.

133
00:09:39,230 --> 00:09:43,580
I told her I'll go in her place,
she should go into my block

134
00:09:43,580 --> 00:09:45,890
just because you
have to be counted

135
00:09:45,890 --> 00:09:48,080
and she couldn't be
standing in that block

136
00:09:48,080 --> 00:09:50,270
alone that she should
go into my block.

137
00:09:50,270 --> 00:09:54,800
And I will go instead of

her for if she gives me

138
00:09:54,800 --> 00:09:56,360
a piece of bread.

139
00:09:56,360 --> 00:10:03,080
I needed that bread to
show my sister that--

140
00:10:03,080 --> 00:10:06,050
to make a plausible story.

141
00:10:06,050 --> 00:10:08,710
So I went to be--

142
00:10:08,710 --> 00:10:11,660
to go to that
disinfecting place.

143
00:10:11,660 --> 00:10:16,490
And when I came home I had
hidden that piece of bread,

144
00:10:16,490 --> 00:10:18,410
because you can't
take along that bread,

145
00:10:18,410 --> 00:10:21,230
I hid the bread
under my blanket.

146
00:10:21,230 --> 00:10:28,360
And when I came back, I told
my sister that a group of men--

147
00:10:28,360 --> 00:10:34,570
soldiers, a group of men
and I had been engaged

148
00:10:34,570 --> 00:10:39,730
and that I had seen my
fiance had passed by,

149

00:10:39,730 --> 00:10:43,270

and he yelled out to
me that he had just

150

00:10:43,270 --> 00:10:49,300

seen women and children in their
block with women and children

151

00:10:49,300 --> 00:10:51,760

and my mother is--

152

00:10:51,760 --> 00:10:57,100

he knows from somebody that my
mother and her child is alive

153

00:10:57,100 --> 00:10:59,240

and to know that she
should believe me

154

00:10:59,240 --> 00:11:01,090

she knew that I didn't
have bread, that he

155

00:11:01,090 --> 00:11:02,780

tore me a piece of bread.

156

00:11:02,780 --> 00:11:05,285

So I, before--

157

00:11:05,285 --> 00:11:07,660

I went first I took out the
bread and I showed her, look,

158

00:11:07,660 --> 00:11:11,120

he even threw me
a piece of bread.

159

00:11:11,120 --> 00:11:15,130

So this gave my
sister a little hope.

160

00:11:15,130 --> 00:11:20,200

Also, another way that
in the beginning that I

161
00:11:20,200 --> 00:11:26,784
could persuade her that they are
still alive was that I across--

162
00:11:26,784 --> 00:11:28,245
We have to reload.

163
00:11:28,245 --> 00:11:40,440

164
00:11:40,440 --> 00:11:43,860
OK, you we're going to tell
me another way that you

165
00:11:43,860 --> 00:11:47,200
used to try to keep your
sister from killing herself?

166
00:11:47,200 --> 00:11:48,370
Yes.

167
00:11:48,370 --> 00:11:51,030
In the beginning,
when we arrived

168
00:11:51,030 --> 00:11:55,770
there was Czech camp across--

169
00:11:55,770 --> 00:12:00,660
but it was separated
with also wires.

170
00:12:00,660 --> 00:12:03,300
It was electric charged wires.

171
00:12:03,300 --> 00:12:06,330
But it was on the
other side from us.

172

00:12:06,330 --> 00:12:10,330
And we would see there
children, women and children.

173
00:12:10,330 --> 00:12:13,680
They were from Czechoslovakia,
from Theresienstadt.

174
00:12:13,680 --> 00:12:16,800
And we envied them
so much because they

175
00:12:16,800 --> 00:12:19,860
were there, the mothers
with their children.

176
00:12:19,860 --> 00:12:24,900
And then this gave us
somehow also a hope

177
00:12:24,900 --> 00:12:29,430
that there are children and
it was such a beautiful thing

178
00:12:29,430 --> 00:12:31,290
to see-- little kids.

179
00:12:31,290 --> 00:12:33,930
And I would always show
my sister, you see?

180
00:12:33,930 --> 00:12:36,030
They were lying because
look here are children

181
00:12:36,030 --> 00:12:37,800
and here are mothers--

182
00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:41,400
all young women with children.

