

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,050

2
00:00:01,050 --> 00:00:02,700
OK, Ava, we're back.

3
00:00:02,700 --> 00:00:05,750
So you were telling me
about what kind of an effect

4
00:00:05,750 --> 00:00:07,230
a knock on the door has on you.

5
00:00:07,230 --> 00:00:10,665
A knock on the door and--

6
00:00:10,665 --> 00:00:12,540
You were telling me the
story with the boots.

7
00:00:12,540 --> 00:00:13,660
The lady with the boots.

8
00:00:13,660 --> 00:00:14,160
Right.

9
00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:19,110
Those are things that affect
me without me understanding.

10
00:00:19,110 --> 00:00:20,850
That's all I can
think of right now.

11
00:00:20,850 --> 00:00:23,160
And can you tell me
anything more about the day

12
00:00:23,160 --> 00:00:25,440
that your father was taken?

13

00:00:25,440 --> 00:00:28,095

You said that you were
in bed with your mother?

14

00:00:28,095 --> 00:00:31,650

Yeah, what happened is, the
three of us were in bed,

15

00:00:31,650 --> 00:00:37,170

and there was a knock at
the door the first time.

16

00:00:37,170 --> 00:00:40,500

My father ran-- no, my father--
only me and my little sister,

17

00:00:40,500 --> 00:00:43,740

because my father apparently
ran with my older sister

18

00:00:43,740 --> 00:00:45,270

on the roof.

19

00:00:45,270 --> 00:00:46,830

Because my older
sister told me she

20

00:00:46,830 --> 00:00:48,930

was on the move with my father.

21

00:00:48,930 --> 00:00:53,100

And my mother said my
father was not there when

22

00:00:53,100 --> 00:00:53,970

the Germans came.

23

00:00:53,970 --> 00:00:55,800

And so they left.

24

00:00:55,800 --> 00:00:59,010

And she said the children

were sick, so they left.

25

00:00:59,010 --> 00:01:02,590

So usually they didn't come back
the second time the same day.

26

00:01:02,590 --> 00:01:07,110

So my father came down.

27

00:01:07,110 --> 00:01:09,880

And there again was
a knock at the door.

28

00:01:09,880 --> 00:01:16,740

So my father hid in an
armoire, in a closet.

29

00:01:16,740 --> 00:01:20,520

But he had left in the
dining room his jacket.

30

00:01:20,520 --> 00:01:22,530

So they knew.

31

00:01:22,530 --> 00:01:23,760

They saw his jacket.

32

00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:27,180

And they said if he
doesn't come down--

33

00:01:27,180 --> 00:01:29,790

if the husband
doesn't come, they're

34

00:01:29,790 --> 00:01:31,140

going to take the children.

35

00:01:31,140 --> 00:01:33,780

So my father heard that and
he came out of the closet,

36

00:01:33,780 --> 00:01:35,940
and he went with them.

37
00:01:35,940 --> 00:01:38,310
I meant to ask you
before, what language

38
00:01:38,310 --> 00:01:40,320
were you speaking at home?

39
00:01:40,320 --> 00:01:43,650
At home we spoke Yiddish,
French, and Flemish--

40
00:01:43,650 --> 00:01:44,940
three languages.

41
00:01:44,940 --> 00:01:47,010
OK.

42
00:01:47,010 --> 00:01:49,450
So your father came out when
he heard the Germans say--

43
00:01:49,450 --> 00:01:51,060
He left with the Germans, right.

44
00:01:51,060 --> 00:01:51,630
OK.

45
00:01:51,630 --> 00:01:52,588
And then what happened?

46
00:01:52,588 --> 00:01:55,080

47
00:01:55,080 --> 00:02:04,190
What happened is, the mailman
came and told my mother that--

48
00:02:04,190 --> 00:02:08,780
the mailman in

Belgium, if they saw

49

00:02:08,780 --> 00:02:14,390
there was a letter
addressed to the Gestapo,

50

00:02:14,390 --> 00:02:17,150
they steamed open the
letter and they checked it.

51

00:02:17,150 --> 00:02:20,720
That's a very little known fact
about the postmen in Belgium,

52

00:02:20,720 --> 00:02:23,130
that they really
helped a lot of people.

53

00:02:23,130 --> 00:02:28,460
And they saw who was denounced.

54

00:02:28,460 --> 00:02:32,480
It was the concierge in my
house that denounced us.

55

00:02:32,480 --> 00:02:35,820
So the mailman came
and told my mother

56

00:02:35,820 --> 00:02:39,110
we had to go into hiding
because we were denounced.

57

00:02:39,110 --> 00:02:39,800
I don't know.

58

00:02:39,800 --> 00:02:42,380
I mean, they knew we were
there, so I don't know.

59

00:02:42,380 --> 00:02:44,330
Anyway-- so it was
announced that we

60
00:02:44,330 --> 00:02:45,470
were going to be deported.

61
00:02:45,470 --> 00:02:47,160
That's the thing.

62
00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:52,910
So we went-- my mother
immediately went into hiding.

63
00:02:52,910 --> 00:02:53,480
She asked--

64
00:02:53,480 --> 00:02:55,610
Wait, let's rewind
for one minute.

65
00:02:55,610 --> 00:02:57,840
Specifically when
your father came out--

66
00:02:57,840 --> 00:02:58,340
Yeah.

67
00:02:58,340 --> 00:02:59,090
And they took--

68
00:02:59,090 --> 00:03:00,260
They took away my father.

69
00:03:00,260 --> 00:03:00,760

70
00:03:00,760 --> 00:03:02,802
Do you remember
saying goodbye to him?

71
00:03:02,802 --> 00:03:03,510
Do you remember--

72

00:03:03,510 --> 00:03:04,220
Nothing.

73
00:03:04,220 --> 00:03:07,250
--them telling you
where he was going?

74
00:03:07,250 --> 00:03:09,950
Was he able to take
anything with him?

75
00:03:09,950 --> 00:03:10,490
Nothing.

76
00:03:10,490 --> 00:03:13,220
Because we were in bed.

77
00:03:13,220 --> 00:03:16,490
And so it must have
happened in another room.

78
00:03:16,490 --> 00:03:18,298
We were probably in
the bedroom, in bed.

79
00:03:18,298 --> 00:03:20,090
So it must have happened
in the other room.

80
00:03:20,090 --> 00:03:21,450
I didn't see him taken away.

81
00:03:21,450 --> 00:03:22,302
No.

82
00:03:22,302 --> 00:03:24,283
If I did, I don't remember.

83
00:03:24,283 --> 00:03:25,700
And that was the
last you saw him.

84

00:03:25,700 --> 00:03:26,540
I remember nothing.

85
00:03:26,540 --> 00:03:28,460
That's the last I
saw my father, right.

86
00:03:28,460 --> 00:03:31,850
OK, so now they took
away your father,

87
00:03:31,850 --> 00:03:35,133
and you are with your
mother and your sisters.

88
00:03:35,133 --> 00:03:36,050
My two sisters, right.

89
00:03:36,050 --> 00:03:36,758
In the apartment.

90
00:03:36,758 --> 00:03:39,620
And your mother says
that the postman

91
00:03:39,620 --> 00:03:44,120
has alerted her that you're
going to be deported soon.

92
00:03:44,120 --> 00:03:46,790
So she decides that you
have to go into hiding.

93
00:03:46,790 --> 00:03:47,450
Right.

94
00:03:47,450 --> 00:03:49,400
And the person that
later on she find out

95
00:03:49,400 --> 00:03:52,070
that they denounced
us was the woman

96
00:03:52,070 --> 00:03:53,420
downstairs, the concierge.

97
00:03:53,420 --> 00:03:54,620
She's the one.

98
00:03:54,620 --> 00:03:58,040
Because after the war when
my mother came back just

99
00:03:58,040 --> 00:04:02,630
to ask her for the pictures
and some personal stuff,

100
00:04:02,630 --> 00:04:04,610
and she opened the door,
and she said "what?"

101
00:04:04,610 --> 00:04:06,200
You came back?"

102
00:04:06,200 --> 00:04:08,330
She thought we had died.

103
00:04:08,330 --> 00:04:10,550
But she refused to give
my mother pictures.

104
00:04:10,550 --> 00:04:14,690
And even she saw my father's
prayer shawl as a table cloth

105
00:04:14,690 --> 00:04:17,089
in her living room.

106
00:04:17,089 --> 00:04:18,765
But the woman wouldn't
give us anything.

107
00:04:18,765 --> 00:04:21,140
So that's why we don't have

any pictures, family pictures

108
00:04:21,140 --> 00:04:21,640
at all.

109
00:04:21,640 --> 00:04:22,490
Nothing.

110
00:04:22,490 --> 00:04:23,300
OK.

111
00:04:23,300 --> 00:04:26,420
So what happens next after
your father was taken?

112
00:04:26,420 --> 00:04:29,060
OK, we-- this is very vague.

113
00:04:29,060 --> 00:04:31,330
We went-- I remember--

114
00:04:31,330 --> 00:04:34,640
the few things I remember, being
in bed and hearing bombings

115
00:04:34,640 --> 00:04:36,380
and the noise was bothering me.

116
00:04:36,380 --> 00:04:37,680
I couldn't sleep.

117
00:04:37,680 --> 00:04:40,460
And my little sister was
crying and bothering me.

118
00:04:40,460 --> 00:04:42,140
She was crying.

119
00:04:42,140 --> 00:04:43,550
That's all I remember.

120

00:04:43,550 --> 00:04:44,600
We went into hiding.

121
00:04:44,600 --> 00:04:48,050
I don't remember much exactly.

122
00:04:48,050 --> 00:04:50,060
I only know what
my mother told us.

123
00:04:50,060 --> 00:04:54,020
I do remember there was a woman
who was a friend of my mother,

124
00:04:54,020 --> 00:04:58,490
and she took me
someplace at night.

125
00:04:58,490 --> 00:05:00,290
And I remember holding her hand.

126
00:05:00,290 --> 00:05:02,330
We were walking at
night in the dark.

127
00:05:02,330 --> 00:05:05,720
And I told her, I
have to do peepee.

128
00:05:05,720 --> 00:05:08,420
And she said to
me, [NON-ENGLISH]..

129
00:05:08,420 --> 00:05:09,770
Do it here.

130
00:05:09,770 --> 00:05:13,040
And I said, here on
the street like a dog?

131
00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:14,990
And she said yes.

132

00:05:14,990 --> 00:05:18,050

And to this day, I
remember my peepee--

133

00:05:18,050 --> 00:05:20,000

I didn't want to
bend down like a dog.

134

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,350

So I remember it going down my
leg and my sock getting wet.

135

00:05:24,350 --> 00:05:27,320

And I remember that
was a horrible feeling.

136

00:05:27,320 --> 00:05:27,950

You know?

137

00:05:27,950 --> 00:05:29,570

I was crying.

138

00:05:29,570 --> 00:05:32,960

And I don't know
where she put me.

139

00:05:32,960 --> 00:05:34,380

She put me someplace in hiding.

140

00:05:34,380 --> 00:05:35,780

I don't remember that.

141

00:05:35,780 --> 00:05:37,550

Where?

142

00:05:37,550 --> 00:05:41,630

I only remember when I
was taken to the convent.

143

00:05:41,630 --> 00:05:44,240

OK, so you know that your
mother's friend took you

144
00:05:44,240 --> 00:05:45,230
somewhere.

145
00:05:45,230 --> 00:05:47,130
My mother put me
someplace with a family.

146
00:05:47,130 --> 00:05:49,910
My little sister
went someplace else.

147
00:05:49,910 --> 00:05:51,590
I don't know where
my older sister--

148
00:05:51,590 --> 00:05:56,960
I think she was in some
kind of a kindergarten--

149
00:05:56,960 --> 00:05:57,740
a kinder camp.

150
00:05:57,740 --> 00:05:58,657
What do you call that?

151
00:05:58,657 --> 00:06:00,350
The orphanage or
something like that.

152
00:06:00,350 --> 00:06:00,930
OK.

153
00:06:00,930 --> 00:06:02,780
And where was your
mother at this time?

154
00:06:02,780 --> 00:06:03,780
My mother?

155
00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:05,150
OK, she went into hiding.

156
00:06:05,150 --> 00:06:09,380
She knew a woman in Brussels
who was her seamstress.

157
00:06:09,380 --> 00:06:12,770
And so she let my mother
stay in her attic.

158
00:06:12,770 --> 00:06:14,810
And my mother paid her.

159
00:06:14,810 --> 00:06:18,800
And in the attic, the
window was broken.

160
00:06:18,800 --> 00:06:21,240
She didn't even give
my mother a blanket.

161
00:06:21,240 --> 00:06:22,880
My mother was
freezing all the time,

162
00:06:22,880 --> 00:06:25,970
and that's how she feels
she got bad arthritis.

163
00:06:25,970 --> 00:06:27,300
But she saved their life.

164
00:06:27,300 --> 00:06:34,130
I mean, she my mother
paid her, and my mother

165
00:06:34,130 --> 00:06:35,460
was hiding up there.

166
00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:38,180
But then that woman, Madam--

167
00:06:38,180 --> 00:06:40,160

I forgot her name already.

168
00:06:40,160 --> 00:06:45,050
She brought me and my older
sister to the convent,

169
00:06:45,050 --> 00:06:47,865
and she pretended
she was our mother.

170
00:06:47,865 --> 00:06:48,365
And--

171
00:06:48,365 --> 00:06:51,590

172
00:06:51,590 --> 00:06:53,660
She collected you
from wherever you were

173
00:06:53,660 --> 00:06:55,460
with your mother's friends?

174
00:06:55,460 --> 00:06:56,330
Did she what?

175
00:06:56,330 --> 00:06:58,460
Remember you said
that you were taken

176
00:06:58,460 --> 00:07:00,670
somewhere by your mother's
friend into hiding.

177
00:07:00,670 --> 00:07:01,170
Yeah.

178
00:07:01,170 --> 00:07:01,670
Right.

179
00:07:01,670 --> 00:07:04,220
So the woman, the

seamstress who your mother

180
00:07:04,220 --> 00:07:06,530
was paying to rent
the attic, she

181
00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:09,290
is the one who collected
you from that place

182
00:07:09,290 --> 00:07:12,200
where you were and took
you to the convent?

183
00:07:12,200 --> 00:07:12,980
That I don't know.

184
00:07:12,980 --> 00:07:16,010
I assume so.

185
00:07:16,010 --> 00:07:18,830
As far as what I know is that
she's the one that brought me

186
00:07:18,830 --> 00:07:22,430
and my older sister
to the convent,

187
00:07:22,430 --> 00:07:26,210
and that we had to pretend
she was our mother.

188
00:07:26,210 --> 00:07:31,880
And we had new names
and last names.

189
00:07:31,880 --> 00:07:34,100
And I used to
forget my last name.

190
00:07:34,100 --> 00:07:35,780
I always used to go and ask.

191

00:07:35,780 --> 00:07:39,180

There was another
two sisters, also.

192

00:07:39,180 --> 00:07:42,050

Also Celine, as my older
sister, another Celine.

193

00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:44,990

And I forgot her other name,
the other girl, two girls.

194

00:07:44,990 --> 00:07:47,660

We were four girls,
that for some reason,

195

00:07:47,660 --> 00:07:50,210

I don't know how it was,
but we were together.

196

00:07:50,210 --> 00:07:53,720

And I always used to ask my new
name, because I had forgotten.

197

00:07:53,720 --> 00:07:55,850

Apparently, only
the Mother Superiors

198

00:07:55,850 --> 00:07:58,130

know that we were Jewish.

199

00:07:58,130 --> 00:07:59,510

The other nuns didn't know.

200

00:07:59,510 --> 00:08:00,610

Where was this convent?

201

00:08:00,610 --> 00:08:01,110

Do you know?

202

00:08:01,110 --> 00:08:02,420

In Wezembeek.

203
00:08:02,420 --> 00:08:03,680
Wezembeek, Belgium.

204
00:08:03,680 --> 00:08:08,330
A lot of people went
to Wezembeek, Yeah.

