

OK, Ann. You were telling me of the beginning of the labor camp in 1942 but that you wanted to remember something else before you began to tell me.

Yes. Because this particular story that I'm going to tell you now played a great role in my life and in the lives of many, many people that survived. In the beginning of 1942, the Germans brought a group of young men, Jewish young men. And there was one woman among them that ran the kitchen. They brought them to our town for forced labor. And they were unloading railroad cars and that sort of thing.

And through this-- well, now I'm going to go back to when they decided to clear out the city of the Jews.

Where were these men living when they came?

They were living in-- they took a house. About a kilometer away from the city, they took one big house and a very big barn. And they evacuated it. They threw out the owner of it. And it was a group of about, I would say, 50 men.

About how old?

Young. They were in their late teens or very early 20s. And they were taking some young people that were left here in town, taking to work with them. They were enlarging this. And there were, of course, some German people in uniforms watching them. They were not fenced in or anything. Because it was a small group, they were able to control them.

And more and more people were trying to get in there. By then we foresaw that if you have some kind of a job where it's under German authority, you have more of a chance not being sent away. The fear was of being sent away and never heard from and nobody knew where you are being sent. So as a consequence, this little camp became larger and larger.

So at the middle of June, the beginning of-- no, the beginning of June, the middle of the year, when they decided to clear the city of all the Jewish inhabitants, this camp, this labor camp remained. And all that were working there remained. What they did is they-- and it was a small town. And for some reason, you kind of heard rumors what's going to happen next day or the day after. And there was a rumor that that's what they're going to do tomorrow, that they're going to clear out the city of the Jews.

People started running. They really didn't know where to go or whether the next town, something like this isn't going to happen again. You just ran, you just-- without any goal without any plan, you just ran, just to run away from the immediate danger. So again, I was by then 17 years old. And I already had met my husband. He was from the same town also.

My husband was a painter. In Europe, boys started early at their trade. He was a painter. And he was working for a German-- for a German company, painting company. And he was working-- the German occupation would empty homes and put in their people. And they had a-- which would be called a mayor, a German mayor, that was going to occupy-- we had one doctor in town. And he lived in a very pretty little villa. They threw him out of there, gave him another house. And this mayor was going to occupy this house, this villa.

At the time when they were clearing the town of the Jews, my husband happened to be painting, renovating this villa. And as I said, rumors were being passed around that this is what's going to happen tomorrow. So that night, my mother decided she is going to take my two sisters and my brother, and she's going to smuggle herself and them to Czestochowa.

My grandparents were too old to do this. So my husband hid them, still hoping that if this is going to blow over, life will go on such as it was. And he took me and his sister, my husband's sister. He had the key to that house where they were renovating. And we hid on the attic of this house.

You and his sister?

And his sister.

Of course, this was your husband before he was your husband, before you were married.

Yes. He was not my husband at the time.

And your grandparents?

No. My grandparents he hid elsewhere. And his father he hid too, with one grandchild, with one of his little nieces. The sister was already also in Czestochowa with another child. And we heard, naturally, that's exactly what happened, as the rumors were foretold. They took all the people, and they put them into cattle cars. And they shipped them away.

At the time, the destination we didn't know. We know now that they went to Auschwitz.

And you were then still in the attic.

We were-- yeah, we were hidden. Then we were told afterwards by some of the Poles that my grandfather and my grandmother wandered out from their hiding place. They were thirsty. They were confused. They were hungry. And they were just wandering around. And the Germans picked them up, took them to the cemetery, and they shot them. Same thing happened to my husband's brother and his little niece.

My husband and I and my sister-in-law were still in hiding, when all of a sudden, we heard noises across the street. We heard Jewish, talking Jewish. And he went down, went down from the attic. My sister-in-law and I remained. And he looked out, and he saw that across the street from this villa where we were, these people that were working in that labor camp were doing some work.

And he looked for an opportune moment so that he wouldn't be seen, and he ran across to the Jewish leader of that group and told him the story. He said my girlfriend and my sister are across the street. We would like to join you and get out of here. The German that was taking care of this, that was watching them, happens to be a man with compassion. And he let us join.

It then turned out that they looked for my husband. There was two jewelers, a watchmaker and a jeweler, two brothers, there were two tanners, by profession, and an electrician, who worked for the Germans, doing their work just as my husband did. And they decided that they need these people.

