

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,490

2

00:00:08,490 --> 00:00:11,190

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:11,190 --> 00:00:15,810

volunteer collection interview
with Erica Laufer, conducted

4

00:00:15,810 --> 00:00:22,830

by Gail Schwartz, on August 19,
2012, in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

5

00:00:22,830 --> 00:00:25,680

This is track number one.

6

00:00:25,680 --> 00:00:28,020

What is your full name?

7

00:00:28,020 --> 00:00:30,090

Edith Erica Laufer.

8

00:00:30,090 --> 00:00:33,020

I do not use my first name.

9

00:00:33,020 --> 00:00:33,520

OK.

10

00:00:33,520 --> 00:00:35,980

And where were you born?

11

00:00:35,980 --> 00:00:37,780

In Klagenfurt, Austria.

12

00:00:37,780 --> 00:00:39,250

And when were you born?

13

00:00:39,250 --> 00:00:42,250

May 11, 1930.

14

00:00:42,250 --> 00:00:44,260

Let's talk a little
bit about your family.

15

00:00:44,260 --> 00:00:46,370

Your parents' names?

16

00:00:46,370 --> 00:00:52,600

My mother, my
father was variously

17

00:00:52,600 --> 00:01:00,030

known as Julius Laufer
and Joel Laufer.

18

00:01:00,030 --> 00:01:08,340

My mother in Austria was known
as Clara Schwartz Laufer.

19

00:01:08,340 --> 00:01:14,930

And she changed it
in the US to Claire.

20

00:01:14,930 --> 00:01:17,000

And where were they born?

21

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:19,310

My mother was born
in Berlin, Germany.

22

00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:26,870

And my father was born
someplace near Krakow, Poland.

23

00:01:26,870 --> 00:01:28,520

I believe at that
time it was part

24

00:01:28,520 --> 00:01:31,640

of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

25

00:01:31,640 --> 00:01:32,600

And how did they meet?

26

00:01:32,600 --> 00:01:35,440

27

00:01:35,440 --> 00:01:39,980

Apparently, his parents
and him moved to Vienna.

28

00:01:39,980 --> 00:01:46,930

And my mother and her parents
apparently moved to Vienna.

29

00:01:46,930 --> 00:01:50,800

And they both worked
during the day.

30

00:01:50,800 --> 00:01:52,390

It was so modern.

31

00:01:52,390 --> 00:01:56,350

They took French
class at nighttime.

32

00:01:56,350 --> 00:01:59,050

That used to be the
way to meet people,

33

00:01:59,050 --> 00:02:02,170

to study French conversation.

34

00:02:02,170 --> 00:02:06,250

And they met there as
a result in Vienna.

35

00:02:06,250 --> 00:02:07,610

Do you know when they were born?

36

00:02:07,610 --> 00:02:10,500

37

00:02:10,500 --> 00:02:11,000

Yeah.

38

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:12,410

But not offhand.

39

00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:18,260

My father was born on

November the 14th, 1898.

40

00:02:18,260 --> 00:02:26,270

My mother was born

May the 7th of 1905.

41

00:02:26,270 --> 00:02:28,310

Tell me again when

your father was born.

42

00:02:28,310 --> 00:02:29,540

1898.

43

00:02:29,540 --> 00:02:30,200

1898.

44

00:02:30,200 --> 00:02:30,980

Yes.

45

00:02:30,980 --> 00:02:33,560

Thank you.

46

00:02:33,560 --> 00:02:35,280

Did you have any

brothers and sisters?

47

00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:35,780

No.

48

00:02:35,780 --> 00:02:36,697

You are an only child.

49

00:02:36,697 --> 00:02:37,670

I'm an only child.

50
00:02:37,670 --> 00:02:38,540
OK.

51
00:02:38,540 --> 00:02:41,180
And what kind of work
did your father do?

52
00:02:41,180 --> 00:02:44,040

53
00:02:44,040 --> 00:02:48,980
Well, he had a
limited education.

54
00:02:48,980 --> 00:02:53,730
And he was the support
of a large family.

55
00:02:53,730 --> 00:02:59,850
And he was working,
when I was born,

56
00:02:59,850 --> 00:03:04,050
he was in Klagenfurt
working as a window

57
00:03:04,050 --> 00:03:09,690
dresser for the only
department store in town.

58
00:03:09,690 --> 00:03:17,280
My mother had been
sent to learn how

59
00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:19,890
to become a master milliner.

60
00:03:19,890 --> 00:03:22,920
And she was an apprentice
for, I believe, seven years.

61

00:03:22,920 --> 00:03:25,680

They had the guild
system in Austria.

62

00:03:25,680 --> 00:03:27,960

And she was a master milliner.

63

00:03:27,960 --> 00:03:31,590

And as a result, she
had a store where

64

00:03:31,590 --> 00:03:38,040

she made hats and had four
apprentices working for her.

65

00:03:38,040 --> 00:03:42,210

Meanwhile, they lived in a flat.

66

00:03:42,210 --> 00:03:44,490

We lived on the second story.

67

00:03:44,490 --> 00:03:50,210

And they always had-- every
year, a different girl,

68

00:03:50,210 --> 00:03:55,580

a peasant girl would come from
Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia,

69

00:03:55,580 --> 00:03:59,160

or some such place on
a one year contract.

70

00:03:59,160 --> 00:04:09,170

And upstairs, there
was another family.

71

00:04:09,170 --> 00:04:12,230

And Herbert was a little
boy who played with me.

72

00:04:12,230 --> 00:04:13,830

He was a year younger than me.

73

00:04:13,830 --> 00:04:16,490

And if we wanted
to play, we would

74

00:04:16,490 --> 00:04:19,820

push the broom on the
ceiling or the floor

75

00:04:19,820 --> 00:04:22,700

as to whether or not
we wanted to play.

76

00:04:22,700 --> 00:04:24,230

Let's talk about
the neighborhood

77

00:04:24,230 --> 00:04:26,282

where your apartment was.

78

00:04:26,282 --> 00:04:26,990

Was it a Jewish--

79

00:04:26,990 --> 00:04:28,730

Haven't got the faintest clue.

80

00:04:28,730 --> 00:04:30,500

It had a yard.

81

00:04:30,500 --> 00:04:35,960

And it had a big, big peach
tree which Herbert and I one day

82

00:04:35,960 --> 00:04:38,510

attacked and ate a
great deal of peaches

83

00:04:38,510 --> 00:04:39,620

when there were not ripe.

84

00:04:39,620 --> 00:04:43,820

And we were sick for days
and got very much punished.

85
00:04:43,820 --> 00:04:48,650
It had a very nice
yard that we could

86
00:04:48,650 --> 00:04:51,230
use to our heart's content.

87
00:04:51,230 --> 00:04:56,965
And I had a little goose
by the name of Pauline.

88
00:04:56,965 --> 00:04:59,630

89
00:04:59,630 --> 00:05:01,350
And we would sit on the bench.

90
00:05:01,350 --> 00:05:02,240
It was very pleasant.

91
00:05:02,240 --> 00:05:05,350
Lots of plants and trees
and things around there.

92
00:05:05,350 --> 00:05:07,990

93
00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:10,148
Do you know if it was
a Jewish neighborhood?

94
00:05:10,148 --> 00:05:11,440
Or was it a mixed neighborhood?

95
00:05:11,440 --> 00:05:13,510
Or you don't know?

96
00:05:13,510 --> 00:05:14,322
I have no idea.

97
00:05:14,322 --> 00:05:16,030
Couldn't have been a
Jewish neighborhood.

98
00:05:16,030 --> 00:05:19,460
My mother wouldn't
have wanted that.

99
00:05:19,460 --> 00:05:22,930
And secondly, Herbert
certainly wasn't.

100
00:05:22,930 --> 00:05:26,145
And as far as I know, I
was the only Jewish child

101
00:05:26,145 --> 00:05:28,060
in the entire school.

102
00:05:28,060 --> 00:05:31,510
Tell me about your school.

103
00:05:31,510 --> 00:05:32,140
I don't know.

104
00:05:32,140 --> 00:05:34,150
One thinks one knows things.

105
00:05:34,150 --> 00:05:36,820
But one doesn't
necessarily know.

106
00:05:36,820 --> 00:05:39,390
And one doesn't know
what it is one remembers

107
00:05:39,390 --> 00:05:41,350
or what one thinks
one remembers.

108
00:05:41,350 --> 00:05:43,900

I remember being taught by nuns.

109

00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:47,620

I have no idea whether the
public schools in Klagenfurt

110

00:05:47,620 --> 00:05:52,390

were run by nuns or whether just
there was a Catholic school.

111

00:05:52,390 --> 00:05:55,120

My mother liked to
deny her Jewishness

112

00:05:55,120 --> 00:06:04,780

and tried to tell me that her
parents, her mother, Julie

113

00:06:04,780 --> 00:06:06,910

Holter, was Catholic.

114

00:06:06,910 --> 00:06:08,693

But I'm not too sure about that.

115

00:06:08,693 --> 00:06:09,610

So I sort of doubt it.

116

00:06:09,610 --> 00:06:13,810

But anyhow, I went to school.

117

00:06:13,810 --> 00:06:16,730

And I was the only
Jewish child there.

118

00:06:16,730 --> 00:06:19,370

119

00:06:19,370 --> 00:06:22,460

My father insisted
that I not attend class

120

00:06:22,460 --> 00:06:25,970

during Catholic training.

121

00:06:25,970 --> 00:06:28,730

As a result, I recall
spending my time out

122

00:06:28,730 --> 00:06:35,820

in the schoolyard, even in
the fall and the winter,

123

00:06:35,820 --> 00:06:41,100

for the hour that they had
the daily religious training.

124

00:06:41,100 --> 00:06:42,300

The nuns didn't like me.

125

00:06:42,300 --> 00:06:45,420

And they thought that I was
slow witted and insisted

126

00:06:45,420 --> 00:06:53,520

that I be trained to learn how
to read and how to do math.

127

00:06:53,520 --> 00:06:54,450

I was very slow.

128

00:06:54,450 --> 00:06:57,390

And I seem to recall sitting in
front of the room in disgrace

129

00:06:57,390 --> 00:07:00,240

all the time.

130

00:07:00,240 --> 00:07:03,530

It sounds like your house was
obviously not a religious home,

131

00:07:03,530 --> 00:07:05,250

in no way observant.

132

00:07:05,250 --> 00:07:07,300

Oh, my father was
very observant.

133

00:07:07,300 --> 00:07:07,950

Oh, he was?

134

00:07:07,950 --> 00:07:08,460

Oh yes.

135

00:07:08,460 --> 00:07:10,140

He was Conservative.

136

00:07:10,140 --> 00:07:12,090

And oh no.

137

00:07:12,090 --> 00:07:13,860

Do you remember any
holidays you observed?

138

00:07:13,860 --> 00:07:14,560

Oh yeah.

139

00:07:14,560 --> 00:07:15,060

Like what?

140

00:07:15,060 --> 00:07:15,775

Can you--

141

00:07:15,775 --> 00:07:16,275

Absolutely.

142

00:07:16,275 --> 00:07:20,806

I can still rattle off
[PRAYING IN HEBREW]..

143

00:07:20,806 --> 00:07:21,306

Of course.

144

00:07:21,306 --> 00:07:21,920

So you did.

145

00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:22,500

Yeah.

146

00:07:22,500 --> 00:07:28,560

And he convinced my mother
to light the Shabbos candles.

147

00:07:28,560 --> 00:07:32,090

And she would cook carp and all
the special foods and all that.

148

00:07:32,090 --> 00:07:33,900

Yes.

149

00:07:33,900 --> 00:07:36,060

My father was very
tolerant of this.

150

00:07:36,060 --> 00:07:39,450

But he prayed daily.

151

00:07:39,450 --> 00:07:40,800

Did you belong to a synagogue?

152

00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:41,340

Excuse me?

153

00:07:41,340 --> 00:07:43,620

Did the family belong
to a synagogue?

154

00:07:43,620 --> 00:07:45,160

I have no idea what they did.

155

00:07:45,160 --> 00:07:47,220

I think everybody had to.

156

00:07:47,220 --> 00:07:50,900

I don't think that, in
Austria, you had any choice.

157

00:07:50,900 --> 00:07:54,280
But do remember going
to the synagogue?

158
00:07:54,280 --> 00:07:55,160
As a small child?

159
00:07:55,160 --> 00:07:55,660
Yeah.

160
00:07:55,660 --> 00:07:56,160
No.

161
00:07:56,160 --> 00:07:59,360
I don't have any recollection.

162
00:07:59,360 --> 00:08:02,980
So I don't have
many recollections

163
00:08:02,980 --> 00:08:05,840
because, let's see, we left
when I was eight years old.

164
00:08:05,840 --> 00:08:06,340
Yes.

165
00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:07,100
I know.

166
00:08:07,100 --> 00:08:10,283
And it was quite traumatic.

167
00:08:10,283 --> 00:08:11,200
We'll talk about that.

168
00:08:11,200 --> 00:08:14,320
It wiped out a lot of memories
that I would otherwise

169
00:08:14,320 --> 00:08:15,100
have perhaps.

170
00:08:15,100 --> 00:08:16,000
I'm sure.

