

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000

2

00:00:01,000 --> 00:00:03,200

And it was just devastating.

3

00:00:03,200 --> 00:00:05,000

You spent some time nursing him?

4

00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,210

I spent some time nursing him
because over the last few weeks

5

00:00:08,210 --> 00:00:12,470

his life he used to be
very annoyed by his mother.

6

00:00:12,470 --> 00:00:16,309

She was wringing her
hands and crying,

7

00:00:16,309 --> 00:00:19,020

and he couldn't
bear to see that.

8

00:00:19,020 --> 00:00:23,090

So he would start
yelling the minute

9

00:00:23,090 --> 00:00:26,090

she opened the door to his room,
and she would go into his room,

10

00:00:26,090 --> 00:00:28,910

so he wouldn't let
her get into his room.

11

00:00:28,910 --> 00:00:33,980

And so I had to
basically go in there

12

00:00:33,980 --> 00:00:37,025
and he would always ask me
to stay and read to him,

13
00:00:37,025 --> 00:00:39,500
or just to hold his hand.

14
00:00:39,500 --> 00:00:40,940
So I did, I did.

15
00:00:40,940 --> 00:00:44,090
It was very, very painful
to me because he was really

16
00:00:44,090 --> 00:00:46,940
like a brother, I had
found a bigger brother,

17
00:00:46,940 --> 00:00:50,540
and suddenly this bigger
brother was being taken away.

18
00:00:50,540 --> 00:00:53,510
It was very painful experience.

19
00:00:53,510 --> 00:00:55,550
Is this still going, the tape?

20
00:00:55,550 --> 00:00:58,890
I don't see it going.

21
00:00:58,890 --> 00:01:01,250
Is it?

22
00:01:01,250 --> 00:01:01,825
Yeah?

23
00:01:01,825 --> 00:01:02,325
Yeah.

24
00:01:02,325 --> 00:01:03,600
OK.

25
00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:07,600
So that was a very
painful time in my life.

26
00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:10,560
And shortly after Renee's
death, the Schotts

27
00:01:10,560 --> 00:01:12,210
decided to move
to a better place

28
00:01:12,210 --> 00:01:14,790
because the place
that we were living in

29
00:01:14,790 --> 00:01:18,380
was really not a
very healthy place--

30
00:01:18,380 --> 00:01:22,300
I was saying that the
place we lived in,

31
00:01:22,300 --> 00:01:25,720
which was obviously very
cheap and convenient,

32
00:01:25,720 --> 00:01:29,240
was not the healthiest place
to live in because in front it

33
00:01:29,240 --> 00:01:32,150
was at street level,
even though we had

34
00:01:32,150 --> 00:01:33,950
to take a couple of steps down.

35
00:01:33,950 --> 00:01:36,020
In the back it was
really like a cellar,

36
00:01:36,020 --> 00:01:37,890
and the walls were damp.

37
00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:38,880
And they went down.

38
00:01:38,880 --> 00:01:42,980
As a matter of fact,
they were sort of,

39
00:01:42,980 --> 00:01:48,710
both Margot and Erik
were accusing themselves,

40
00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:51,460
that maybe that had something
to do with his illness,

41
00:01:51,460 --> 00:01:54,810
that they were living in
such a unhealthy place.

42
00:01:54,810 --> 00:01:57,050
And so they started
looking for another place.

43
00:01:57,050 --> 00:01:59,670
And they found another place in
the same area, in Romainville,

44
00:01:59,670 --> 00:02:06,800
but we were able to
rent a little house

45
00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:10,820
on a much nicer street
from a couple who

46
00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:12,620
owned several houses.

47

00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:14,050
What did Erik do for a living?

48
00:02:14,050 --> 00:02:17,270
He was working for somebody
who was in the import export

49
00:02:17,270 --> 00:02:21,840
business because he spoke
German, so he was able to help.

50
00:02:21,840 --> 00:02:25,220
And so we rented another place
and we went to live there,

51
00:02:25,220 --> 00:02:28,700
and it was much nicer because
there you had to go up.

52
00:02:28,700 --> 00:02:33,110
It was above ground
and the street was nice

53
00:02:33,110 --> 00:02:36,420
and I liked it a lot better too.

54
00:02:36,420 --> 00:02:43,580
So we moved, but it wasn't a
happy situation between the two

55
00:02:43,580 --> 00:02:45,980
parents who had just lost a son.

56
00:02:45,980 --> 00:02:48,170
Very often I would
wake up at night

57
00:02:48,170 --> 00:02:53,510
hearing them yell at each other,
and she was particularly nasty.

58
00:02:53,510 --> 00:02:57,080
She would report him

that [? Werner ?] died

59

00:02:57,080 --> 00:02:59,510

because he had hit her
when she was pregnant

60

00:02:59,510 --> 00:03:00,390

and things like that.

61

00:03:00,390 --> 00:03:03,140

She was just trying to point
the finger at somebody,

62

00:03:03,140 --> 00:03:06,500

to find a reason why
she had lost her son.

63

00:03:06,500 --> 00:03:08,700

Instead of being
helpful to each other,

64

00:03:08,700 --> 00:03:11,160

they were really tearing
at each other all the time.

65

00:03:11,160 --> 00:03:12,080

Oh.

66

00:03:12,080 --> 00:03:17,270

And it was a very tense
time living, with them,

67

00:03:17,270 --> 00:03:19,670

and Erik became very
tense and in fact, he

68

00:03:19,670 --> 00:03:25,210

had one heart attack, but
he recovered from that.

69

00:03:25,210 --> 00:03:27,710

Meanwhile I went
back to school and I

70
00:03:27,710 --> 00:03:29,360
was learning all
kinds of things and I

71
00:03:29,360 --> 00:03:30,920
was enjoying it very much.

72
00:03:30,920 --> 00:03:32,627
I was really enjoying school.

73
00:03:32,627 --> 00:03:36,490

74
00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:38,700
My French had become
quite good and I was

75
00:03:38,700 --> 00:03:40,340
beginning to write in French.

76
00:03:40,340 --> 00:03:42,150
As a matter of fact,
they sent me once

77
00:03:42,150 --> 00:03:46,440
to a regional
contest where we had

78
00:03:46,440 --> 00:03:51,690
to write something, a
story, and then discovered

79
00:03:51,690 --> 00:03:53,700
that I didn't know
any rules of grammar.

80
00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:55,260
Which was so typical
of everything

81
00:03:55,260 --> 00:03:58,950

I was doing, whatever I
was doing they always found

82
00:03:58,950 --> 00:04:00,730
that I had a hole somewhere.

83
00:04:00,730 --> 00:04:06,870
But anyhow, shortly after that
Erik died of a heart attack.

84
00:04:06,870 --> 00:04:09,630
He actually dropped
dead in his office.

85
00:04:09,630 --> 00:04:14,860
And to me that was the most
devastating day in a long time

86
00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:17,980
because he had really
become my father.

87
00:04:17,980 --> 00:04:19,810
I didn't relate
too well to Margot

88
00:04:19,810 --> 00:04:22,960
because I thought she was
a very peculiar woman,

89
00:04:22,960 --> 00:04:24,530
but I certainly related to him.

90
00:04:24,530 --> 00:04:28,710
He was very open, he
was a very open man.