You and your sister-in-law, you mean, being these people.

No, my husband.

Oh, I see. OK.

The Germans decided at that point that they need these people, these professions, these particular professions, for their use. They found the others, but my husband they couldn't find. They were told-- these men were told that they can take their families. We're going to give you two houses. And you're going to be in these two houses. You're going to live, and you're going to work for us. And where is the painter?

Well, when my husband found out, he went to them. And he said, look, I was hiding. But I'm here, and I have a wife. Because he realized by then that they were allowed to take their families with them. So he told them he has a wife.

And we-- at that point, he came to me, to the camp. And he told me the story. And he says, you know, the only thing we have to do is we have to get married secretly. And so my husband and I got married secretly with two witnesses. In the Jewish-- according to Jewish religion, if you say the prayer, the [HEBREW], in front of two witnesses, you're married. And that's how my husband and I got married in June of 1942. And--

Where was this camp? This was now a labor camp that you were going to.

This was now a labor camp. But my husband and I and the other few families lived in those two houses, separate from--
In the same city.

In the same, but a kilometer away. And my sister-in-law, my husband's sister, went to that camp.

And your mother and your sister--

My mother and my sisters were still--

--had left already.

Yeah, they were still in Czestochowa. And life went on that way, working. And I was playing housewife and cooking. We had a little-- food was not as scarce at that point.

So you were living with two other families.

No, there were several other families.

Several other families.

Yes, like I said, there were two jewelers and their families, and--

Oh, you were all together.

--tinnets. Yeah, in those two houses. We each had a room. And I was trying to cook some little homemade food and take it out to my sister-in-law or some friends. You know take it the kilometer, walk, hike every day. And these people came into town to work. And this went on like this until 1943. It went on for almost a year.

What was the name of this camp?

Just Bautruppe. They called it Bautruppe. Baurup-- Bau means to build. Truppe means group. It was a building group. They didn't build anything. They just did all kinds of things. Now from that camp, what they did was they took several people, like 20, groups of 20 or 30, and they sent them to small, to villages. And they there they did the same thing. So consequently, there were a few hundred after a while.

Then we found out that-- I'm running away a little bit. Yes, I did. In 1942 on Yom Kippur, before Yom Kippur, which is in the, fall, we also found out that in Czestochowa, there is going to be judenrein. Now judenrein, that's an expression for clearing out the Jews, cleaning out the city of Jews. We found out that, on Yom Kippur, or the night--

Before, you mean.

The night-- no, the night of Yom Kippur.

I see.

When Yom Kippur would be over, when the fast is over, they would be doing this. My husband was acquainted with some Gentile men that were traveling back and forth to Czestochowa. Now, you must understand that Czestochowa was their-- what they called a protectorate. It was a different section of the German occupation than where we were.

And this man-- you were going through-- when you traveled between Czestochowa Klobuck, you were going through a border.

There were guards at the border?

Guards at the border with dogs and the whole shebang. This man was traveling back and forth. He had some kind of a business that he was doing, was legal as far-- from the standpoint of the Germans. And this husband, this my husband persuaded this man-- he paid him money-- persuaded his men to bring my mother.

What she was going to do with my sisters and brother I don't to this day what-- as I said, times were-- they were so uncertain. You did things on the spur of the moment, not thinking of consequences. Or if I am going to run away, let's say, where am I going to go? Who is going to save me? There's nowhere to go.

And I wrote a little note to my mother in Jewish, telling her what the rumors are. And please, Mother, please come.

This man--

Who took this note? Someone brought-- this man gave her the note?

This man took the note to my mother. And he gave her-- gave him the address where my mother lived with my sisters and brother. And he didn't find her at home. Someone told him she is at the temple. He went and looked her up, and he gave her the note. And I forgot to mention that, after my father was taken away, my mother lost her will completely to live.

She said she only wants to live to see her children safe. And she doesn't care what happens to her. She refused to go. She told him, I cannot go away from prayer on this Holy day and travel. And again, instead of saying to him, take one of my children, she just simply refused to go and did-- and she was a very bright, intelligent woman and didn't think of saying take one of my children in my place.

After this man left, and she was showing the note to other people, they told her, what did you do? What did you do? God would forgive you to do something like this on Yom Kippur. But she says, you know what, I really don't care whether I live or die.