171
00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:18,130
I just want to talk a
little bit about your life

172
00:08:18,130 --> 00:08:20,530
before 1938 a little more.

173
00:08:20,530 --> 00:08:24,500
Did you have any Jewish friends
in the neighborhood or--

174
00:08:24,500 --> 00:08:25,280
No.

175
00:08:25,280 --> 00:08:26,030
No.

176
00:08:26,030 --> 00:08:26,740
No.

177
00:08:26,740 --> 00:08:32,080
I don't recall having had any
other friend other than Herbert

178
00:08:32,080 --> 00:08:37,690
upstairs and his babysitter,
or whatever you call them.

179
00:08:37,690 --> 00:08:40,840
Nursemaid, housekeeper and mine.

180
00:08:40,840 --> 00:08:44,860
We would go out together, like
going skating and whatnot.

181
00:08:44,860 --> 00:08:47,680

182

00:08:47,680 --> 00:08:50,010

What about Freddy?

183

00:08:50,010 --> 00:08:50,880

Oh no.

184

00:08:50,880 --> 00:08:55,430

Those were relatives that
frequently came to see us.

185

00:08:55,430 --> 00:08:58,303

My father's family frequently
came to see us from,

186

00:08:58,303 --> 00:08:59,720

I don't know from
where they were.

187

00:08:59,720 --> 00:09:01,610

I don't know whether
they were in Klagenfurt

188

00:09:01,610 --> 00:09:05,270

or whether they were in
Vienna or where they were.

189

00:09:05,270 --> 00:09:09,290

But my favorite cousin Vera was
very glamorous, very beautiful.

190

00:09:09,290 --> 00:09:11,480

A few years older than me.

191

00:09:11,480 --> 00:09:16,400

And my father had a sister
by the name of Stella.

192

00:09:16,400 --> 00:09:20,810

And they were all
in Vienna, I guess.

193

00:09:20,810 --> 00:09:22,730

The time I saw
them frequently was

194
00:09:22,730 --> 00:09:25,190
after we had to move to Vienna.

195
00:09:25,190 --> 00:09:28,460
Other than that, we got
photographs of them visiting us

196
00:09:28,460 --> 00:09:30,530
in our place in Klagenfurt.

197
00:09:30,530 --> 00:09:33,270
What about your mother's family?

198
00:09:33,270 --> 00:09:37,580
Well, my mother's
parents were retired.

199
00:09:37,580 --> 00:09:39,980
I have no idea what
they did before.

200
00:09:39,980 --> 00:09:46,260
But they moved to Klagenfurt
to be near my mother and me.

201
00:09:46,260 --> 00:09:51,730
And every day, when
I went to school,

202
00:09:51,730 --> 00:09:55,140
my father would take
me, walk me to school.

203
00:09:55,140 --> 00:09:58,020
I would run after him
because he walked so fast.

204
00:09:58,020 --> 00:10:01,740
And my grandfather, my
mother's father, Otto Schwartz,

205

00:10:01,740 --> 00:10:06,840
would pick me up after
school and take me

206

00:10:06,840 --> 00:10:10,170
either to the candy store
to get one piece of candy

207

00:10:10,170 --> 00:10:13,590
or else to the
coffeehouses, where

208

00:10:13,590 --> 00:10:19,650
he would sit and sip coffee and
read international newspapers.

209

00:10:19,650 --> 00:10:24,540
Then they would take me to
the little shop that they had.

210

00:10:24,540 --> 00:10:28,830
It was no larger
than this room here.

211

00:10:28,830 --> 00:10:32,460
And they had imported fabrics,
beautiful fabrics from Scotland

212

00:10:32,460 --> 00:10:38,190
and whatnot, wools for
hand tailoring suits.

213

00:10:38,190 --> 00:10:42,510
Julie, his wife,
would run the shop.

214

00:10:42,510 --> 00:10:49,650
He sat out front outside rolling
cigarettes and translating

215

00:10:49,650 --> 00:10:51,300
German into Esperanto.

216
00:10:51,300 --> 00:10:53,730

217
00:10:53,730 --> 00:10:55,230
What language did
you speak at home?

218
00:10:55,230 --> 00:10:56,050
German?

219
00:10:56,050 --> 00:10:56,550
Yeah.

220
00:10:56,550 --> 00:10:57,825
That was the only language.

221
00:10:57,825 --> 00:10:58,325
OK.

222
00:10:58,325 --> 00:10:59,550
Not Yiddish at all?

223
00:10:59,550 --> 00:11:01,680
Never.

224
00:11:01,680 --> 00:11:05,580
Yiddish was basically done
by Southern Europeans.

225
00:11:05,580 --> 00:11:10,610
People who could speak
German spoke German.

226
00:11:10,610 --> 00:11:12,590
They were rather
prejudiced against Yiddish.

227
00:11:12,590 --> 00:11:12,860
OK?

228

00:11:12,860 --> 00:11:13,380
Right.

229
00:11:13,380 --> 00:11:14,730
No one ever spoke Yiddish.

230
00:11:14,730 --> 00:11:15,340
Yeah.

231
00:11:15,340 --> 00:11:16,410
It was looked down upon.

232
00:11:16,410 --> 00:11:17,410
Yeah.

233
00:11:17,410 --> 00:11:20,420
So I know you left when
you were very young.

234
00:11:20,420 --> 00:11:23,040
But do you have any
memories that you

235
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:24,810
can recall about
when things started

236
00:11:24,810 --> 00:11:26,040
to get a little difficult?

237
00:11:26,040 --> 00:11:27,030
Oh yeah.

238
00:11:27,030 --> 00:11:28,385
This is before you left?

239
00:11:28,385 --> 00:11:29,010
Before we left.

240
00:11:29,010 --> 00:11:29,520
Yeah.

241
00:11:29,520 --> 00:11:30,110
OK.

242
00:11:30,110 --> 00:11:35,580
There we were one day, I've
told this to my daughter

243
00:11:35,580 --> 00:11:36,330
several times.

244
00:11:36,330 --> 00:11:38,850

245
00:11:38,850 --> 00:11:47,190
One day, suddenly, there
were troops in Klagenfurt.

246
00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:50,160
And I went to school.

247
00:11:50,160 --> 00:11:54,360
And they sang Deutschland,
Deutschland, Uber Alles.

248
00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:57,870
And the miracle was that
everybody in the class

249
00:11:57,870 --> 00:12:00,180
knew all the words
and how to sing it.

250
00:12:00,180 --> 00:12:03,060
And then they were
doing Heil, Hitler.

251
00:12:03,060 --> 00:12:06,760
And they all knew how
to do these things.

252
00:12:06,760 --> 00:12:13,080
The very day after Anschluss,

annexation in English.

253

00:12:13,080 --> 00:12:19,770

And I recall one of my
friends in class, Herta,

254

00:12:19,770 --> 00:12:21,570

she kept raising
her hand because she

255

00:12:21,570 --> 00:12:23,090

wanted to go to the bathroom.

256

00:12:23,090 --> 00:12:26,850

And the teacher thought she was
saying Heil, Hitler too much

257

00:12:26,850 --> 00:12:28,200

and wouldn't let her go.

258

00:12:28,200 --> 00:12:34,980

And next thing you know, she
evacuated right there in class.

259

00:12:34,980 --> 00:12:35,820

And we all laughed.

260

00:12:35,820 --> 00:12:37,800

And the nun was very,
very angry at us.

261

00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:40,350

262

00:12:40,350 --> 00:12:41,910

OK?

263

00:12:41,910 --> 00:12:44,058

Had you heard of a man
named Hitler by that time?

264

00:12:44,058 --> 00:12:44,850

Now, wait a minute.

265
00:12:44,850 --> 00:12:45,720
I'm getting to that.

266
00:12:45,720 --> 00:12:46,220
OK.

267
00:12:46,220 --> 00:12:48,720

268
00:12:48,720 --> 00:12:52,040
And when I went home,
when I got home,

269
00:12:52,040 --> 00:12:55,440
the baby sitter, housekeeper,
whatever she was,

270
00:12:55,440 --> 00:12:56,220
took me downtown.

271
00:12:56,220 --> 00:12:59,310

272
00:12:59,310 --> 00:13:01,830
And there was this man-- this
was my recollection-- there

273
00:13:01,830 --> 00:13:05,520
was this man with a funny
hairdo and funny mustache

274
00:13:05,520 --> 00:13:06,490
and a uniform.

275
00:13:06,490 --> 00:13:08,340
And he was screaming
and shouting.

276
00:13:08,340 --> 00:13:10,660
And everybody was

heil Hitlering.

277

00:13:10,660 --> 00:13:13,380

278

00:13:13,380 --> 00:13:17,130

The next day or the same day,
almost immediately, Herbert

279

00:13:17,130 --> 00:13:19,890

came to see me and
said his mother said we

280

00:13:19,890 --> 00:13:21,270

could no longer play together.

281

00:13:21,270 --> 00:13:24,720

He was forbidden to talk to me.

282

00:13:24,720 --> 00:13:28,740

The school told me I could
no longer go to school there.

283

00:13:28,740 --> 00:13:33,330

Doctor Strite, the
pediatrician, said

284

00:13:33,330 --> 00:13:34,730

he could no longer treat us.

285

00:13:34,730 --> 00:13:37,550

286

00:13:37,550 --> 00:13:39,800

And then a short while
after that, an edict

287

00:13:39,800 --> 00:13:42,770

came that everybody
who was Jewish

288

00:13:42,770 --> 00:13:50,150

had to resume or acquire
Jewish or Hebrew name

289
00:13:50,150 --> 00:13:52,070
and wear a yellow star.

290
00:13:52,070 --> 00:13:54,260
And everyone had
to leave and move

291
00:13:54,260 --> 00:14:01,030
to the first section
[GERMAN] of Vienna.

292
00:14:01,030 --> 00:14:04,730
Find relatives or
anything to go there.

293
00:14:04,730 --> 00:14:09,135
And so, we moved into the small
flat of my father's father.

294
00:14:09,135 --> 00:14:12,130

295
00:14:12,130 --> 00:14:15,020
Shmuel Laufer was his name.

296
00:14:15,020 --> 00:14:18,370
I think he went by Samuel.

297
00:14:18,370 --> 00:14:20,680
But his name was Shmuel.

298
00:14:20,680 --> 00:14:25,750
His wife had died a number
of years earlier, Esther.

299
00:14:25,750 --> 00:14:28,580
She had died earlier.

300
00:14:28,580 --> 00:14:31,273

And everybody descended
on this little apartment.

301
00:14:31,273 --> 00:14:32,690
It was on one of
the upper floors.

302
00:14:32,690 --> 00:14:35,270

303
00:14:35,270 --> 00:14:39,050
Flats, they called
them in those days.

304
00:14:39,050 --> 00:14:40,310
Can we back up a little bit?

305
00:14:40,310 --> 00:14:43,370
When the young boy came
and said he couldn't play

306
00:14:43,370 --> 00:14:45,890
with you, when the
pediatrician said--

307
00:14:45,890 --> 00:14:48,170
Everybody said they
couldn't deal with us.

308
00:14:48,170 --> 00:14:49,160
I know you were young.

309
00:14:49,160 --> 00:14:54,320
Do you remember how you felt
as a young child, young girl?

310
00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:55,200
Was it upsetting?

311
00:14:55,200 --> 00:14:57,440
Do you remember
being very upset?

312
00:14:57,440 --> 00:14:58,100
Frightened?

313
00:14:58,100 --> 00:15:01,968

314
00:15:01,968 --> 00:15:02,510
Or accepting?

315
00:15:02,510 --> 00:15:03,620
Just total confusion.

316
00:15:03,620 --> 00:15:04,460
Confusion.

317
00:15:04,460 --> 00:15:07,080
I don't really recall,
other than total confusion,

318
00:15:07,080 --> 00:15:10,810
like what in God's
name is happening?

319
00:15:10,810 --> 00:15:12,572
And when the troops
came into your school

320
00:15:12,572 --> 00:15:13,740
room, what was that like?

321
00:15:13,740 --> 00:15:14,240
No no.

322
00:15:14,240 --> 00:15:15,650
No troops came to our school.

323
00:15:15,650 --> 00:15:17,280
I thought you said soldiers
came to the school.

324
00:15:17,280 --> 00:15:17,780

No.

325

00:15:17,780 --> 00:15:20,060

We went, my babysitter
or whatever it is

326

00:15:20,060 --> 00:15:22,740

took me downtown after school.

327

00:15:22,740 --> 00:15:24,787

And I think it was after school.

328

00:15:24,787 --> 00:15:26,120

Anyhow, it was in the afternoon.

329

00:15:26,120 --> 00:15:28,760

330

00:15:28,760 --> 00:15:31,040

Although it doesn't
make sense, but anyhow

331

00:15:31,040 --> 00:15:33,210

she took me into town.

332

00:15:33,210 --> 00:15:35,030

And when you saw
those troops, what did

333

00:15:35,030 --> 00:15:36,560

that mean to you as a child?

334

00:15:36,560 --> 00:15:39,280

335

00:15:39,280 --> 00:15:40,010

I don't recall.

336

00:15:40,010 --> 00:15:41,180

OK.

337

00:15:41,180 --> 00:15:41,810
I don't recall.