205
00:08:08,330 --> 00:08:10,970
And do you remember
anything about how

206
00:08:10,970 --> 00:08:13,700
it came to be that you
could be hidden there?

207
00:08:13,700 --> 00:08:16,280
Did your mom know
somebody at the convent?

208
00:08:16,280 --> 00:08:18,170
Did this woman, the
seamstress know somebody?

209
00:08:18,170 --> 00:08:21,650
The seamstress is the one that
brought us to the convent.

210
00:08:21,650 --> 00:08:24,987
And probably-- I don't know how
my mother found out about it.

211
00:08:24,987 --> 00:08:27,320
I guess there were a lot of
underground things happening

212
00:08:27,320 --> 00:08:28,040
there.

213
00:08:28,040 --> 00:08:29,480
You know.

214

00:08:29,480 --> 00:08:31,520
And where was your younger
sister at this point?

215
00:08:31,520 --> 00:08:35,000
My younger sister,
it was terrible.

216
00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:38,100
My mother had-- because
she was so young,

217
00:08:38,100 --> 00:08:40,159
they put her with
somebody, a family--

218
00:08:40,159 --> 00:08:42,200
I don't know if it was
Antwerp or Brussels--

219
00:08:42,200 --> 00:08:44,540
and they treated her horribly.

220
00:08:44,540 --> 00:08:47,810
They locked her up for hours
and hours in the bathroom,

221
00:08:47,810 --> 00:08:48,530
in the toilet.

222
00:08:48,530 --> 00:08:51,860
There in those days, it was
just the toilet and a door.

223
00:08:51,860 --> 00:08:53,600
There was no bathroom, you know?

224
00:08:53,600 --> 00:08:54,800
Just the toilet.

225
00:08:54,800 --> 00:09:00,110
And they gave her the
food from the dish,

226
00:09:00,110 --> 00:09:03,200
she told me, that
they gave to the dog.

227
00:09:03,200 --> 00:09:05,000
That's why she was very
sick after the war.

228
00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:06,410
For three years, she was sick.

229
00:09:06,410 --> 00:09:09,290
She was terribly malnourished.

230
00:09:09,290 --> 00:09:12,920
And then when we got
smuggled into Switzerland,

231
00:09:12,920 --> 00:09:15,680
somehow we were--

232
00:09:15,680 --> 00:09:18,470
she told me, you know,
I was protecting her.

233
00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:21,710
But I really didn't
know my little sister.

234
00:09:21,710 --> 00:09:23,540
I was in the convent.

235
00:09:23,540 --> 00:09:24,528
She was 1 and 1/2.

236
00:09:24,528 --> 00:09:26,195
For two years, she
was hidden someplace,

237
00:09:26,195 --> 00:09:28,160
so I really didn't know her.

238
00:09:28,160 --> 00:09:30,560
I mean, now only recently
she told me that.

239
00:09:30,560 --> 00:09:32,420
I didn't even realize that.

240
00:09:32,420 --> 00:09:35,900
She's very close to me because
we were hidden together.

241
00:09:35,900 --> 00:09:38,700
I mean, we fled to
Switzerland together.

242
00:09:38,700 --> 00:09:40,343
Well, let's go
back to the-- we're

243
00:09:40,343 --> 00:09:41,760
going to come to
that in a minute.

244
00:09:41,760 --> 00:09:44,150
Let's talk about the
convent for a little bit.

245
00:09:44,150 --> 00:09:46,250
The convent, I
remember very little.

246
00:09:46,250 --> 00:09:51,650
In 1995, '96, there was
a conference in Belgium.

247
00:09:51,650 --> 00:09:55,070
I mean, there was
Yad Vashem sent me

248
00:09:55,070 --> 00:09:56,660
a letter saying
they were honoring

249

00:09:56,660 --> 00:09:58,730

the nuns from the
convent, and they

250

00:09:58,730 --> 00:10:02,990

were having a conference in
Belgium, and for me to go.

251

00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:08,360

So I went, and the nuns
didn't remember me.

252

00:10:08,360 --> 00:10:09,680

I didn't remember the nuns.

253

00:10:09,680 --> 00:10:13,640

And the two other sisters that
were with me in the convent,

254

00:10:13,640 --> 00:10:15,930

they were there
at the conference.

255

00:10:15,930 --> 00:10:18,450

So one of them-- only
one of them was there.

256

00:10:18,450 --> 00:10:21,530

So she said she was going to
go to the convent the next day.

257

00:10:21,530 --> 00:10:24,500

So I ask her, could you please
take me to go to the convent,

258

00:10:24,500 --> 00:10:27,120

because I don't have no memory.

259

00:10:27,120 --> 00:10:30,230

So we went to the convent.

260

00:10:30,230 --> 00:10:32,540
They were older, so they
remembered the nuns.

261
00:10:32,540 --> 00:10:35,550
The nuns didn't remember me,
and I didn't remember them.

262
00:10:35,550 --> 00:10:37,580
The only thing I
remember from the convent

263
00:10:37,580 --> 00:10:42,230
was big dining
tables, huge tables,

264
00:10:42,230 --> 00:10:45,110
and the children were
sitting on benches.

265
00:10:45,110 --> 00:10:50,780
And the bedroom, the
windows were high up.

266
00:10:50,780 --> 00:10:52,430
That's all I remember.

267
00:10:52,430 --> 00:10:55,880
And so I asked them to
show me the bedroom where

268
00:10:55,880 --> 00:10:56,900
the children slept.

269
00:10:56,900 --> 00:10:59,330
Because I wanted to see
if my memory was correct.

270
00:10:59,330 --> 00:11:01,820
And sure enough, there
were windows on top.

271
00:11:01,820 --> 00:11:03,650

So that I remember.

272

00:11:03,650 --> 00:11:04,640

That's all I remember.

273

00:11:04,640 --> 00:11:07,820

And I'm like-- I come from
a very Hasidic family.

274

00:11:07,820 --> 00:11:09,270

My mother married a Hasid.

275

00:11:09,270 --> 00:11:11,210

So we're a very Hasidic family.

276

00:11:11,210 --> 00:11:14,210

I'm not religious
anymore, but I was.

277

00:11:14,210 --> 00:11:15,800

But I like sacred music.

278

00:11:15,800 --> 00:11:17,780

I mean, I love church
music, sacred music.

279

00:11:17,780 --> 00:11:18,980

I'm crazy about it.

280

00:11:18,980 --> 00:11:21,440

So it must have come
from the convent.

281

00:11:21,440 --> 00:11:23,990

So I asked the nuns.

282

00:11:23,990 --> 00:11:27,290

I said, was there music
during the war in the convent?

283

00:11:27,290 --> 00:11:29,870

And they said, never.

284
00:11:29,870 --> 00:11:30,600
So that was that.

285
00:11:30,600 --> 00:11:32,393
I just liked Bach.

286
00:11:32,393 --> 00:11:34,310
It's not like you need
an excuse to like Bach,

287
00:11:34,310 --> 00:11:36,530
but coming from a
Hasidic background,

288
00:11:36,530 --> 00:11:38,600
I didn't grow up with
that kind of music.

289
00:11:38,600 --> 00:11:41,330
I thought maybe that had come
from someplace, you know?

290
00:11:41,330 --> 00:11:42,560
But it didn't.

291
00:11:42,560 --> 00:11:44,600
And I had no memory.

292
00:11:44,600 --> 00:11:45,740
Nothing came back.

293
00:11:45,740 --> 00:11:46,910
There was a courtyard.

294
00:11:46,910 --> 00:11:49,637
I remember vaguely a courtyard.

295
00:11:49,637 --> 00:11:51,470
But apparently we weren't
allowed to go out,

296

00:11:51,470 --> 00:11:56,060
so I don't remember.

297

00:11:56,060 --> 00:11:57,680
And how old were you
now at this time?

298

00:11:57,680 --> 00:11:59,860
By then it was '44.

299

00:11:59,860 --> 00:12:02,200
So I was already 6 and 1/2.

300

00:12:02,200 --> 00:12:04,630
Almost 6 and 1/2.

301

00:12:04,630 --> 00:12:06,880
And how long were you
in the convent for?

302

00:12:06,880 --> 00:12:08,860
I think I was in
the convent a year

303

00:12:08,860 --> 00:12:10,750
and a half or
something like that.

304

00:12:10,750 --> 00:12:13,870
And the war ended in '45.

305

00:12:13,870 --> 00:12:14,920
At the end of--

306

00:12:14,920 --> 00:12:17,260
no, August '44 in Belgium.

307

00:12:17,260 --> 00:12:21,610
So in April--

308

00:12:21,610 --> 00:12:26,750

April '44, I think my mother
ran out of money or whatever.

309
00:12:26,750 --> 00:12:30,040
So she find out that if you
have children under six,

310
00:12:30,040 --> 00:12:32,140
you can get into Switzerland.

311
00:12:32,140 --> 00:12:35,155
So the Belgian underground--

312
00:12:35,155 --> 00:12:37,730
my mother had three children.

313
00:12:37,730 --> 00:12:40,360
So some families took
each one of them,

314
00:12:40,360 --> 00:12:42,430
pretending we were their
child, so they would be

315
00:12:42,430 --> 00:12:44,500
able to get into Switzerland.

316
00:12:44,500 --> 00:12:49,900
My mother had my older sister
Celine, my older sister.

317
00:12:49,900 --> 00:12:54,160
On the way, they were three
trucks, about 50 people,

318
00:12:54,160 --> 00:12:55,600
I think.

319
00:12:55,600 --> 00:12:58,470
That's what my mother told me.

320
00:12:58,470 --> 00:12:59,892

My mother got stuck in France.

321

00:12:59,892 --> 00:13:02,350

I mean, we had to go through
France to go into Switzerland,

322

00:13:02,350 --> 00:13:05,260

but she got stuck because
my older sister got measles.

323

00:13:05,260 --> 00:13:08,090

So she couldn't go with us.

324

00:13:08,090 --> 00:13:13,330

So the two families, they
gave us different names.

325

00:13:13,330 --> 00:13:15,130

So it was later
on more difficult

326

00:13:15,130 --> 00:13:18,040

for my mother to find
us, because they gave us

327

00:13:18,040 --> 00:13:18,800

their name.

328

00:13:18,800 --> 00:13:21,250

OK, we kept our
first name, but there

329

00:13:21,250 --> 00:13:22,960

was a different last name.

330

00:13:22,960 --> 00:13:29,410

So when we got to the border,
this is what happened.

331

00:13:29,410 --> 00:13:32,470

A couple went out
to take a walk,

332

00:13:32,470 --> 00:13:34,690
and they spoke in Yiddish.

333

00:13:34,690 --> 00:13:40,120
And some undercover Gestapo in
civilian clothes followed them,

334

00:13:40,120 --> 00:13:43,660
and they heard them speak
Yiddish, so they followed them.

335

00:13:43,660 --> 00:13:46,962
And they picked
up all the adults.

336

00:13:46,962 --> 00:13:48,670
They were all sent to
concentration camp.

337

00:13:48,670 --> 00:13:49,960
They all died.

338

00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:53,170
The children-- I was
very close to the border.

339

00:13:53,170 --> 00:13:55,090
I was told to go
under the barbed wire.

340

00:13:55,090 --> 00:13:57,760
The Swiss police would pick
me up on the other side.

341

00:13:57,760 --> 00:14:00,460
But for some
reason, I was told--

342

00:14:00,460 --> 00:14:04,510
my older sister told me, I went
and grabbed my little sister,

343

00:14:04,510 --> 00:14:06,130
because they were
going to take her.

344
00:14:06,130 --> 00:14:10,000
I grabbed her, and I ran with
her under the barbed wire,

345
00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:13,660
and the Swiss police picked both
of of us up on the other side.

346
00:14:13,660 --> 00:14:18,070
Now, I remember-- the only
thing I remember was my coat.

347
00:14:18,070 --> 00:14:20,140
My mother had made
a little gray coat

348
00:14:20,140 --> 00:14:23,740
with blue navy blue collar
for all three of us.

349
00:14:23,740 --> 00:14:27,250
And in those days, the
seamstress made clothes for us.

350
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:32,170
And my coat was torn
on the shoulder.

351
00:14:32,170 --> 00:14:34,990
And I was so worried my mother
was going to be mad at me

352
00:14:34,990 --> 00:14:36,100
that I tore my coat.

353
00:14:36,100 --> 00:14:37,750
My coat, you know?

354
00:14:37,750 --> 00:14:40,977

Then on the other side,
they picked us up.

355
00:14:40,977 --> 00:14:42,310
I took care of my little sister.

356
00:14:42,310 --> 00:14:45,220
I held on to her to dear life.

357
00:14:45,220 --> 00:14:48,040
I was like a little
mother to her.

358
00:14:48,040 --> 00:14:49,720
We were sleeping on straw.

359
00:14:49,720 --> 00:14:51,730
That's all I remember.

360
00:14:51,730 --> 00:14:55,210
The only incident, I don't
remember when my mother came

361
00:14:55,210 --> 00:14:56,800
or anything, how she found us.

362
00:14:56,800 --> 00:14:59,920
I mean, I know now she
found us, but because I

363
00:14:59,920 --> 00:15:02,020
got some papers from Belgium.

364
00:15:02,020 --> 00:15:03,850
And now I know how she found us.

365
00:15:03,850 --> 00:15:08,680
But in that camp, to
go to the bathroom,

366
00:15:08,680 --> 00:15:12,790
there was like a square

hole on the floor.

367

00:15:12,790 --> 00:15:14,800

Sorry, which camp are
you talking about?

368

00:15:14,800 --> 00:15:15,610

In Switzerland.

369

00:15:15,610 --> 00:15:18,220

When you crossed
the Swiss border,

370

00:15:18,220 --> 00:15:21,700

you crossed by yourself
with no adults?

371

00:15:21,700 --> 00:15:24,340

When I crossed the border,
I was with my little sister,

372

00:15:24,340 --> 00:15:27,280

and the Swiss
police picked us up,

373

00:15:27,280 --> 00:15:28,820

and they put us
in a refugee camp.

374

00:15:28,820 --> 00:15:29,320

OK.

375

00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:32,470

And the refugee
camp had straw mats.

376

00:15:32,470 --> 00:15:33,490

That's all I remember.

377

00:15:33,490 --> 00:15:35,680

We slept on straw.

378

00:15:35,680 --> 00:15:39,460
But in that refugee camp--

379
00:15:39,460 --> 00:15:41,230
that was in Switzerland now--

380
00:15:41,230 --> 00:15:42,370
they didn't have toilets.

381
00:15:42,370 --> 00:15:47,380
It was just like a
square hole in the floor.

382
00:15:47,380 --> 00:15:51,970
And you looked inside, it
was like a sea of excrement.

383
00:15:51,970 --> 00:15:55,420
And you put one leg there and
one leg there, and you did.

384
00:15:55,420 --> 00:15:57,070
And my little sister was there.

385
00:15:57,070 --> 00:15:58,600
She was waiting for me.

386
00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:02,530
And suddenly I slipped,
because it was slippery.

387
00:16:02,530 --> 00:16:03,922
And I was going to--

388
00:16:03,922 --> 00:16:06,130
I was going to fall in there,
and I was going to die.

389
00:16:06,130 --> 00:16:07,960
And I started screaming
and screaming,

390

00:16:07,960 --> 00:16:10,690
because my little sister,
I was taking care of Her

391
00:16:10,690 --> 00:16:15,550
and two hands just lifted me.

392
00:16:15,550 --> 00:16:16,420
I don't know who.

393
00:16:16,420 --> 00:16:17,950
Strong hands.

394
00:16:17,950 --> 00:16:20,020
I don't know if it was
a woman or was a man

395
00:16:20,020 --> 00:16:21,760
and put me on the side.

396
00:16:21,760 --> 00:16:23,500
That's all I remember.

397
00:16:23,500 --> 00:16:24,220
OK.

398
00:16:24,220 --> 00:16:29,210
And then the rest I
don't remember much.

399
00:16:29,210 --> 00:16:34,630
A few weeks later, my mother was
able to get into Switzerland.