Well, that evening, my mother made arrangements for my two sisters and my brother, to send them over, to smuggle them over the border to the town where we were. And she accomplished this. She never knew whether they got there safely. And this judenrein, the ausiedlung, did happen.

She went into hiding with a group of people, into a bunker. And there were some children there. And they were there, they were hiding for two weeks. And after two weeks, a child was crying, and the Germans heard it. Now the reason I know this, because this was witnessed by people. And they followed the sound of the baby's cry. And they took out all the people.

And every time that they got hold of a group of people like this that they were going to shoot, to execute, they made sure that there is a large gathering of people to witness it. It was all to instill fear because, after all, they were still concerned about people not--

Like running away or [CROSS TALK].

No, no, not running away, but standing up against them. There weren't too many incidents because there was nothing to do it with, and people weren't organized. And they took these people out, my mother among them, and they shot them all. And this was witnessed by two brothers that were-- that actually he's a-- actually, he's a nephew of my husband's that saw it.

At the same time, when they were taking out the people from Czestochowa. My grandmother was there. My grandmother from-- my father's mother was living there. And she was there with her grandchildren. And one of her-- the daughter, as I said in the beginning, my brother's-- my husband's-- oh no, my father's youngest sister, who was a

beautiful, beautiful woman, she was with my grandmother. She was-- there was a man standing there as the people were being brought and was conducting left or right. One side was going to camp to work. The other one was going to Auschwitz.

And my aunt was told to go with the young people for work. My grandmother was being sent another way. My aunt refused. And so they said, fine. Go with your mother. So she went, and she never-- also, at the very first day of the war-- I'm going back again, if it's OK.

My father's youngest brother, who was 19 years old when the war broke out, very strong, very strong young man, he was a butcher too. And he was riding a bicycle. And as a butcher, he happened to have in his boot a knife. And they caught him, and they found the knife. And they didn't need very much excuse to do these things. So there was also a lot of people present at this place, and they shot him.

Now, this strong young man had five bullets in him. He was still on his knees begging to spare his life. And they didn't. I mean, these were people that told the story afterwards. That was the very first day of the war.

And now we're back to--

Ann, your sisters and your brother left on Yom Kippur. They came to you and your husband in the camp.

Yes. And they made it.

And they made it. Your mother didn't know.

My mother never knew.

And then, I guess, word had come to you from some people who had witnessed your mother's death.

Well, when they finally--

--that she had [CROSS TALK].

That was much later, much later. That was after the war we found out.

Oh, I see. Now your brother and your sisters were with you in the labor camp. And this was now in the fall of 1941.

Right. That was after Yom Kippur.

Of 1942.

1942. They made it to Klobuck, and they landed by a Polish lady that we used to get milk from.

Oh, they landed at her house, you mean?

They landed at her house because by then it was daylight, and they were afraid to go out. And she sent her girl to us to tell us that my sisters are there. Now, my youngest sister and my brother were too small to go to camp. My sister Esther was two years younger. We were able to get her into this camp to work there. And we hid my sister and my brother on the attic where we lived for a long, long time.

Finally, when things settled down, we would take her down during the day-- you know, take them down during the day to stay with us. And in the evening, we would put them on the attic again, always on the outlook, always on the outlook.

And they were in the house the whole time, they weren't out of the house.

No. No, they couldn't. After a while, my husband again was able to arrange and bribe this German to take my brother into work. He was by then 13 years old and was very willing to work. In Europe, you ordinarily started working much earlier, much earlier age because you only went seven grades most of the time. And when you were finished, you just went to work to learn a trade or help your parents or whatever.

And this is how we lived until June of 1943. And this time we had no forewarning at all. At dawn someone knocked on our window. And they said come on out. Dress and come on out. And it was the Germans. And they didn't tell you very much, just come out.

And they took us to the police station, where there was a--

Everybody from the home, the two houses.

Everybody from the home. When we came down, the whole camp was there already. And from all the little camps from outside of the city, I told you that they formed, everybody was there gathered. There was a very large place that was fenced in.

And then we realized what it's all about, that they are sending us. By then-- by then, within this year, we already started hearing rumors that there are crematoriums and what they're doing.

Let me go back one moment.

Yes.

You were with a number of other people in these houses together.

Yes.

Were you talking with one another and discussing these things with one another. And it was all very compatible.

That's all the subject. I mean, that was the main subject.