338
00:15:41,810 --> 00:15:42,530
OK.

339
00:15:42,530 --> 00:15:48,860
It wasn't anything you would
see in a very half rural town.

340
00:15:48,860 --> 00:15:50,133
It was a very quiet town.

341
00:15:50,133 --> 00:15:52,050
You wouldn't have seen
such a thing as troops.

342
00:15:52,050 --> 00:15:54,500
How far away from Vienna was it?

343
00:15:54,500 --> 00:15:56,210
Six hours by slow train.

344
00:15:56,210 --> 00:15:57,470
Six hours.

345
00:15:57,470 --> 00:15:59,810
So it was in the countryside?

346
00:15:59,810 --> 00:16:03,650
Klagenfurt was a capital of
Corinthia in the Roman Empire.

347
00:16:03,650 --> 00:16:05,126
Oh OK.

348
00:16:05,126 --> 00:16:07,100
[LAUGHTER]

349
00:16:07,100 --> 00:16:09,380
Six hours by slow train.

350

00:16:09,380 --> 00:16:14,150

When we visited Austria
many years later,

351

00:16:14,150 --> 00:16:16,430

it was still six
hours by slow train.

352

00:16:16,430 --> 00:16:18,080

OK.

353

00:16:18,080 --> 00:16:23,300

But when my daughter
was three years old--

354

00:16:23,300 --> 00:16:24,500

when did we go to India?

355

00:16:24,500 --> 00:16:25,710

Maybe five or six.

356

00:16:25,710 --> 00:16:27,080

OK.

357

00:16:27,080 --> 00:16:30,090

It was still six hours by train.

358

00:16:30,090 --> 00:16:31,100

So now you've moved.

359

00:16:31,100 --> 00:16:33,430

How did it feel as,
again, a young child

360

00:16:33,430 --> 00:16:35,180

to have to leave your
home and move into--

361

00:16:35,180 --> 00:16:36,380

I have no recollection.

362

00:16:36,380 --> 00:16:36,980
You have no recollection.

363
00:16:36,980 --> 00:16:37,670
I have no recollection.

364
00:16:37,670 --> 00:16:38,375
OK.

365
00:16:38,375 --> 00:16:39,540
I have no recollection.

366
00:16:39,540 --> 00:16:41,240
And my next
recollection is being

367
00:16:41,240 --> 00:16:43,950
in the small, stuffy
apartment with all

368
00:16:43,950 --> 00:16:45,530
of these many relatives.

369
00:16:45,530 --> 00:16:46,700
My mother was desperate.

370
00:16:46,700 --> 00:16:49,760
She finally-- oh yeah.

371
00:16:49,760 --> 00:16:51,710
My mother's story.

372
00:16:51,710 --> 00:16:55,070
My mother was a master milliner
and had a very successful store

373
00:16:55,070 --> 00:16:57,170
as a milliner.

374
00:16:57,170 --> 00:16:59,960
And everyone, all the ladies
wore hats all the time

375
00:16:59,960 --> 00:17:01,680
in public at that time.

376
00:17:01,680 --> 00:17:05,720
So that was very successful.

377
00:17:05,720 --> 00:17:09,410
Several years earlier,
she had fired Dorothea,

378
00:17:09,410 --> 00:17:12,650
one of her apprentices,
because she

379
00:17:12,650 --> 00:17:17,780
was stealing from customers
and from the store.

380
00:17:17,780 --> 00:17:26,030
And after Anschluss, Dorothea
came with an SS officer

381
00:17:26,030 --> 00:17:29,000
and said for my
mother to get out.

382
00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:30,720
This now belongs to Dorothea.

383
00:17:30,720 --> 00:17:34,760

384
00:17:34,760 --> 00:17:35,260
No.

385
00:17:35,260 --> 00:17:36,640
Don't take anything with you.

386
00:17:36,640 --> 00:17:37,210
Just go.

387

00:17:37,210 --> 00:17:41,810

388

00:17:41,810 --> 00:17:46,370

My mother's brother
Schwartz, meanwhile,

389

00:17:46,370 --> 00:17:50,450

had married a very
beautiful Catholic girl

390

00:17:50,450 --> 00:17:53,330

by the name of Annie.

391

00:17:53,330 --> 00:17:57,410

Very stylish, very
beautiful, very tall.

392

00:17:57,410 --> 00:18:00,897

She advised him, take all
your money out of the bank.

393

00:18:00,897 --> 00:18:02,480

You don't know what's
going to happen.

394

00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:08,560

And they put it in a paper bag.

395

00:18:08,560 --> 00:18:13,700

And she said she accidentally
threw it in the trash.

396

00:18:13,700 --> 00:18:17,740

They spent two days at the city
dump looking for the money.

397

00:18:17,740 --> 00:18:19,430

Of course, they never found her.

398

00:18:19,430 --> 00:18:22,810

And of course, she was seen next

with an SS officer, as well.

399

00:18:22,810 --> 00:18:26,135

400

00:18:26,135 --> 00:18:28,510

I don't know what happened to
Richard and my grandparents

401

00:18:28,510 --> 00:18:32,620

at that point, my mother's
family, until later.

402

00:18:32,620 --> 00:18:35,320

403

00:18:35,320 --> 00:18:35,820

So now--

404

00:18:35,820 --> 00:18:36,720

I never saw them.

405

00:18:36,720 --> 00:18:38,160

No, I never saw them again.

406

00:18:38,160 --> 00:18:41,150

407

00:18:41,150 --> 00:18:47,570

And so, we moved to Vienna
with all the other relatives

408

00:18:47,570 --> 00:18:51,510

on my father's side.

409

00:18:51,510 --> 00:18:52,560

And--

410

00:18:52,560 --> 00:18:54,390

Did you take anything
special with you?

411

00:18:54,390 --> 00:18:56,200

Oh, my mother was so happy.

412

00:18:56,200 --> 00:19:00,150

She had finally rund

bau, she called it.

413

00:19:00,150 --> 00:19:05,310

All the furniture was inlaid

and had round corners.

414

00:19:05,310 --> 00:19:09,300

And she was so thrilled

with it, she finally had it.

415

00:19:09,300 --> 00:19:12,270

And of course, she

couldn't take that.

416

00:19:12,270 --> 00:19:14,370

But I don't know how she did it.

417

00:19:14,370 --> 00:19:22,150

But in this very small

apartment upstairs in Vienna,

418

00:19:22,150 --> 00:19:27,000

she had brought the dresser, the

dresser with the tall mirror,

419

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:29,070

vanity, whatever you call it.

420

00:19:29,070 --> 00:19:30,360

It was not a dresser.

421

00:19:30,360 --> 00:19:33,180

It was a vanity

with a tall mirror.

422

00:19:33,180 --> 00:19:36,030

And every day,

she would dust it.

423

00:19:36,030 --> 00:19:39,000

And she would be
so sad because she

424

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:42,360

had left the rest of the
bedroom furniture there.

425

00:19:42,360 --> 00:19:45,510

And then being her
and dusting every day,

426

00:19:45,510 --> 00:19:51,570

one day it was Saturday,
she dusted the vanity

427

00:19:51,570 --> 00:19:55,860

and shook the dust
cloth out the window

428

00:19:55,860 --> 00:20:00,630

to the horror of
my father's family

429

00:20:00,630 --> 00:20:02,220

because it was the Sabbath.

430

00:20:02,220 --> 00:20:03,440

You don't dust on Sabbath.

431

00:20:03,440 --> 00:20:04,660

Oh yeah.

432

00:20:04,660 --> 00:20:06,630

OK?

433

00:20:06,630 --> 00:20:14,940

Very vivid recollection of
her daily stroking the vanity.

434

00:20:14,940 --> 00:20:18,120

So how long were you
there in that apartment?

435

00:20:18,120 --> 00:20:19,120

I don't know.

436

00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:19,620

Until you--

437

00:20:19,620 --> 00:20:21,448

Not long.

438

00:20:21,448 --> 00:20:21,990

A few months.

439

00:20:21,990 --> 00:20:26,460

We had to have black curtains
in front of all the windows

440

00:20:26,460 --> 00:20:30,510

so it couldn't be seen from the
street that people were there.

441

00:20:30,510 --> 00:20:33,290

442

00:20:33,290 --> 00:20:38,400

And one day, I mean, every once
in a while, we would peak out.

443

00:20:38,400 --> 00:20:39,910

And they would get
very angry at me

444

00:20:39,910 --> 00:20:42,760

for trying to peek at the
corner to see what was going on.

445

00:20:42,760 --> 00:20:47,060

And I'd see all these
armed boys marching around.

446

00:20:47,060 --> 00:20:48,190

Was that scary?

447

00:20:48,190 --> 00:20:53,200

One day, there had been
an impromptu synagogue

448

00:20:53,200 --> 00:20:54,940

next door downstairs.

449

00:20:54,940 --> 00:20:56,680

And that was burned down.

450

00:20:56,680 --> 00:20:59,080

Thank goodness they
put the fire out.

451

00:20:59,080 --> 00:21:03,520

They had some kind of
impromptu schooling, as well.

452

00:21:03,520 --> 00:21:07,390

And the teachers remarked
what a good student I was

453

00:21:07,390 --> 00:21:09,290

and how brilliant I was.

454

00:21:09,290 --> 00:21:11,710

And I don't know how I
suddenly, within days,

455

00:21:11,710 --> 00:21:17,530

became from the village
idiot to being brilliant.

456

00:21:17,530 --> 00:21:19,300

But whatever.

457

00:21:19,300 --> 00:21:24,930

Miraculously, I suddenly
became very intelligent.

458

00:21:24,930 --> 00:21:26,990

So there was an
impromptu school.

459

00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:30,860

But it was very crowded there.

460

00:21:30,860 --> 00:21:37,310

And there was, one day,
it was especially bad.

461

00:21:37,310 --> 00:21:39,413

And some SA--

462

00:21:39,413 --> 00:21:40,580

SA were the younger fellows.

463

00:21:40,580 --> 00:21:43,040

SS were the stormtroops.

464

00:21:43,040 --> 00:21:46,000

And the SA were like scouts.

465

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:48,860

466

00:21:48,860 --> 00:21:51,520

They marched also with them.

467

00:21:51,520 --> 00:21:55,070

And they were, of course, young
boys were the most vicious.

468

00:21:55,070 --> 00:21:57,170

They came upstairs one day.

469

00:21:57,170 --> 00:21:59,830

And they were
looking for things.

470

00:21:59,830 --> 00:22:02,990
Unfortunately,
nobody had anything.

471
00:22:02,990 --> 00:22:06,390
But they threw some
furniture out the window.

472
00:22:06,390 --> 00:22:08,955
But then they left.

473
00:22:08,955 --> 00:22:10,080
Were you there at the time?

474
00:22:10,080 --> 00:22:13,880
I recall one of them actually
looked at me and smiled.

475
00:22:13,880 --> 00:22:15,230
Oh, I was a little kid.

476
00:22:15,230 --> 00:22:15,980
Eight years old.

477
00:22:15,980 --> 00:22:16,700
I have no idea.

478
00:22:16,700 --> 00:22:18,590
With a big white bow in my hair.

479
00:22:18,590 --> 00:22:21,120

480
00:22:21,120 --> 00:22:24,410
And after that, my father
decided we're leaving.

481
00:22:24,410 --> 00:22:27,710

482
00:22:27,710 --> 00:22:31,160
Up to that point, did your

parents sit down with you

483

00:22:31,160 --> 00:22:33,200

and explain to you
what was happening?

484

00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:33,860

I don't know.

485

00:22:33,860 --> 00:22:35,107

You don't?

486

00:22:35,107 --> 00:22:36,440

You don't remember asking them--

487

00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:38,720

I don't know.

488

00:22:38,720 --> 00:22:41,640

My mother was always in danger
of being half hysterical.

489

00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:43,190

I have no idea.

490

00:22:43,190 --> 00:22:45,290

She was always very
frightened, your mother?

491

00:22:45,290 --> 00:22:46,060

About everything.

492

00:22:46,060 --> 00:22:46,950

Yes.

493

00:22:46,950 --> 00:22:47,450

You know.

494

00:22:47,450 --> 00:22:47,960

Why me?

495

00:22:47,960 --> 00:22:48,835
Et cetera, et cetera.

496
00:22:48,835 --> 00:22:52,620

497
00:22:52,620 --> 00:22:58,960
And my mother was real
intellectual or whatever.

498
00:22:58,960 --> 00:23:01,040
So did you know
what was happening?

499
00:23:01,040 --> 00:23:02,290
I mean, I know you were young.

500
00:23:02,290 --> 00:23:04,290
You were only eight.

501
00:23:04,290 --> 00:23:04,850
I don't know.

502
00:23:04,850 --> 00:23:09,160
But I have recollections,
my mother's family was--

503
00:23:09,160 --> 00:23:13,520
my mother had family in
Vienna who were Christian.

504
00:23:13,520 --> 00:23:17,350
And at least they
were Christians

505
00:23:17,350 --> 00:23:20,100
before the Nazis
got hold of them

506
00:23:20,100 --> 00:23:25,310
and didn't believe that
their Christianity went

507

00:23:25,310 --> 00:23:27,800

sufficient generations
back or something.