400
00:16:34,630 --> 00:16:36,250
But she was looking
for us and she

401
00:16:36,250 --> 00:16:39,140
couldn't find us, because
those families had given us

402

00:16:39,140 --> 00:16:39,760
those names.

403
00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:43,430
Eventually, we had
the real first name,

404
00:16:43,430 --> 00:16:45,040
but a different last name.

405
00:16:45,040 --> 00:16:46,840
And even the birth
date was different,

406
00:16:46,840 --> 00:16:49,060
because they didn't
know when we were born.

407
00:16:49,060 --> 00:16:51,340
But anyway, eventually,
my mother found us.

408
00:16:51,340 --> 00:16:56,095

409
00:16:56,095 --> 00:16:57,970
I don't know how long
we stayed in that camp.

410
00:16:57,970 --> 00:16:59,530
I think a few months.

411
00:16:59,530 --> 00:17:02,013
And your mother had
brought your older sister?

412
00:17:02,013 --> 00:17:02,680
My older sister.

413
00:17:02,680 --> 00:17:04,250
She had finished
with the measles.

414

00:17:04,250 --> 00:17:06,040

She brought her.

415

00:17:06,040 --> 00:17:10,319

In Switzerland, I was with the--

416

00:17:10,319 --> 00:17:11,980

my mother went
into a refugee camp

417

00:17:11,980 --> 00:17:13,960

with my little sister
in [? Mont Jean, ?]

418

00:17:13,960 --> 00:17:15,310

it's called the name.

419

00:17:15,310 --> 00:17:18,369

And I went with a
family in Zurich,

420

00:17:18,369 --> 00:17:20,770

a very nice family that
didn't have any children.

421

00:17:20,770 --> 00:17:22,550

They were an older couple.

422

00:17:22,550 --> 00:17:26,650

And my older sister
went with another family

423

00:17:26,650 --> 00:17:28,640

that had no children.

424

00:17:28,640 --> 00:17:30,850

My family, they were
very nice to me.

425

00:17:30,850 --> 00:17:34,720

They gave me all their coupons
for chocolate and for candies.

426
00:17:34,720 --> 00:17:36,370
They were very sweet,
very nice to me.

427
00:17:36,370 --> 00:17:39,100
Everything coupons
during the war.

428
00:17:39,100 --> 00:17:41,410
Everything was rationed.

429
00:17:41,410 --> 00:17:47,080
And my older sister, she was
treated like a Cinderella.

430
00:17:47,080 --> 00:17:48,890
It was horrible.

431
00:17:48,890 --> 00:17:54,310
They made her clean floors,
and they treated her horribly.

432
00:17:54,310 --> 00:17:55,780
So she was very unlucky.

433
00:17:55,780 --> 00:17:56,890
I was lucky.

434
00:17:56,890 --> 00:17:58,490
This was after the refugee camp?

435
00:17:58,490 --> 00:17:59,440
No, excuse me?

436
00:17:59,440 --> 00:18:01,330
This is after the refugee camp?

437
00:18:01,330 --> 00:18:04,630
After the refugee
camp by the border.

438

00:18:04,630 --> 00:18:06,730

The border had refugee camps.

439

00:18:06,730 --> 00:18:11,570

And then I don't know why, they
put us with another family,

440

00:18:11,570 --> 00:18:13,390

and my little sister
stayed with my mother.

441

00:18:13,390 --> 00:18:16,420

Maybe the refugee camp
didn't take children older.

442

00:18:16,420 --> 00:18:17,320

I don't know.

443

00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:19,820

Maybe little children only
under two or something.

444

00:18:19,820 --> 00:18:21,550

I don't know.

445

00:18:21,550 --> 00:18:23,500

Yeah, I remember
seeing pictures, only

446

00:18:23,500 --> 00:18:26,500

tiny little children
under two kind of.

447

00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:31,300

And after the war,
when the war finished,

448

00:18:31,300 --> 00:18:34,060

I think my mother came to
visit this once in a while.

449

00:18:34,060 --> 00:18:37,270

She was able to leave the
refugee camp, but only

450
00:18:37,270 --> 00:18:38,290
for one day.

451
00:18:38,290 --> 00:18:40,670
She had to be back
by the evening.

452
00:18:40,670 --> 00:18:43,600
So I think occasionally
she came to visit us.

453
00:18:43,600 --> 00:18:44,650
But I remember.

454
00:18:44,650 --> 00:18:45,580
I think I was told.

455
00:18:45,580 --> 00:18:47,950
My sister told me
she came to visit us.

456
00:18:47,950 --> 00:18:50,160
Do you remember what part
of Switzerland that family

457
00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:51,410
you were living with lived in?

458
00:18:51,410 --> 00:18:52,120
Excuse me?

459
00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:54,160
Where in Switzerland
were you at this point?

460
00:18:54,160 --> 00:18:55,030
I was in Zurich.

461
00:18:55,030 --> 00:18:56,400

In Zurich, OK.

462
00:18:56,400 --> 00:18:57,220
Right.

463
00:18:57,220 --> 00:19:05,410
And in '59-- we came
here in September of '53.

464
00:19:05,410 --> 00:19:09,400
In '59, my younger sister
got married in Belgium.

465
00:19:09,400 --> 00:19:13,920
So I went to Belgium,
and then I decided

466
00:19:13,920 --> 00:19:16,090
I was going to go to
Switzerland, to Zurich, to go

467
00:19:16,090 --> 00:19:18,450
and thank those
people, what they did,

468
00:19:18,450 --> 00:19:19,960
that they were so nice to me.

469
00:19:19,960 --> 00:19:20,770
I went there.

470
00:19:20,770 --> 00:19:21,650
I found them.

471
00:19:21,650 --> 00:19:25,570
They were still alive
and he was sick.

472
00:19:25,570 --> 00:19:26,230
He was dying.

473
00:19:26,230 --> 00:19:28,600

I think he had cancer
of the stomach.

474
00:19:28,600 --> 00:19:31,600
They were very old,
and it was very nice.

475
00:19:31,600 --> 00:19:32,680
They were very nice.

476
00:19:32,680 --> 00:19:34,840
And I never went back.

477
00:19:34,840 --> 00:19:37,780
I assume he died and she died.

478
00:19:37,780 --> 00:19:39,560
I did have a little girlfriend.

479
00:19:39,560 --> 00:19:41,050
Her name was Heidi.

480
00:19:41,050 --> 00:19:43,180
And I have a picture of her.

481
00:19:43,180 --> 00:19:48,280
And I was even thinking
of going to Switzerland

482
00:19:48,280 --> 00:19:50,350
to see if I can find that
one, although she may--

483
00:19:50,350 --> 00:19:52,100
I don't know if
she's still alive.

484
00:19:52,100 --> 00:19:53,480
I remember the address.

485
00:19:53,480 --> 00:19:55,150
So maybe somebody

who is still alive

486
00:19:55,150 --> 00:19:57,160
may know or recognize
her, you know?

487
00:19:57,160 --> 00:19:59,808
From the picture, who she is.

488
00:19:59,808 --> 00:20:02,350
She's someone you met while you
were living with that family?

489
00:20:02,350 --> 00:20:04,390
When I was with that family.

490
00:20:04,390 --> 00:20:07,690
Her name was Heidi, and she
was my little girlfriend.

491
00:20:07,690 --> 00:20:10,480
And we-- I remember
playing on the swing.

492
00:20:10,480 --> 00:20:13,690
On the swing-- that's why I
think I have a bad memory.

493
00:20:13,690 --> 00:20:15,600
I'm not sure of it.

494
00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:17,710
We were playing on the
swing, and the swing

495
00:20:17,710 --> 00:20:19,180
hit me on the head hard.

496
00:20:19,180 --> 00:20:21,460
I have a scar, a
little scar here.

497

00:20:21,460 --> 00:20:23,560
And all I remember is blood.

498
00:20:23,560 --> 00:20:24,730
And that's all I remember.

499
00:20:24,730 --> 00:20:26,380
So I must have passed
out or something.

500
00:20:26,380 --> 00:20:27,770
Or maybe I went to the hospital.

501
00:20:27,770 --> 00:20:29,860
I don't know.

502
00:20:29,860 --> 00:20:31,510
But I have a very bad memory.

503
00:20:31,510 --> 00:20:33,430
I always had a bad memory.

504
00:20:33,430 --> 00:20:35,380
It would have been interesting.

505
00:20:35,380 --> 00:20:37,100
I started school in Switzerland.

506
00:20:37,100 --> 00:20:38,590
I was six.

507
00:20:38,590 --> 00:20:41,012
When I came back, I
spoke SchwyzerdÄ¼tsch.

508
00:20:41,012 --> 00:20:44,320

509
00:20:44,320 --> 00:20:47,770
How long were you living
with that family for?

510

00:20:47,770 --> 00:20:51,880

Well, actually not
very long because

511

00:20:51,880 --> 00:20:59,320

from '44 April, or maybe
May '44, April or May '44

512

00:20:59,320 --> 00:21:00,940

to maybe October '44.

513

00:21:00,940 --> 00:21:03,640

Maybe a good six
months, if that much.

514

00:21:03,640 --> 00:21:12,310

Because the war ended, and
my mother came to get us.

515

00:21:12,310 --> 00:21:13,525

We went back to Belgium.

516

00:21:13,525 --> 00:21:16,090

517

00:21:16,090 --> 00:21:18,460

I was put in an orphanage,
because my mother had

518

00:21:18,460 --> 00:21:20,710

to get her life together,
and Alice was so young.

519

00:21:20,710 --> 00:21:22,250

So she had three children.

520

00:21:22,250 --> 00:21:24,860

She had to the work
and find an apartment.

521

00:21:24,860 --> 00:21:27,700

And so she put us

in an orphanage.

522

00:21:27,700 --> 00:21:30,670

Tiefenbrunner, it was a
very famous orphanage.

523

00:21:30,670 --> 00:21:33,310

And so they put us
in an orphanage,

524

00:21:33,310 --> 00:21:36,850

where they had children
that they had no parents

525

00:21:36,850 --> 00:21:38,770

and children that
had one parent, that

526

00:21:38,770 --> 00:21:41,410

put their children there
temporarily until they

527

00:21:41,410 --> 00:21:43,820

got their life
together after the war.

528

00:21:43,820 --> 00:21:46,450

But I think I was
there for two years.

529

00:21:46,450 --> 00:21:50,890

Also I have very little memory
of that orphanage, also.

530

00:21:50,890 --> 00:21:52,390

That was a Jewish orphanage?

531

00:21:52,390 --> 00:21:55,480

A Jewish, an orthodox orphanage.

532

00:21:55,480 --> 00:22:00,770

As a matter of fact, when I
returned to my mother, I was--

533
00:22:00,770 --> 00:22:02,090
that was in Brussels.

534
00:22:02,090 --> 00:22:10,760
I returned in Antwerp, it
must have been '47, '48.

535
00:22:10,760 --> 00:22:11,630
I'm not too sure.

536
00:22:11,630 --> 00:22:17,603

537
00:22:17,603 --> 00:22:20,320
I don't remember
going to school.

538
00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:21,700
But I knew how to read or write.

539
00:22:21,700 --> 00:22:23,390
They put me in third grade.

540
00:22:23,390 --> 00:22:27,190
So I must have gone to
school in the orphanage,

541
00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:29,650
but I have no memory.

542
00:22:29,650 --> 00:22:32,750
But I have a tendency--

543
00:22:32,750 --> 00:22:34,450
I have like a
mental garbage can.

544
00:22:34,450 --> 00:22:38,080
If something unpleasant happens
to me, I just forget it.

545

00:22:38,080 --> 00:22:40,450

I just like literally put
it in the garbage can.

546

00:22:40,450 --> 00:22:44,380

Maybe that's my
way of surviving.

547

00:22:44,380 --> 00:22:48,760

Like, let's say I don't
remember ever being hungry, OK?

548

00:22:48,760 --> 00:22:51,430

Other people, my friends
remember, boy, they

549

00:22:51,430 --> 00:22:52,270

were hungry.

550

00:22:52,270 --> 00:22:54,040

I don't remember being hungry.

551

00:22:54,040 --> 00:22:57,010

But I don't leave the house
without food in my bag.

552

00:22:57,010 --> 00:23:00,640

Even now already I have a
banana in my bag just in case.

553

00:23:00,640 --> 00:23:03,110

I know every corner I
can buy a banana, right?

554

00:23:03,110 --> 00:23:04,910

Every corner I can buy food.

555

00:23:04,910 --> 00:23:08,740

But I cannot leave my
house without food,

556

00:23:08,740 --> 00:23:11,770

because I am petrified
of being hungry.

557
00:23:11,770 --> 00:23:15,580
So I must have been hungry
during the war, I think.

558
00:23:15,580 --> 00:23:18,730
Because otherwise why?

559
00:23:18,730 --> 00:23:19,820
Why would I do that?

560
00:23:19,820 --> 00:23:20,350
You know?

561
00:23:20,350 --> 00:23:22,990
But I don't remember
being hungry.

562
00:23:22,990 --> 00:23:26,290
And as a matter of
fact, in the winter,

563
00:23:26,290 --> 00:23:28,720
every time I go to a nice
restaurant or something,

564
00:23:28,720 --> 00:23:32,230
a nice meal or whatever,
I have a nice, warm coat,

565
00:23:32,230 --> 00:23:34,585
and I keep on thinking,
oh, those poor people

566
00:23:34,585 --> 00:23:37,720
during the war, how they
must have suffered, you know?

567
00:23:37,720 --> 00:23:39,850
They were hungry, and
they were cold, you know?

568
00:23:39,850 --> 00:23:42,130
And I have like a
feeling of well-being

569
00:23:42,130 --> 00:23:45,190
that I just had a nice meal
and I have a warm coat.

570
00:23:45,190 --> 00:23:47,500
So it works on my mind.

571
00:23:47,500 --> 00:23:51,370
For many children,
during the war

572
00:23:51,370 --> 00:23:52,870
you were not aware
what's happening.

573
00:23:52,870 --> 00:23:55,510
You thought after the
war you go back home,

574
00:23:55,510 --> 00:23:56,920
everything go back to normal.

575
00:23:56,920 --> 00:23:58,330
But things didn't go back.

576
00:23:58,330 --> 00:24:03,370
And that's when most people
really realized their losses.

577
00:24:03,370 --> 00:24:06,250
And as you get older,
especially those

578
00:24:06,250 --> 00:24:08,260
that don't have any
children or people

579

00:24:08,260 --> 00:24:10,300
don't have extended families.

580
00:24:10,300 --> 00:24:12,610
They don't have--
now I have cousins,

581
00:24:12,610 --> 00:24:15,790
I mean, that they
have grandparents,

582
00:24:15,790 --> 00:24:17,710
they have parents.

583
00:24:17,710 --> 00:24:18,920
They have cousins.

584
00:24:18,920 --> 00:24:21,790
They have big extended families.

585
00:24:21,790 --> 00:24:22,510
Nothing.

586
00:24:22,510 --> 00:24:23,200
Zero.

587
00:24:23,200 --> 00:24:26,140
Have nobody.

588
00:24:26,140 --> 00:24:27,895
Now I do volunteer work to--

589
00:24:27,895 --> 00:24:31,150

590
00:24:31,150 --> 00:24:33,550
an old Holocaust survivor,
she lives on this block.

591
00:24:33,550 --> 00:24:34,600
So I visit her.

592

00:24:34,600 --> 00:24:35,890

Now she's in hospital.

593

00:24:35,890 --> 00:24:36,910

She's 96.

594

00:24:36,910 --> 00:24:37,880

She's unbelievable.

595

00:24:37,880 --> 00:24:39,970

Her memory is better than mine.

596

00:24:39,970 --> 00:24:43,180

But she keeps on crying, she
has no picture of her mother.

597

00:24:43,180 --> 00:24:45,700

But she's 96, so she
must have been 20.

598

00:24:45,700 --> 00:24:47,860

So she must have some
memory of her mother, what

599

00:24:47,860 --> 00:24:49,270

she looked like.