Yeah.

Yes. At that time, food was rationed but it wasn't-- it wasn't-- we didn't have a lot of things, but we weren't hungry. That was the main topic, what is coming next, and when is the war going to be over, and what. And things were starting to filter through.

That's what I was going to ask you.

Oh, yes, by then, by 1943, when we were taken to that place, we knew exactly what is waiting us. As a matter of fact, we never even thought that we were going to be sent to camp we for sure thought that we were going to-- that everybody is going to extermination camp.

And we were there a day and a night, until they gathered everybody from all the vicinities around, all the whole radius that where there was-- wherever there were a few Jews left with those little working camps. And as I mentioned before, my husband kept on working for the Germans as a painter-- and these others few families.

So a lot of times, they would hear something. But this particular thing that's going to happen, we never were forewarned. We never knew. So as we were sitting on this place there, that is day and night, one of the gendarmes told my husband, now don't worry. The young people that are capable to work are going to be sent to labor camps. And the rest, I don't know. Excuse me.

All of a sudden, my husband had an instinct and a feeling that he's going to break open those gates and escape again.

Ask him even today, where were you going to run if you'd escaped? Where? Who was going to let you in? No one.

But you didn't, under circumstances like this, you don't think, you don't rationalize. You just don't. There is no time. Your mind sometimes is at a blank. You see the end coming. You Have lost so much until then already. While life is precious, it's still-- you know, we're not going to make it. We're just not going to make it.

Is that what you thought when you were sitting there that day?

Of course. So my husband said to me, look, I'm going to open the gate. You run after me. And another woman and two more men, he jumped up that gate, and he pulled that lever that opens it. And I followed him and, as I said, two more men and a woman. And we ran.

And the gendarmes followed us on bicycles. We actually had escaped. And the rye was already high at that time. And we got in where the rye is, and we were hiding. And we heard-- and we heard the Germans approaching on the bicycles. And we hear a little Polish boy. We could see a little Polish boy that big, telling them in Polish, there are the Jews. And he pulled us out.

He shot one man immediately, the gendarme. And he started walking us back towards this place. He took his bicycle, the front of his bicycle, and he hit me. And it landed on the, actually, the tail of my spine. And it hurt it very bad. But I figured that's the end. You know, didn't pay much attention to it. And they took us back to this gathering place.

Again, they made sure to instill the fear in all the people. And my poor little sisters and my brother were sitting there, and my husband's sister. And they took us and put us against a wall, against a brick wall, a high brick wall, facing the wall. At that point-- and they said they're going to shoot us.

And they took my husband and the other man and left me and the other woman standing there. And they said they're taking him to the cemetery to dig graves for all of us. Of course, they took this man that they shot and they buried him. And they announced this on the loudspeaker, that this is where the two men are being taken, to dig graves for all of us, for the people to know.

And I was standing there with this other woman against the wall. And you know, at that point I was totally numb. I wasn't afraid of being shot. I don't know whether I gave up or this is the way one feels before you-- when you're told before you're going to die. I really don't know. I don't know. But I stood there and just totally drained and nonchalant. I just remembered my brother and my two little sisters. That's all.

And as it turned out, they just tried to instill the fear. And my husband believes that, actually, that the mayor that he was painting the house for had some influence over these Germans. This was the SS already that conducted this, that came in from the headquarters, from someplace, to conduct all this. My husband till today believes that this German mayor intervened not to shoot us. He actually believes this. Whether it's true or no, we will never know.

At any rate, they didn't do it. And then came the selection. No. I'm sorry. There wasn't a selection.

And your husband then came back from the cemetery.

Yes. And we were told to go and join the group.

Right.

OK. And that they're sparing our life. Then the next morning, very early in the morning, they packed us all off to the train, put us into cattle trains. And I really don't remember. It was dark. I don't remember how long we traveled. And we were actually packed in like cattle. We didn't know where we were going. We could only-- we could see just the landscape through a crack.

You were together with your husband and your sisters and your brother?

Yes. Yes. And we were shipped off to-- we wound up in a city by the name of Blechhammer. There was a very large camp there. There we stayed overnight, outside. We slept wherever, on the grounds.

The next morning came the selection. We had to stand three deep. This was always their procedure-- in a row, and three deep. By then, they separated men from women. They took-- there were some women that were-- to me they looked elderly then. But they were probably in their 40s.