508

00:23:27,800 --> 00:23:34,340

Anyhow, I recall going with
my father and my mother and me

509

00:23:34,340 --> 00:23:41,380

and hiding in doorways, going
over to the other section

510

00:23:41,380 --> 00:23:46,370

and taking off the yellow stars
and going in the other section

511

00:23:46,370 --> 00:23:47,730

and hiding.

512

00:23:47,730 --> 00:23:52,160

And trying to stay there
until the pogroms were over.

513

00:23:52,160 --> 00:23:55,138

And you could go back home
during the day or something.

514

00:23:55,138 --> 00:23:56,180

And nothing would happen.

515

00:23:56,180 --> 00:23:58,710

516

00:23:58,710 --> 00:24:04,130

Just a recollection of
total fright and terror.

517

00:24:04,130 --> 00:24:05,905

After a while,
the relatives said

518

00:24:05,905 --> 00:24:08,030

they couldn't afford to
have us come there anymore.

519
00:24:08,030 --> 00:24:10,040
Of course.

520
00:24:10,040 --> 00:24:12,430
What did wearing a
yellow star mean to you?

521
00:24:12,430 --> 00:24:16,500

522
00:24:16,500 --> 00:24:18,170
That nobody could
tell who was a Jew

523
00:24:18,170 --> 00:24:20,930
and who wasn't unless
they had a yellow star.

524
00:24:20,930 --> 00:24:23,450
You couldn't tell by looking
at them, watching them,

525
00:24:23,450 --> 00:24:25,280
or anything else.

526
00:24:25,280 --> 00:24:28,520
Were you upset to
have to wear one?

527
00:24:28,520 --> 00:24:29,743
I don't recall.

528
00:24:29,743 --> 00:24:30,630
OK.

529
00:24:30,630 --> 00:24:31,820
I absolutely don't recall.

530
00:24:31,820 --> 00:24:36,230

531
00:24:36,230 --> 00:24:38,000
Anyhow, there we were.

532
00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:42,020
And my father said, after
this happened, a lot of noise

533
00:24:42,020 --> 00:24:44,150
and a lot of broken things.

534
00:24:44,150 --> 00:24:45,645
Is this Kristallnacht?

535
00:24:45,645 --> 00:24:46,770
I guess that's what it was.

536
00:24:46,770 --> 00:24:48,750
Yeah.

537
00:24:48,750 --> 00:24:50,800
He said we're leaving.

538
00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:52,340
And he got tickets.

539
00:24:52,340 --> 00:24:54,130
Since we had always
lived frugally,

540
00:24:54,130 --> 00:24:57,050
we were different
from all other people.

541
00:24:57,050 --> 00:24:58,730
We had enough money.

542
00:24:58,730 --> 00:25:01,790
Although my father was just a
window dressing and my mother's

543

00:25:01,790 --> 00:25:04,130

everything she had
was taken away,

544

00:25:04,130 --> 00:25:07,430

we had enough money
to go, to buy tickets,

545

00:25:07,430 --> 00:25:11,312

to go to China, which was
willing to take anybody.

546

00:25:11,312 --> 00:25:13,910

547

00:25:13,910 --> 00:25:17,720

And they laughed at him.

548

00:25:17,720 --> 00:25:19,140

I remember we were
sitting around.

549

00:25:19,140 --> 00:25:22,220

There was just one candle
and always sitting around.

550

00:25:22,220 --> 00:25:23,710

And they were laughing at him.

551

00:25:23,710 --> 00:25:25,860

They being your other relatives?

552

00:25:25,860 --> 00:25:27,980

His father and
all his relatives.

553

00:25:27,980 --> 00:25:28,760

OK.

554

00:25:28,760 --> 00:25:31,490

As to how could you
go someplace where

555
00:25:31,490 --> 00:25:33,197
it's so strange and different?

556
00:25:33,197 --> 00:25:35,155
And you don't know the
language and the custom.

557
00:25:35,155 --> 00:25:38,150
And they've got slanted
eyes and yellow skin.

558
00:25:38,150 --> 00:25:41,780
And nobody can
understand anything

559
00:25:41,780 --> 00:25:44,895
they're saying, even when they
speak German, which is true.

560
00:25:44,895 --> 00:25:47,270
You can't understand them when
they speak English and are

561
00:25:47,270 --> 00:25:48,080
speaking English.

562
00:25:48,080 --> 00:25:53,360
But anyhow, they made
complete fun of him.

563
00:25:53,360 --> 00:25:55,820
And they said
these classic words

564
00:25:55,820 --> 00:25:58,520
that he's being very foolish.

565
00:25:58,520 --> 00:26:02,950
That God will take care of them.

566
00:26:02,950 --> 00:26:05,300

They have lived good lives.

567

00:26:05,300 --> 00:26:07,230

Good God fearing lives.

568

00:26:07,230 --> 00:26:11,960

And God will take care of
them in the form of England

569

00:26:11,960 --> 00:26:13,220

and the United States.

570

00:26:13,220 --> 00:26:18,540

America and England would not
let anything happen to them.

571

00:26:18,540 --> 00:26:19,913

OK?

572

00:26:19,913 --> 00:26:21,830

They laughed at him and
said he was foolishly.

573

00:26:21,830 --> 00:26:24,020

He had no skill, no ability.

574

00:26:24,020 --> 00:26:25,830

What would he do?

575

00:26:25,830 --> 00:26:29,180

And he said, well,
his wife makes hats.

576

00:26:29,180 --> 00:26:31,200

And he would figure it out.

577

00:26:31,200 --> 00:26:33,540

OK?

578

00:26:33,540 --> 00:26:38,030

One of his sisters
apparently had

579
00:26:38,030 --> 00:26:43,690
a new husband who had more
energy than the other people

580
00:26:43,690 --> 00:26:44,860
there.

581
00:26:44,860 --> 00:26:47,740
And she had a daughter.

582
00:26:47,740 --> 00:26:49,360
Or maybe it was his daughter.

583
00:26:49,360 --> 00:26:52,360
I believe it was her daughter.

584
00:26:52,360 --> 00:26:56,060
And he said they were
moving to Sweden.

585
00:26:56,060 --> 00:26:58,370
And they laughed at him, too.

586
00:26:58,370 --> 00:26:59,260
What would he do?

587
00:26:59,260 --> 00:27:01,760
And he said he was
going to make soap.

588
00:27:01,760 --> 00:27:03,670
And I remember
they laughed, they

589
00:27:03,670 --> 00:27:06,170
had to hold their mouth so they
wouldn't make so much noise,

590
00:27:06,170 --> 00:27:07,280
they were laughing.

591

00:27:07,280 --> 00:27:08,740

Everybody already has soap.

592

00:27:08,740 --> 00:27:11,800

Why would they need
you to make soap?

593

00:27:11,800 --> 00:27:14,120

And what do you know
about making soap?

594

00:27:14,120 --> 00:27:16,100

Anyhow, there was a big candle.

595

00:27:16,100 --> 00:27:19,490

And he proceeded to make soap.

596

00:27:19,490 --> 00:27:22,575

He did make soap.

597

00:27:22,575 --> 00:27:27,470

I understand they
did move to Sweden.

598

00:27:27,470 --> 00:27:32,150

And I understand that the
daughter became a nurse.

599

00:27:32,150 --> 00:27:33,367

I don't know her name.

600

00:27:33,367 --> 00:27:34,700

I don't know their married name.

601

00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:35,670

I have no idea.

602

00:27:35,670 --> 00:27:37,790

I don't know his name,
his father's name.

603

00:27:37,790 --> 00:27:41,360

Anyhow, my father
also had a sister

604

00:27:41,360 --> 00:27:43,550

whose name was also Clara.

605

00:27:43,550 --> 00:27:48,430

And she was, I believe,
divorced or widowed.

606

00:27:48,430 --> 00:27:51,130

I think divorced or whatever.

607

00:27:51,130 --> 00:27:53,590

Anyhow, she didn't
have a husband.

608

00:27:53,590 --> 00:27:58,280

Her daughter Vera was
my favorite cousin.

609

00:27:58,280 --> 00:28:02,513

And they, of course, had
no money to go anywhere.

610

00:28:02,513 --> 00:28:06,300

611

00:28:06,300 --> 00:28:09,080

So we were going to
leave and go to China.

612

00:28:09,080 --> 00:28:11,390

My father went to some
kind of a building.

613

00:28:11,390 --> 00:28:14,150

I don't know whether it
was the Kultusgemeinde

614

00:28:14,150 --> 00:28:16,730

or whether it was a

government exit visa.

615

00:28:16,730 --> 00:28:18,260

I don't know what it was.

616

00:28:18,260 --> 00:28:20,750

Anyhow, he went there.

617

00:28:20,750 --> 00:28:23,240

And when he got there,
it had been occupied.

618

00:28:23,240 --> 00:28:26,060

And there was a
Kommandant sitting there.

619

00:28:26,060 --> 00:28:27,620

And there was blood on the wall.

620

00:28:27,620 --> 00:28:31,360

And he could hear men screaming.

621

00:28:31,360 --> 00:28:33,380

And it was my father's turn.

622

00:28:33,380 --> 00:28:37,620

And he said he went up
and said, Herr Kommandant,

623

00:28:37,620 --> 00:28:41,420

I'm a veteran of World
War I. I fought on behalf

624

00:28:41,420 --> 00:28:44,960

of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

625

00:28:44,960 --> 00:28:45,950

I'm a poor man.

626

00:28:45,950 --> 00:28:48,890

I'm a window dresser
without any skills.

627
00:28:48,890 --> 00:28:51,620
I have tickets to China.

628
00:28:51,620 --> 00:28:54,860
If you have seen the
movie Good Earth,

629
00:28:54,860 --> 00:28:58,370
you know that they are so
poor that they are even

630
00:28:58,370 --> 00:29:00,470
eating earth.

631
00:29:00,470 --> 00:29:04,070
Undoubtedly, we will be killed
there or starve to death

632
00:29:04,070 --> 00:29:05,660
or they will kill
us or we will die

633
00:29:05,660 --> 00:29:08,240
as a result of the
civil war they are in.

634
00:29:08,240 --> 00:29:09,590
You don't need us.

635
00:29:09,590 --> 00:29:14,600
And there's only me and
my wife and my daughter,

636
00:29:14,600 --> 00:29:15,590
my small daughter.

637
00:29:15,590 --> 00:29:21,980
And we will have tickets
to leave within two weeks.

638
00:29:21,980 --> 00:29:24,410

And the man said, let him go.

639

00:29:24,410 --> 00:29:26,570

As far as I know, he
was the only person

640

00:29:26,570 --> 00:29:29,570

who ever talked his way out
of a concentration camp.

641

00:29:29,570 --> 00:29:31,970

It's been my
inspiration all my life.

642

00:29:31,970 --> 00:29:34,028

Speak up.

643

00:29:34,028 --> 00:29:34,980

OK?

644

00:29:34,980 --> 00:29:39,680

Speak up, and have
something worthy to say.

645

00:29:39,680 --> 00:29:44,930

As he went out, a man
approached him and said,

646

00:29:44,930 --> 00:29:48,700

do you want tickets
to the Port of Spain?

647

00:29:48,700 --> 00:29:50,790

My father said, what's that?

648

00:29:50,790 --> 00:29:56,510

He said it's a British crown
colony in the Caribbean.

649

00:29:56,510 --> 00:29:59,540

And my father said he
asked, what's that?

650

00:29:59,540 --> 00:30:03,800
And the man told him it's a
small island opposite Venezuela

651

00:30:03,800 --> 00:30:08,570
that's owned by the British
and that he had gotten tickets

652

00:30:08,570 --> 00:30:11,480
where he wanted to go, namely
where everybody wanted to go.

653

00:30:11,480 --> 00:30:13,160
Argentina.

654

00:30:13,160 --> 00:30:20,690
And did my father want
his tickets to Trinidad?

655

00:30:20,690 --> 00:30:22,520
Of course, my father took it.

656

00:30:22,520 --> 00:30:24,620
I don't know whether he
paid or had the money

657

00:30:24,620 --> 00:30:27,020
or whether it was all
free in those days.

658

00:30:27,020 --> 00:30:30,680
You could only take 100 marks,
shillings whatever they had,

659

00:30:30,680 --> 00:30:31,860
out of the country.

660

00:30:31,860 --> 00:30:34,820
So it didn't make any difference
how much money you had

661

00:30:34,820 --> 00:30:36,380

or what you spent.

662

00:30:36,380 --> 00:30:39,660

Anyhow, I remember he
came back and said,

663

00:30:39,660 --> 00:30:42,590

we're going to Trinidad.

664

00:30:42,590 --> 00:30:45,950

And he offered his
tickets to China

665

00:30:45,950 --> 00:30:49,310

to the other relatives,
who just laughed.

666

00:30:49,310 --> 00:30:53,060

I don't know if eventually
they used them or what.

667

00:30:53,060 --> 00:30:54,030

I have no idea.

668

00:30:54,030 --> 00:30:56,270

I have no recollection
or knowledge

669

00:30:56,270 --> 00:30:57,740

of what happened
to the relatives

670

00:30:57,740 --> 00:30:59,410

after that, other than Clara.