91
00:04:28,710 --> 00:04:30,040
Very kind man.

92
00:04:30,040 --> 00:04:31,560
So you lost your family again?

93

00:04:31,560 --> 00:04:33,180

So I lost my father, really.

94

00:04:33,180 --> 00:04:35,340

I really lost my father.

95

00:04:35,340 --> 00:04:37,860

And from then on, things
just went from bad

96

00:04:37,860 --> 00:04:39,090

to worse between her and me.

97

00:04:39,090 --> 00:04:42,610

She obviously didn't want to
be saddled with a young girl,

98

00:04:42,610 --> 00:04:44,110

and as a matter of
fact, she told me

99

00:04:44,110 --> 00:04:48,262

that there wasn't
enough money to live on,

100

00:04:48,262 --> 00:04:49,720

and if we're going
to live together

101

00:04:49,720 --> 00:04:52,920

I had to go out and get a job.

102

00:04:52,920 --> 00:04:54,790

So I didn't know what
kind of a job to get,

103

00:04:54,790 --> 00:04:56,650

but she had a friend,
she had a couple

104

00:04:56,650 --> 00:04:59,260

who she was very friendly with,

Mr. And Mrs. [PERSONAL NAME]

105

00:04:59,260 --> 00:05:03,460
and Mrs. [PERSONAL NAME]
had a workshop where he was

106

00:05:03,460 --> 00:05:07,350
making pants and rain coats.

107

00:05:07,350 --> 00:05:10,170
And so it was decided that
I was going to take a job

108

00:05:10,170 --> 00:05:12,240
and that the money
from this was going

109

00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:15,900
to be enough to keep
us at least in food.

110

00:05:15,900 --> 00:05:17,520
How old were you then?

111

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:20,056
I was a little
over 13, probably.

112

00:05:20,056 --> 00:05:21,150
Maybe 14?

113

00:05:21,150 --> 00:05:23,750
Maybe 14.

114

00:05:23,750 --> 00:05:25,850
So I left school.

115

00:05:25,850 --> 00:05:27,130
After three years of school?

116

00:05:27,130 --> 00:05:29,170
After less than that probably.

117
00:05:29,170 --> 00:05:29,840
Yeah.

118
00:05:29,840 --> 00:05:32,960
After two full, less than
three full years of school

119
00:05:32,960 --> 00:05:38,440
I left school and I started
selling pants and gabardines.

120
00:05:38,440 --> 00:05:47,170
And then Walter Schott
came from England.

121
00:05:47,170 --> 00:05:49,530
Walter was Eric's nephew?

122
00:05:49,530 --> 00:05:51,000
Yes.

123
00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,930
And he came for a
visit, and he decided

124
00:05:53,930 --> 00:05:56,150
that it was dreadful
that a woman would

125
00:05:56,150 --> 00:06:00,840
sit on her butt the way she did,
and that a child, a young girl

126
00:06:00,840 --> 00:06:02,510
who was supposed to
go to school, who

127
00:06:02,510 --> 00:06:04,970
had very little schooling,
would have to go out and work so

128

00:06:04,970 --> 00:06:06,710
that she didn't have to work.

129
00:06:06,710 --> 00:06:08,870
So he started really
agitating that I

130
00:06:08,870 --> 00:06:10,340
should go back to school.

131
00:06:10,340 --> 00:06:13,040
And of course, by
then they were told

132
00:06:13,040 --> 00:06:15,980
that it was a problem to
send me back to school

133
00:06:15,980 --> 00:06:18,680
because I was past the age
of elementary school, which

134
00:06:18,680 --> 00:06:21,340
only goes to the
age of 13 in France.

135
00:06:21,340 --> 00:06:24,000
And if I went into
lycee, I needed money,

136
00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,630
I needed money for books,
then he said was free.

137
00:06:26,630 --> 00:06:30,463
Well I needed money for
books and money to live on.

138
00:06:30,463 --> 00:06:31,880
And besides, they
wouldn't take me

139
00:06:31,880 --> 00:06:34,130

to lycee because I had
too many holes everywhere,

140
00:06:34,130 --> 00:06:36,080
so I couldn't go to Elysee.

141
00:06:36,080 --> 00:06:37,550
And the French
lycees at the time

142
00:06:37,550 --> 00:06:42,230
were extremely difficult
and competitive.

143
00:06:42,230 --> 00:06:46,500
And how was I going to
go into a lycee when I--

144
00:06:46,500 --> 00:06:48,570
even my French wasn't that good?

145
00:06:48,570 --> 00:06:50,780
So it was decided that
the only way I could do it

146
00:06:50,780 --> 00:06:52,670
is if I went into
a private school

147
00:06:52,670 --> 00:06:56,990
and then was allowed to skip a
grade or two until I caught up

148
00:06:56,990 --> 00:06:59,060
with my age group.

149
00:06:59,060 --> 00:07:02,030
But private schools
were expensive.

150
00:07:02,030 --> 00:07:04,337
So Walter decided that he
was going to pay for it

151
00:07:04,337 --> 00:07:05,920
and I should go into
a private school.

152
00:07:05,920 --> 00:07:09,570
So that's when I went
to a private school.

153
00:07:09,570 --> 00:07:12,900
And I did go through a
couple of private schools.

154
00:07:12,900 --> 00:07:18,270
One private school was run by a
defrocked priest and his wife.

155
00:07:18,270 --> 00:07:21,420
And there was something
about French education

156
00:07:21,420 --> 00:07:24,300
I should explain, which
was that if you were smart

157
00:07:24,300 --> 00:07:26,340
you went into a lycee.

158
00:07:26,340 --> 00:07:29,130
If you weren't that smart
but your parents were wealthy

159
00:07:29,130 --> 00:07:32,250
you went into a private school.

160
00:07:32,250 --> 00:07:34,470
So as a consequence,
the first private school

161
00:07:34,470 --> 00:07:37,830
I went to had a lot of
children of the very wealthy.

162

00:07:37,830 --> 00:07:40,620

And I suddenly became
associated with a lot

163

00:07:40,620 --> 00:07:42,360

of very wealthy kids.

164

00:07:42,360 --> 00:07:47,610

Children from movie directors
and psychiatrists, well-known,

165

00:07:47,610 --> 00:07:49,720

politicians, and
things like that.

166

00:07:49,720 --> 00:07:52,560

So I developed a whole
new group of children

167

00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:54,420

with whom I was friendly.

168

00:07:54,420 --> 00:07:56,970

And I loved that school,
that's school was terrific.

169

00:07:56,970 --> 00:08:01,540

And the defrocked priest was our
English teacher in that school,

170

00:08:01,540 --> 00:08:05,730

and he really gave me a love
of literature, that man.

171

00:08:05,730 --> 00:08:08,160

I was just absolutely
mesmerized by all the books

172

00:08:08,160 --> 00:08:08,910

I started reading.

173

00:08:08,910 --> 00:08:10,860

I looked everywhere and
all the French classics

174
00:08:10,860 --> 00:08:11,610
I started reading.

175
00:08:11,610 --> 00:08:16,030
And then I started writing
short stories and he was very,

176
00:08:16,030 --> 00:08:19,080
very taken by it, and he used to
read my short stories in class

177
00:08:19,080 --> 00:08:20,700
because he thought
they were so good.