And there were several children and some pregnant women. And they put them-- they-- those they pulled out right away.

The older and the pregnant.

This group that I'm describing. And they put them into one barrack. Then they took it in the evening, before-- before-- as soon as we got off the cattle cars, they separated those right away. And they put them into a barrack. And then in the morning, early in the morning, when, as I said, they told us to-- they called it the Appellplatz, the gathering place, when they told us to stay in line in the three deep.

That was in front of that barrack. And we were able to see that they came with trucks and loaded these people up. And they shipped them off. And it was obvious that they were shipping them to Auschwitz. Then as I said, at this point we were separated men from women.

My sister, at the time, was 11 years old, my youngest sister Frances. And she was not too tall. She was a child. And we were terribly afraid that going that she is not going to pass the selection, that she is not going to be sent away to a labor camp, that they're going to take her away from us. By then we were pretty shrewd already, and we knew how to maneuver around things, how to-- you know, you learn how to-- how to survive. Even though the will already was weaning, the will for life was weaning, you still you fight like a tiger, I suppose.

We decided that I will stand in front. My next to me older sister, Esther, is going to stand in the back. And Frances, the youngest, will stand in between us. I had a pair of boots on high heels. And we put on a long skirt on her. And the poor little thing stood on tippy-toe to look-- as they were marching by. And this German, he had a nickname of Merchant. That's because he dealt in human life. And he was the one that decided life or death.

And as he was approaching each one and making the selection left or right, my sister did pass. As he was-- as I was the first one to come out, and she was next, I'm sure that my heart must have stopped to see what's going to happen to her. But finally she did make it. And we were sent, the three of us, very fortunately together to a labor camp, to a woman's labor camp, which then became, after a while, it became a concentration camp.

What was the name again?

Langenbielau.

And how far was that from-- you were now and Blechhammer, right?

Blechhammer.

Blechhammer.

Yes.

And how far was that?

I really don't remember how long we traveled again. But it wasn't-- it wasn't too far.

You traveled by train again?

Yeah, again by cattle car. With the human waste and everything in it, it was terrible. Where was I? Sorry.

I'm sorry. I interrupted.

That's OK. That's all right.

You traveled by cattle car to the labor camp.

Yes. But I want to go back to something yet in Blechhammer, what happened with my brother.

OK. The men were separated from the women.

Men were separated. My husband was selected to go to a men's camp, of course. And he was selected to go much further away to where I was being sent. As I said, by then we had-- your mind became sort of keen, and you were-- and sometimes you are able to do quick thinking. And he, for some reason, found out that they are also sending men to-- not too far, to a man's camp, where I and my sisters were being sent.

There was another man that wanted to go where my husband was being selected. Do you follow me? It's a little confusing.

Oh, yes.

The two of them changed places. As a consequence, my husband wound up under a different name. He wound up as Paul Morgenstern. And that's how he was through the end, until the end of the war. The other man-- he survived also. We met him later-- took a chance and gave his own name when he got there to the camp.

But at any rate, when they were selecting the men, my brother was very short. He was a little, skinny boy. My brother was 13 at the time, a little over 13. And boys generally don't develop until after the 13. And till today, my brother is a short man. They wanted to send him away with the children, to camp. I mean to Auschwitz.

My husband-- my husband-- excuse me. My husband then described the scene to us. He threw himself on the ground, my brother did. And he said, I want to go with this man, pointing to my brother. I am young, and I'm strong. I'm so strong. He showed his muscles. I can work. Why don't you let me go with this man? And he didn't let him go with my husband.

At Blechhammer, there was-- this camp remained. There was a camp in existence, and it remained. And there were always in each camp, there was a Jewish leader. And most of the time, they were mean men. That's how the Germans selected. They needed a strong mean man to be able to carry out their orders against fellow Jew.

This particular man took pity on my brother. He afterwards said that someone with so much courage and will to live deserved saving. And he persuaded the German authorities to let him have this little boy, that he is going to make use of him. He is going to be like a runner between the German, the German authority in the camp and the Jewish leadership there. And that's how my brother was saved.

So he stayed at Blechhammer.

And he became the darling of the Germans there because he was adorable little boy. And that's how he survived.

So I stayed in Blechhammer doing that.

Yes.

Through the entire war he was there.