671

00:30:59,410 --> 00:31:07,550

672

00:31:07,550 --> 00:31:14,400

Anyhow, we had to
go to Amsterdam.

673

00:31:14,400 --> 00:31:20,620

I believe we had 67
relatives when we left.

674

00:31:20,620 --> 00:31:23,290

675

00:31:23,290 --> 00:31:27,580

And we went by
train to Amsterdam,

676

00:31:27,580 --> 00:31:31,240

where we would wait until
the ship, the Cotica,

677

00:31:31,240 --> 00:31:35,080

would come and take
us on to Trinidad.

678

00:31:35,080 --> 00:31:37,842

What was it like again for
you to leave your extended

679

00:31:37,842 --> 00:31:38,800

family, your relatives?

680

00:31:38,800 --> 00:31:40,704

I have no idea.

681

00:31:40,704 --> 00:31:43,840

I have no idea.

682

00:31:43,840 --> 00:31:46,600

A small child excited
about leaving.

683

00:31:46,600 --> 00:31:48,140

And my mother desperate.

684

00:31:48,140 --> 00:31:52,060

She had to leave her
vanity and her furniture.

685

00:31:52,060 --> 00:31:53,050

That I recalled.

686

00:31:53,050 --> 00:31:54,760

But she wanted to leave?

687

00:31:54,760 --> 00:31:55,570

Oh yes.

688

00:31:55,570 --> 00:31:56,890

She also wanted to leave.

689

00:31:56,890 --> 00:31:58,960

Oh, of course.

690

00:31:58,960 --> 00:32:00,520

They were devoted to each other.

691

00:32:00,520 --> 00:32:03,580

I mean, they were married

48 years until he died.

692

00:32:03,580 --> 00:32:05,770

They argued all the time.

693

00:32:05,770 --> 00:32:07,390

But they were devoted

to each other.

694

00:32:07,390 --> 00:32:10,990

Did you take anything special,

a special doll or a special book

695

00:32:10,990 --> 00:32:11,680

or special toy?

696

00:32:11,680 --> 00:32:12,370

Nothing.

697

00:32:12,370 --> 00:32:12,910

Anything?

698
00:32:12,910 --> 00:32:13,410
Nothing.

699
00:32:13,410 --> 00:32:19,240
My parents have
two big containers,

700
00:32:19,240 --> 00:32:25,060
those big containers in which
they had eiderdowns and woolen

701
00:32:25,060 --> 00:32:28,002
suits and woolen socks.

702
00:32:28,002 --> 00:32:29,710
All of which, of
course, you wouldn't use

703
00:32:29,710 --> 00:32:31,285
in Trinidad, which is tropical.

704
00:32:31,285 --> 00:32:35,320

705
00:32:35,320 --> 00:32:38,560
I forgot about
Pauline, my pet goose.

706
00:32:38,560 --> 00:32:39,060
Oh.

707
00:32:39,060 --> 00:32:42,210
Well, tell me about Pauline.

708
00:32:42,210 --> 00:32:48,930
As we were leaving Klagenfurt
one day, we were eating a meal.

709
00:32:48,930 --> 00:32:51,620
We were having a
going away meal.

710
00:32:51,620 --> 00:32:54,510
And I said, what's this?

711
00:32:54,510 --> 00:32:57,850
It doesn't taste like chicken.

712
00:32:57,850 --> 00:32:58,350
Oh dear.

713
00:32:58,350 --> 00:33:00,480
They said it was Pauline.

714
00:33:00,480 --> 00:33:04,840

715
00:33:04,840 --> 00:33:09,320
They ate Pauline,
my little goose.

716
00:33:09,320 --> 00:33:11,200
[LAUGHTER]

717
00:33:11,200 --> 00:33:12,060
Oh dear.

718
00:33:12,060 --> 00:33:12,560
Oh dear.

719
00:33:12,560 --> 00:33:13,600
That was sad.

720
00:33:13,600 --> 00:33:14,770
That is very sad.

721
00:33:14,770 --> 00:33:16,103
The things that you remember.

722
00:33:16,103 --> 00:33:16,603
Yeah.

723

00:33:16,603 --> 00:33:19,193

You forget most everything.

724

00:33:19,193 --> 00:33:22,290

725

00:33:22,290 --> 00:33:22,790

Thank you.

726

00:33:22,790 --> 00:33:24,180

I'm losing my voice, as usual.

727

00:33:24,180 --> 00:33:29,060

728

00:33:29,060 --> 00:33:29,660

Where was I?

729

00:33:29,660 --> 00:33:33,860

Oh, we were going by
train to Amsterdam.

730

00:33:33,860 --> 00:33:35,840

And we were sitting
in the compartment.

731

00:33:35,840 --> 00:33:39,810

There was a man who sat opposite
us in the same compartment.

732

00:33:39,810 --> 00:33:41,880

Now, this is November
'38 we're talking about?

733

00:33:41,880 --> 00:33:42,380

'38.

734

00:33:42,380 --> 00:33:43,430

Yes.

735

00:33:43,430 --> 00:33:45,410

We left almost immediately.

736

00:33:45,410 --> 00:33:46,857

We left almost immediately--

737

00:33:46,857 --> 00:33:47,690

After Kristallnacht.

738

00:33:47,690 --> 00:33:48,590

Yeah.

739

00:33:48,590 --> 00:33:52,860

We landed in Trinidad
in December of '38.

740

00:33:52,860 --> 00:33:54,470

So we left almost immediately.

741

00:33:54,470 --> 00:33:56,240

And we were on this train.

742

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:58,880

And this man was
sitting next to us.

743

00:33:58,880 --> 00:34:01,280

Apparently, he wanted to talk.

744

00:34:01,280 --> 00:34:04,070

And he wanted to ask my
father how much money

745

00:34:04,070 --> 00:34:06,940

was he hiding in the suitcase.

746

00:34:06,940 --> 00:34:08,300

And my father was horrified.

747

00:34:08,300 --> 00:34:12,409

Because my father was the most
honest person you've ever met.

748

00:34:12,409 --> 00:34:15,630

Even to people who wanted to
kill you, exterminate you,

749

00:34:15,630 --> 00:34:18,199

he was going to
obey what they said.

750

00:34:18,199 --> 00:34:20,610

He would never have
done anything like that.

751

00:34:20,610 --> 00:34:21,290

He was shocked.

752

00:34:21,290 --> 00:34:24,469

Anyhow, the man said he
had emptied his suitcase.

753

00:34:24,469 --> 00:34:30,679

And he had fixed it so that he
had a lot of money and jewelry

754

00:34:30,679 --> 00:34:31,429

or whatever it is.

755

00:34:31,429 --> 00:34:34,969

And my father said the only
jewelry we have we're wearing.

756

00:34:34,969 --> 00:34:37,310

There was a little locket.

757

00:34:37,310 --> 00:34:41,030

And my mother had a
couple of bracelets.

758

00:34:41,030 --> 00:34:43,409

And my father had a
watch or something.

759

00:34:43,409 --> 00:34:47,697

And I think maybe
two gold chains.

760
00:34:47,697 --> 00:34:48,739
They were in plain sight.

761
00:34:48,739 --> 00:34:50,460
We were wearing them.

762
00:34:50,460 --> 00:34:54,560
Anyhow, when we came
through the station,

763
00:34:54,560 --> 00:34:57,020
the SS agent came and
took the man away.

764
00:34:57,020 --> 00:34:59,540

765
00:34:59,540 --> 00:35:03,920
I mean, they overheard the
conversation, obviously.

766
00:35:03,920 --> 00:35:08,900
And then, too, the
agent looked at me

767
00:35:08,900 --> 00:35:12,470
and looked at my little
locket and my parents' chains

768
00:35:12,470 --> 00:35:13,450
and watch.

769
00:35:13,450 --> 00:35:16,040
And he just smiled
nicely, nodded his head,

770
00:35:16,040 --> 00:35:18,980
and left with the man.

771

00:35:18,980 --> 00:35:21,290

Did anybody ask
for your ID papers?

772

00:35:21,290 --> 00:35:22,190

I have no idea.

773

00:35:22,190 --> 00:35:24,250

I wouldn't know an ID
paper if I fell over one.

774

00:35:24,250 --> 00:35:24,750

OK.

775

00:35:24,750 --> 00:35:27,350

776

00:35:27,350 --> 00:35:36,500

We stayed in Amsterdam
until the ship arrived.

777

00:35:36,500 --> 00:35:38,720

And we were in a hotel room.

778

00:35:38,720 --> 00:35:43,160

And we were stunned
by what we saw.

779

00:35:43,160 --> 00:35:44,750

I don't think they
do this anymore.

780

00:35:44,750 --> 00:35:47,960

But every single morning,
we looked out the window.

781

00:35:47,960 --> 00:35:52,490

And before it was daybreak,
we would see housewives

782

00:35:52,490 --> 00:35:55,910

scrubbing their
steps with brushes.

783
00:35:55,910 --> 00:35:58,130
Every single day.

784
00:35:58,130 --> 00:36:02,300
They were so clean
in those days.

785
00:36:02,300 --> 00:36:04,550
Amsterdam was about
the cleanest place

786
00:36:04,550 --> 00:36:08,390
on the face of the universe.

787
00:36:08,390 --> 00:36:09,800
Eventually, the ship came.

788
00:36:09,800 --> 00:36:10,880
And we went--

789
00:36:10,880 --> 00:36:13,460
What did you do with
your yellow star?

790
00:36:13,460 --> 00:36:14,580
I don't know.

791
00:36:14,580 --> 00:36:17,270
I guess we threw it in the
trash as fast as we could.

792
00:36:17,270 --> 00:36:18,970
Who knows?

793
00:36:18,970 --> 00:36:22,190
We didn't keep it as a souvenir,
if that's what you mean.

794
00:36:22,190 --> 00:36:25,340
[LAUGHTER]

795

00:36:25,340 --> 00:36:28,140

I just didn't know whether you
remember taking it with you.

796

00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:28,640

No.

797

00:36:28,640 --> 00:36:29,140

No.

798

00:36:29,140 --> 00:36:29,910

You left it?

799

00:36:29,910 --> 00:36:30,410

No.

800

00:36:30,410 --> 00:36:31,280

No.

801

00:36:31,280 --> 00:36:34,960

No recollection of ever
seeing any such thing again.

802

00:36:34,960 --> 00:36:38,490

So how long did you
stay in Amsterdam?

803

00:36:38,490 --> 00:36:41,570

It was at least over a week.

804

00:36:41,570 --> 00:36:42,530

I don't recall.

805

00:36:42,530 --> 00:36:43,400

Yeah.

806

00:36:43,400 --> 00:36:45,605

Because I remember we were
going almost stir crazy.

807

00:36:45,605 --> 00:36:48,790

808
00:36:48,790 --> 00:36:54,990
Little kid, mother, father
in a small hotel room.

809
00:36:54,990 --> 00:36:57,910
Did you feel free to
walk on the streets?

810
00:36:57,910 --> 00:36:58,540
Yeah.

811
00:36:58,540 --> 00:37:00,510
But I have no
recollection doing it.

812
00:37:00,510 --> 00:37:01,060
Yeah.

813
00:37:01,060 --> 00:37:03,790
Just strange town, scary place.

814
00:37:03,790 --> 00:37:04,900
Whatever.

815
00:37:04,900 --> 00:37:08,840
No recollection of anything
other than the hotel room.

816
00:37:08,840 --> 00:37:12,560
Then the name of your boat
you said was the Cotica.

817
00:37:12,560 --> 00:37:13,060
Excuse me.

818
00:37:13,060 --> 00:37:13,960
The name of the boat?

819
00:37:13,960 --> 00:37:14,750
Cotica.

820
00:37:14,750 --> 00:37:15,250
How do you spell that?

821
00:37:15,250 --> 00:37:15,840
I don't know.

822
00:37:15,840 --> 00:37:16,390
OK.

823
00:37:16,390 --> 00:37:19,150
I would spell phonetically
with a C or K.

824
00:37:19,150 --> 00:37:21,270
I don't know what the Dutch did.

825
00:37:21,270 --> 00:37:25,100
O-T-T-I-C-A.

826
00:37:25,100 --> 00:37:26,640
And do you know
what line it was?

827
00:37:26,640 --> 00:37:27,140
No.

828
00:37:27,140 --> 00:37:28,860
OK.

829
00:37:28,860 --> 00:37:30,870
I haven't been able to
trace it on the internet.

830
00:37:30,870 --> 00:37:33,300
But its name was Cotica.

831
00:37:33,300 --> 00:37:35,910
And it was a Dutch
ship, as far as I know.

832

00:37:35,910 --> 00:37:37,790
So it was a Dutch line.

833
00:37:37,790 --> 00:37:39,300
So now you get on a boat.

834
00:37:39,300 --> 00:37:39,800
Yeah.

835
00:37:39,800 --> 00:37:40,850
Then we were on the boat.

836
00:37:40,850 --> 00:37:45,240

837
00:37:45,240 --> 00:37:47,340
To go from there
to Trinidad, you

838
00:37:47,340 --> 00:37:55,310
had to go past the Biscayne,
the Key of Biscayne.

839
00:37:55,310 --> 00:37:58,290
The ship, we were first class
since we had enough money.