178
00:08:20,700 --> 00:08:25,060
And he was very encouraging.

179
00:08:25,060 --> 00:08:31,110
And then, Margot, who was
absolutely typical of her,

180
00:08:31,110 --> 00:08:34,230
decided that this school
was very non-Jewish,

181
00:08:34,230 --> 00:08:35,970
and I wasn't seeing
any Jewish children,

182
00:08:35,970 --> 00:08:37,650
I was only with non-Jews.

183
00:08:37,650 --> 00:08:40,590
So if I was going to
go to a private school,

184
00:08:40,590 --> 00:08:43,860
I should go to a school which
had some Jewish connection.

185
00:08:43,860 --> 00:08:46,650
So she yanked me
out of that school

186
00:08:46,650 --> 00:08:48,390
and they sent me
into a Jewish school

187
00:08:48,390 --> 00:08:52,080
where they were willing
to waive the tuition.

188
00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:54,600
However, I had to learn
how to read and write

189
00:08:54,600 --> 00:08:56,732
in Hebrew right away.

190
00:08:56,732 --> 00:08:58,440
Within a week I had
to learn the alphabet

191
00:08:58,440 --> 00:09:02,460
and had to read
Hebrew, which I did.

192
00:09:02,460 --> 00:09:06,260
So I went to that school
for a couple of years.

193
00:09:06,260 --> 00:09:08,520
And that was quite an
education, because there I

194
00:09:08,520 --> 00:09:09,810
was with very smart kids.

195
00:09:09,810 --> 00:09:12,310
Those were the Jewish kids.

196

00:09:12,310 --> 00:09:13,530
Jewish parochial school--

197
00:09:13,530 --> 00:09:14,940
Jewish parochial school.

198
00:09:14,940 --> 00:09:17,250
And they were very smart,
they were very religious.

199
00:09:17,250 --> 00:09:19,170
Everybody was very
religious in that school,

200
00:09:19,170 --> 00:09:21,120
but there were very smart
kids in that school.

201
00:09:21,120 --> 00:09:24,690
Well now, I want to stop
and ask you a question here.

202
00:09:24,690 --> 00:09:27,120
When you left Poland,
you were very upset

203
00:09:27,120 --> 00:09:30,250
that you were being pulled
away from the only place that

204
00:09:30,250 --> 00:09:32,550
had actually provided
you with a home,

205
00:09:32,550 --> 00:09:35,330
but when you came to France,
you found that France

206
00:09:35,330 --> 00:09:36,600
was a pretty nice country.

207
00:09:36,600 --> 00:09:38,790
Yes.

208
00:09:38,790 --> 00:09:43,530
So you probably decided
that you were reconciled

209
00:09:43,530 --> 00:09:45,720
not being in Poland,
because France

210
00:09:45,720 --> 00:09:47,050
was nor such a bad place to be.

211
00:09:47,050 --> 00:09:49,350
Not at all, I loved it.

212
00:09:49,350 --> 00:09:54,690
But I wonder how you
felt about being Jewish.

213
00:09:54,690 --> 00:09:56,220
I didn't like being Jewish.

214
00:09:56,220 --> 00:09:57,990
I didn't think of
myself as being Jewish.

215
00:09:57,990 --> 00:10:01,220
As far as I was concerned,
I wasn't Jewish yet.

216
00:10:01,220 --> 00:10:05,893
You were a new French woman.

217
00:10:05,893 --> 00:10:06,810
Is that what you were?

218
00:10:06,810 --> 00:10:07,470
I was French.

219
00:10:07,470 --> 00:10:08,137
You were French.

220

00:10:08,137 --> 00:10:11,820

I was becoming very much French,
even though my French wasn't

221

00:10:11,820 --> 00:10:13,100

perfect by then, yet.

222

00:10:13,100 --> 00:10:14,020

But you liked France.

223

00:10:14,020 --> 00:10:15,106

I loved France.

224

00:10:15,106 --> 00:10:17,370

I absolutely loved France.

225

00:10:17,370 --> 00:10:19,620

And I wasn't thinking of
myself in Jewish terms

226

00:10:19,620 --> 00:10:22,200

until I went into
that Jewish school.

227

00:10:22,200 --> 00:10:23,174

So you, yeah.

228

00:10:23,174 --> 00:10:23,990

OK, that's--

229

00:10:23,990 --> 00:10:28,200

So for the first time
in that Jewish school

230

00:10:28,200 --> 00:10:30,390

I realized that I
was really Jewish.

231

00:10:30,390 --> 00:10:33,900

Until then, there wasn't
even any question.

232

00:10:33,900 --> 00:10:35,910

I wasn't going to services,
I wasn't affiliated

233

00:10:35,910 --> 00:10:38,440

with any Jews, except
the Schotts were Jewish,

234

00:10:38,440 --> 00:10:41,250

but they had lots of
friends who were not Jews,

235

00:10:41,250 --> 00:10:44,102

and most of my friends
were not Jewish.

236

00:10:44,102 --> 00:10:46,310

Yeah, well Romainville was
not a Jewish neighborhood,

237

00:10:46,310 --> 00:10:47,760

it was a communist neighborhood.

238

00:10:47,760 --> 00:10:48,670

Absolutely.

239

00:10:48,670 --> 00:10:49,290

Communist.

240

00:10:49,290 --> 00:10:50,580

And even if there
were Jews there,

241

00:10:50,580 --> 00:10:51,930

you didn't know that they
were Jews because they

242

00:10:51,930 --> 00:10:53,260

had renounced all religion.

243

00:10:53,260 --> 00:10:53,890

Sure, they were socialists.

244
00:10:53,890 --> 00:10:54,410
Absolutely.

245
00:10:54,410 --> 00:10:58,290
And so France was a very
secular culture anyhow.

246
00:10:58,290 --> 00:10:58,940
To begin with.

247
00:10:58,940 --> 00:10:59,540
Yeah.

248
00:10:59,540 --> 00:11:00,310
So this--

249
00:11:00,310 --> 00:11:02,310
I never remember
going to a synagogue

250
00:11:02,310 --> 00:11:05,590
or having any inkling
whatsoever even that there

251
00:11:05,590 --> 00:11:06,980
were Jewish holidays.

252
00:11:06,980 --> 00:11:09,090
So out of all of this,
all of a sudden you

253
00:11:09,090 --> 00:11:11,940
find yourself in an orthodox
Jewish parochial school.

254
00:11:11,940 --> 00:11:12,600
Yeah, right.

255
00:11:12,600 --> 00:11:13,650
Out of the blue.

256

00:11:13,650 --> 00:11:16,230

In her big wisdom, Margot
Schott decided that I

257

00:11:16,230 --> 00:11:17,550

needed some Jewish education.

258

00:11:17,550 --> 00:11:19,193

Well, you got it
with a vengeance.

259

00:11:19,193 --> 00:11:20,020

Yeah.

260

00:11:20,020 --> 00:11:20,940

So that was then.

261

00:11:20,940 --> 00:11:23,150

And the first thing
that happens is

262

00:11:23,150 --> 00:11:26,850

I'm supposed to pass
a national test,

263

00:11:26,850 --> 00:11:30,900

and I'm sent a notice
that on the request

264

00:11:30,900 --> 00:11:36,570

of the grand rabbi of France,
my exam has been postponed.