Well, through the rest of it, yeah. And then he was- they did evacuate his camp towards the end of the war. And he wound up in Buchenwald. And that's where he was liberated.

Now you were then on your way. You left for the camp.

To Langenbielau.

To what was the labor camp.

The labor camp. And then--

What did you do there?

We worked in a factory. There was a factory.

This was only women.

It was only women.

Women guards as well?

Yes. Women guards. We lived-- at that time, we were only about, I think, about 70 women all together. And--

70 women in what, in--

All together.

All together.

It was a small labor camp.

You didn't know where your husband was then, or you did know?

No, I didn't know. He knew that he was close to you. But you didn't know where he was.

Didn't know. And we were-- every morning, we were taken to the factory to work. There were a couple of German guards, women. And the judenälteste-- well, the lagerführer, which was the camp, the head of the camp. She was a beautiful German young woman, but very mean.

And in the morning we were taken to work to the factory. We received, like, a cup of coffee in the morning. We were taken to work. Now, it was right across, just across a little street. That's where the-- they built, obviously, this camp right next to the factory. The name of it was Flechner. And it was a-- it was a factory where they were making cloth, raw material, cloth. And they later converted part of it to making ammunition.

What were you doing?

I was working on two machines. They were across from each other, and I was in the middle. My sisters each were doing the same, watching-- running these machines, putting in the spindles with the thread and watching that it shouldn't break. And if they broke, we had to stop it and thread it. And if we couldn't, we had to call a mechanic.

Lunchtime they would march us back to the camp. And we'd have-- receive some soup that was made out of pumpkin-- and back to work again until supper time. And then we were brought home, and we were fed. There things weren't quite

as bad yet, in that camp. We were given a ration of bread and once in a while a potato and skin. And most of the time, we were given dried vegetable that was full of sand.

But the worst part came in the evening. This beautiful young woman that was the leader of that camp had a man that she was in love with, a German man that happened to be the head of the men's-- of the men's camp a few miles away. And what we got to learn afterwards, that if he didn't show up one evening, we were dead ducks, all of us.

Her room was in the front of the barrack, and it was right-- this was our room. We were 40 women in one room, 30-some women in the next room, and her quarters were in front of us. And the walls were very thin, so she could hear a whispering. And the evenings that he didn't come, she invariably would come in.

First she would knock on the door, and saying in German, using very foul language that I really don't intend to repeat. Be quiet, but not in those terms, in very terrible terms. And we tried to be quiet. In the beginning, we didn't know what it's all about.

Then she would walk in with a whip. And she would just-- that whip would land wherever it would land.

You were on your beds?

Well, we were on our beds or on our feet or naked or dressed, it didn't matter. So consequently, we got to learn that-- and we're all praying that this man come and entertain her in the evening. We could hear her-- hear them giggle and be occupied. Then we knew, when she was quiet, that he was there entertaining her. Otherwise, we were in misery, and we really got our share of punishment.

What I also remember about this particular labor camp is one day-- we were mostly very young girls.

Let me ask you one more question, please.

Yes.

Were there other women there, girls or women there from your community, from your town?

Yes. Yes. Yes. My friends and a couple of their mothers, which were very young at the time. And my aunt, an aunt of mine was there too. But she was separated from her children. As it turned out, she lost two of her children. And her one of her oldest remained. She was later reunited with her.

All right, you were telling me.

One day we were told to go out on the appell place. And from there-- and we saw SS men come, men beautifully dressed in uniforms. There were about four or five of them. They told us to empty the barrack and go out to the appell place. Then they told us-- these men settled down in our room because it was very large. They set up a table, and they sat on chairs behind the table.

They told us to line up single line, single file, and get undressed, completely naked. And we did what we were told. And what we had to do is go in front of this table and march in front of these men totally naked and turn and model for them. This was all.

I don't know if they were sadists, for what reason they did it. They didn't have to have authority or a written paper with a document to show that they're allowed to do this. This was-- this was a terrible thing. It was a terrible thing, for young girls to stand there naked, be forced to do, to be degraded. It was terrible. All of us cried. It was terrible.

And then nights we were fighting bug beds. I mean--

Bedbugs.

Bedbugs.

I understand.

Yeah, bedbugs. So we had sleepless nights and working days. And the troubles had just begun. We didn't even know it.

Ann, let's take a little break. And when we come back, you'll continue.

All right.