840
00:37:58,290 --> 00:38:01,280

841
00:38:01,280 --> 00:38:04,985
All the other kids were third,
fourth, whatever, steerage,

842
00:38:04,985 --> 00:38:06,980
whatever way down there.

843
00:38:06,980 --> 00:38:09,680
Was it filled with refugees?

844
00:38:09,680 --> 00:38:11,330
As far as I know,

that's all it was.

845

00:38:11,330 --> 00:38:11,930

I don't know.

846

00:38:11,930 --> 00:38:12,260

That's all it was.

847

00:38:12,260 --> 00:38:12,930

I have no idea.

848

00:38:12,930 --> 00:38:13,910

It was going to--

849

00:38:13,910 --> 00:38:15,638

who else would go to Trinidad?

850

00:38:15,638 --> 00:38:17,930

Why would anybody in their
right mind want to go there?

851

00:38:17,930 --> 00:38:19,388

Did you talk to
the other children?

852

00:38:19,388 --> 00:38:19,888

Oh yeah.

853

00:38:19,888 --> 00:38:20,510

Well, yeah.

854

00:38:20,510 --> 00:38:21,593

There were other children.

855

00:38:21,593 --> 00:38:22,460

They would come up.

856

00:38:22,460 --> 00:38:26,610

But there were days when
the weather was very bad.

857

00:38:26,610 --> 00:38:30,570

I remember going up
the Key of Biscayne,

858

00:38:30,570 --> 00:38:34,460

the ship was almost parallel,
up and down, up and down.

859

00:38:34,460 --> 00:38:37,670

And of course, we were
seasick, throwing up

860

00:38:37,670 --> 00:38:40,995

into the ocean, which was easy
since we were first class.

861

00:38:40,995 --> 00:38:42,350

And we were up on the balcony.

862

00:38:42,350 --> 00:38:44,870

863

00:38:44,870 --> 00:38:47,030

After a few days, you
get your sea legs.

864

00:38:47,030 --> 00:38:49,140

And you no longer throw up.

865

00:38:49,140 --> 00:38:51,470

But yes, there were
other children.

866

00:38:51,470 --> 00:38:54,680

The adults were taking
English lessons.

867

00:38:54,680 --> 00:38:56,840

Us children, no.

868

00:38:56,840 --> 00:38:59,590

And some teenage
boy came to see us.

869
00:38:59,590 --> 00:39:02,120
There were four or five of us.

870
00:39:02,120 --> 00:39:05,060
And some teenage
boy came and saw us.

871
00:39:05,060 --> 00:39:08,068
And we complained that we
didn't know any English.

872
00:39:08,068 --> 00:39:09,860
What were we going to
do when we got there?

873
00:39:09,860 --> 00:39:13,550
And the parents all
were learning English.

874
00:39:13,550 --> 00:39:15,440
And how about us?

875
00:39:15,440 --> 00:39:19,640
And he told us there was
one phrase we should use.

876
00:39:19,640 --> 00:39:22,730
And it would get
a big sensation.

877
00:39:22,730 --> 00:39:24,602
And we asked, how
do you translate?

878
00:39:24,602 --> 00:39:25,310
What would it be?

879
00:39:25,310 --> 00:39:27,230
Oh, it's untranslatable.

880
00:39:27,230 --> 00:39:30,350

And he says, you look at the
people straight in the face.

881
00:39:30,350 --> 00:39:31,940
Look straight in the eye.

882
00:39:31,940 --> 00:39:35,401
And smile as much as you
can and say, shut up.

883
00:39:35,401 --> 00:39:38,170
[LAUGHTER]

884
00:39:38,170 --> 00:39:39,320
It got a reaction.

885
00:39:39,320 --> 00:39:42,940

886
00:39:42,940 --> 00:39:44,480
OK?

887
00:39:44,480 --> 00:39:49,190
Did you talk about what happened
to you with the other children?

888
00:39:49,190 --> 00:39:51,410
Did they talk about
their stories and you

889
00:39:51,410 --> 00:39:53,563
talk about what
you went through?

890
00:39:53,563 --> 00:39:54,980
I don't know what
we talked about.

891
00:39:54,980 --> 00:39:55,480
I doubt it.

892
00:39:55,480 --> 00:39:57,788

893
00:39:57,788 --> 00:39:58,330
I don't know.

894
00:39:58,330 --> 00:39:58,830
Yeah.

895
00:39:58,830 --> 00:39:59,820
I have no recollection.

896
00:39:59,820 --> 00:40:03,415
Nobody talked about anything.

897
00:40:03,415 --> 00:40:04,415
Then we got to Trinidad.

898
00:40:04,415 --> 00:40:08,510

899
00:40:08,510 --> 00:40:12,750
So you went, there were
no stops on the way?

900
00:40:12,750 --> 00:40:13,968
I don't know.

901
00:40:13,968 --> 00:40:14,510
I don't know.

902
00:40:14,510 --> 00:40:18,950

903
00:40:18,950 --> 00:40:19,950
I don't know about that.

904
00:40:19,950 --> 00:40:23,200
I never heard about
it in my whole life.

905
00:40:23,200 --> 00:40:25,810

That's something you got from
your grandmother, not from me.

906
00:40:25,810 --> 00:40:29,340
She did a painting of the
ghost that she saw on the ship.

907
00:40:29,340 --> 00:40:31,430
I have no idea.

908
00:40:31,430 --> 00:40:33,570
You know more then.

909
00:40:33,570 --> 00:40:37,640
You must repeat this, you must
tell Mrs. Schwartz about it.

910
00:40:37,640 --> 00:40:39,576
Are we related, by the way?

911
00:40:39,576 --> 00:40:41,520
[LAUGHTER]

912
00:40:41,520 --> 00:40:43,634
Are all Schwartzes related?

913
00:40:43,634 --> 00:40:44,960
I hope so.

914
00:40:44,960 --> 00:40:46,610
So you land--

915
00:40:46,610 --> 00:40:48,250
Anyhow, we got to Trinidad.

916
00:40:48,250 --> 00:40:49,110
Yeah.

917
00:40:49,110 --> 00:40:52,620
And what did Trinidad mean
to you as a young child?

918
00:40:52,620 --> 00:40:56,910
What did Trinidad mean
to you as a young child?

919
00:40:56,910 --> 00:40:58,540
It was hot.

920
00:40:58,540 --> 00:41:01,660
It was unbelievably hot.

921
00:41:01,660 --> 00:41:02,430
Even in December?

922
00:41:02,430 --> 00:41:07,310
Trinidad is very
close to the equator.

923
00:41:07,310 --> 00:41:10,390
And coming in
December from winter--

924
00:41:10,390 --> 00:41:10,890
Yes.

925
00:41:10,890 --> 00:41:12,450
Bitter winter.

926
00:41:12,450 --> 00:41:16,440
Klagenfurt, of course, is
at the foot of the Alps.

927
00:41:16,440 --> 00:41:20,100
And being used to snow
and ice and whatnot,

928
00:41:20,100 --> 00:41:21,210
to get to the tropics.

929
00:41:21,210 --> 00:41:24,240

930

00:41:24,240 --> 00:41:26,310
I meant, did Trinidad
have any meaning for you

931
00:41:26,310 --> 00:41:27,393
before you got to know it?

932
00:41:27,393 --> 00:41:28,320
We were in Trinidad.

933
00:41:28,320 --> 00:41:35,820
And I believe we had spent
two weeks or so, a month.

934
00:41:35,820 --> 00:41:38,550
They had arranged,
I don't know where,

935
00:41:38,550 --> 00:41:41,400
probably the Jewish
Refugee Committee.

936
00:41:41,400 --> 00:41:42,120
Who knows?

937
00:41:42,120 --> 00:41:43,560
I have no idea how it happened.

938
00:41:43,560 --> 00:41:46,430
Children don't ask questions.

939
00:41:46,430 --> 00:41:47,680
We were staying with a family.

940
00:41:47,680 --> 00:41:51,670

941
00:41:51,670 --> 00:41:53,590
A Jewish family?

942
00:41:53,590 --> 00:41:55,120
Oh no.

943
00:41:55,120 --> 00:41:55,840
No.

944
00:41:55,840 --> 00:42:00,640
The man was, they told
us he was Portuguese.

945
00:42:00,640 --> 00:42:04,840
He had very yellowish,
brownish skin.

946
00:42:04,840 --> 00:42:09,580
And very curly whitish hair.

947
00:42:09,580 --> 00:42:13,330
His wife was obviously very
British with blond hair

948
00:42:13,330 --> 00:42:15,370
and blue eyes.

949
00:42:15,370 --> 00:42:17,510
They had 12 different children.

950
00:42:17,510 --> 00:42:22,090
No two of them had the
same shape, size, or color.

951
00:42:22,090 --> 00:42:23,625
I had never heard of adoption.

952
00:42:23,625 --> 00:42:25,000
I don't know if
they were adopted

953
00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:29,850
or whether this happens
through having enough children

954
00:42:29,850 --> 00:42:31,140
with a mixed race, whatever.

955
00:42:31,140 --> 00:42:33,750

956
00:42:33,750 --> 00:42:35,880
The youngest ones
were pale blonde.

957
00:42:35,880 --> 00:42:38,400
The oldest ones
were much darker.

958
00:42:38,400 --> 00:42:39,150
That's all I know.

959
00:42:39,150 --> 00:42:42,420
Anyhow, we stayed
with them for a month.

960
00:42:42,420 --> 00:42:44,610
That's what had been arranged.

961
00:42:44,610 --> 00:42:49,740
And then there was
Carnival or something.

962
00:42:49,740 --> 00:42:51,900
I think Carnival's
in February actually.

963
00:42:51,900 --> 00:42:52,650
I don't know why.

964
00:42:52,650 --> 00:42:57,390
But anyhow, there was
Carnival in Trinidad

965
00:42:57,390 --> 00:43:01,380
where they go singing through
the streets and marching

966
00:43:01,380 --> 00:43:05,640

and dressed in costume
and singing Mardi Gras

967
00:43:05,640 --> 00:43:07,020
and whatnot and so on.

968
00:43:07,020 --> 00:43:10,160

969
00:43:10,160 --> 00:43:14,100
They do nothing except sing
and dance through the streets.

970
00:43:14,100 --> 00:43:19,080
And I ran afoul
of the color line,

971
00:43:19,080 --> 00:43:21,240
which we knew nothing about.

972
00:43:21,240 --> 00:43:24,270
Because off in Austria,
we had never seen anyone--

973
00:43:24,270 --> 00:43:30,830
oh, we once had gone to Vienna
and saw a gypsy with a baby.

974
00:43:30,830 --> 00:43:33,550
She was nursing a baby in
the middle of the street.

975
00:43:33,550 --> 00:43:35,250
Very shocking.

976
00:43:35,250 --> 00:43:39,090
Other than that, we never saw
anybody except a white person.

977
00:43:39,090 --> 00:43:48,650
And in Trinidad, which we didn't
know, there was a color line.

978

00:43:48,650 --> 00:43:50,510

And we had no costumes.

979

00:43:50,510 --> 00:43:55,280

So my mother had dirndl
skirt and an apron.

980

00:43:55,280 --> 00:43:59,840

And my mother put a
kerchief on my head

981

00:43:59,840 --> 00:44:02,510

upside down, Mammy style.

982

00:44:02,510 --> 00:44:05,690

And apparently, I
crossed the color line

983

00:44:05,690 --> 00:44:07,370

and caused a sensation.

984

00:44:07,370 --> 00:44:10,869

Because a white person doesn't
dress like a Black person.

985

00:44:10,869 --> 00:44:11,867

Oh my.

986

00:44:11,867 --> 00:44:15,860

[LAUGHTER]

987

00:44:15,860 --> 00:44:17,940

Anyhow, I don't know
how it happened.

988

00:44:17,940 --> 00:44:22,070

But my mother immediately
got a job in a hat store,

989

00:44:22,070 --> 00:44:23,480

making hats.

990

00:44:23,480 --> 00:44:26,120

My mother was a
very nervous woman.

991

00:44:26,120 --> 00:44:34,970

And we had no place to
leave the little jewelry

992

00:44:34,970 --> 00:44:37,398

and money that we had.

993

00:44:37,398 --> 00:44:38,940

Are you still living
with the family?

994

00:44:38,940 --> 00:44:39,773

Except in her purse.

995

00:44:39,773 --> 00:44:41,358

Are you still living
with the family?

996

00:44:41,358 --> 00:44:41,900

I don't know.

997

00:44:41,900 --> 00:44:43,460

Oh OK.

998

00:44:43,460 --> 00:44:44,000

I guess so.

999

00:44:44,000 --> 00:44:48,210

Because it was
almost immediately.

1000

00:44:48,210 --> 00:44:50,490

She almost
immediately got a job.

1001

00:44:50,490 --> 00:44:54,060

And she's carrying all
this stuff in her purse.

1002
00:44:54,060 --> 00:44:59,830
And she went to the
bathroom at work,

1003
00:44:59,830 --> 00:45:04,520
put the purse down
on the sink while she

1004
00:45:04,520 --> 00:45:05,750
was washing our hands.

1005
00:45:05,750 --> 00:45:08,795
And a Black man came
in and stole her purse.