265

00:11:36,570 --> 00:11:40,680

And I got furious, I got
absolutely on a rampage.

266

00:11:40,680 --> 00:11:41,480

How dare he?

267

00:11:41,480 --> 00:11:44,540

But the reason he postponed

is it was a Jewish holiday.

268
00:11:44,540 --> 00:11:45,360
Huh.

269
00:11:45,360 --> 00:11:48,120
I was in that
school and so nobody

270
00:11:48,120 --> 00:11:51,000
was going to go to exams
on a Jewish holiday.

271
00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:53,910
That's when I first became
aware of Jewish holidays.

272
00:11:53,910 --> 00:11:57,670
I wasn't even aware of
any Jewish holidays then.

273
00:11:57,670 --> 00:11:59,750
So how did you make
out in that school?

274
00:11:59,750 --> 00:12:01,980
I was learning a
lot in that school,

275
00:12:01,980 --> 00:12:05,460
and I was getting terrific
tutoring in that school.

276
00:12:05,460 --> 00:12:08,850
They discovered that,
I was in a class

277
00:12:08,850 --> 00:12:11,045
when we were beginning
to do calculus,

278
00:12:11,045 --> 00:12:13,170
and they discovered I didn't

know my multiplication

279

00:12:13,170 --> 00:12:15,230

tables or my additions
or subtractions.

280

00:12:15,230 --> 00:12:17,610

You didn't have
any little machines

281

00:12:17,610 --> 00:12:22,230

then, to add or subtract.

282

00:12:22,230 --> 00:12:24,230

The most simple
arithmetic I did,

283

00:12:24,230 --> 00:12:26,350

I was beginning to
do calculus, so they

284

00:12:26,350 --> 00:12:30,680

assigned a teacher
to me who would

285

00:12:30,680 --> 00:12:33,930

have specific
instructions to plug

286

00:12:33,930 --> 00:12:36,420

all the holes I had
everywhere in my knowledge

287

00:12:36,420 --> 00:12:38,350

that would lead up to that.

288

00:12:38,350 --> 00:12:41,130

Then I was going
for another contest,

289

00:12:41,130 --> 00:12:45,420

because obviously I was very
good in French, in writing,

290

00:12:45,420 --> 00:12:47,900
and they discovered I didn't
know the rules of grammar.

291

00:12:47,900 --> 00:12:50,310
So they assigned a teacher
to me for the whole weekend

292

00:12:50,310 --> 00:12:52,730
to work with me on
the rules of grammar.

293

00:12:52,730 --> 00:12:56,370
I had to go to her home, I
slept over there two nights,

294

00:12:56,370 --> 00:12:59,910
and from morning until
night we crammed grammar.

295

00:12:59,910 --> 00:13:00,820
She was wonderful.

296

00:13:00,820 --> 00:13:02,612
She was cooking for
me, she was feeding me,

297

00:13:02,612 --> 00:13:04,260
and she was cramming me grammar.

298

00:13:04,260 --> 00:13:07,500
So that school, in a
way, provided for me,

299

00:13:07,500 --> 00:13:10,790
they were really trying to
plug all the holes I had.

300

00:13:10,790 --> 00:13:13,740
And from that school, I went
on to the regular lycee,

301

00:13:13,740 --> 00:13:16,140

and I caught up
with my age group.

302

00:13:16,140 --> 00:13:18,050

That's when I caught
up with my age group.

303

00:13:18,050 --> 00:13:21,050

304

00:13:21,050 --> 00:13:24,570

By then, two things
had happened, which I

305

00:13:24,570 --> 00:13:26,460

need to step back and tell you.

306

00:13:26,460 --> 00:13:29,130

Margot Schott had
found a beau and she

307

00:13:29,130 --> 00:13:31,050

decided she wanted
to marry him, but she

308

00:13:31,050 --> 00:13:35,970

wasn't going to have a child
with her to support, even

309

00:13:35,970 --> 00:13:38,460

though, and I don't know
how old I was, 15 years

310

00:13:38,460 --> 00:13:40,480

old or something like that.

311

00:13:40,480 --> 00:13:43,500

So it became imperative
that I find another home.

312

00:13:43,500 --> 00:13:47,460

Well Eric had been my guardian,
and as co-guardian, he

313
00:13:47,460 --> 00:13:50,910
had named a friend
of his, Mr. Katz.

314
00:13:50,910 --> 00:13:54,220
So it was decided that
since Eric was dead

315
00:13:54,220 --> 00:13:56,100
and Mr. Katz was
the co-guardian,

316
00:13:56,100 --> 00:13:58,270
I had to go and live with them.

317
00:13:58,270 --> 00:14:04,030
So Margot married her beau and
I went to live with the Katz.

318
00:14:04,030 --> 00:14:07,170
This was while you were
at the Jewish school?

319
00:14:07,170 --> 00:14:09,388
This was while I was still
at the Jewish school.

320
00:14:09,388 --> 00:14:10,680
I want to go back for a moment.

321
00:14:10,680 --> 00:14:11,200
Yes.

322
00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:13,040
While you were working
at the pants factory.

323
00:14:13,040 --> 00:14:13,701
Yes.

324

00:14:13,701 --> 00:14:16,159
Do you want to talk about your
career as a labor organizer?

325

00:14:16,159 --> 00:14:18,240
[LAUGHS] Not really.

326

00:14:18,240 --> 00:14:18,880
Not really.

327

00:14:18,880 --> 00:14:20,400
It was a great
embarrassment to me

328

00:14:20,400 --> 00:14:24,270
because my co-workers were
griping about the conditions

329

00:14:24,270 --> 00:14:26,400
under which they
worked, and I was just

330

00:14:26,400 --> 00:14:28,560
sort of giving little
advice, why don't you do this

331

00:14:28,560 --> 00:14:29,643
and why don't you do that?

332

00:14:29,643 --> 00:14:32,250
Pretty soon they organized
themselves into a union

333

00:14:32,250 --> 00:14:34,710
and I lost my job.

334

00:14:34,710 --> 00:14:36,960
Because Mr. [? Seratsky ?]
didn't like that very much,

335

00:14:36,960 --> 00:14:40,590
he thought I was much too

smart and much too good

336

00:14:40,590 --> 00:14:43,660

at being an agitator and
telling them what to do,

337

00:14:43,660 --> 00:14:46,620

and so he decided that it
wasn't good for him to have me

338

00:14:46,620 --> 00:14:47,400

in his factory.

339

00:14:47,400 --> 00:14:49,570

So I was fired from that job.

340

00:14:49,570 --> 00:14:51,120

You lost him as an
employer but you

341

00:14:51,120 --> 00:14:52,287

didn't lose him as a friend.

342

00:14:52,287 --> 00:14:54,320

No, particularly not his wife.

343

00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:58,240

His wife became a
lifelong friend of mine.

344

00:14:58,240 --> 00:15:00,060

[? Ellen Seratsky ?]

was a wonderful person

345

00:15:00,060 --> 00:15:02,170

and she was a very
important person in my life,

346

00:15:02,170 --> 00:15:04,970

because she was very good to me.