183
00:12:41,400 --> 00:12:48,780
But then, one day we

got up and it was empty.

184
00:12:48,780 --> 00:12:51,740
They took all the
children and all

185
00:12:51,740 --> 00:12:56,460
of the mothers, the whole
families, and they killed them.

186
00:12:56,460 --> 00:13:00,510
And then I had absolutely no--

187
00:13:00,510 --> 00:13:04,200
no way of convincing my sister.

188
00:13:04,200 --> 00:13:08,820
And this is really why I
tried to find this other way

189
00:13:08,820 --> 00:13:16,500
with going to the
to those showers

190
00:13:16,500 --> 00:13:22,830
in order to make her believe
another story about her child.

191
00:13:22,830 --> 00:13:34,530
And later on, I read
about there was--

192
00:13:34,530 --> 00:13:38,760
his name was so Wilbur,
and he wrote a book

193
00:13:38,760 --> 00:13:44,040
because his wife was
there with the child

194
00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:53,130
and how she was killed
and it was one of the best

195
00:13:53,130 --> 00:13:57,060
documentaries written in Czech.

196
00:13:57,060 --> 00:14:03,840
So this was another struggle
that I really had to not only

197
00:14:03,840 --> 00:14:05,860
to save myself
that I should live,

198
00:14:05,860 --> 00:14:10,740
but that I had to constantly to
struggle that my sister should

199
00:14:10,740 --> 00:14:13,320
also live.

200
00:14:13,320 --> 00:14:19,080
And one day they came and
they asked for volunteers.

201
00:14:19,080 --> 00:14:22,680
And even though the
block eldest always

202
00:14:22,680 --> 00:14:25,260
cautioned that
nobody should ever

203
00:14:25,260 --> 00:14:28,740
volunteer because you don't know
for what you're volunteering,

204
00:14:28,740 --> 00:14:33,750
I was already so desperate
that I decided to volunteer.

205
00:14:33,750 --> 00:14:42,690
They were looking for girls that
were still looked half-decent

206

00:14:42,690 --> 00:14:47,280

and so I pinched my
cheeks they should be red

207

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:50,760

and I bit my lips that
they should have color

208

00:14:50,760 --> 00:14:52,860

and I did the same
thing to my sister

209

00:14:52,860 --> 00:14:57,600

and I told them,
let's go and line up.

210

00:14:57,600 --> 00:15:01,620

I had no idea for what
we were lining up.

211

00:15:01,620 --> 00:15:04,500

And they were selecting--

212

00:15:04,500 --> 00:15:06,840

and they were looking
like we would be horses.

213

00:15:06,840 --> 00:15:10,590

They even looked
into our mouths.

214

00:15:10,590 --> 00:15:12,750

And they were feeling our--

215

00:15:12,750 --> 00:15:17,700

you know, like touching
us and it was very odd

216

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:20,340

because I saw myself
from work, but do we

217

00:15:20,340 --> 00:15:24,960
need to-- because they said
that we will be going to work.

218
00:15:24,960 --> 00:15:27,090
But then my sister
was not selected.

219
00:15:27,090 --> 00:15:29,177
They selected me and
my sister wasn't.

220
00:15:29,177 --> 00:15:31,260
And then all of a sudden,
I see my sister was just

221
00:15:31,260 --> 00:15:34,230
walking back to her--

222
00:15:34,230 --> 00:15:34,920
to the block.

223
00:15:34,920 --> 00:15:39,870
And this is when I knew that
it is either we will both die

224
00:15:39,870 --> 00:15:41,940
or we will--

225
00:15:41,940 --> 00:15:44,610
I don't want to live
without my sister, anyway.

226
00:15:44,610 --> 00:15:48,120
So I decided I will just
make a run back to my sister.

227
00:15:48,120 --> 00:15:50,070
I expected if it
would have been me,

228
00:15:50,070 --> 00:15:54,150
I would have gone to a different

line and lined up again.

229
00:15:54,150 --> 00:15:56,790
But my sister was not--

230
00:15:56,790 --> 00:15:58,350
she had no fight.