1006
00:45:08,795 --> 00:45:11,710

1007
00:45:11,710 --> 00:45:14,250
She, of course, could
not identify him

1008
00:45:14,250 --> 00:45:16,440
because, not having
been there long enough,

1009
00:45:16,440 --> 00:45:18,450
every Black looked
like every other Black.

1010
00:45:18,450 --> 00:45:22,170
When you first see Chinese, you
think they all look the same.

1011
00:45:22,170 --> 00:45:25,040
After a while, you see
everybody is different.

1012
00:45:25,040 --> 00:45:27,020
Anyhow, all she could
say, he was Black.

1013

00:45:27,020 --> 00:45:28,430

Of course, he was never found.

1014

00:45:28,430 --> 00:45:29,720

We now had no money.

1015

00:45:29,720 --> 00:45:32,230

1016

00:45:32,230 --> 00:45:34,860

No jewelry, which they had
hoped to be able to sell.

1017

00:45:34,860 --> 00:45:42,410

1018

00:45:42,410 --> 00:45:48,660

Anyhow, my mother worked.

1019

00:45:48,660 --> 00:45:52,650

And she hated Black people
all the rest of her life.

1020

00:45:52,650 --> 00:45:55,140

Detested them with a passion.

1021

00:45:55,140 --> 00:45:57,900

Thought they were all
ignorant stupid and Black.

1022

00:45:57,900 --> 00:46:00,840

And they were no
better than a gorilla.

1023

00:46:00,840 --> 00:46:09,300

And she absolutely
detested them.

1024

00:46:09,300 --> 00:46:11,880

They later had more
reason to hate them.

1025

00:46:11,880 --> 00:46:20,700

But anyhow, she
was working there.

1026

00:46:20,700 --> 00:46:26,580

And in the evening, she cut
apart our curtains and made,

1027

00:46:26,580 --> 00:46:31,440

I think, maybe a dozen or less
little children's dresses,

1028

00:46:31,440 --> 00:46:34,770

little fluffy
children's dresses.

1029

00:46:34,770 --> 00:46:38,670

And my father was,
nobody would hire him.

1030

00:46:38,670 --> 00:46:41,520

There was nothing he could do.

1031

00:46:41,520 --> 00:46:48,600

They found a little
hole in the wall

1032

00:46:48,600 --> 00:46:51,030

selling children's
dresses, which my mother

1033

00:46:51,030 --> 00:46:53,280

had sewn after working all day.

1034

00:46:53,280 --> 00:46:55,960

And they were an
instant success.

1035

00:46:55,960 --> 00:46:59,440

They were very fluffy
and ruffly and whatnot.

1036

00:46:59,440 --> 00:47:02,100
And they were a
tremendous success.

1037
00:47:02,100 --> 00:47:05,580
And as a result,
this got around.

1038
00:47:05,580 --> 00:47:12,030
And wholesalers came to
see him and gave him credit

1039
00:47:12,030 --> 00:47:17,460
so that he was able to start
a nice little business selling

1040
00:47:17,460 --> 00:47:18,840
children's dresses.

1041
00:47:18,840 --> 00:47:21,600
And he even put an
ad in the newspaper

1042
00:47:21,600 --> 00:47:24,990
saying delicious little
children's dresses,

1043
00:47:24,990 --> 00:47:30,990
which he sent to my mother's
relatives in New York.

1044
00:47:30,990 --> 00:47:35,430
Because we were hoping to
get a visa to go to New York.

1045
00:47:35,430 --> 00:47:37,560
My mother could
have gone instantly,

1046
00:47:37,560 --> 00:47:39,660
since she was on
a German passport.

1047

00:47:39,660 --> 00:47:46,240
There was an endless ability
of any German to enter at any

1048
00:47:46,240 --> 00:47:48,390
time.

1049
00:47:48,390 --> 00:47:53,070
But my father, since his
place had become Poland,

1050
00:47:53,070 --> 00:47:55,080
was on a Polish visa.

1051
00:47:55,080 --> 00:47:58,230
And there weren't that many
Poles in the United States

1052
00:47:58,230 --> 00:47:59,020
at that time.

1053
00:47:59,020 --> 00:48:02,040
And he had to wait until
his visa would come up.

1054
00:48:02,040 --> 00:48:08,280
And he sent this to show what
they were doing in Trinidad.

1055
00:48:08,280 --> 00:48:18,090
And they never lived down, my
aunt's husband, Alex Kramer,

1056
00:48:18,090 --> 00:48:20,130
they never stop
giggling and laughing

1057
00:48:20,130 --> 00:48:22,605
about delicious
children's dresses.

1058
00:48:22,605 --> 00:48:26,320

1059
00:48:26,320 --> 00:48:29,950
My mother, meanwhile,
opened up her own store,

1060
00:48:29,950 --> 00:48:33,520
naturally, and was very
successful because she

1061
00:48:33,520 --> 00:48:37,640
created hats of a kind
they hadn't seen before.

1062
00:48:37,640 --> 00:48:41,190
And they were doing
very, very well.

1063
00:48:41,190 --> 00:48:45,420
And then it became
time for England

1064
00:48:45,420 --> 00:48:49,690
to enter World War
II, at which point

1065
00:48:49,690 --> 00:48:54,460
it was said that
it's a crown colony.

1066
00:48:54,460 --> 00:48:56,300
An oil colony.

1067
00:48:56,300 --> 00:48:59,230
And so, they clapped
every last refugee

1068
00:48:59,230 --> 00:49:03,940
into a detention center with
barbed wire all around it.

1069
00:49:03,940 --> 00:49:08,660
Black guards in white
uniforms, high socks,

1070
00:49:08,660 --> 00:49:10,180
with bayonets guarding us.

1071
00:49:10,180 --> 00:49:13,210

1072
00:49:13,210 --> 00:49:17,370
And there we all were
in a detention center.

1073
00:49:17,370 --> 00:49:20,350
Not that we were
mistreated or anything.

1074
00:49:20,350 --> 00:49:23,950
But every family got one room.

1075
00:49:23,950 --> 00:49:26,260
Was this in Port of Spain?

1076
00:49:26,260 --> 00:49:27,280
Oh yes.

1077
00:49:27,280 --> 00:49:29,830
Somewhere in the
suburbs, I guess.

1078
00:49:29,830 --> 00:49:33,790
It was apparently a barracks
at one time or whatever.

1079
00:49:33,790 --> 00:49:35,260
But there we were.

1080
00:49:35,260 --> 00:49:36,850
As far as I know,
I was the only one

1081
00:49:36,850 --> 00:49:39,400
who would leave all the time.

1082

00:49:39,400 --> 00:49:42,790

I had been chosen by Mrs. Lake
who had studied in Germany

1083

00:49:42,790 --> 00:49:45,357

and wanted to
practice her German.

1084

00:49:45,357 --> 00:49:47,440

And although they were a
number of children there,

1085

00:49:47,440 --> 00:49:52,450

I was the one chosen to be a
companion to her daughter, who

1086

00:49:52,450 --> 00:49:54,390

was one year younger.

1087

00:49:54,390 --> 00:49:57,170

Little monster.

1088

00:49:57,170 --> 00:50:02,140

And so, I got the benefit
of a British boarding school

1089

00:50:02,140 --> 00:50:04,612

education for the two
years we were there.

1090

00:50:04,612 --> 00:50:06,820

You actually went to a
British boarding school there?

1091

00:50:06,820 --> 00:50:07,320

Yes.

1092

00:50:07,320 --> 00:50:09,560

I went to a British
boarding school.

1093

00:50:09,560 --> 00:50:11,670

I stayed at the boarding school.

1094

00:50:11,670 --> 00:50:14,230

While your parents were
in the detention camp?

1095

00:50:14,230 --> 00:50:15,040

Even before then.

1096

00:50:15,040 --> 00:50:18,580

Almost immediately after
we arrived, I was chosen.

1097

00:50:18,580 --> 00:50:20,110

I never went to
whatever schooling

1098

00:50:20,110 --> 00:50:22,420

they have in Trinidad.

1099

00:50:22,420 --> 00:50:24,500

It would certainly
be segregated.

1100

00:50:24,500 --> 00:50:26,020

The British would
be with British.

1101

00:50:26,020 --> 00:50:28,120

The Portuguese with Portuguese.

1102

00:50:28,120 --> 00:50:29,380

The Chinese with Chinese.

1103

00:50:29,380 --> 00:50:31,060

The Black with Black.

1104

00:50:31,060 --> 00:50:32,260

The Spanish with Spanish.

1105

00:50:32,260 --> 00:50:36,110

No one spoke to anybody

outside of their own whatever.

1106
00:50:36,110 --> 00:50:41,440
There were countless
people from India.

1107
00:50:41,440 --> 00:50:42,710
I don't recall the women.

1108
00:50:42,710 --> 00:50:44,460
But I remember the men.

1109
00:50:44,460 --> 00:50:45,880
There were so many of them.

1110
00:50:45,880 --> 00:50:49,300
They had turbans and were
wearing some kind of diaper

1111
00:50:49,300 --> 00:50:53,062
and would be sitting on the
public steps all day long.

1112
00:50:53,062 --> 00:50:53,770
I don't know why.

1113
00:50:53,770 --> 00:50:57,190
But they would just sit there,
old men sitting in the turbans

1114
00:50:57,190 --> 00:50:58,795
and sitting on all
the public steps.

1115
00:50:58,795 --> 00:51:01,930

1116
00:51:01,930 --> 00:51:04,840
So you obviously lived
at the boarding school.

1117
00:51:04,840 --> 00:51:06,520

I lived at the boarding school.

1118
00:51:06,520 --> 00:51:08,370
Did you see your
parents frequently?

1119
00:51:08,370 --> 00:51:09,760
Oh yeah.

1120
00:51:09,760 --> 00:51:11,590
They had rented a
very, very nice house

1121
00:51:11,590 --> 00:51:12,880
before this happened.

1122
00:51:12,880 --> 00:51:16,660
It was somewhere on the
way, on the outskirts.

1123
00:51:16,660 --> 00:51:19,390
It was a very nice little house.

1124
00:51:19,390 --> 00:51:22,290

1125
00:51:22,290 --> 00:51:32,090
Within the first month of
our arriving there, because

1126
00:51:32,090 --> 00:51:36,820
undid those wooden
crates that you have.

1127
00:51:36,820 --> 00:51:39,710
He opened up the crates.

1128
00:51:39,710 --> 00:51:43,670
And he took out a
saw hammer and nails.

1129
00:51:43,670 --> 00:51:51,050

And he sawed apart one of them
to make a table and two benches

1130
00:51:51,050 --> 00:51:53,270
out of the crates.

1131
00:51:53,270 --> 00:51:55,640
So we instantly had furniture.

1132
00:51:55,640 --> 00:51:58,830

1133
00:51:58,830 --> 00:52:00,020
It was very interesting.

1134
00:52:00,020 --> 00:52:02,270
There were coconut trees.

1135
00:52:02,270 --> 00:52:09,590
And the houses had metal
roofs, corrugated metal roofs.

1136
00:52:09,590 --> 00:52:14,240
And when it rained, it has
monsoons there, rainy season.

1137
00:52:14,240 --> 00:52:16,400
The coconuts would
fall on the roof

1138
00:52:16,400 --> 00:52:20,510
and would go bang,
bang, bang, bang.

1139
00:52:20,510 --> 00:52:26,000
And opposite us there
was some guy, some man,

1140
00:52:26,000 --> 00:52:29,750
some Indian man who wore
just his diaper and a turban

1141

00:52:29,750 --> 00:52:30,830
and had a goat.

1142
00:52:30,830 --> 00:52:33,260
And the goat would be there
all day long on a chain

1143
00:52:33,260 --> 00:52:36,170
saying meh, meh.

1144
00:52:36,170 --> 00:52:40,310
I would carry on a
conversation with the goat.

1145
00:52:40,310 --> 00:52:41,900
That's all I remember of that.

1146
00:52:41,900 --> 00:52:46,670
I don't remember any
children there whatsoever.

1147
00:52:46,670 --> 00:52:51,950
By the time we were in
the detention center,

1148
00:52:51,950 --> 00:52:53,420
there were, I think,
five children.

1149
00:52:53,420 --> 00:52:57,020

1150
00:52:57,020 --> 00:52:57,950
They had duties.

1151
00:52:57,950 --> 00:53:01,600
They had to decide who would
cook and who would clean,

1152
00:53:01,600 --> 00:53:04,370
who would do what.

1153

00:53:04,370 --> 00:53:05,820
Were these Jewish refugees?

1154
00:53:05,820 --> 00:53:06,320
Oh yeah.

1155
00:53:06,320 --> 00:53:06,820
Oh yeah.

1156
00:53:06,820 --> 00:53:12,260
They were all Jewish except
there was a separate section

1157
00:53:12,260 --> 00:53:15,010
for one Christian.

1158
00:53:15,010 --> 00:53:16,760
That was the only one
who was a Christian.

1159
00:53:16,760 --> 00:53:18,800
They claimed they couldn't tell.

1160
00:53:18,800 --> 00:53:20,990
The British claimed they
couldn't tell if some of us

1161
00:53:20,990 --> 00:53:23,800
might be spies.

1162
00:53:23,800 --> 00:53:29,650
And that was very important
because it was an oil crown

1163
00:53:29,650 --> 00:53:31,120
colony.