600

00:24:49,270 --> 00:24:59,560

But she had one son, and he
died in a displaced camp.

601

00:24:59,560 --> 00:25:04,480

And then he became a doctor
here, and then he died.

602

00:25:04,480 --> 00:25:06,760

And so she has
grandchildren that

603

00:25:06,760 --> 00:25:11,620

visit her, but
about the war, she

604
00:25:11,620 --> 00:25:14,020
doesn't have a
picture of her mother.

605
00:25:14,020 --> 00:25:15,520
And that drives her nuts.

606
00:25:15,520 --> 00:25:19,060

607
00:25:19,060 --> 00:25:20,350
So she's alone.

608
00:25:20,350 --> 00:25:23,950
I mean, she's not really alone
because she has grandchildren.

609
00:25:23,950 --> 00:25:26,030
A lot of people don't
have grandchildren.

610
00:25:26,030 --> 00:25:29,750
So they're really
alone, alone, alone.

611
00:25:29,750 --> 00:25:32,920
A lot of them don't
have sisters either.

612
00:25:32,920 --> 00:25:38,470
So it's really,
for many children,

613
00:25:38,470 --> 00:25:40,690
I think what happened
during the war,

614
00:25:40,690 --> 00:25:45,400
especially Belgium, children, I
think the majority were hidden

615

00:25:45,400 --> 00:25:48,970
with families or in convents.

616
00:25:48,970 --> 00:25:52,300
The reason why they
didn't even consider

617
00:25:52,300 --> 00:25:53,830
themselves Holocaust survivors.

618
00:25:53,830 --> 00:25:57,550
When we had a conference in
'91 about child survivors,

619
00:25:57,550 --> 00:26:01,990
it was the first conference,
the Holocaust survivors,

620
00:26:01,990 --> 00:26:05,990
that was them, those that
were in concentration camps.

621
00:26:05,990 --> 00:26:08,290
I never considered myself
a Holocaust survivor.

622
00:26:08,290 --> 00:26:09,880
I never thought about it.

623
00:26:09,880 --> 00:26:12,190
It was like almost
insulting, you know?

624
00:26:12,190 --> 00:26:16,280
We were hidden children
and we were not in camps.

625
00:26:16,280 --> 00:26:17,590
It's them.

626
00:26:17,590 --> 00:26:20,580
And then I realized everybody's
a Holocaust survivor,

627

00:26:20,580 --> 00:26:22,120

[? you sly dog. ?]

But we never--

628

00:26:22,120 --> 00:26:24,340

I never thought of myself

as a Holocaust survivor.

629

00:26:24,340 --> 00:26:26,110

It's only the last

few years, suddenly

630

00:26:26,110 --> 00:26:29,990

it dawned on me that I

am a Holocaust survivor.

631

00:26:29,990 --> 00:26:33,460

Once in one of the meetings

there was a woman there.

632

00:26:33,460 --> 00:26:35,560

She was in concentration

camp three years.

633

00:26:35,560 --> 00:26:38,170

I couldn't imagine

how you survived that.

634

00:26:38,170 --> 00:26:40,570

And she's always so upbeat.

635

00:26:40,570 --> 00:26:44,590

And one day I just had to ask.

636

00:26:44,590 --> 00:26:48,160

I said, listen, you're the one

that had it the worst, I think.

637

00:26:48,160 --> 00:26:50,230

You were three years in

a concentration camp.

638

00:26:50,230 --> 00:26:55,870

I said, how are you always
in such a positive mood

639

00:26:55,870 --> 00:26:57,970

and you're always so upbeat?

640

00:26:57,970 --> 00:27:03,310

And she said to me, the
nicest day of my life

641

00:27:03,310 --> 00:27:08,080

was when the war was over, and
I slept on a bed with a sheet.

642

00:27:08,080 --> 00:27:10,570

She said that was the most
beautiful day of my life.

643

00:27:10,570 --> 00:27:13,570

And then she said, I
felt sorry for you,

644

00:27:13,570 --> 00:27:15,220

she said, because
you and the children,

645

00:27:15,220 --> 00:27:16,750

you didn't know what was
going to happen to you.

646

00:27:16,750 --> 00:27:18,350

I knew what was going
to happen to me.

647

00:27:18,350 --> 00:27:19,933

I mean, she happened
to have survived.

648

00:27:19,933 --> 00:27:21,590

She knew she was going to die.

649

00:27:21,590 --> 00:27:23,697

She said, I knew what was
going to happen to me.

650

00:27:23,697 --> 00:27:25,030

But you people, you didn't know.

651

00:27:25,030 --> 00:27:27,655

You had to be worry all the time
what's going to happen to you.

652

00:27:27,655 --> 00:27:32,440

She thought the children
had it worse then.

653

00:27:32,440 --> 00:27:35,830

But when I always
think about it,

654

00:27:35,830 --> 00:27:38,350

I cannot imagine what
happened, how those people

655

00:27:38,350 --> 00:27:40,060

in concentration
must have suffered.

656

00:27:40,060 --> 00:27:43,690

That must have been an
unbelievable nightmare.

657

00:27:43,690 --> 00:27:49,730

You know, hungry, and cold,
and ugh-- a nightmare.

658

00:27:49,730 --> 00:27:59,990

So I don't remember
being not taken care of.

659

00:27:59,990 --> 00:28:01,700

I don't remember that.

660

00:28:01,700 --> 00:28:04,820

And it must have
effect on me, being

661
00:28:04,820 --> 00:28:07,550
separated from my parents,
not seeing my parents.

662
00:28:07,550 --> 00:28:10,100
But I don't remember that.

663
00:28:10,100 --> 00:28:11,720
Maybe I just--

664
00:28:11,720 --> 00:28:13,790
I think I blocked out a lot.

665
00:28:13,790 --> 00:28:17,580
Although there was a
doctor, Dr. Kestenberg,

666
00:28:17,580 --> 00:28:19,775
you know who she is?

667
00:28:19,775 --> 00:28:22,590
She lives-- she used to live on
79th Street, that big building

668
00:28:22,590 --> 00:28:23,090
there.

669
00:28:23,090 --> 00:28:25,580
She was a child psychologist.

670
00:28:25,580 --> 00:28:28,130
She's the one that took
interviews for all hidden

671
00:28:28,130 --> 00:28:30,230
children.

672
00:28:30,230 --> 00:28:33,260
And that was her--

673
00:28:33,260 --> 00:28:35,390
I forget what her
organization is called,

674
00:28:35,390 --> 00:28:37,790
but Dr. Kestenbergr,
she interviewed

675
00:28:37,790 --> 00:28:40,680
children, hidden children,
or child survivors.

676
00:28:40,680 --> 00:28:43,850
And one day, she
asked me when we

677
00:28:43,850 --> 00:28:45,770
were preparing
for conference, we

678
00:28:45,770 --> 00:28:49,260
wanted to find child survivors.

679
00:28:49,260 --> 00:28:52,010
So we had to find a
way to finding them.

680
00:28:52,010 --> 00:28:55,610
There was a film that
showed on television

681
00:28:55,610 --> 00:29:00,950
about a woman that went back to
Belgium to thank her rescuers.

682
00:29:00,950 --> 00:29:03,710
And a woman that saw
that film, it gave her

683
00:29:03,710 --> 00:29:06,620
an idea of finding
child survivors

684
00:29:06,620 --> 00:29:09,860
here in New York, in this
area, and have a conference.

685
00:29:09,860 --> 00:29:12,680
So we had an article
in New York Magazine,

686
00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:15,890
so we know that the word
go out to find people, OK?

687
00:29:15,890 --> 00:29:21,200
So-- oh, you see now, I
forget why I was telling that.

688
00:29:21,200 --> 00:29:25,400
My memory's playing
tricks on me.

689
00:29:25,400 --> 00:29:29,390
The conference was to get
hidden children together.

690
00:29:29,390 --> 00:29:30,050
The what?

691
00:29:30,050 --> 00:29:32,857
You were saying that
the conference Dr.

692
00:29:32,857 --> 00:29:33,940
Kestenberg had organized--

693
00:29:33,940 --> 00:29:34,490
Yeah, OK.

694
00:29:34,490 --> 00:29:35,900
Dr. Kestenberg, OK.

695
00:29:35,900 --> 00:29:39,570

So she lent us an apartment
to prepare for the conference.

696
00:29:39,570 --> 00:29:40,880
So we finally organized.

697
00:29:40,880 --> 00:29:43,220
We found enough people,
and we organized

698
00:29:43,220 --> 00:29:46,640
to have an international
conference of child survivors,

699
00:29:46,640 --> 00:29:48,890
which happened in '91.

700
00:29:48,890 --> 00:29:51,200
I think it was November '91.

701
00:29:51,200 --> 00:29:54,680
That was the first international
child survivor conference.

702
00:29:54,680 --> 00:29:58,460
And I wrote an article.

703
00:29:58,460 --> 00:30:00,060
OK, I was helping.

704
00:30:00,060 --> 00:30:02,060
I was one of the organizers.

705
00:30:02,060 --> 00:30:06,230
And we were trying
to advertise to see

706
00:30:06,230 --> 00:30:08,090
how are we going
to find children

707
00:30:08,090 --> 00:30:10,550

in the New York area or
Connecticut, New Jersey.

708
00:30:10,550 --> 00:30:13,540
So I went to The New York Times.

709
00:30:13,540 --> 00:30:16,520
And I asked them if we could
have an article in the Sunday--

710
00:30:16,520 --> 00:30:19,460
in the Sunday section,
in the magazine section,

711
00:30:19,460 --> 00:30:21,330
which stays around
a little longer.

712
00:30:21,330 --> 00:30:23,150
They said, no, they
couldn't promise us.

713
00:30:23,150 --> 00:30:25,760
So I wrote a letter
to New York Magazine.

714
00:30:25,760 --> 00:30:27,690
I said, we're a group of people.

715
00:30:27,690 --> 00:30:30,560
We're child survivors,
and each one of us

716
00:30:30,560 --> 00:30:32,520
have a very interesting story.

717
00:30:32,520 --> 00:30:35,540
Would it be possible to
have an article on us?

718
00:30:35,540 --> 00:30:37,790
Immediately I got a response.

719

00:30:37,790 --> 00:30:40,700

And they had an
article about us.

720

00:30:40,700 --> 00:30:44,360

And then later on, there
was a book about us.

721

00:30:44,360 --> 00:30:46,310

So they helped us.

722

00:30:46,310 --> 00:30:47,450

At the conference--

723

00:30:47,450 --> 00:30:50,423

724

00:30:50,423 --> 00:30:54,410

OK, again, why?

725

00:30:54,410 --> 00:30:55,640

I forget now why I was--

726

00:30:55,640 --> 00:30:59,690

anyway, we did have
a conference in '91.

727

00:30:59,690 --> 00:31:03,230

There were 1,600
people that came.

728

00:31:03,230 --> 00:31:05,570

There were many from
all over the world.

729

00:31:05,570 --> 00:31:07,970

Many couldn't come in
because I think we could only

730

00:31:07,970 --> 00:31:10,610

accommodate 1,600.

731
00:31:10,610 --> 00:31:12,590
It was very successful.

732
00:31:12,590 --> 00:31:14,540
Some people found each other.

733
00:31:14,540 --> 00:31:16,730
And to this day,
every day there's

734
00:31:16,730 --> 00:31:18,710
a conference for
child survivors,

735
00:31:18,710 --> 00:31:21,620
or Holocaust survivors,
child, survivors.

736
00:31:21,620 --> 00:31:23,950
And every month-- every
year, the conference

737
00:31:23,950 --> 00:31:26,690
is in a different city
or a different country.

738
00:31:26,690 --> 00:31:30,950
Sometimes it's in Holland,
or it's in Israel, Cleveland.

739
00:31:30,950 --> 00:31:32,540
You know, all over.

740
00:31:32,540 --> 00:31:34,580
And there's a
bulletin board there.

741
00:31:34,580 --> 00:31:38,370
And to this they, did
you know, did you find,

742
00:31:38,370 --> 00:31:41,960

did anybody-- people are
still looking for each other,

743
00:31:41,960 --> 00:31:42,870
for people.

744
00:31:42,870 --> 00:31:44,660
And people are--
occasionally somebody's

745
00:31:44,660 --> 00:31:46,100
still finding somebody.

746
00:31:46,100 --> 00:31:47,480
Wow, that's amazing.

747
00:31:47,480 --> 00:31:48,740
But it is the most--

748
00:31:48,740 --> 00:31:51,830
I always go and watch that
bulletin board, because I

749
00:31:51,830 --> 00:31:53,900
see how they read, how they--

750
00:31:53,900 --> 00:31:57,320
they're still anxious trying
to find somebody maybe

751
00:31:57,320 --> 00:31:58,260
that's still alive.

752
00:31:58,260 --> 00:31:58,760
Right.

753
00:31:58,760 --> 00:32:01,850
And what happened to my
mother, which is my mother

754
00:32:01,850 --> 00:32:04,100
didn't have anybody.

755
00:32:04,100 --> 00:32:05,090
She moved to Israel.

756
00:32:05,090 --> 00:32:06,620
She lived in Jerusalem.

757
00:32:06,620 --> 00:32:07,760
Then she got a brain tumor.

758
00:32:07,760 --> 00:32:09,740
She was in a home.

759
00:32:09,740 --> 00:32:12,407
And she had a
sister-in-law in Poland.

760
00:32:12,407 --> 00:32:14,240
I don't know if it was
in Belgium or Poland,

761
00:32:14,240 --> 00:32:16,340
she loved love very much.

762
00:32:16,340 --> 00:32:20,060
And you know, after she died
we find out that she lived

763
00:32:20,060 --> 00:32:22,130
a block away from my mother.

764
00:32:22,130 --> 00:32:23,930
Wow.

765
00:32:23,930 --> 00:32:26,720
OK, let's back up a little bit.

766
00:32:26,720 --> 00:32:30,320
The last we talked
about you were living

767

00:32:30,320 --> 00:32:33,702
in an orphanage in Belgium.

768
00:32:33,702 --> 00:32:34,910
I was living in an orphanage.

769
00:32:34,910 --> 00:32:37,077
Your mother was trying to
get her life back together

770
00:32:37,077 --> 00:32:38,390
after the war.

771
00:32:38,390 --> 00:32:39,740
After the war, right.

772
00:32:39,740 --> 00:32:41,390
So tell me what's next.

773
00:32:41,390 --> 00:32:43,130
How long were you in
the orphanage for?

774
00:32:43,130 --> 00:32:43,740
You said--

775
00:32:43,740 --> 00:32:45,440
I think I was there two years.

776
00:32:45,440 --> 00:32:45,950
OK.

777
00:32:45,950 --> 00:32:48,500
I was two years
in the orphanage.

778
00:32:48,500 --> 00:32:50,590
And then I went back to Antwerp.

779
00:32:50,590 --> 00:32:52,340
Your mother took you
out of the orphanage?

780
00:32:52,340 --> 00:32:53,300
My mother, she had an apartment.

781
00:32:53,300 --> 00:32:53,800
Hmm?

782
00:32:53,800 --> 00:32:57,020
Your mother took you out of
the orphanage after two years?

783
00:32:57,020 --> 00:33:00,080
Well, that's the funny thing.

784
00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:02,420
I don't remember my
mother taking me out.

785
00:33:02,420 --> 00:33:05,270
What I remember is taking
the train from Brussels

786
00:33:05,270 --> 00:33:08,030
and going to Antwerp
and showing up at home.

787
00:33:08,030 --> 00:33:08,630
OK.

788
00:33:08,630 --> 00:33:09,710
That's what I remember.

789
00:33:09,710 --> 00:33:12,200
And your sisters were
in the same orphanage?

790
00:33:12,200 --> 00:33:14,450
My older sister was
still in the orphanage.

791
00:33:14,450 --> 00:33:16,040
She was there longer than I was.

792
00:33:16,040 --> 00:33:17,977
My younger sister,
I didn't think she--

793
00:33:17,977 --> 00:33:18,560
I didn't know.