231
00:15:58,350 --> 00:16:05,200
She didn't know how to try to
fight her way into anything.

232
00:16:05,200 --> 00:16:08,340
So I just ran out and I
decided, if they shoot me,

233
00:16:08,340 --> 00:16:09,330
they shoot me.

234
00:16:09,330 --> 00:16:13,620
And it was like a miracle till
this day, I can never believe

235
00:16:13,620 --> 00:16:17,370
that I ran away and that they--

236
00:16:17,370 --> 00:16:18,990
nobody shot me.

237
00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:25,350
And when I ran into that
block, this was one of the most

238
00:16:25,350 --> 00:16:29,580
exhilarating moments in my life
because I embraced my sister

239
00:16:29,580 --> 00:16:33,390
and yet I expected that she
is going to be just as happy,

240
00:16:33,390 --> 00:16:36,090

but my sister was in such a
depressed mood that she did

241
00:16:36,090 --> 00:16:39,510
not-- she didn't-- she
couldn't react to anything.

242
00:16:39,510 --> 00:16:47,110
And then the list came over
to me and she said to me,

243
00:16:47,110 --> 00:16:50,200
you don't know from
what you went away.

244
00:16:50,200 --> 00:16:56,650
Didn't I caution that you should
never volunteer for anything?

245
00:16:56,650 --> 00:17:03,010
These girls, they were
selected to be sent

246
00:17:03,010 --> 00:17:08,470
to be prostitutes for the--

247
00:17:08,470 --> 00:17:10,810
I don't know whether
it was for the Germans

248
00:17:10,810 --> 00:17:15,700
or whether it was for Polish
workers, for whomever.

249
00:17:15,700 --> 00:17:21,970
But later on, I read
a book about this--

250
00:17:21,970 --> 00:17:24,339
The Dollhouse or House of Dolls.

251
00:17:24,339 --> 00:17:28,480
And there it was

described exactly what

252

00:17:28,480 --> 00:17:30,640
happened to these girls.

253

00:17:30,640 --> 00:17:32,780
They would keep
them three months,

254

00:17:32,780 --> 00:17:36,520
and after that, each
one was killed, always.

255

00:17:36,520 --> 00:17:40,690
And before they would kill, them
they would beat them terribly

256

00:17:40,690 --> 00:17:43,810
and they died terrible deaths.

257

00:17:43,810 --> 00:17:48,880
So I really was just
lucky that I had--

258

00:17:48,880 --> 00:17:55,270
I mean, that I had the
idea of running away.

259

00:17:55,270 --> 00:17:59,350
But then, later on, there
was the block eldest told us

260

00:17:59,350 --> 00:18:05,320
eventually that the selections
were more often always

261

00:18:05,320 --> 00:18:10,870
and then there was, she told,
us there was not any more going

262

00:18:10,870 --> 00:18:14,740
to be any selections, they were
just emptying the Auschwitz

263
00:18:14,740 --> 00:18:18,040
because the front--

264
00:18:18,040 --> 00:18:20,710
they were losing, on the
Russian front, and they were--

265
00:18:20,710 --> 00:18:22,960
the Russians were
getting closer.

266
00:18:22,960 --> 00:18:26,260
So they would take
some camps, they

267
00:18:26,260 --> 00:18:28,810
would take on death marches,
some they would take

268
00:18:28,810 --> 00:18:31,060
to the gas chambers, some--

269
00:18:31,060 --> 00:18:35,200
in some ways they
of course, didn't

270
00:18:35,200 --> 00:18:37,960
want that there should
be any witnesses,

271
00:18:37,960 --> 00:18:45,230
so they were trying to kill
them in any way they designed.

272
00:18:45,230 --> 00:18:49,480
So when I asked my block eldest,
what's going to happen to us?

273
00:18:49,480 --> 00:18:53,140
She said, I cannot hide you
anymore because they are

274

00:18:53,140 --> 00:18:54,880
emptying the block.

275

00:18:54,880 --> 00:18:57,160
She said, well, she said
some are going to work

276

00:18:57,160 --> 00:18:59,210
and some are going
to the gas chambers.

277

00:18:59,210 --> 00:19:01,270
I'm going to be honest with you.