1164
00:53:31,120 --> 00:53:34,480
Besides which, I believe the
natives didn't want us there.

1165
00:53:34,480 --> 00:53:44,850

I think they hated us with our
zeal to work, specifically.

1166
00:53:44,850 --> 00:53:46,770
They all had siestas.

1167
00:53:46,770 --> 00:53:49,470
They would have their
big meal at lunchtime.

1168
00:53:49,470 --> 00:53:54,520
Everybody would go home
from work and eat and sleep.

1169
00:53:54,520 --> 00:53:57,840
And the refugees
would just continue

1170
00:53:57,840 --> 00:54:01,260
to work and walk around
in the heat of the sun.

1171
00:54:01,260 --> 00:54:05,520
Nobody would care about whether
it was hot or cold or whatever.

1172
00:54:05,520 --> 00:54:08,340
And everybody would make
fun of us because of that.

1173
00:54:08,340 --> 00:54:13,960

1174
00:54:13,960 --> 00:54:16,810
Since nobody had
ever seen refugees

1175
00:54:16,810 --> 00:54:19,120
before and the zeal
they have, they

1176
00:54:19,120 --> 00:54:21,910
assumed that's the

way Jewish people are.

1177

00:54:21,910 --> 00:54:25,620

1178

00:54:25,620 --> 00:54:28,620

Instead of that's
just the way refugees

1179

00:54:28,620 --> 00:54:32,895

are, people who have
lived wherever they were.

1180

00:54:32,895 --> 00:54:35,010

Did people exchange
their stories,

1181

00:54:35,010 --> 00:54:37,200

the refugees among each other?

1182

00:54:37,200 --> 00:54:39,714

I don't know what they did.

1183

00:54:39,714 --> 00:54:40,690

OK.

1184

00:54:40,690 --> 00:54:43,200

I know they had their own
synagogue and everything else.

1185

00:54:43,200 --> 00:54:44,130

They had a synagogue?

1186

00:54:44,130 --> 00:54:45,690

Oh yeah.

1187

00:54:45,690 --> 00:54:51,280

Instantly, they had the usual
mentality of everything.

1188

00:54:51,280 --> 00:54:51,850

Synagogue.

1189
00:54:51,850 --> 00:54:52,350
Shops.

1190
00:54:52,350 --> 00:54:53,200
Stores.

1191
00:54:53,200 --> 00:54:55,600
Did your parents
observe the Sabbath--

1192
00:54:55,600 --> 00:54:56,100
Hm?

1193
00:54:56,100 --> 00:54:59,340
Did your parents observe
the Sabbath in Trinidad?

1194
00:54:59,340 --> 00:55:00,160
Oh yeah.

1195
00:55:00,160 --> 00:55:00,660
Sure.

1196
00:55:00,660 --> 00:55:01,850
They observed the holidays.

1197
00:55:01,850 --> 00:55:03,240
They still kept that up.

1198
00:55:03,240 --> 00:55:04,320
Yeah.

1199
00:55:04,320 --> 00:55:06,300
They did all their lives.

1200
00:55:06,300 --> 00:55:08,670
Even in the detention
camp, they did?

1201
00:55:08,670 --> 00:55:09,640

I don't know.

1202
00:55:09,640 --> 00:55:12,000
I don't know what they
did in the detention camp.

1203
00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:17,610
Because after a while, I
would just stay in the school.

1204
00:55:17,610 --> 00:55:21,300
And on weekends,
since I hated having

1205
00:55:21,300 --> 00:55:23,520
to go to the
Anglican church, they

1206
00:55:23,520 --> 00:55:25,710
went to the Anglican church.

1207
00:55:25,710 --> 00:55:27,510
And I had never been
to church before.

1208
00:55:27,510 --> 00:55:32,100
And you had to kneel
down at certain times.

1209
00:55:32,100 --> 00:55:38,150
And Mrs. Lake's daughters, the
oldest ones, were in the choir.

1210
00:55:38,150 --> 00:55:42,040
And I was certain that
if I kneel down or attend

1211
00:55:42,040 --> 00:55:43,970
the church, any
minute God would come

1212
00:55:43,970 --> 00:55:47,900
and lightning would

strike me dead.

1213
00:55:47,900 --> 00:55:52,370
And as I discovered, he didn't.

1214
00:55:52,370 --> 00:55:55,700
I was terrified at
the boarding school

1215
00:55:55,700 --> 00:55:58,070
because we had to
say a certain prayer.

1216
00:55:58,070 --> 00:55:59,120
Oh, the mosquitos.

1217
00:55:59,120 --> 00:56:00,680
Your mosquito net.

1218
00:56:00,680 --> 00:56:02,720
And you had to say a
prayer at nighttime

1219
00:56:02,720 --> 00:56:05,630
before you went to sleep.

1220
00:56:05,630 --> 00:56:09,290
Something about, if I
should die before I wake,

1221
00:56:09,290 --> 00:56:11,680
I hope the Lord
my soul will take.

1222
00:56:11,680 --> 00:56:14,240
Sleep with angels
at my head and feet.

1223
00:56:14,240 --> 00:56:15,920
I was terrified to go to sleep.

1224
00:56:15,920 --> 00:56:17,780

I didn't want to see
these damn angels.

1225
00:56:17,780 --> 00:56:20,870
And I sure didn't want
to see God taking my soul

1226
00:56:20,870 --> 00:56:23,240
while I was sleeping.

1227
00:56:23,240 --> 00:56:29,450
Meanwhile, Valerie, Mrs. Lake's
daughter, the little monster,

1228
00:56:29,450 --> 00:56:30,440
would have her fun.

1229
00:56:30,440 --> 00:56:32,930
I couldn't speak
English, you see.

1230
00:56:32,930 --> 00:56:38,090
And in the dead of night,
we shared the room.

1231
00:56:38,090 --> 00:56:40,280
In the dead of night, she
would get up every once

1232
00:56:40,280 --> 00:56:43,880
in a while out of her mosquito
net, come over to my bed

1233
00:56:43,880 --> 00:56:45,440
while I was actually sleeping.

1234
00:56:45,440 --> 00:56:45,940
See?

1235
00:56:45,940 --> 00:56:46,920
I did sleep.

1236

00:56:46,920 --> 00:56:48,880
And wack me one.

1237
00:56:48,880 --> 00:56:51,020
And I would scream.

1238
00:56:51,020 --> 00:56:52,790
I mean, I had gone
through a lot.

1239
00:56:52,790 --> 00:56:54,530
All I needed was
something like that.

1240
00:56:54,530 --> 00:56:55,910
I would scream.

1241
00:56:55,910 --> 00:56:58,640
And Nanny would come in.

1242
00:56:58,640 --> 00:57:06,710
And Valerie would say I had done
this to her, that Valerie was

1243
00:57:06,710 --> 00:57:08,950
sleeping and I had done this.

1244
00:57:08,950 --> 00:57:11,450
And I couldn't defend myself.

1245
00:57:11,450 --> 00:57:13,460
I couldn't speak English.

1246
00:57:13,460 --> 00:57:15,740
So I had great incentive.

1247
00:57:15,740 --> 00:57:17,690
Every single day,
we had lessons.

1248
00:57:17,690 --> 00:57:20,570
And I would go, after

I'd studied the lesson,

1249
00:57:20,570 --> 00:57:22,160
go to school all day.

1250
00:57:22,160 --> 00:57:24,770
And then you have to
learn your homework.

1251
00:57:24,770 --> 00:57:26,960
And then I had to go
see Mrs. Lake every day

1252
00:57:26,960 --> 00:57:28,820
and recite my homework.

1253
00:57:28,820 --> 00:57:32,060
And I complained
to her, I didn't

1254
00:57:32,060 --> 00:57:33,870
know what these words meant.

1255
00:57:33,870 --> 00:57:35,420
I can't memorize this.

1256
00:57:35,420 --> 00:57:37,710
I can't understand this.

1257
00:57:37,710 --> 00:57:40,610
Gaily died, a gal at night,
in sunshine and in shadow

1258
00:57:40,610 --> 00:57:43,160
was riding along,
singing the song,

1259
00:57:43,160 --> 00:57:45,020
in search-- what does it mean?

1260
00:57:45,020 --> 00:57:47,660
And she said, you

don't have to know

1261

00:57:47,660 --> 00:57:50,000
what something means to learn.

1262

00:57:50,000 --> 00:57:51,830
Just repeat it often enough.

1263

00:57:51,830 --> 00:57:53,420
You can learn anything.

1264

00:57:53,420 --> 00:57:56,780
When you are old enough,
you will know what it means.

1265

00:57:56,780 --> 00:58:01,620
Unfortunately, I'm
now 82 years old.

1266

00:58:01,620 --> 00:58:02,600
OK.

1267

00:58:02,600 --> 00:58:05,600
Anyhow, I owe Mrs.
Lake a great deal.

1268

00:58:05,600 --> 00:58:08,630
I learned a huge
number of things.

1269

00:58:08,630 --> 00:58:10,400
I learned how to memorize.

1270

00:58:10,400 --> 00:58:15,770
I learned how to do mathematics,
English, and everything else.

1271

00:58:15,770 --> 00:58:16,730
British history.

1272

00:58:16,730 --> 00:58:17,940
You name it.

1273
00:58:17,940 --> 00:58:20,030
French.

1274
00:58:20,030 --> 00:58:21,710
It was an excellent school.

1275
00:58:21,710 --> 00:58:24,260

1276
00:58:24,260 --> 00:58:26,540
Every single day, we had lunch.

1277
00:58:26,540 --> 00:58:28,610
And they would serve
these tropical foods

1278
00:58:28,610 --> 00:58:30,350
I'd never seen before.

1279
00:58:30,350 --> 00:58:33,650
Fried bananas.

1280
00:58:33,650 --> 00:58:35,030
Bread fruit.

1281
00:58:35,030 --> 00:58:37,460
These horrible things, as
far as I was concerned.

1282
00:58:37,460 --> 00:58:39,830
Secondly, we had to
eat at lunchtime,

1283
00:58:39,830 --> 00:58:44,480
whereas we were used to having
a small lunch and a big dinner.

1284
00:58:44,480 --> 00:58:48,950
They had these huge lunches,
after which they took a nap.

1285

00:58:48,950 --> 00:58:52,680

And then ate hardly anything
at all in the evening.

1286

00:58:52,680 --> 00:58:56,720

I would spend all night
long starving to death,

1287

00:58:56,720 --> 00:58:59,570

crying to myself
being so hungry.

1288

00:58:59,570 --> 00:59:04,960

But at lunchtime, when
they served these foods,

1289

00:59:04,960 --> 00:59:07,810

I would make horrified faces.

1290

00:59:07,810 --> 00:59:12,550

And Mrs. Lake would
send me out of the room.

1291

00:59:12,550 --> 00:59:16,060

I had to stand outside where
I could see the children

1292

00:59:16,060 --> 00:59:18,610

but stand outside.

1293

00:59:18,610 --> 00:59:23,680

And I wouldn't get
to eat anything.

1294

00:59:23,680 --> 00:59:27,450

The next meal that was
served, I had the same food.

1295

00:59:27,450 --> 00:59:30,390

I had to learn to eat it
without making a face,

1296

00:59:30,390 --> 00:59:34,240
without dawdling, eating just
as rapidly as everybody else.

1297
00:59:34,240 --> 00:59:37,050
And I learned to eat any
garbage you put in front of me

1298
00:59:37,050 --> 00:59:38,280
without making a face.

1299
00:59:38,280 --> 00:59:41,070

1300
00:59:41,070 --> 00:59:42,860
What was the name of the school?

1301
00:59:42,860 --> 00:59:44,480
Mrs. Lake's Boarding School.

1302
00:59:44,480 --> 00:59:45,910
Oh.

1303
00:59:45,910 --> 00:59:47,940
As far as I know.

1304
00:59:47,940 --> 00:59:50,770
Did the detention
camp have a name?

1305
00:59:50,770 --> 00:59:51,580
I have no idea.

1306
00:59:51,580 --> 00:59:52,150
No.

1307
00:59:52,150 --> 00:59:54,610
But on weekends, since
I was so terrified

1308
00:59:54,610 --> 00:59:58,570
of having to go to this Anglican

church if I stayed there,

1309

00:59:58,570 --> 01:00:00,050

I said I was homesick.

1310

01:00:00,050 --> 01:00:02,120

I wanted to see my parents.

1311

01:00:02,120 --> 01:00:15,270

And it was a two hour
ride going by tram.

1312

01:00:15,270 --> 01:00:19,410

And you had to transfer in
the middle and wait for one

1313

01:00:19,410 --> 01:00:22,390

to get to the detention center.

1314

01:00:22,390 --> 01:00:26,620

And there I was,
a little girl all

1315

01:00:26,620 --> 01:00:31,360

by myself going on this open air
tram every single weekend, all

1316

01:00:31,360 --> 01:00:33,430

the way over and
all the way back.

1317

01:00:33,430 --> 01:00:37,400

No one ever spoke to
me, looked at me twice.

1318

01:00:37,400 --> 01:00:40,210

That's what strict
color line does.

1319

01:00:40,210 --> 01:00:43,032