794
00:33:18,560 --> 00:33:20,060
I remember she was
in the orphanage.

795
00:33:20,060 --> 00:33:22,100
Apparently she was
also for a few months.

796
00:33:22,100 --> 00:33:24,440
She was with my mother.

797
00:33:24,440 --> 00:33:26,775
Then I came to the orphanage.

798
00:33:26,775 --> 00:33:29,150
You left the orphanage, what
year and what year was that?

799
00:33:29,150 --> 00:33:29,790
Excuse me?

800
00:33:29,790 --> 00:33:32,960
What year was it when
you left the orphanage?

801
00:33:32,960 --> 00:33:34,862
It must have been '47 or '48.

802
00:33:34,862 --> 00:33:35,570
I don't remember.

803
00:33:35,570 --> 00:33:38,680

804

00:33:38,680 --> 00:33:41,697

Then it must have been
'47, at the end of '47.

805

00:33:41,697 --> 00:33:42,530

Something like that.

806

00:33:42,530 --> 00:33:45,040

You were about 9
or 10 years old.

807

00:33:45,040 --> 00:33:48,760

Yeah, I started in the
third or fourth grade.

808

00:33:48,760 --> 00:33:50,855

So how old are you when
you're in third grade?

809

00:33:50,855 --> 00:33:51,355

Nine?

810

00:33:51,355 --> 00:33:53,800

About 9 or 10.

811

00:33:53,800 --> 00:33:58,930

Well, I don't remember going
to school, like I said.

812

00:33:58,930 --> 00:34:00,400

But I knew how to
read and write,

813

00:34:00,400 --> 00:34:01,850

some I must have gone to school.

814

00:34:01,850 --> 00:34:02,530

OK.

815

00:34:02,530 --> 00:34:07,170

And they put me
with my grade age.

816
00:34:07,170 --> 00:34:08,199
in--

817
00:34:08,199 --> 00:34:09,150
In Antwerp.

818
00:34:09,150 --> 00:34:10,210
In Antwerp, right.

819
00:34:10,210 --> 00:34:14,739
So I was never a great student.

820
00:34:14,739 --> 00:34:17,409
I just always just
barely made it.

821
00:34:17,409 --> 00:34:19,030
Because I couldn't concentrate.

822
00:34:19,030 --> 00:34:22,370
I never had-- I always had
a concentration problem.

823
00:34:22,370 --> 00:34:28,824
And so I made it, but I never
was like a great student.

824
00:34:28,824 --> 00:34:32,139

825
00:34:32,139 --> 00:34:36,940
And then I went to an
art school after that.

826
00:34:36,940 --> 00:34:42,409
And then my parents decided
to come over here in '53.

827
00:34:42,409 --> 00:34:44,930
So your mother had
remarried at this point?

828
00:34:44,930 --> 00:34:46,179
Oh, OK.

829
00:34:46,179 --> 00:34:54,320
In '48-- in '48 or '49--

830
00:34:54,320 --> 00:34:55,100
no.

831
00:34:55,100 --> 00:34:59,990
After the war, there was a man
that came to visit my mother.

832
00:34:59,990 --> 00:35:02,720
He found her and he
came to visit her.

833
00:35:02,720 --> 00:35:07,310
And he said to her, I was with
your husband in a concentration

834
00:35:07,310 --> 00:35:08,010
camp.

835
00:35:08,010 --> 00:35:12,860
And I had promised your husband
that if I survive and he dies,

836
00:35:12,860 --> 00:35:15,110
I will marry your mother.

837
00:35:15,110 --> 00:35:16,700
I will marry your wife.

838
00:35:16,700 --> 00:35:18,750
You know, she had
three little children.

839
00:35:18,750 --> 00:35:22,610
So he found my
mother after the war,

840
00:35:22,610 --> 00:35:26,900
and he told her what had
happened to my father.

841
00:35:26,900 --> 00:35:29,270
And he died of--

842
00:35:29,270 --> 00:35:30,350
that's what we were told.

843
00:35:30,350 --> 00:35:32,300
I'm not too sure
now-- of typhoid,

844
00:35:32,300 --> 00:35:35,570
that there was a typhoid
epidemic in the camp.

845
00:35:35,570 --> 00:35:36,500
Which camp was he in?

846
00:35:36,500 --> 00:35:38,570
So that happened a lot.

847
00:35:38,570 --> 00:35:39,500
So that made sense.

848
00:35:39,500 --> 00:35:41,660
So my older sister
once said, no, he

849
00:35:41,660 --> 00:35:42,950
died a more horrible death.

850
00:35:42,950 --> 00:35:45,320
And I said what, and
she wouldn't tell me.

851
00:35:45,320 --> 00:35:46,070
So I don't know.

852

00:35:46,070 --> 00:35:48,530

I assume my mother knew better.

853

00:35:48,530 --> 00:35:51,590

And this man, he wanted
to marry my mother

854

00:35:51,590 --> 00:35:55,040

but he was not a religious man.

855

00:35:55,040 --> 00:35:58,520

So she did not marry him.

856

00:35:58,520 --> 00:36:05,980

So then later on, you
know, in the Orthodox,

857

00:36:05,980 --> 00:36:08,170

love comes after marriage,
not before marriage.

858

00:36:08,170 --> 00:36:09,100

You know?

859

00:36:09,100 --> 00:36:10,690

Love will come after marriage.

860

00:36:10,690 --> 00:36:17,560

So then somebody introduced my
mother to Haskel Halberstam.

861

00:36:17,560 --> 00:36:19,330

You know, the rabbi?

862

00:36:19,330 --> 00:36:21,880

And they got married.

863

00:36:21,880 --> 00:36:24,490

I don't remember my mother
telling me or asking

864

00:36:24,490 --> 00:36:32,260
me, but my older sister,
she married a non-Jew.

865
00:36:32,260 --> 00:36:34,240
And that was a terrible
thing for my mother.

866
00:36:34,240 --> 00:36:36,220
As a matter of fact,
that's the reason why

867
00:36:36,220 --> 00:36:39,190
we came to the United States.

868
00:36:39,190 --> 00:36:43,930
She was going out with a
boy that was not Jewish.

869
00:36:43,930 --> 00:36:46,810
And my mother-- but she was 17.

870
00:36:46,810 --> 00:36:52,240
In those days, 16, 17 was
not like 16, 17 over here.

871
00:36:52,240 --> 00:36:55,900
It was very innocent,
and it was not the same.

872
00:36:55,900 --> 00:36:58,930
It's like 12 years old, maybe.

873
00:36:58,930 --> 00:37:01,210
But I went to a
Jewish school, but she

874
00:37:01,210 --> 00:37:02,500
went to a non-Jewish school.

875
00:37:02,500 --> 00:37:04,300
It was a business school.

876

00:37:04,300 --> 00:37:10,030
So my mother and my father, my
stepfather went to her parents

877

00:37:10,030 --> 00:37:13,240
and told her, listen,
this is a religious girl.

878

00:37:13,240 --> 00:37:14,460
She cannot marry a non-Jew.

879

00:37:14,460 --> 00:37:17,200

880

00:37:17,200 --> 00:37:19,678
And you know what the
parents of the boy said?

881

00:37:19,678 --> 00:37:20,720
They said, you know what?

882

00:37:20,720 --> 00:37:26,560
We don't want our
son to marry a Yid.

883

00:37:26,560 --> 00:37:29,350
Two weeks later, my
mother had a visa

884

00:37:29,350 --> 00:37:31,420
to come to the United States.

885

00:37:31,420 --> 00:37:34,690
This is the reason why we
came to the United States,

886

00:37:34,690 --> 00:37:37,330
because of my older sister.

887

00:37:37,330 --> 00:37:38,080
And you know what?

888

00:37:38,080 --> 00:37:42,160

At the end, she still
married a non-Jew over here.

889

00:37:42,160 --> 00:37:43,960

My parents said shiva for her.

890

00:37:43,960 --> 00:37:47,050

It was terrible.

891

00:37:47,050 --> 00:37:51,070

For an Orthodox family that
suffered because they were

892

00:37:51,070 --> 00:37:54,130

Jewish during the war
so much and their child

893

00:37:54,130 --> 00:38:00,110

to marry outside, it's a
terrible thing for them.

894

00:38:00,110 --> 00:38:03,230

OK, so your mom
remarried in Antwerp.

895

00:38:03,230 --> 00:38:05,150

She married-- remarried a rabbi.

896

00:38:05,150 --> 00:38:07,496

And all of you were
together living

897

00:38:07,496 --> 00:38:08,788

with him, you and your sisters.

898

00:38:08,788 --> 00:38:11,210

We lived together in Antwerp.

899

00:38:11,210 --> 00:38:16,670

And then my stepfather
had a brother here,

900
00:38:16,670 --> 00:38:19,730
and the Bobov Ruv which
is the Halberstam,

901
00:38:19,730 --> 00:38:21,770
it's a kind of big
rabbinical family.

902
00:38:21,770 --> 00:38:23,660
He had family here.

903
00:38:23,660 --> 00:38:27,320
So he, my stepfather--
now, that's another thing.

904
00:38:27,320 --> 00:38:29,450
He was one of 12.

905
00:38:29,450 --> 00:38:31,430
And two survived the war.

906
00:38:31,430 --> 00:38:35,750
And him, my stepfather,
he had, I think,

907
00:38:35,750 --> 00:38:38,360
four children, and
his wife was pregnant.

908
00:38:38,360 --> 00:38:39,650
They all died in the war.

909
00:38:39,650 --> 00:38:43,280
And he had such a sad look.

910
00:38:43,280 --> 00:38:45,290
I could never look
at him in his eyes.

911
00:38:45,290 --> 00:38:46,730
It was a horrible thing.

912
00:38:46,730 --> 00:38:48,443
He had the saddest eyes.

913
00:38:48,443 --> 00:38:49,610
I couldn't look in his eyes.

914
00:38:49,610 --> 00:38:51,470
All the years that we
were living together,

915
00:38:51,470 --> 00:38:53,790
I could never look in his eyes.

916
00:38:53,790 --> 00:38:56,330
He was-- well, he had lost--

917
00:38:56,330 --> 00:39:01,220
I mean, imagine 12 children,
his whole family, his parents,

918
00:39:01,220 --> 00:39:03,470
his wife, children, everything.

919
00:39:03,470 --> 00:39:06,960
He had lost everything,
more than the average.

920
00:39:06,960 --> 00:39:08,060
And it was horrible.

921
00:39:08,060 --> 00:39:12,080
And yeah, that was
not a happy marriage.

922
00:39:12,080 --> 00:39:15,920
I mean, they lived together,
but it was not a happy marriage.

923
00:39:15,920 --> 00:39:20,870
And what I feel the most
sorry is for my mother.

924

00:39:20,870 --> 00:39:25,567

She had such a hard life,
the war and how she--

925

00:39:25,567 --> 00:39:27,650

I don't know if I could
have done what she'd done.

926

00:39:27,650 --> 00:39:29,865

Imagine you have three
children and the Gestapo,

927

00:39:29,865 --> 00:39:32,630

and everywhere you have
to be careful you're not

928

00:39:32,630 --> 00:39:34,040

going to get caught?

929

00:39:34,040 --> 00:39:37,070

Oh, it must have been horrible
for a woman with three children

930

00:39:37,070 --> 00:39:39,320

or two children,
anybody, any woman alone

931

00:39:39,320 --> 00:39:41,180

with children during the war.

932

00:39:41,180 --> 00:39:44,685

And then she survived
the war, and then she

933

00:39:44,685 --> 00:39:46,310

did not have a happy
marriage, and then

934

00:39:46,310 --> 00:39:48,440

she had a brain
tumor at the end.

935

00:39:48,440 --> 00:39:51,940

And she suffered for seven
years with a brain tumor.

936

00:39:51,940 --> 00:39:52,980

It was really sad.

937

00:39:52,980 --> 00:39:53,480

I'm sorry.

938

00:39:53,480 --> 00:39:55,700

I feel so sorry for her.

939

00:39:55,700 --> 00:39:58,340

She really had a
horrible a life.

940

00:39:58,340 --> 00:40:00,590

That is a true tragedy.

941

00:40:00,590 --> 00:40:03,230

My mother was a true tragedy.

942

00:40:03,230 --> 00:40:07,100

She was so hurt by what
my sister did to her.

943

00:40:07,100 --> 00:40:10,860

She took it personally.

944

00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:11,360

OK.

945

00:40:11,360 --> 00:40:16,280

That was really a tragedy in
my family, a terrible tragedy.

946

00:40:16,280 --> 00:40:20,780

So when your sister
started dating a non-Jew,

947

00:40:20,780 --> 00:40:26,060
your mother and your stepfather
decided to come to the US?

948
00:40:26,060 --> 00:40:26,810
They what?

949
00:40:26,810 --> 00:40:29,900
They decided to come
to the United States.

950
00:40:29,900 --> 00:40:32,960
Right, my mother
was such a hurry

951
00:40:32,960 --> 00:40:36,140
for us to leave that she
got a visa right away.

952
00:40:36,140 --> 00:40:39,620
In those days, you
needed an affidavit.

953
00:40:39,620 --> 00:40:42,740
It's like now, you
come over illegally.

954
00:40:42,740 --> 00:40:45,740
She got an affidavit
from the family.

955
00:40:45,740 --> 00:40:52,130
And so me, my older
sister, and my stepfather,

956
00:40:52,130 --> 00:40:53,975
we came first with a maid.

957
00:40:53,975 --> 00:40:55,890
The maid came with us.

958
00:40:55,890 --> 00:40:58,503
And my mother was working.

959
00:40:58,503 --> 00:40:59,420
My father was working.

960
00:40:59,420 --> 00:41:02,390
So my mother needed somebody
to take care of us and to cook.

961
00:41:02,390 --> 00:41:04,100
So the maid came with us.

962
00:41:04,100 --> 00:41:08,240
We went to Paris to Cherbourg,
and then we took a boat over

963
00:41:08,240 --> 00:41:09,740
here.

964
00:41:09,740 --> 00:41:14,390
I remember my mother stayed
back to sell the business

965
00:41:14,390 --> 00:41:16,712
and close the apartment
and everything.

966
00:41:16,712 --> 00:41:19,270

967
00:41:19,270 --> 00:41:20,960
My mother wanted us
to leave immediately

968
00:41:20,960 --> 00:41:22,140
because of my sister.

969
00:41:22,140 --> 00:41:24,050
So that's why we came here.

970
00:41:24,050 --> 00:41:28,550
So then eventually we found
an apartment on 87th Street.

971
00:41:28,550 --> 00:41:30,600
And that's where we lived.

972
00:41:30,600 --> 00:41:33,170
So you went ahead
with your stepfather.

973
00:41:33,170 --> 00:41:35,790
I went ahead with my older
sister and my stepfather.

974
00:41:35,790 --> 00:41:38,360
And then your mother came
later with your younger sister.

975
00:41:38,360 --> 00:41:39,380
Months later.

976
00:41:39,380 --> 00:41:40,850
With my younger sister.

977
00:41:40,850 --> 00:41:43,040
She kept my youngest
sister there, right.

978
00:41:43,040 --> 00:41:45,650
And you all lived in
New York together.

979
00:41:45,650 --> 00:41:49,610
We all lived in New
York on 87th Street.

980
00:41:49,610 --> 00:41:50,270
Then--

981
00:41:50,270 --> 00:41:52,430
What year was that when
you came to the US?

982
00:41:52,430 --> 00:41:55,570

We came September '53.

983

00:41:55,570 --> 00:41:58,190

What do you remember
about the trip?

984

00:41:58,190 --> 00:42:00,140

What I remember
about the boat trip?

985

00:42:00,140 --> 00:42:00,890

I was sick.

986

00:42:00,890 --> 00:42:04,190

987

00:42:04,190 --> 00:42:07,010

I remember the boat.

988

00:42:07,010 --> 00:42:08,750

I was used to kosher wine.

989

00:42:08,750 --> 00:42:10,640

Kosher wine is sweet wine.