278

00:19:01,270 --> 00:19:03,970
I said, so where is ours going?

279

00:19:03,970 --> 00:19:05,650
She said, I don't know.

280

00:19:05,650 --> 00:19:06,950
I said, are you coming with us?

281

00:19:06,950 --> 00:19:07,960
She said no.

282

00:19:07,960 --> 00:19:09,803
Then I knew that
ours is probably

283

00:19:09,803 --> 00:19:11,470
going to the gas
chambers, because if it

284

00:19:11,470 --> 00:19:15,400
would be going to work, then
they would be the last one.

285

00:19:15,400 --> 00:19:19,490
So I had no choice.

286

00:19:19,490 --> 00:19:22,210
I was just thinking to
myself, oh my sister

287
00:19:22,210 --> 00:19:27,370
was going to get her wish, but
I was very, very upset and very

288
00:19:27,370 --> 00:19:29,590
angry because I thought
that nobody will ever

289
00:19:29,590 --> 00:19:32,635
know how we died, just like
we didn't know about what

290
00:19:32,635 --> 00:19:37,450
was going to happen to us that
nobody will ever find out now.

291
00:19:37,450 --> 00:19:42,610
And they really took us and
we were standing already

292
00:19:42,610 --> 00:19:47,350
in front of the gas chambers
and it was so quiet.

293
00:19:47,350 --> 00:19:49,030
You would have thought that we--

294
00:19:49,030 --> 00:19:54,730
nobody was crying, because
everybody was really prepared.

295
00:19:54,730 --> 00:19:57,100
We knew that if they win,
they're going to kill us

296
00:19:57,100 --> 00:19:59,230
and if they lose they're
going to kill us.

297

00:19:59,230 --> 00:20:02,080
But until you live,
you still have hope.

298
00:20:02,080 --> 00:20:06,880
And I was one of the
optimists that always hoped.

299
00:20:06,880 --> 00:20:10,840
And I was holding my
sister's hand very tight

300
00:20:10,840 --> 00:20:13,760
and I was so angry that
I thought to myself,

301
00:20:13,760 --> 00:20:14,515
I'm not even--

302
00:20:14,515 --> 00:20:16,390
because I come from a
very religious family--

303
00:20:16,390 --> 00:20:18,670
I'm not even going to pray.

304
00:20:18,670 --> 00:20:23,140
If this is how we are going to
die, I am very angry at God.

305
00:20:23,140 --> 00:20:27,610
And then, it was
taking very long.

306
00:20:27,610 --> 00:20:29,920
Usually, it doesn't
take that long.

307
00:20:29,920 --> 00:20:32,070
And we were standing and
standing and the doors

308
00:20:32,070 --> 00:20:34,270

still were not--

309

00:20:34,270 --> 00:20:36,640

they were not opening.

310

00:20:36,640 --> 00:20:43,360

So all of a sudden, one SS comes over and tells the other one

311

00:20:43,360 --> 00:20:47,110

in German that they have an order

312

00:20:47,110 --> 00:20:51,310

to take a group of girls the next day--

313

00:20:51,310 --> 00:20:53,320

like the next day--

314

00:20:53,320 --> 00:20:54,640

to work.

315

00:20:54,640 --> 00:20:59,020

And the gas chambers were not empty.

316

00:20:59,020 --> 00:21:05,800

They miscalculated because all the corpses were still inside

317

00:21:05,800 --> 00:21:09,040

and it takes a very long time until they take out

318

00:21:09,040 --> 00:21:10,270

the corpses.

319

00:21:10,270 --> 00:21:12,460

They were very systematic.

320

00:21:12,460 --> 00:21:14,500

After they would
take out the corpses,

321
00:21:14,500 --> 00:21:16,660
they would first clean
them and wash the walls

322
00:21:16,660 --> 00:21:19,240
because they would
usually be bloody

323
00:21:19,240 --> 00:21:21,950
and you know from scratching.

324
00:21:21,950 --> 00:21:25,600
So they didn't want to--
the SS didn't want to waste

325
00:21:25,600 --> 00:21:27,040
too much time standing guard.

326
00:21:27,040 --> 00:21:28,880
So they said, you know what?