347

00:15:04,970 --> 00:15:09,000

So I lost the job, yes, but I
didn't lose her as a friend.

348
00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:11,820
She thought it was very
funny actually, [LAUGHS]

349
00:15:11,820 --> 00:15:13,405
but only behind
her husband's back.

350
00:15:13,405 --> 00:15:15,800
[LAUGHS]

351
00:15:15,800 --> 00:15:17,895
Well, we had the
pleasure of spending

352
00:15:17,895 --> 00:15:21,390
some time with the two of
them in Paris years later.

353
00:15:21,390 --> 00:15:23,100
They certainly were nice people.

354
00:15:23,100 --> 00:15:25,654
Well, they-- she was a
particularly wonderful person.

355
00:15:25,654 --> 00:15:28,380

356
00:15:28,380 --> 00:15:34,080
So Margot remarried, and you
became the ward of the Katzs.

357
00:15:34,080 --> 00:15:35,790
And I went to live
with the Katzs.

358
00:15:35,790 --> 00:15:38,520
And for me it was like
jumping from the frying pan

359

00:15:38,520 --> 00:15:42,120
into the fire because I
did not like Mr. Katz.

360

00:15:42,120 --> 00:15:45,870
And I didn't know just how
much I was going to dislike him

361

00:15:45,870 --> 00:15:47,500
until I went to live there.

362

00:15:47,500 --> 00:15:51,360
The Katzs had two
sons, grown sons,

363

00:15:51,360 --> 00:15:54,810
and Mr. Katz kept an
iron fist on both sons.

364

00:15:54,810 --> 00:15:57,060
One of his sons worked
with him in his business.

365

00:15:57,060 --> 00:16:03,030
He was buying and reselling
scrap metal, that's

366

00:16:03,030 --> 00:16:05,550
how he was making his living.

367

00:16:05,550 --> 00:16:08,412
And he kept such a
grip on his oldest son

368

00:16:08,412 --> 00:16:09,870
that he never
allowed him to marry.

369

00:16:09,870 --> 00:16:10,370
Why?

370

00:16:10,370 --> 00:16:12,690
Because he didn't want
him to grow enough money

371
00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:14,190
to have his own household.

372
00:16:14,190 --> 00:16:16,830
So the oldest son never
married, even though he

373
00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:18,750
was a man in his 30s by then.

374
00:16:18,750 --> 00:16:22,320
The youngest son was a chemist,
he had gone through university

375
00:16:22,320 --> 00:16:24,810
and became a chemist,
and he married.

376
00:16:24,810 --> 00:16:27,030
And he had a lovely
wife and I was very fond

377
00:16:27,030 --> 00:16:29,640
of him and his wife.
[? Tayo ?] was his name,

378
00:16:29,640 --> 00:16:31,020
[? Tayo ?] and his wife.

379
00:16:31,020 --> 00:16:33,415
And his wife's brother,
who used to take me

380
00:16:33,415 --> 00:16:35,540
out every once in a while,
he was a medical student

381
00:16:35,540 --> 00:16:37,470
and whom I was

also very fond of.

382

00:16:37,470 --> 00:16:40,940

But Mr. Katz was so mean
to his daughter-in-law,

383

00:16:40,940 --> 00:16:42,870

I have never forgotten it.

384

00:16:42,870 --> 00:16:44,700

I promised myself
that I was never

385

00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:46,620

going to be mean to a
daughter-in-law of mine

386

00:16:46,620 --> 00:16:48,580

like Mr. Katz was to his.

387

00:16:48,580 --> 00:16:51,930

They would come for Sunday
dinner, which always consisted

388

00:16:51,930 --> 00:16:57,270

of the same stuff, which
was smoked herrings and rice

389

00:16:57,270 --> 00:17:00,180

pudding, which I hated.

390

00:17:00,180 --> 00:17:04,170

But you didn't say anything in
Mr. Katz's home, you ate it.

391

00:17:04,170 --> 00:17:07,349

And then he would proceed to
analyze all the bad traits

392

00:17:07,349 --> 00:17:08,450

of his daughter-in-law.

393

00:17:08,450 --> 00:17:12,329

Her nose was too long,
her rear end was too big,

394

00:17:12,329 --> 00:17:13,619

her breasts were too low.

395

00:17:13,619 --> 00:17:17,040

And he would go on
running a commentary

396

00:17:17,040 --> 00:17:19,109

throughout the entire
meal, to the point where

397

00:17:19,109 --> 00:17:21,440

I felt I was going to throw up.

398

00:17:21,440 --> 00:17:24,950

Of course, nobody escaped
his commentaries like that,

399

00:17:24,950 --> 00:17:27,210

he did his
commentaries on me too,

400

00:17:27,210 --> 00:17:29,460

but I had learned
how to tune it out.

401

00:17:29,460 --> 00:17:32,080

But she was a very lovely--

402

00:17:32,080 --> 00:17:33,750

also a doctor, a chemist.

403

00:17:33,750 --> 00:17:36,360

She was a very lovely young
woman, and very gentle,

404

00:17:36,360 --> 00:17:39,390

and very sweet and sensitive.

405

00:17:39,390 --> 00:17:41,910
And I remember one meal where
she was sitting quietly,

406

00:17:41,910 --> 00:17:46,260
and the tears just were
running down her face.

407

00:17:46,260 --> 00:17:49,260
And at that point, I decided
that I had to do something

408

00:17:49,260 --> 00:17:51,960
to emancipate myself
from Mr. Katz,

409

00:17:51,960 --> 00:17:54,260
because Mr Katz was
not a very nice person.

410

00:17:54,260 --> 00:17:56,935

411

00:17:56,935 --> 00:17:58,560
I did everything I
could in that house.

412

00:17:58,560 --> 00:18:02,600
I was assigned of ironing all
the shirts for all three men,

413

00:18:02,600 --> 00:18:04,430
all three men changed
shirts every day,

414

00:18:04,430 --> 00:18:07,310
and I was laundering and
ironing all the shirts.

415

00:18:07,310 --> 00:18:09,400
I was ironing everything,
as a matter of fact,

416

00:18:09,400 --> 00:18:10,630
in the household.

417

00:18:10,630 --> 00:18:12,810
And in the morning
before I left for work,

418

00:18:12,810 --> 00:18:13,900
I had to run the vacuum--

419

00:18:13,900 --> 00:18:14,540
Work or school?

420

00:18:14,540 --> 00:18:15,750
For school I mean.

421

00:18:15,750 --> 00:18:17,888
I had to run the vacuum
cleaner everywhere,

422

00:18:17,888 --> 00:18:20,430
to make sure that I had vacuumed
and did the breakfast dishes

423

00:18:20,430 --> 00:18:21,920
before I left for school.

424

00:18:21,920 --> 00:18:22,420
Oh.

425

00:18:22,420 --> 00:18:26,286
This was not an easy household
to be in, let me tell you.

426

00:18:26,286 --> 00:18:30,450
So throughout this entire
time I had stayed friendly

427

00:18:30,450 --> 00:18:31,895
with the Lehmans.

428

00:18:31,895 --> 00:18:33,520

I would see them
every once in a while.

429

00:18:33,520 --> 00:18:38,430

But Mr. Katz developed
a dislike for Gina.