990

00:42:10,640 --> 00:42:16,970

And I remember putting
sugar in my wine.

991

00:42:16,970 --> 00:42:19,200

And the waiter said,
what are you doing?

992

00:42:19,200 --> 00:42:20,090

What are you doing?

993

00:42:20,090 --> 00:42:21,380

You're killing the wine.

994

00:42:21,380 --> 00:42:23,045

He didn't understand, of course.

995

00:42:23,045 --> 00:42:26,480

I'm used to kosher wine.

996

00:42:26,480 --> 00:42:30,170

I remember very little
about that trip.

997

00:42:30,170 --> 00:42:30,950

Very little.

998

00:42:30,950 --> 00:42:34,650

I remember I was throwing
up because it was the winter

999

00:42:34,650 --> 00:42:37,080

and the sea was bad.

1000

00:42:37,080 --> 00:42:37,790

I don't remember.

1001

00:42:37,790 --> 00:42:39,582

I don't even remember
being with my sister.

1002

00:42:39,582 --> 00:42:41,810

I don't remember where we slept.

1003

00:42:41,810 --> 00:42:45,170

We must have slept together.

1004

00:42:45,170 --> 00:42:49,100

I think they were bunks,
I think, on the boat.

1005

00:42:49,100 --> 00:42:50,450

I don't remember.

1006

00:42:50,450 --> 00:42:57,080

But then we came
here with the maid.

1007

00:42:57,080 --> 00:43:02,490
So somebody here put
me in a high school.

1008
00:43:02,490 --> 00:43:05,040
And my older sister, she
went to a business school.

1009
00:43:05,040 --> 00:43:07,647

1010
00:43:07,647 --> 00:43:08,480
It was my last year.

1011
00:43:08,480 --> 00:43:10,022
But I didn't speak
a word of English.

1012
00:43:10,022 --> 00:43:11,570
I had to learn
English first, right?

1013
00:43:11,570 --> 00:43:16,100

1014
00:43:16,100 --> 00:43:19,280
Somebody in the family put me
in Julia Richmond High School.

1015
00:43:19,280 --> 00:43:22,580
Oh, that was a
horrible high school.

1016
00:43:22,580 --> 00:43:24,420
I didn't speak English.

1017
00:43:24,420 --> 00:43:27,080
They made fun of me.

1018
00:43:27,080 --> 00:43:28,710
It was a very bad experience.

1019

00:43:28,710 --> 00:43:33,230

Then later on I went to a private school to finish.

1020

00:43:33,230 --> 00:43:40,820

But about schooling, I didn't have guidance from my parents.

1021

00:43:40,820 --> 00:43:44,280

And as a matter of fact, even when I started working--

1022

00:43:44,280 --> 00:43:45,770

first of all, I fell into Cornell,

1023

00:43:45,770 --> 00:43:47,870

and I studied there for three years,

1024

00:43:47,870 --> 00:43:49,340

and I went to working at Columbia,

1025

00:43:49,340 --> 00:43:51,110

and I was studying at Columbia.

1026

00:43:51,110 --> 00:43:55,310

And the only thing my mother said,

1027

00:43:55,310 --> 00:43:58,100

"I'll pay you if you go to Stern College."

1028

00:43:58,100 --> 00:44:01,010

But I didn't want to go to a girls school.

1029

00:44:01,010 --> 00:44:02,700

I just didn't want to.

1030

00:44:02,700 --> 00:44:05,270

I was a very shy and
awkward to start off with,

1031
00:44:05,270 --> 00:44:07,760
and I just didn't want
to go to a girls school.

1032
00:44:07,760 --> 00:44:09,570
I had to do it on my own.

1033
00:44:09,570 --> 00:44:11,570
And I had a hard time.

1034
00:44:11,570 --> 00:44:12,590
I didn't have guidance.

1035
00:44:12,590 --> 00:44:14,000
I didn't do properly things.

1036
00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:16,910
But still, I mean, I did
well considering everything.

1037
00:44:16,910 --> 00:44:19,130
But my father used
to say to me--

1038
00:44:19,130 --> 00:44:22,040
my stepfather, "why are
you wasting your time

1039
00:44:22,040 --> 00:44:22,940
going to school?"

1040
00:44:22,940 --> 00:44:26,090
He would say to me, "why
don't you get married?"

1041
00:44:26,090 --> 00:44:27,303
He kept on saying that to me.

1042
00:44:27,303 --> 00:44:28,970

"Why are you wasting
your time studying?"

1043
00:44:28,970 --> 00:44:31,640
You're wasting your time."

1044
00:44:31,640 --> 00:44:34,775
So I didn't get guidance
coming from a religious family.

1045
00:44:34,775 --> 00:44:37,650

1046
00:44:37,650 --> 00:44:43,440
But considering, I mean,
eventually I worked in a--

1047
00:44:43,440 --> 00:44:47,370
I studied cy-- my background
was fine arts, but I studied--

1048
00:44:47,370 --> 00:44:49,590
I was good at a microscope.

1049
00:44:49,590 --> 00:44:50,810
I failed at Cornell.

1050
00:44:50,810 --> 00:44:51,810
It was just an accident.

1051
00:44:51,810 --> 00:44:55,620
I got a part time job there,
and then there was a school

1052
00:44:55,620 --> 00:44:59,160
of cytology, C-Y. cyto--

1053
00:44:59,160 --> 00:45:00,805
and that's cancer diagnosis.

1054
00:45:00,805 --> 00:45:02,430
And they asked me if

I wanted to study.

1055
00:45:02,430 --> 00:45:03,850
It was a new field.

1056
00:45:03,850 --> 00:45:05,260
So I said OK.

1057
00:45:05,260 --> 00:45:07,110
I had nothing to lose, I think.

1058
00:45:07,110 --> 00:45:09,780
I was there for three
years, and I finished.

1059
00:45:09,780 --> 00:45:10,770
And I graduated--

1060
00:45:10,770 --> 00:45:12,330
For college.

1061
00:45:12,330 --> 00:45:13,850
In cytology.

1062
00:45:13,850 --> 00:45:14,640
No, just cytology.

1063
00:45:14,640 --> 00:45:16,140
I was going to college outside.

1064
00:45:16,140 --> 00:45:16,950
OK.

1065
00:45:16,950 --> 00:45:19,290
But that was
specifically that field.

1066
00:45:19,290 --> 00:45:23,820
Then I got a job at Columbia
in the cytology lab.

1067

00:45:23,820 --> 00:45:25,920
Eventually I became
in charge of the lab.

1068
00:45:25,920 --> 00:45:29,460
And until I retired,
that was my only job.

1069
00:45:29,460 --> 00:45:30,420
Wow.

1070
00:45:30,420 --> 00:45:32,190
Because I was good at it.

1071
00:45:32,190 --> 00:45:34,860
And I was good because when
you look at the microscope,

1072
00:45:34,860 --> 00:45:36,690
you look for cancer
diagnosis, you

1073
00:45:36,690 --> 00:45:39,450
look for abnormalities in
cell, changes in the background

1074
00:45:39,450 --> 00:45:42,030
and things like that, any
changes from the normal.

1075
00:45:42,030 --> 00:45:44,970
And I had a trained eye because
I had a fine arts background.

1076
00:45:44,970 --> 00:45:48,270
So I was very good at
immediately noticing changes.

1077
00:45:48,270 --> 00:45:49,680
I had a good eye for that.

1078
00:45:49,680 --> 00:45:53,130
So that's why I was very

good at what I'm doing.

1079
00:45:53,130 --> 00:45:55,110
So how long were
you doing that for?

1080
00:45:55,110 --> 00:45:56,130
I hate to say it.

1081
00:45:56,130 --> 00:45:57,220
36 years.

1082
00:45:57,220 --> 00:45:57,720
Wow.

1083
00:45:57,720 --> 00:45:58,530
One job.

1084
00:45:58,530 --> 00:45:59,400
That's amazing.

1085
00:45:59,400 --> 00:46:02,250
That was the only-- well,
I was in charge of the lab.

1086
00:46:02,250 --> 00:46:04,020
I couldn't go any
higher unless I got

1087
00:46:04,020 --> 00:46:06,000
a degree or PhD or something.

1088
00:46:06,000 --> 00:46:07,380
So I couldn't go any further.

1089
00:46:07,380 --> 00:46:10,590
I was as high as I could
go with my background.

1090
00:46:10,590 --> 00:46:12,265
And I was in charge.

1091

00:46:12,265 --> 00:46:13,140

Where am I going to--

1092

00:46:13,140 --> 00:46:14,550

I was happy.

1093

00:46:14,550 --> 00:46:16,590

And I had this
apartment already.

1094

00:46:16,590 --> 00:46:18,570

And I was worried--

1095

00:46:18,570 --> 00:46:20,280

I took early retirement.

1096

00:46:20,280 --> 00:46:23,220

I was worried that I
would lose my apartment.

1097

00:46:23,220 --> 00:46:28,020

Because by then the apartments
became so expensive.

1098

00:46:28,020 --> 00:46:30,600

But if you worked for
Columbia for 20 years,

1099

00:46:30,600 --> 00:46:32,730

you were able to
keep your apartment.

1100

00:46:32,730 --> 00:46:33,910

Wow.

1101

00:46:33,910 --> 00:46:34,535

That's amazing.

1102

00:46:34,535 --> 00:46:37,900

1103

00:46:37,900 --> 00:46:40,720
And what was going on with
your sisters at this time?

1104
00:46:40,720 --> 00:46:41,290
Excuse me?

1105
00:46:41,290 --> 00:46:45,770
What was going on with
your sisters at this time?

1106
00:46:45,770 --> 00:46:49,090
My older sister, I
lost touch with her.

1107
00:46:49,090 --> 00:46:52,320
She got married, and
she had children.

1108
00:46:52,320 --> 00:46:55,400
I did visit her once or twice.

1109
00:46:55,400 --> 00:46:56,400
She lived in New Jersey.

1110
00:46:56,400 --> 00:46:59,310

1111
00:46:59,310 --> 00:47:00,840
She married.

1112
00:47:00,840 --> 00:47:02,160
She had an unhappy marriage.

1113
00:47:02,160 --> 00:47:03,460
I think an unhappy marriage.

1114
00:47:03,460 --> 00:47:05,670
But anyway, she had
three lovely children.

1115
00:47:05,670 --> 00:47:07,740

They're really lovely children.

1116
00:47:07,740 --> 00:47:09,660
And they live in Salonika.

1117
00:47:09,660 --> 00:47:12,600
I went to visit
them a few times.

1118
00:47:12,600 --> 00:47:15,870
They moved from New
York to Salonika.

1119
00:47:15,870 --> 00:47:17,640
They lived there
for about 30 years.

1120
00:47:17,640 --> 00:47:18,825
About-- I don't know--

1121
00:47:18,825 --> 00:47:22,460
10 years ago, maybe
no more than that.

1122
00:47:22,460 --> 00:47:23,690
Over 20 years, actually.

1123
00:47:23,690 --> 00:47:26,120
They came-- the children
went to Boston University.

1124
00:47:26,120 --> 00:47:28,728
They came to the United
States to go to school.

1125
00:47:28,728 --> 00:47:29,645
Then they got married.

1126
00:47:29,645 --> 00:47:32,680

1127
00:47:32,680 --> 00:47:36,250

I'm in touch with them,
but I'm not close to them.

1128
00:47:36,250 --> 00:47:39,800
As a matter of fact,
when Alice was here,

1129
00:47:39,800 --> 00:47:41,910
we went to visit them.

1130
00:47:41,910 --> 00:47:47,030
It was the first time
I saw them in 20 years.

1131
00:47:47,030 --> 00:47:50,750
And they have children
and grown children now.

1132
00:47:50,750 --> 00:47:58,040
And this is something that
my mother instilled in me,

1133
00:47:58,040 --> 00:48:03,120
and I cannot forgive her,
what she did to my mother.

1134
00:48:03,120 --> 00:48:05,000
I really can't.

1135
00:48:05,000 --> 00:48:09,140
But you know, I feel
very sorry for her.

1136
00:48:09,140 --> 00:48:11,990
She is guilt-ridden.

1137
00:48:11,990 --> 00:48:13,070
She is sick.

1138
00:48:13,070 --> 00:48:16,460
She had three times cancer.

1139

00:48:16,460 --> 00:48:18,478
Anything that can go
wrong with something

1140
00:48:18,478 --> 00:48:19,520
have gone wrong with her.

1141
00:48:19,520 --> 00:48:21,770
She has metal in her back.

1142
00:48:21,770 --> 00:48:23,090
She can barely walk.

1143
00:48:23,090 --> 00:48:25,140
She's in pain all the time.

1144
00:48:25,140 --> 00:48:28,040
But I think a lot of that--

1145
00:48:28,040 --> 00:48:31,020
a lot of it she brought up on
herself with guilt feelings,

1146
00:48:31,020 --> 00:48:31,520
I think.

1147
00:48:31,520 --> 00:48:36,980
She ate herself literally up
with regret of what she did.

1148
00:48:36,980 --> 00:48:43,700
And when my mother lived in
Israel, she was in a home,

1149
00:48:43,700 --> 00:48:53,080
and she didn't tell the people
that she had three daughters.

1150
00:48:53,080 --> 00:48:55,420
She only told them
she had two daughters.

1151

00:48:55,420 --> 00:48:58,930
And she told them, later
on when my older sister did

1152
00:48:58,930 --> 00:49:00,910
come and visit after
my stepfather died,

1153
00:49:00,910 --> 00:49:04,320
because while he was alive,
he didn't want to see her,

1154
00:49:04,320 --> 00:49:07,230
she told her that
she was a niece,

1155
00:49:07,230 --> 00:49:09,925
that she was a child
of one of her sisters

1156
00:49:09,925 --> 00:49:10,800
that died in the war.

1157
00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:14,220

1158
00:49:14,220 --> 00:49:16,590
But the first time she came
to Israel, my older sister

1159
00:49:16,590 --> 00:49:17,970
wanted to see my mother.

1160
00:49:17,970 --> 00:49:20,490
So we took my mother
from the home.

1161
00:49:20,490 --> 00:49:22,140
We took her to the
King David Hotel.

1162
00:49:22,140 --> 00:49:24,630
There was a nice

coffee shop there.

1163
00:49:24,630 --> 00:49:26,940
And my older sister
was in the living room,

1164
00:49:26,940 --> 00:49:30,390
in the-- what do you
call that in a hotel?

1165
00:49:30,390 --> 00:49:30,990
Lobby?

1166
00:49:30,990 --> 00:49:31,920
The lobby.

1167
00:49:31,920 --> 00:49:33,870
She was sitting over
there in the corner,

1168
00:49:33,870 --> 00:49:36,390
just so she could see
my mother, and then she

1169
00:49:36,390 --> 00:49:38,160
went back to Greece.

1170
00:49:38,160 --> 00:49:38,970
Wow.

1171
00:49:38,970 --> 00:49:41,130
So it was really very sad.

1172
00:49:41,130 --> 00:49:42,960
What about your younger sister?

1173
00:49:42,960 --> 00:49:46,360
My younger sister?

1174
00:49:46,360 --> 00:49:48,270
I was very close to her.

1175

00:49:48,270 --> 00:49:50,020

She really helped
my mother a lot.

1176

00:49:50,020 --> 00:49:52,650

I mean, when my mother was
sick, she went there regular.

1177

00:49:52,650 --> 00:49:56,115

I went there twice a year, but
I was working, and I didn't--

1178

00:49:56,115 --> 00:49:57,120

it was difficult for me.

1179

00:49:57,120 --> 00:49:58,770

I couldn't lose my job.

1180

00:49:58,770 --> 00:50:03,750

And Alice, she went there every
six weeks to visit my mother.

1181

00:50:03,750 --> 00:50:04,740

To Israel?

1182

00:50:04,740 --> 00:50:06,930

To Belgium.

1183

00:50:06,930 --> 00:50:09,000

And she went to visit my mother.

1184

00:50:09,000 --> 00:50:12,240

She helped my mother
and my stepfather.

1185

00:50:12,240 --> 00:50:13,410

There was another thing.