327
00:21:28,880 --> 00:21:32,800
Let's take these girls,
let's take this transport

328
00:21:32,800 --> 00:21:35,230
for work and the
transport that I

329
00:21:35,230 --> 00:21:37,570
had to go to my block--
we'll take them.

330
00:21:37,570 --> 00:21:43,960
So this was just a fluke
of fate that we were

331
00:21:43,960 --> 00:21:47,590
taken to the railroad station.

332

00:21:47,590 --> 00:21:51,010

But before that, they
gave each one a coat

333

00:21:51,010 --> 00:21:56,800

and they loaded us into
the cattle trains, again.

334

00:21:56,800 --> 00:22:03,520

And we were traveling
for a long time

335

00:22:03,520 --> 00:22:06,340

until we reached Nuremberg.

336

00:22:06,340 --> 00:22:10,240

And shall I continue?

337

00:22:10,240 --> 00:22:10,880

Until we--

338

00:22:10,880 --> 00:22:12,240

But I was--

339

00:22:12,240 --> 00:22:14,510

I got very sick.

340

00:22:14,510 --> 00:22:21,780

I had a high fever and I
had all kinds of sores.

341

00:22:21,780 --> 00:22:23,530

Let's stop now, because
we're near the end

342

00:22:23,530 --> 00:22:27,072

and this is a good
place to stop, I think.

343

00:22:27,072 --> 00:22:27,970

So we should reload.

344

00:22:27,970 --> 00:22:32,330

345

00:22:32,330 --> 00:22:34,434

I thought you want
to ask questions?

346

00:22:34,434 --> 00:22:38,070

347

00:22:38,070 --> 00:22:41,980

Why don't you start where
you get put into the truck?

348

00:22:41,980 --> 00:22:48,150

So you're taken for work, and
then go into how you get sick.

349

00:22:48,150 --> 00:22:49,560

I was very--

350

00:22:49,560 --> 00:22:50,710

I got very sick.

351

00:22:50,710 --> 00:22:54,090

I was already sick, but I was--

352

00:22:54,090 --> 00:22:57,120

I didn't give in.

353

00:22:57,120 --> 00:23:00,880

And I was running a high fever.

354

00:23:00,880 --> 00:23:07,050

I had my mouth was inside
full of sauce and pus.

355

00:23:07,050 --> 00:23:12,390

And I couldn't
stand, so I sat down.

356

00:23:12,390 --> 00:23:16,740
And this is the first time when
this somehow shocked my sister

357
00:23:16,740 --> 00:23:20,340
into realizing that I am--

358
00:23:20,340 --> 00:23:21,780
I am sick.

359
00:23:21,780 --> 00:23:27,900
And she's sort of like just
woke up from her depression

360
00:23:27,900 --> 00:23:33,600
and she goes over to a nurse--

361
00:23:33,600 --> 00:23:36,630
which that was
the biggest no-no.

362
00:23:36,630 --> 00:23:39,900
First of all, you were not
allowed to approach the nurses.

363
00:23:39,900 --> 00:23:42,882
You're not allowed to
divulge that you are sick.

364
00:23:42,882 --> 00:23:44,340
Because if you're
sick, then you're

365
00:23:44,340 --> 00:23:47,820
automatically a candidate
for being killed,

366
00:23:47,820 --> 00:23:49,860
because especially if
you're going for work,

367
00:23:49,860 --> 00:23:52,620
they want you to

be able to work.

368
00:23:52,620 --> 00:23:55,620
But luckily, that we
were out of Auschwitz

369
00:23:55,620 --> 00:24:00,630
and we were already on
the way in the trains

370
00:24:00,630 --> 00:24:03,330
and that the trains were moving.

371
00:24:03,330 --> 00:24:06,360
And so said, please,
can I have a--

372
00:24:06,360 --> 00:24:08,220
he was eating an apple, the SS.

373
00:24:08,220 --> 00:24:10,560
Can I have a piece of
apple for my sister?

374
00:24:10,560 --> 00:24:16,680
He gave her such a
slap that she was

375
00:24:16,680 --> 00:24:22,410
being thrown all the way back
to the other side of the cattle

376
00:24:22,410 --> 00:24:23,290
train.