430

00:18:38,430 --> 00:18:41,336

He didn't like Gina, she was
much too independent for him.

431

00:18:41,336 --> 00:18:42,170

I'll bet.

432

00:18:42,170 --> 00:18:46,190

So he forbade me to see Gina.

433

00:18:46,190 --> 00:18:48,870

So Gina and I had to
sneak in a rendezvous

434

00:18:48,870 --> 00:18:50,200

if we wanted to see each other.

435

00:18:50,200 --> 00:18:51,810

Wasn't that absurd?

436

00:18:51,810 --> 00:18:55,470

That I had to sneak in like
I was going to see my lover,

437

00:18:55,470 --> 00:18:58,053

and I would meet Gina every
once in a while for coffee.

438

00:18:58,053 --> 00:18:58,780

OK?

439

00:18:58,780 --> 00:19:02,880

So I kept on complaining
about the Katzs

440

00:19:02,880 --> 00:19:05,420

and she kept on saying, well
let's see what we can do.

441

00:19:05,420 --> 00:19:08,010

And finally, she said I have
some information for you

442

00:19:08,010 --> 00:19:09,840

I got from a lawyer at court.

443

00:19:09,840 --> 00:19:11,820

She used to work at law.

444

00:19:11,820 --> 00:19:15,480

At the age of 18, you
can become a full age

445

00:19:15,480 --> 00:19:17,800

if several witnesses
will come forward.

446

00:19:17,800 --> 00:19:21,420

If you petition the court and
you bring three witnesses who

447

00:19:21,420 --> 00:19:24,900

swear to your maturity
and your good character,

448

00:19:24,900 --> 00:19:28,560

you will be fully
independent as though you

449

00:19:28,560 --> 00:19:30,380

were 21 at the age of 18.

450

00:19:30,380 --> 00:19:34,550

But you have to wait
until you are 18 for that.

451

00:19:34,550 --> 00:19:38,030

So I waited until I was
18, I lived with the Katzs

452
00:19:38,030 --> 00:19:40,430
until I was 18, but
the day I turned

453
00:19:40,430 --> 00:19:44,380
18 there was a petition
in the court for me, which

454
00:19:44,380 --> 00:19:47,180
this lawyer from court
had written for me.

455
00:19:47,180 --> 00:19:49,490
And I appeared with
three witnesses

456
00:19:49,490 --> 00:19:54,740
who swore as to my character,
and I was granted full--

457
00:19:54,740 --> 00:19:56,100
Majority.

458
00:19:56,100 --> 00:19:57,020
--full majority.

459
00:19:57,020 --> 00:20:00,180
And from then on, I
could do what I wanted,

460
00:20:00,180 --> 00:20:02,690
and I could go and
live where I wanted.

461
00:20:02,690 --> 00:20:06,400
So I immediately left the
Katzs and I moved in with Gina.

462
00:20:06,400 --> 00:20:07,867
Gina and Kurt and--

463
00:20:07,867 --> 00:20:08,641
And Renee.

464
00:20:08,641 --> 00:20:10,070
And their daughter Renee.

465
00:20:10,070 --> 00:20:13,070
Actually it was Gina's daughter
by a previous marriage,

466
00:20:13,070 --> 00:20:14,780
and she and Kurt
were living together,

467
00:20:14,780 --> 00:20:15,980
but they weren't married.

468
00:20:15,980 --> 00:20:16,660
Yeah.

469
00:20:16,660 --> 00:20:21,800
And so, I was with them
for about a year together.

470
00:20:21,800 --> 00:20:25,790
And then Kurt decided
to go back to Germany

471
00:20:25,790 --> 00:20:28,490
to open a medical
practice, because he

472
00:20:28,490 --> 00:20:30,790
kept on trying to pass
the exam in France,

473
00:20:30,790 --> 00:20:33,620
and the French Medical
Association just

474
00:20:33,620 --> 00:20:35,420

wouldn't let him do it.

475

00:20:35,420 --> 00:20:38,780

So he went back to
open a medical practice

476

00:20:38,780 --> 00:20:41,690

and Gina left with him, and
she left Renee and me alone

477

00:20:41,690 --> 00:20:42,895

in Paris.

478

00:20:42,895 --> 00:20:45,680

OK, so he went back to
Germany because that's

479

00:20:45,680 --> 00:20:47,477

where his family
came from and that's

480

00:20:47,477 --> 00:20:49,560

where he had lived and
studied it here in America.

481

00:20:49,560 --> 00:20:50,480

Right.

482

00:20:50,480 --> 00:20:52,760

And he immediately
opened a medical practice

483

00:20:52,760 --> 00:20:56,760

and she went to work with him,
and it was a huge success.

484

00:20:56,760 --> 00:20:59,270

So Renee and I stayed
during the school year

485

00:20:59,270 --> 00:21:01,010

in Paris, and then
during vacation

486
00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:06,040
time we always went to Germany
to stay with them in Mannheim.

487
00:21:06,040 --> 00:21:07,997
And you were both
going to school--

488
00:21:07,997 --> 00:21:09,205
We were both going to school.

489
00:21:09,205 --> 00:21:09,460
In public schools in
Paris at this point.

490
00:21:09,460 --> 00:21:11,240
Yeah.

491
00:21:11,240 --> 00:21:13,730
By the time that they
left, I had already

492
00:21:13,730 --> 00:21:17,370
passed my first
baccalaureate and I was just

493
00:21:17,370 --> 00:21:20,020
preparing my second
baccalaureate in philosophy.

494
00:21:20,020 --> 00:21:22,070
Can you explain what
baccalaureate means?

495
00:21:22,070 --> 00:21:26,420
The baccalaureate and the
French secondary school system,

496
00:21:26,420 --> 00:21:28,520
it is the equivalent
of about two years

497

00:21:28,520 --> 00:21:30,610
of college in this country.

498

00:21:30,610 --> 00:21:32,360
And you take it in two
parts, one year you

499

00:21:32,360 --> 00:21:33,980
take one part and
the second year

500

00:21:33,980 --> 00:21:36,260
you take that final part
of your baccalaureate,

501

00:21:36,260 --> 00:21:39,680
and it consists of both
written exams and oral exams.

502

00:21:39,680 --> 00:21:42,380
So this baccalaureate
consists of one day

503

00:21:42,380 --> 00:21:45,380
of written exams and
one day of oral exams,

504

00:21:45,380 --> 00:21:47,390
and the second
baccalaureate consists

505

00:21:47,390 --> 00:21:50,300
of two days of written exams
and two days of oral exams

506

00:21:50,300 --> 00:21:52,910
after you have passed
your written exams.

507

00:21:52,910 --> 00:21:55,880
it used to be very
difficult exams to pass,

508

00:21:55,880 --> 00:21:57,630
you really had to work for that.

509

00:21:57,630 --> 00:22:00,230
And when they left
for Germany, I

510

00:22:00,230 --> 00:22:04,230
was just preparing my
second baccalaureate

511

00:22:04,230 --> 00:22:06,860
in philosophy, which
I did pass, which

512

00:22:06,860 --> 00:22:12,840
was no mean feat because most
people tried two or three times

513

00:22:12,840 --> 00:22:13,340
to pass it.

514

00:22:13,340 --> 00:22:14,570
But I was lucky.