1186

00:50:13,410 --> 00:50:19,410

Luckily, we had a woman later
on that took care of my mother.

1187

00:50:19,410 --> 00:50:23,520
And then when my stepfather
died, she stayed with my mother

1188

00:50:23,520 --> 00:50:24,530
for 24 hours.

1189

00:50:24,530 --> 00:50:26,587
She lived with my
mother, took care of her.

1190

00:50:26,587 --> 00:50:28,170
We were thinking of
bringing her here,

1191

00:50:28,170 --> 00:50:32,410
but when I went to visit
some of these old age homes,

1192

00:50:32,410 --> 00:50:35,710
and even in Israel, she stayed
in the home where she was,

1193

00:50:35,710 --> 00:50:38,380
and the woman took
care of her 24 hours.

1194

00:50:38,380 --> 00:50:41,320
In Israel, some of
those old age homes,

1195

00:50:41,320 --> 00:50:43,030
they were like snake pits.

1196

00:50:43,030 --> 00:50:44,020
It was horrible.

1197

00:50:44,020 --> 00:50:46,690
I was shocked.

1198

00:50:46,690 --> 00:50:49,030
They were in a room

like this size.

1199
00:50:49,030 --> 00:50:52,808
There were maybe 20, 30
people one next to the other.

1200
00:50:52,808 --> 00:50:54,850
They turned them around
just like they took a leg

1201
00:50:54,850 --> 00:50:58,260
and flipped them over, like
you flip over a chicken cutlet.

1202
00:50:58,260 --> 00:51:00,010
It was horrible the
way they were treated.

1203
00:51:00,010 --> 00:51:01,480
I was very surprised.

1204
00:51:01,480 --> 00:51:05,840
Those old age homes,
they were terrible.

1205
00:51:05,840 --> 00:51:07,460
And she had a brain tumor.

1206
00:51:07,460 --> 00:51:09,040
She was sick.

1207
00:51:09,040 --> 00:51:10,600
The hospital threw her out.

1208
00:51:10,600 --> 00:51:13,560
They said they couldn't
take care of her anymore.

1209
00:51:13,560 --> 00:51:14,845
And my sister panicked.

1210
00:51:14,845 --> 00:51:15,970

She didn't know what to do.

1211
00:51:15,970 --> 00:51:16,970
She had to go someplace.

1212
00:51:16,970 --> 00:51:19,970
My mother was in a coma.

1213
00:51:19,970 --> 00:51:20,840
There was a French--

1214
00:51:20,840 --> 00:51:23,850

1215
00:51:23,850 --> 00:51:25,080
is it a monastery?

1216
00:51:25,080 --> 00:51:27,780
One of those things,
a Christian place.

1217
00:51:27,780 --> 00:51:29,670
A French Christian
place in Jerusalem

1218
00:51:29,670 --> 00:51:32,700
took her in and got
her back on her feet.

1219
00:51:32,700 --> 00:51:34,650
She couldn't--

1220
00:51:34,650 --> 00:51:38,460
The medical system, I mean,
in Israel, I don't know.

1221
00:51:38,460 --> 00:51:41,510
It's very cruel.

1222
00:51:41,510 --> 00:51:45,330
Maybe they can't afford it,
and maybe it's a problem.

1223
00:51:45,330 --> 00:51:51,050
But as an outsider to look
in, it was very cruel.

1224
00:51:51,050 --> 00:51:52,930
As I see it.

1225
00:51:52,930 --> 00:51:53,530
I understand.

1226
00:51:53,530 --> 00:51:57,730
The way my mother was
treated at the hospital, OK?

1227
00:51:57,730 --> 00:52:00,970
Can I ask you a little bit
about sort of your feelings

1228
00:52:00,970 --> 00:52:01,810
after the war?

1229
00:52:01,810 --> 00:52:05,560
I mean, I know you don't have a
lot of memory of what happened,

1230
00:52:05,560 --> 00:52:08,050
but you know knowing
what happened to you--

1231
00:52:08,050 --> 00:52:10,120
I'm very affected by the war.

1232
00:52:10,120 --> 00:52:13,450
Terribly, terribly
affected by the war.

1233
00:52:13,450 --> 00:52:17,510
First of all, I'm aware that I
don't have an extended family.

1234
00:52:17,510 --> 00:52:20,480

Like I said, this knocking
on the door, the sound of

1235
00:52:20,480 --> 00:52:21,875
[? a cistern, ?] the food.

1236
00:52:21,875 --> 00:52:24,720

1237
00:52:24,720 --> 00:52:25,790
I have flashbacks.

1238
00:52:25,790 --> 00:52:31,070

1239
00:52:31,070 --> 00:52:35,420
I'm shy, but that has nothing
to do with the war thing.

1240
00:52:35,420 --> 00:52:37,220
That's just me, personality.

1241
00:52:37,220 --> 00:52:38,450
My younger sister is not shy.

1242
00:52:38,450 --> 00:52:39,710
I'm shy.

1243
00:52:39,710 --> 00:52:41,540
And my older sister
is not shy either.

1244
00:52:41,540 --> 00:52:45,374

1245
00:52:45,374 --> 00:52:51,630
I always-- throughout
my life, even the reason

1246
00:52:51,630 --> 00:52:56,020
I like this work that I
was doing, literally I

1247
00:52:56,020 --> 00:52:59,290
was looking for cancer
cells, hidden cells really,

1248
00:52:59,290 --> 00:53:01,367
which are really
the hidden kind.

1249
00:53:01,367 --> 00:53:04,570
Pathology, I work
for pathology, it's

1250
00:53:04,570 --> 00:53:10,060
always in a part of the hospital
that's a little isolated

1251
00:53:10,060 --> 00:53:10,750
from the rest.

1252
00:53:10,750 --> 00:53:12,670
It's not that you walk
in there's Pathology.

1253
00:53:12,670 --> 00:53:15,296
You have to go in, ride up
and down to find the lab,

1254
00:53:15,296 --> 00:53:16,510
the Pathology lab.

1255
00:53:16,510 --> 00:53:18,010
So it was isolated.

1256
00:53:18,010 --> 00:53:20,150
I had my corner.

1257
00:53:20,150 --> 00:53:23,990
And I always find myself I was
comfortable being someplace

1258
00:53:23,990 --> 00:53:27,450

where I kind of was hidden away.

1259

00:53:27,450 --> 00:53:30,860

Dress-wise, although my
sister is just the opposite

1260

00:53:30,860 --> 00:53:33,390

but that happened
to me, I'm always

1261

00:53:33,390 --> 00:53:36,610

dressed very conservatively.

1262

00:53:36,610 --> 00:53:39,100

I never thought I should--

1263

00:53:39,100 --> 00:53:45,360

I mean, I dress so simple and
so modest, so I'm not noticed.

1264

00:53:45,360 --> 00:53:48,280

I always try not to be noticed.

1265

00:53:48,280 --> 00:53:50,750

So I think my whole life.

1266

00:53:50,750 --> 00:53:53,770

I was very affected by what
happened to me during the war.

1267

00:53:53,770 --> 00:53:58,000

Even to this day, when
I come to a place,

1268

00:53:58,000 --> 00:54:01,375

I immediately find
a where there's

1269

00:54:01,375 --> 00:54:04,900

a corner I can go that
nobody would notice me.

1270

00:54:04,900 --> 00:54:10,270
It's something that
stayed with me.

1271
00:54:10,270 --> 00:54:16,170
But what gave you the strength
to move on despite all of this?

1272
00:54:16,170 --> 00:54:17,980
When did I feel--

1273
00:54:17,980 --> 00:54:21,970
I never felt that I was
affected by the war.

1274
00:54:21,970 --> 00:54:24,100
It's only when I started
going to this child

1275
00:54:24,100 --> 00:54:26,710
survivor things suddenly I
became aware of those things.

1276
00:54:26,710 --> 00:54:28,340
I wasn't even thinking about it.

1277
00:54:28,340 --> 00:54:28,840
I see.

1278
00:54:28,840 --> 00:54:31,420
We never talked about
it, because everybody

1279
00:54:31,420 --> 00:54:33,070
was a hidden child.

1280
00:54:33,070 --> 00:54:36,730
Every Jew that survived, every
child that survived in Belgium

1281
00:54:36,730 --> 00:54:38,470
had to be a hidden child.

1282
00:54:38,470 --> 00:54:39,920
We were all in the same boat.

1283
00:54:39,920 --> 00:54:40,720
So we don't talk.

1284
00:54:40,720 --> 00:54:42,250
We didn't talk about it.

1285
00:54:42,250 --> 00:54:46,130
We survived, and some
were luckier than others.

1286
00:54:46,130 --> 00:54:47,290
Some had both parents.

1287
00:54:47,290 --> 00:54:48,670
Some had no parents.

1288
00:54:48,670 --> 00:54:49,900
Some had brother, sister.

1289
00:54:49,900 --> 00:54:50,830
Some didn't.

1290
00:54:50,830 --> 00:54:53,560
I thought I was lucky
because I had a mother

1291
00:54:53,560 --> 00:54:55,420
and I had three-- two sisters.

1292
00:54:55,420 --> 00:54:58,420
So I was one of the lucky ones.

1293
00:54:58,420 --> 00:55:02,120
Now, you said that you grew
up in an Orthodox home.

1294
00:55:02,120 --> 00:55:02,620
In what?

1295
00:55:02,620 --> 00:55:03,940
In an Orthodox home.

1296
00:55:03,940 --> 00:55:04,450
Yeah.

1297
00:55:04,450 --> 00:55:06,190
And then when you
came to America,

1298
00:55:06,190 --> 00:55:08,170
you were living with,
it sounds, your mother

1299
00:55:08,170 --> 00:55:11,170
and your stepfather, who
were both very Orthodox.

1300
00:55:11,170 --> 00:55:14,920
But then later on you mentioned
that you're no longer Orthodox.

1301
00:55:14,920 --> 00:55:17,320
It started already much earlier.

1302
00:55:17,320 --> 00:55:20,320
It started already much younger.

1303
00:55:20,320 --> 00:55:26,230
When I was 15 and a
half, 16, I was good at--

1304
00:55:26,230 --> 00:55:28,010
I was good at athlete.

1305
00:55:28,010 --> 00:55:30,820
I was a good ping-pong player.

1306
00:55:30,820 --> 00:55:33,150
We had gym.

1307

00:55:33,150 --> 00:55:36,880

I didn't like swimming
because I once almost drowned.

1308

00:55:36,880 --> 00:55:39,520

And after that I never
wanted to go swimming again.

1309

00:55:39,520 --> 00:55:42,550

The school-- there
was a school outing.

1310

00:55:42,550 --> 00:55:47,650

I must have been in fourth
or fifth grade, maybe.

1311

00:55:47,650 --> 00:55:49,090

And maybe sixth grade.

1312

00:55:49,090 --> 00:55:50,260

I don't know.

1313

00:55:50,260 --> 00:55:53,950

And when we went swimming,
they told me to jump.

1314

00:55:53,950 --> 00:55:55,390

And I didn't know
how to come up.

1315

00:55:55,390 --> 00:55:58,180

They didn't tell me,
and I swallowed water.

1316

00:55:58,180 --> 00:55:59,710

And I thought I
was going to drown.

1317

00:55:59,710 --> 00:56:02,530

And since this day, I never
went back to swimming.

1318

00:56:02,530 --> 00:56:03,850
I don't like swimming.

1319
00:56:03,850 --> 00:56:05,710
Even when I take
a shower, I still

1320
00:56:05,710 --> 00:56:09,370
feel the water goes in my
nose, I remember that incident.

1321
00:56:09,370 --> 00:56:11,320
But I was a good athlete.

1322
00:56:11,320 --> 00:56:13,180
And there was a gym then.

1323
00:56:13,180 --> 00:56:14,800
There was a Maccabi.

1324
00:56:14,800 --> 00:56:16,780
And they had sports.

1325
00:56:16,780 --> 00:56:19,430

1326
00:56:19,430 --> 00:56:21,650
Even in the last
year in Belgium,

1327
00:56:21,650 --> 00:56:23,120
I hid everything from my mother.

1328
00:56:23,120 --> 00:56:25,250
I didn't tell her I was
going to play ping pong.

1329
00:56:25,250 --> 00:56:28,170
I didn't tell her I
was going to the gym.

1330
00:56:28,170 --> 00:56:29,450

I was a high jumper.

1331

00:56:29,450 --> 00:56:33,650

I did pole vault. I did running,
jumped the hurdles, the discus.

1332

00:56:33,650 --> 00:56:35,190

I did everything.

1333

00:56:35,190 --> 00:56:36,110

I was very good at it.

1334

00:56:36,110 --> 00:56:38,630

I was very strong for a girl.

1335

00:56:38,630 --> 00:56:41,150

I didn't tell my mother,
and she didn't know.

1336

00:56:41,150 --> 00:56:42,720

I lived two lives.

1337

00:56:42,720 --> 00:56:45,088

I pretended I was Orthodox.

1338

00:56:45,088 --> 00:56:47,130

Even when I went to
Jerusalem to visit my mother,

1339

00:56:47,130 --> 00:56:50,570

I had clothes for
the Orthodox area.

1340

00:56:50,570 --> 00:56:54,920

And even once I wore a skirt.

1341

00:56:54,920 --> 00:56:55,587

It was short.

1342

00:56:55,587 --> 00:56:56,420

I mean, like above--

1343

00:56:56,420 --> 00:56:58,760

I mean, I was in my early 20s.

1344

00:56:58,760 --> 00:56:59,528

Above the knee.

1345

00:56:59,528 --> 00:57:01,070

Somebody said "Ava,
watch out, you're

1346

00:57:01,070 --> 00:57:02,690

going to walk on your skirt.

1347

00:57:02,690 --> 00:57:06,530

You're going to step on your
skirt," meaning you know.

1348

00:57:06,530 --> 00:57:08,580

So I did have two
sets of clothes.

1349

00:57:08,580 --> 00:57:11,210

When I go home, I
used long sleeves.

1350

00:57:11,210 --> 00:57:14,270

And then outside--
but I was never--

1351

00:57:14,270 --> 00:57:16,970

I never showed low cut
or anything like that.

1352

00:57:16,970 --> 00:57:18,800

I was always very modest, OK?

1353

00:57:18,800 --> 00:57:20,390

And that's probably
my background,

1354

00:57:20,390 --> 00:57:23,330

that I'm modest

about how I dress.

1355
00:57:23,330 --> 00:57:28,160
But I lived two
lives, a double life.

1356
00:57:28,160 --> 00:57:30,350
At home I pretended
I was Orthodox.

1357
00:57:30,350 --> 00:57:31,640
When I was outside--

1358
00:57:31,640 --> 00:57:34,250
but it happened very slowly.

1359
00:57:34,250 --> 00:57:38,030
Being Hasidic is very
difficult to change.

1360
00:57:38,030 --> 00:57:40,520
It takes years and years.

1361
00:57:40,520 --> 00:57:42,800
It's a very slow
step, and you're

1362
00:57:42,800 --> 00:57:45,410
filled with--
guilt-ridden to this day.

1363
00:57:45,410 --> 00:57:47,600
Once I was working, and
I had to work in the lab.

1364
00:57:47,600 --> 00:57:49,100
It was one of the
Jewish holidays.

1365
00:57:49,100 --> 00:57:51,230
It was Passover or New Year's.

1366

00:57:51,230 --> 00:57:52,220
I don't remember.

1367
00:57:52,220 --> 00:57:53,150
And I had to work.

1368
00:57:53,150 --> 00:57:54,110
I covered the lab.

1369
00:57:54,110 --> 00:57:54,900
I was in charge.

1370
00:57:54,900 --> 00:57:55,970
I had to be there.

1371
00:57:55,970 --> 00:57:57,380
And it was a Jewish holiday.

1372
00:57:57,380 --> 00:57:59,600
And my assistant,
she was on vacation.

1373
00:57:59,600 --> 00:58:00,590
I had to work.

1374
00:58:00,590 --> 00:58:04,850
And I listened to
the Temple Emanuel.