377
00:24:23,290 --> 00:24:26,940
And a weak voice I backed
her, I said, don't you

378
00:24:26,940 --> 00:24:28,140
ever do that again.

379

00:24:28,140 --> 00:24:31,200

Please, you know that
you're not allowed to.

380

00:24:31,200 --> 00:24:36,310

I was lucky that he
didn't do more to her.

381

00:24:36,310 --> 00:24:44,580

So this is when she sat down and
I was mostly dozing, sleeping,

382

00:24:44,580 --> 00:24:47,850

because I was not--

383

00:24:47,850 --> 00:24:51,360

I just was very sick.

384

00:24:51,360 --> 00:24:55,740

And she even took off
her coat because I

385

00:24:55,740 --> 00:25:01,800

was shivering and
covered me with her coat

386

00:25:01,800 --> 00:25:06,210

and it was like my
sister had completely

387

00:25:06,210 --> 00:25:10,290

changed in those
few hours that she

388

00:25:10,290 --> 00:25:13,530

was able to take care of me.

389

00:25:13,530 --> 00:25:18,030

And I had all kinds
of nightmares,

390

00:25:18,030 --> 00:25:23,410

but I'm going to skip them

because it would take too long

391

00:25:23,410 --> 00:25:28,830
away from the rest of the story.

392

00:25:28,830 --> 00:25:34,230
And we finally
arrived to Nuremberg.

393

00:25:34,230 --> 00:25:39,210
And this was it was like
a paradise, the change

394

00:25:39,210 --> 00:25:45,510
from Auschwitz, because we
had already running water

395

00:25:45,510 --> 00:25:49,500
well we could drink when
we wanted and we could wash

396

00:25:49,500 --> 00:25:57,720
and we were only
two in each bunk--

397

00:25:57,720 --> 00:25:59,220
not 10.

398

00:25:59,220 --> 00:26:05,190
And they assigned us
to ammunition factory

399

00:26:05,190 --> 00:26:09,120
which was right next to our--

400

00:26:09,120 --> 00:26:11,400
to the concentration camp.

401

00:26:11,400 --> 00:26:13,120
It was a concentration
camp, of course.

402

00:26:13,120 --> 00:26:17,490
It wasn't something--
but in comparison,

403
00:26:17,490 --> 00:26:20,490
that we could just drink
water or go to the bathroom.

404
00:26:20,490 --> 00:26:22,440
In Auschwitz, we couldn't even--

405
00:26:22,440 --> 00:26:24,540
we weren't allowed even
to go to the bathroom

406
00:26:24,540 --> 00:26:28,870
only when they led
us twice a day.

407
00:26:28,870 --> 00:26:33,540
This was-- everything
was allotted to us.

408
00:26:33,540 --> 00:26:39,450
So but and-- but we still
had to stand roll call

409
00:26:39,450 --> 00:26:43,290
and be selected for work.

410
00:26:43,290 --> 00:26:49,110
But they did not select
to the gas chambers there.

411
00:26:49,110 --> 00:26:56,580
So my sister was working in
the same factory where I was.

412
00:26:56,580 --> 00:27:01,110
And one day, as we were
standing for roll call,

413
00:27:01,110 --> 00:27:08,160

they selected a group of
girls to take in to the bakery

414
00:27:08,160 --> 00:27:10,350
to bring back bread.

415
00:27:10,350 --> 00:27:12,930
And they looked
always for girls.

416
00:27:12,930 --> 00:27:17,820
For some reason, I looked
apparently a little bit better

417
00:27:17,820 --> 00:27:23,400
than some of the girls
because I was selected, also,

418
00:27:23,400 --> 00:27:27,570
to go into town to
bring in the bread

419
00:27:27,570 --> 00:27:31,230
from them, to take
bread from the bakery.

420
00:27:31,230 --> 00:27:35,550
And it was loaded on
wagons and we were--

421
00:27:35,550 --> 00:27:39,415
it was on the wagon
had wheels and we

422
00:27:39,415 --> 00:27:43,290
were bringing in these wagons
with the SS, of course,

423
00:27:43,290 --> 00:27:44,040
guarding us.