515

00:22:14,570 --> 00:22:16,880
I passed it the first time.

516

00:22:16,880 --> 00:22:22,160
And then, I took what
they called a competition

517

00:22:22,160 --> 00:22:29,750
in [INAUDIBLE] because there
was one school in Paris which

518

00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:33,200
was like a graduate school.

519

00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:36,000
You went into that school, all
expenses were paid for you,

520

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:41,360
including books and supplies,
and it was in the [? Manec ?]

521

00:22:41,360 --> 00:22:44,480
area of Paris, near the
[INAUDIBLE] And if you were

522

00:22:44,480 --> 00:22:47,630
lucky enough, because
there were maybe--

523

00:22:47,630 --> 00:22:49,190
each year they took one class.

524

00:22:49,190 --> 00:22:51,490
They had three classes
but each year they

525

00:22:51,490 --> 00:22:54,890
took one class because there
was one class always graduating.

526

00:22:54,890 --> 00:22:59,330
And so there were 30 spots,
and something like 6,000 people

527

00:22:59,330 --> 00:23:02,240
applied because it was
a very desirable thing.

528

00:23:02,240 --> 00:23:05,480
Not only were all expenses paid
for you for graduate school

529

00:23:05,480 --> 00:23:10,720
there, but they had
a list of employers,

530

00:23:10,720 --> 00:23:12,520
and you went and
interviewed your employer.

531
00:23:12,520 --> 00:23:14,210
You had your pick where
you wanted to work,

532
00:23:14,210 --> 00:23:16,043
and you could write
your own ticket once you

533
00:23:16,043 --> 00:23:17,170
graduated from that school.

534
00:23:17,170 --> 00:23:19,010
This was [INAUDIBLE].

535
00:23:19,010 --> 00:23:20,680
[INAUDIBLE], yeah.

536
00:23:20,680 --> 00:23:24,440
And I went to take
the comp test,

537
00:23:24,440 --> 00:23:30,872
and I went to look at the names
when they posted the results,

538
00:23:30,872 --> 00:23:32,830
and for some reason I
didn't see my name on it.

539
00:23:32,830 --> 00:23:36,348
But apparently I passed it,
because I got a letter weeks

540
00:23:36,348 --> 00:23:37,765
later saying where
are you, you're

541
00:23:37,765 --> 00:23:38,950
supposed to be in school.

542
00:23:38,950 --> 00:23:43,330

Let us know because we have a waiting list of other students

543
00:23:43,330 --> 00:23:45,490
who would like to
take your place.

544
00:23:45,490 --> 00:23:47,590
So I went to that
school very quickly.

545
00:23:47,590 --> 00:23:50,830
For some reason I didn't
see my name on the list,

546
00:23:50,830 --> 00:23:53,470
it was very strange why I
didn't, but nonetheless I

547
00:23:53,470 --> 00:23:54,560
didn't.

548
00:23:54,560 --> 00:24:01,060
So I started in that school
and I had very good training

549
00:24:01,060 --> 00:24:05,110
for what would probably be
the equivalent in this country

550
00:24:05,110 --> 00:24:08,320
for paralegal
secretaries, because we

551
00:24:08,320 --> 00:24:11,560
had all commercial
and civil law courses,

552
00:24:11,560 --> 00:24:15,250
and we had all the
organizations that are

553
00:24:15,250 --> 00:24:18,110

required to manage an office.

554

00:24:18,110 --> 00:24:20,440

In other words, most of our
people who left our school

555

00:24:20,440 --> 00:24:23,800

went on to be office managers.

556

00:24:23,800 --> 00:24:25,900

And I learned a great
deal in that school,

557

00:24:25,900 --> 00:24:27,940

and my first job
out of that school

558

00:24:27,940 --> 00:24:30,280

was with American Express.

559

00:24:30,280 --> 00:24:33,340

My English, by then,
was fairly good.

560

00:24:33,340 --> 00:24:36,430

My German was better, but
my English was fairly good.

561

00:24:36,430 --> 00:24:38,290

And I got a very good
job, a high paying

562

00:24:38,290 --> 00:24:40,720

job with the American Express.

563

00:24:40,720 --> 00:24:42,930

Well, I was dealing with
people overseas, also

564

00:24:42,930 --> 00:24:46,300

in the United States and in
England, English speaking

565

00:24:46,300 --> 00:24:50,770

people who had business
with the American Express.

566

00:24:50,770 --> 00:24:54,650

And on one of those
trips to Germany,

567

00:24:54,650 --> 00:24:56,710

one of those vacations--

568

00:24:56,710 --> 00:24:57,730

Which vacation?

569

00:24:57,730 --> 00:24:58,810

A summer vacation.

570

00:24:58,810 --> 00:25:02,220

I arrived in Germany to
stay with Gina and Kurt,

571

00:25:02,220 --> 00:25:05,990

but Renee and I arrived there.

572

00:25:05,990 --> 00:25:10,250

I was told that the son
of one of Gina's friends,

573

00:25:10,250 --> 00:25:13,460

by the name of Luther
Adler, wanted to take me out

574

00:25:13,460 --> 00:25:15,780

and she had told him that I
would go with him to a tea

575

00:25:15,780 --> 00:25:19,100

dance in Heidelberg.

576

00:25:19,100 --> 00:25:22,990

And I was very annoyed
because I told her

577
00:25:22,990 --> 00:25:25,450
I didn't like her to make
my dates, and she said,

578
00:25:25,450 --> 00:25:28,130
I know, but don't embarrass me.

579
00:25:28,130 --> 00:25:31,750
And you are going to go to that.

580
00:25:31,750 --> 00:25:35,540
One didn't spend too much
time arguing with Gina.

581
00:25:35,540 --> 00:25:37,480
So I said OK, but
don't do that again.

582
00:25:37,480 --> 00:25:41,350
So I left, and I walked with
Luther Adler to a tea dance

583
00:25:41,350 --> 00:25:44,790
at the University of Heidelberg
given for the summer student

584
00:25:44,790 --> 00:25:46,420
session.

585
00:25:46,420 --> 00:25:50,110
And I met a man by
the name of Jim Adler.

586
00:25:50,110 --> 00:25:52,900
So I came with Luther Adler
and I left with Jim Adler.

587
00:25:52,900 --> 00:25:55,932
And I think I better
stop my story here.

588

00:25:55,932 --> 00:26:00,220
[LAUGHS]

589
00:26:00,220 --> 00:26:02,970
Well it's now a
couple of weeks later,

590
00:26:02,970 --> 00:26:04,540
and you and I have
both had a chance

591
00:26:04,540 --> 00:26:08,650
to listen to this entire
tape from start to finish.

592
00:26:08,650 --> 00:26:11,220
And I want make a
couple of comments.

593
00:26:11,220 --> 00:26:11,720
OK.

594
00:26:11,720 --> 00:26:14,620

595
00:26:14,620 --> 00:26:23,260
When we met in August of 1954,
you were all of 19 years old.

596
00:26:23,260 --> 00:26:26,530
And less than two years later,
we got married in Paris,

597
00:26:26,530 --> 00:26:28,760
and we got on a boat.

598
00:26:28,760 --> 00:26:32,140
And you got off the
boat in New York

599
00:26:32,140 --> 00:26:36,580
and again, you started a
new life, in a new country,

600
00:26:36,580 --> 00:26:39,770
with new people around you.