424
00:27:44,040 --> 00:27:48,290

425
00:27:48,290 --> 00:27:52,380
I was extremely
happy to be selected.

426
00:27:52,380 --> 00:27:55,340
But my sister was not
selected and I was so mad

427
00:27:55,340 --> 00:27:56,750
because she pushed
out my sister.

428
00:27:56,750 --> 00:27:58,865
She said my sister, "hasslich."

429
00:27:58,865 --> 00:28:00,560
"Hasslich," means you're ugly.

430
00:28:00,560 --> 00:28:02,360
And she pushed her out.

431
00:28:02,360 --> 00:28:06,300
And my sister was one of the
most beautiful girls in town.

432
00:28:06,300 --> 00:28:10,730
And even at this time, I
was always so protective

433
00:28:10,730 --> 00:28:12,500
of my sister and I was--

434
00:28:12,500 --> 00:28:14,930
I loved her so much
that I couldn't even

435
00:28:14,930 --> 00:28:16,520
forgive the SS man
just for that word

436
00:28:16,520 --> 00:28:21,030

that she said that my sister was
"hasslich"-- even in the camp.

437

00:28:21,030 --> 00:28:26,180

So I had hoped that I'll get
a chance to steal a bread,

438

00:28:26,180 --> 00:28:31,570

and this is like a life saver
to have an additional bread

439

00:28:31,570 --> 00:28:34,400

because we were constantly
we were starving,

440

00:28:34,400 --> 00:28:37,740

and all we could
think was about food.

441

00:28:37,740 --> 00:28:41,200

So I-- and I was always
the one, the daring on,

442

00:28:41,200 --> 00:28:46,850

so I finally get hold of a bread
and being that I had a coat,

443

00:28:46,850 --> 00:28:49,820

I put the bread inside my coat.

444

00:28:49,820 --> 00:28:53,600

But the girl next to me
was scared and she said--

445

00:28:53,600 --> 00:28:56,120

because there was always
a collective punishment.

446

00:28:56,120 --> 00:28:59,510

If somebody did anything,
then everybody was punished.

447

00:28:59,510 --> 00:29:01,850

It wasn't just your
punishment, alone.

448
00:29:01,850 --> 00:29:04,760
She said you better put back the
bread if not, I'll tell on you.

449
00:29:04,760 --> 00:29:11,450
I told her, listen, I'll give
you half and let's try it

450
00:29:11,450 --> 00:29:18,080
and I'm taking
the bigger chance.

451
00:29:18,080 --> 00:29:22,160
You don't have to know and
you will still get half.

452
00:29:22,160 --> 00:29:23,480
I'll share it with you.

453
00:29:23,480 --> 00:29:29,720
So I convinced her but
when we came into the camp

454
00:29:29,720 --> 00:29:35,030
it seemed that we didn't know
that the world was so close--

455
00:29:35,030 --> 00:29:37,220
it's nearer and
nearer to the end.

456
00:29:37,220 --> 00:29:40,280
So they were a little
bit more lenient.

457
00:29:40,280 --> 00:29:45,080
I mean, these SS did
not watch so closely

458
00:29:45,080 --> 00:29:48,200

because when we came
in with the bread,

459
00:29:48,200 --> 00:29:53,930
some other girls ran over
and stole a few more bread,

460
00:29:53,930 --> 00:29:59,270
but an SS from the ones that
were in the camp had seen it

461
00:29:59,270 --> 00:30:03,780
and she called the couple and
she told them-- she didn't even

462
00:30:03,780 --> 00:30:04,970
tell her bring the girls.

463
00:30:04,970 --> 00:30:08,180
She just said, we want you
to bring back the bread.

464
00:30:08,180 --> 00:30:12,020
Go collect the bread.

465
00:30:12,020 --> 00:30:20,690
But the couple was doing--

466
00:30:20,690 --> 00:30:24,260
to do such a thorough
job that not only

467
00:30:24,260 --> 00:30:26,780
did she try to bring
back the bread,

468
00:30:26,780 --> 00:30:31,880
but she was finding,
also, the girls.

469
00:30:31,880 --> 00:30:35,030
She found a girl who
had a half a bread,

470
00:30:35,030 --> 00:30:38,570
and that girl told her that I
had the other half of bread.

471
00:30:38,570 --> 00:30:42,170
All I was sorry was that I
didn't get a chance at least

472
00:30:42,170 --> 00:30:44,750
to eat up my bread.

473
00:30:44,750 --> 00:30:47,090
So the girls that she
found that had the bread,

474
00:30:47,090 --> 00:30:51,080
she brought the
bread and the girls.

475
00:30:51,080 --> 00:30:54,050
We were brutally
beaten, and I never

476
00:30:54,050 --> 00:30:59,090
expected that I'll get
out alive from there.

477
00:30:59,090 --> 00:31:05,390
They beat me with a
wooden spoon that you

478
00:31:05,390 --> 00:31:10,400
cook for the whole army which is
very thick and very, very long.

479
00:31:10,400 --> 00:31:14,360
And only when it was broken
she threw it away in disgust

480
00:31:14,360 --> 00:31:16,310
and she let me go.

481

00:31:16,310 --> 00:31:20,150

But for weeks, I could
only sleep on my stomach

482

00:31:20,150 --> 00:31:23,420

and I was in agony.

483

00:31:23,420 --> 00:31:26,600

And this is how I had
to go also to work

484

00:31:26,600 --> 00:31:32,060

and I couldn't sit I was
always seated on the edge.

485

00:31:32,060 --> 00:31:38,390

And the bombs were falling
constantly because they were

486

00:31:38,390 --> 00:31:43,700

trying to hit the barracks,
but they hit-- they never hit--

487

00:31:43,700 --> 00:31:45,140

and the factories.

488

00:31:45,140 --> 00:31:47,810

They never hit the camp.

489

00:31:47,810 --> 00:31:52,920

But they hit the factories
and they hit the kitchen.

490

00:31:52,920 --> 00:31:54,190

But first, then the kitchen.

491

00:31:54,190 --> 00:31:57,680

So when they hit the kitchen,
we didn't have much to eat.

492

00:31:57,680 --> 00:32:02,750

They still-- for the SS,

they brought in from.

493

00:32:02,750 --> 00:32:06,800

But we went without food
three days in a row.

494

00:32:06,800 --> 00:32:11,040

And we stayed only in the
bunker and we would come out.

495

00:32:11,040 --> 00:32:14,720

It was already winter and
we would just eat some snow.

496

00:32:14,720 --> 00:32:20,540

And after three days, we were
lined up to get a potato.

497

00:32:20,540 --> 00:32:23,900

And this was all the
food that we got.

498

00:32:23,900 --> 00:32:26,660

But then, they couldn't
stay any longer

499

00:32:26,660 --> 00:32:30,050

because the factory
was out of commission.

500

00:32:30,050 --> 00:32:35,720

And so they loaded us
again on the trucks--

501

00:32:35,720 --> 00:32:37,850

on the cattle trains.

502

00:32:37,850 --> 00:32:42,190

And they took us to Holleischen,
that was Sudetengebiet.

503

00:32:42,190 --> 00:32:45,530

It was at one time

Czechoslovakia,

504

00:32:45,530 --> 00:32:53,770

but now it was
occupied by the Nazis.

505

00:32:53,770 --> 00:32:59,110

And there, again, we were
in a concentration camp.

506

00:32:59,110 --> 00:33:01,990

And they took us again to work.

507

00:33:01,990 --> 00:33:04,930

508

00:33:04,930 --> 00:33:09,740

But it didn't take long and
they bombed again the factory.

509

00:33:09,740 --> 00:33:12,210

So they didn't have
anywhere to take us.

510

00:33:12,210 --> 00:33:16,540

They would take us
to work by taking--

511

00:33:16,540 --> 00:33:19,750

just moving stones from
one place to another--

512

00:33:19,750 --> 00:33:23,080

huge stones which
were very heavy

513

00:33:23,080 --> 00:33:35,380

and dig ditches and make road
blocks and all kinds of--

514

00:33:35,380 --> 00:33:42,010

even Sundays, they would come
in and take us out and say

515

00:33:42,010 --> 00:33:45,940

do you think that you're
going to be spoiled here

516

00:33:45,940 --> 00:33:48,170

and chase us on.