601
00:26:39,770 --> 00:26:45,860
And I felt then, which
was 37 years ago,

602
00:26:45,860 --> 00:26:53,710
and I still feel today, that you
are the most remarkable person

603
00:26:53,710 --> 00:26:59,810
that I've ever met, the
most extraordinary person,

604
00:26:59,810 --> 00:27:03,220
and I'm going to tell you why.

605
00:27:03,220 --> 00:27:06,840
It's not because you had
this horrendous experience

606
00:27:06,840 --> 00:27:09,510
as a child.

607
00:27:09,510 --> 00:27:12,850
It's that you had it
and you came through it

608
00:27:12,850 --> 00:27:14,110
such a whole person.

609
00:27:14,110 --> 00:27:18,700

610
00:27:18,700 --> 00:27:23,320
It didn't turn you into
somebody who was full of fear

611
00:27:23,320 --> 00:27:29,470
or full of anger, or

full of bitterness.

612
00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:31,060
You decided that
you were not going

613
00:27:31,060 --> 00:27:37,420
to let your past
burden your future,

614
00:27:37,420 --> 00:27:41,080
and that you were going to
be as normal a person as you

615
00:27:41,080 --> 00:27:43,429
could possibly make yourself.

616
00:27:43,429 --> 00:27:45,512
Well I personally think
you're better than normal.

617
00:27:45,512 --> 00:27:49,940
[LAUGHS] I mean, you are--

618
00:27:49,940 --> 00:27:50,920
Thank you.

619
00:27:50,920 --> 00:27:57,700
[LAUGHS] You have joie de
vivre, and you like life,

620
00:27:57,700 --> 00:28:01,550
you love life, and you
like yourself and you

621
00:28:01,550 --> 00:28:03,300
know how to love the
people around you who

622
00:28:03,300 --> 00:28:05,120
are worth loving.

623

00:28:05,120 --> 00:28:10,180

And I think that it's a
remarkable accomplishment,

624

00:28:10,180 --> 00:28:12,150

having been through what
you've been through.

625

00:28:12,150 --> 00:28:15,700

And I know that we
have friends, lots

626

00:28:15,700 --> 00:28:20,830

of friends, who were raised
in normal upper middle class

627

00:28:20,830 --> 00:28:25,450

Jewish suburban
households who envy you,

628

00:28:25,450 --> 00:28:27,190

your normality,
because they ain't

629

00:28:27,190 --> 00:28:28,601

nearly as normal as you are.

630

00:28:28,601 --> 00:28:31,970

631

00:28:31,970 --> 00:28:38,375

And there's something
else also which I really

632

00:28:38,375 --> 00:28:40,750

feel I want to say, and I
don't know whether I can say it

633

00:28:40,750 --> 00:28:43,635

without sounding either
maudlin or pompous,

634

00:28:43,635 --> 00:28:44,510

but I'm going to try.

635
00:28:44,510 --> 00:28:47,050

636
00:28:47,050 --> 00:28:49,720
When Amy was born three
and a half years ago,

637
00:28:49,720 --> 00:28:51,950
we got a lot of congratulations
from our friends

638
00:28:51,950 --> 00:28:54,830
on becoming grandparents.

639
00:28:54,830 --> 00:28:59,000
But one of them said something
to you which has stuck with me,

640
00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:01,520
and every time I think of it,
it brings tears to my eyes.

641
00:29:01,520 --> 00:29:03,630
She said, Esthy--

642
00:29:03,630 --> 00:29:07,081

643
00:29:07,081 --> 00:29:10,532
[LAUGHS] Did it again.

644
00:29:10,532 --> 00:29:13,990

645
00:29:13,990 --> 00:29:15,530
She said Esthy, Hitler lost.

646
00:29:15,530 --> 00:29:18,110

647

00:29:18,110 --> 00:29:18,967

Guess who said that.

648

00:29:18,967 --> 00:29:20,050

It was [? Lana ?] I think.

649

00:29:20,050 --> 00:29:22,170

[? Lana Greene? ?] Ha ha.

650

00:29:22,170 --> 00:29:24,160

[? Lana Greene ?]

is a philosopher?

651

00:29:24,160 --> 00:29:26,320

Well, not always, but
she was right this time.

652

00:29:26,320 --> 00:29:35,040

[LAUGHS] And I think about
it often, and it's true.

653

00:29:35,040 --> 00:29:41,020

And I think it happened
because you decided no matter

654

00:29:41,020 --> 00:29:45,763

how often you were knocked
down by life, how cruelly you

655

00:29:45,763 --> 00:29:47,680

were knocked down by
life, you were just going

656

00:29:47,680 --> 00:29:50,590

to get up again and keep going.

657

00:29:50,590 --> 00:29:55,330

And when you do that,
you end up winning.

658

00:29:55,330 --> 00:29:58,400

Not too many people can do it.

659
00:29:58,400 --> 00:30:01,640
And I know that
remembering everything

660
00:30:01,640 --> 00:30:04,540
that you just talked about
on this tape cost you

661
00:30:04,540 --> 00:30:05,410
a great effort.

662
00:30:05,410 --> 00:30:09,440
I know it took you not
days or weeks or months,

663
00:30:09,440 --> 00:30:12,370
but years before you could
reach the stage where you could

664
00:30:12,370 --> 00:30:16,330
dredge up these memories
and relive them in order

665
00:30:16,330 --> 00:30:18,820
to get it down on tape.

666
00:30:18,820 --> 00:30:22,840
But you decided it was
something you wanted to do

667
00:30:22,840 --> 00:30:25,870
and I'm glad you did it.

668
00:30:25,870 --> 00:30:31,510
And I think you've given a
great gift to your children,

669
00:30:31,510 --> 00:30:32,770
grandchildren--

670
00:30:32,770 --> 00:30:39,490

671
00:30:39,490 --> 00:30:42,380
It's OK honey, to cry.

672
00:30:42,380 --> 00:30:51,500
And I just know
that when they're

673
00:30:51,500 --> 00:30:59,054
faced with difficulties, knowing
how you triumphed over yours

674
00:30:59,054 --> 00:31:02,210
is gonna be a
great help to them.

675
00:31:02,210 --> 00:31:02,840
I hope so.

676
00:31:02,840 --> 00:31:05,940
[LAUGHS] I certainly hope it's
not going to be a hindrance.

677
00:31:05,940 --> 00:31:07,780
[LAUGHS]

678
00:31:07,780 --> 00:31:10,650
No, I think it's going
to be a great help.

679
00:31:10,650 --> 00:31:12,470
So I'm going to thank
you on behalf of them

680
00:31:12,470 --> 00:31:13,490
as well as myself.

681
00:31:13,490 --> 00:31:14,360
Oh, thank you.

682
00:31:14,360 --> 00:31:15,402

Thank you for helping me.

683

00:31:15,402 --> 00:31:17,402

I don't think I would
have done it a second time

684

00:31:17,402 --> 00:31:18,200

without your help.

685

00:31:18,200 --> 00:31:19,540

I thank you.

686

00:31:19,540 --> 00:31:21,315

You're welcome.

687

00:31:21,315 --> 00:31:32,000