1375
00:58:04,850 --> 00:58:06,230
They had service on the radio.

1376
00:58:06,230 --> 00:58:09,350
And I listened to the service
on the radio, and I was crying.

1377
00:58:09,350 --> 00:58:11,750
I said, I can never
do that again.

1378
00:58:11,750 --> 00:58:14,180
I felt so guilty for six months.

1379
00:58:14,180 --> 00:58:18,710
It's easier for me
to go than not to go.

1380
00:58:18,710 --> 00:58:21,020
So every high
holiday or whatever,

1381
00:58:21,020 --> 00:58:23,030
when I say Yizkor
or something up.

1382
00:58:23,030 --> 00:58:24,590
I always go to the synagogue.

1383
00:58:24,590 --> 00:58:26,210
I never miss.

1384
00:58:26,210 --> 00:58:30,620
But I was living a
double life a long time.

1385
00:58:30,620 --> 00:58:32,330
I was getting very good at it.

1386
00:58:32,330 --> 00:58:34,850
I pretended to be Orthodox,
but that I was not.

1387
00:58:34,850 --> 00:58:37,640
Because it's not like I wanted
to run around or anything.

1388
00:58:37,640 --> 00:58:39,680
I just wanted to do sports.

1389
00:58:39,680 --> 00:58:40,700
And go to school.

1390
00:58:40,700 --> 00:58:42,590
Your heart wasn't in it.

1391
00:58:42,590 --> 00:58:45,710
Because you wore shorts.

1392
00:58:45,710 --> 00:58:48,320
My parents-- excuse me.

1393
00:58:48,320 --> 00:58:50,840
My parents, they
didn't approve of that.

1394
00:58:50,840 --> 00:58:56,510
Did you ever learn of any other
family who may have survived?

1395
00:58:56,510 --> 00:58:58,610
All my friends are survivors.

1396
00:58:58,610 --> 00:59:00,680
But no one from your
extended family?

1397
00:59:00,680 --> 00:59:03,980
Any aunts, uncles, cousins?

1398
00:59:03,980 --> 00:59:04,880
There's nobody.

1399
00:59:04,880 --> 00:59:06,110
There's nobody.

1400
00:59:06,110 --> 00:59:09,590
I don't have an extended family.

1401
00:59:09,590 --> 00:59:10,550
I do have--

1402
00:59:10,550 --> 00:59:14,360
OK, I do have one cousin, yeah.

1403
00:59:14,360 --> 00:59:18,050

My mother was still here at
the [? eleven fifty ?] and '73,

1404
00:59:18,050 --> 00:59:20,000
I think, something like that.

1405
00:59:20,000 --> 00:59:22,790
In the early '70s, my
mother, somebody told her

1406
00:59:22,790 --> 00:59:26,480
in the business, I think
you have a nephew that lives

1407
00:59:26,480 --> 00:59:29,720
in Washington, a son of your--

1408
00:59:29,720 --> 00:59:32,390
a brother of your husband.

1409
00:59:32,390 --> 00:59:34,200
And so she looked into it.

1410
00:59:34,200 --> 00:59:38,000
And she found him.

1411
00:59:38,000 --> 00:59:41,040
And he came to visit
us in New York.

1412
00:59:41,040 --> 00:59:44,330
And when my mother saw him,
I'd opened up the door,

1413
00:59:44,330 --> 00:59:45,510
she almost fainted.

1414
00:59:45,510 --> 00:59:46,880
He was the picture of my father.

1415
00:59:46,880 --> 00:59:49,280
He looked just like my father.

1416
00:59:49,280 --> 00:59:54,836
And so we do have one
cousin, a real cousin alive.

1417
00:59:54,836 --> 00:59:57,680
But for some reason, we're
not very-- he's married.

1418
00:59:57,680 --> 00:59:58,610
He has children.

1419
00:59:58,610 --> 00:59:59,390
His wife died.

1420
00:59:59,390 --> 01:00:00,860
He got remarried.

1421
01:00:00,860 --> 01:00:01,810
He's now in his 80s.

1422
01:00:01,810 --> 01:00:03,920
He got married at 80, huh?

1423
01:00:03,920 --> 01:00:05,240
Wow.

1424
01:00:05,240 --> 01:00:06,650
And he is very happy.

1425
01:00:06,650 --> 01:00:10,040
A very lovely woman,
really nice woman.

1426
01:00:10,040 --> 01:00:14,120
But for some reason,
once or twice a year we

1427
01:00:14,120 --> 01:00:17,200
meet at an occasion,
a wedding or whatever,

1428
01:00:17,200 --> 01:00:18,410
and he comes to New York.

1429
01:00:18,410 --> 01:00:19,880
But we didn't remain close.

1430
01:00:19,880 --> 01:00:20,750
I don't know why.

1431
01:00:20,750 --> 01:00:22,640
The only really cousin I have.

1432
01:00:22,640 --> 01:00:23,390
The only one.

1433
01:00:23,390 --> 01:00:25,910
That's it.

1434
01:00:25,910 --> 01:00:28,830
And this is the tragedy,
really, of all the people,

1435
01:00:28,830 --> 01:00:31,800
the children that survived,
is having a lack of family.

1436
01:00:31,800 --> 01:00:33,230
This is a terrible thing.

1437
01:00:33,230 --> 01:00:34,670
And you're really
aware of it when

1438
01:00:34,670 --> 01:00:37,460
you see other people with
grandparents and cousins

1439
01:00:37,460 --> 01:00:39,230
and uncles and aunts.

1440
01:00:39,230 --> 01:00:41,180

And we don't have that.

1441
01:00:41,180 --> 01:00:43,080
It's really a big problem.

1442
01:00:43,080 --> 01:00:43,580
Yeah.

1443
01:00:43,580 --> 01:00:46,550

1444
01:00:46,550 --> 01:00:49,130
Do you ever have
dreams about anything

1445
01:00:49,130 --> 01:00:52,580
that happened during the war?

1446
01:00:52,580 --> 01:00:55,400
I used to, but I don't remember.

1447
01:00:55,400 --> 01:00:56,090
I used to.

1448
01:00:56,090 --> 01:00:57,890
Occasionally I dreamed--

1449
01:00:57,890 --> 01:00:59,820
I never dreamed of my father.

1450
01:00:59,820 --> 01:01:03,500
My mother, sometimes
I dream of her.

1451
01:01:03,500 --> 01:01:07,790
Because I feel so
sorry how difficult

1452
01:01:07,790 --> 01:01:10,730
she had those last seven
years with a brain tumor.

1453

01:01:10,730 --> 01:01:12,830

She used to tell me--

1454

01:01:12,830 --> 01:01:16,540

her head is like a
carousel 24 hours a day.

1455

01:01:16,540 --> 01:01:19,420

It just turns and
turns and turns.

1456

01:01:19,420 --> 01:01:23,680

She had such a horrible life.

1457

01:01:23,680 --> 01:01:28,140

She suffered so much with the
war and then how she survived.

1458

01:01:28,140 --> 01:01:30,450

Really, she must have
been a superwoman,

1459

01:01:30,450 --> 01:01:33,930

how she managed to save her
three children during the war.

1460

01:01:33,930 --> 01:01:36,820

It was unbelievable.

1461

01:01:36,820 --> 01:01:40,230

But no, I used to
dream about the war.

1462

01:01:40,230 --> 01:01:41,100

I don't anymore.

1463

01:01:41,100 --> 01:01:42,390

No.

1464

01:01:42,390 --> 01:01:45,220

And you've been back
to Belgium since.

1465
01:01:45,220 --> 01:01:47,865
I go back to Belgium
now almost every year.

1466
01:01:47,865 --> 01:01:49,240
But now I go and
visit my sister.

1467
01:01:49,240 --> 01:01:50,430
I stay with my sister.

1468
01:01:50,430 --> 01:01:52,560
I go back to Belgium.

1469
01:01:52,560 --> 01:01:57,840
I went back to the house where
the Germans came and picked us

1470
01:01:57,840 --> 01:01:59,760
up and picked up my father.

1471
01:01:59,760 --> 01:02:04,230
That house is still there,
but nobody is living there.

1472
01:02:04,230 --> 01:02:06,960
The house is--
they're going to--

1473
01:02:06,960 --> 01:02:09,480
there were some
Russians living there.

1474
01:02:09,480 --> 01:02:10,800
I went there last time.

1475
01:02:10,800 --> 01:02:12,010
I went there two years ago.

1476
01:02:12,010 --> 01:02:13,500
I went there three years ago.

1477
01:02:13,500 --> 01:02:15,900
I just wanted to see
the inside of the house,

1478
01:02:15,900 --> 01:02:18,180
because all I
remember, the stairway,

1479
01:02:18,180 --> 01:02:19,680
we lived on the
second, third floor.

1480
01:02:19,680 --> 01:02:22,650
I don't remember, but the
stairways was on the left.

1481
01:02:22,650 --> 01:02:24,720
And I wasn't sure
which house it was.

1482
01:02:24,720 --> 01:02:29,370
So I finally find somebody
to open up the door.

1483
01:02:29,370 --> 01:02:31,320
And the stairway
was on the left.

1484
01:02:31,320 --> 01:02:33,240
So there was a
stairway on the left.

1485
01:02:33,240 --> 01:02:38,040
I wanted to see the apartment,
but there's nobody there.

1486
01:02:38,040 --> 01:02:41,385
Even now if I go now in
Brussels and Antwerp,

1487
01:02:41,385 --> 01:02:42,510
I'm still going to go back.

1488
01:02:42,510 --> 01:02:44,430
If the house is still
there, I'm going

1489
01:02:44,430 --> 01:02:46,590
to go back again and see
if somebody could open up

1490
01:02:46,590 --> 01:02:50,820
the apartment, if they
didn't destroy it yet.

1491
01:02:50,820 --> 01:02:53,520
So I'm still obsessed with that.

1492
01:02:53,520 --> 01:02:56,388

1493
01:02:56,388 --> 01:02:58,520
I made so many
mistakes in my life,

1494
01:02:58,520 --> 01:03:00,770
but I have so many regrets.

1495
01:03:00,770 --> 01:03:02,750
But who didn't make mistakes?

1496
01:03:02,750 --> 01:03:05,110
A lot of people make mistakes.

1497
01:03:05,110 --> 01:03:07,310
That's right.

1498
01:03:07,310 --> 01:03:10,640
If you only knew when you're
young what you know now,

1499
01:03:10,640 --> 01:03:13,640
as you're older, if
you had that sense.

1500
01:03:13,640 --> 01:03:17,703
But that's the way it is.

1501
01:03:17,703 --> 01:03:19,370
Is there anything
else you want to share

1502
01:03:19,370 --> 01:03:22,940
with me about your experiences?

1503
01:03:22,940 --> 01:03:24,600
About the war?

1504
01:03:24,600 --> 01:03:26,760
About the war, or after the war.

1505
01:03:26,760 --> 01:03:30,020

1506
01:03:30,020 --> 01:03:34,340
I didn't marry, although I
had a friend, a companion.

1507
01:03:34,340 --> 01:03:35,570
He wanted to get married.

1508
01:03:35,570 --> 01:03:36,350
It's not me.

1509
01:03:36,350 --> 01:03:40,010
It's not his fault. It was
my fault. I didn't want to.

1510
01:03:40,010 --> 01:03:42,620
Because I came from such
an Orthodox background,

1511
01:03:42,620 --> 01:03:46,740
such a restrictive background,
I always wanted to be free.

1512

01:03:46,740 --> 01:03:50,330

The most important thing
for me was to be free.

1513

01:03:50,330 --> 01:03:54,620

And we were together 32 years.

1514

01:03:54,620 --> 01:03:55,560

Wow.

1515

01:03:55,560 --> 01:03:57,560

He died two years ago.

1516

01:03:57,560 --> 01:03:59,270

I mean, he was in hospice care.

1517

01:03:59,270 --> 01:04:01,250

I took care of
him for two years.

1518

01:04:01,250 --> 01:04:01,880

For many years.

1519

01:04:01,880 --> 01:04:06,080

We lived together
about 20 years or so.

1520

01:04:06,080 --> 01:04:08,480

And over the last two
years it was hospice.

1521

01:04:08,480 --> 01:04:11,400

I was taking care
of him at home.

1522

01:04:11,400 --> 01:04:15,530

And he was a very nice man.

1523

01:04:15,530 --> 01:04:16,942

I was very lucky.

1524

01:04:16,942 --> 01:04:18,650
It's funny, I didn't
want to get married.

1525
01:04:18,650 --> 01:04:22,850
For some reason, I
don't know, to be

1526
01:04:22,850 --> 01:04:25,415
free was the most
important thing in my life.

1527
01:04:25,415 --> 01:04:30,260
It was this restrictive
life among the Orthodox.

1528
01:04:30,260 --> 01:04:32,630
I mean, if you accept
that, that's fine.

1529
01:04:32,630 --> 01:04:36,240
It's a nice way of
life if you like it.

1530
01:04:36,240 --> 01:04:39,200
But for me, I was suffocating.

1531
01:04:39,200 --> 01:04:43,430
And it's like I never
had enough freedom.

1532
01:04:43,430 --> 01:04:46,400
It's like I never
had enough freedom.

1533
01:04:46,400 --> 01:04:48,860
And he couldn't understand that.

1534
01:04:48,860 --> 01:04:52,520
He couldn't understand why I
didn't want to get married.

1535
01:04:52,520 --> 01:04:54,950

And then we weren't going to
have any children anymore.

1536
01:04:54,950 --> 01:04:56,330
When I met him--

1537
01:04:56,330 --> 01:04:58,030
we were together
32 years, but when

1538
01:04:58,030 --> 01:05:02,330
I met him I was in my
late 30s, and he was--

1539
01:05:02,330 --> 01:05:03,960
he was 20-- 15 years older.

1540
01:05:03,960 --> 01:05:07,033
He was 55, 54, 55.

1541
01:05:07,033 --> 01:05:08,450
And he already had
grown children.

1542
01:05:08,450 --> 01:05:08,870
He didn't want to have any.

1543
01:05:08,870 --> 01:05:09,620
He was divorced.

1544
01:05:09,620 --> 01:05:11,328
He didn't want to have
any more children.

1545
01:05:11,328 --> 01:05:13,310
So we weren't going
to have any children.

1546
01:05:13,310 --> 01:05:14,180
It was already late.

1547
01:05:14,180 --> 01:05:14,750

I know.

1548
01:05:14,750 --> 01:05:16,910
I wasn't too sure at
that time if I wanted.

1549
01:05:16,910 --> 01:05:21,728
A lot of child survivors
don't have children.

1550
01:05:21,728 --> 01:05:23,270
Or they didn't want
to have children.

1551
01:05:23,270 --> 01:05:24,950
In case there ever
was a war, they

1552
01:05:24,950 --> 01:05:27,590
didn't want to put their
children through that.

1553
01:05:27,590 --> 01:05:32,780
And so quite a few of them
did not have many children.

1554
01:05:32,780 --> 01:05:34,850
With me, I don't think
it was intentional.

1555
01:05:34,850 --> 01:05:38,360
It just was how things
were in my life.

1556
01:05:38,360 --> 01:05:41,600
I had my first boyfriend,
we were together 10 years

1557
01:05:41,600 --> 01:05:46,680
and he started with
drugs, so that was it.

1558
01:05:46,680 --> 01:05:48,680

I had to cut off.

1559

01:05:48,680 --> 01:05:51,260

And then I was alone for two years, and then I met Joe.

1560

01:05:51,260 --> 01:05:54,190

And I was very happy with him.

1561

01:05:54,190 --> 01:05:55,350

I had 32 years.

1562

01:05:55,350 --> 01:05:56,750

They were very nice years.

1563

01:05:56,750 --> 01:06:01,100

So it's longer than many marriages, I think.

1564

01:06:01,100 --> 01:06:04,730

And I was lucky I had that.

1565

01:06:04,730 --> 01:06:06,020

Very, very happy with him.

1566

01:06:06,020 --> 01:06:07,970

He was a very nice.

1567

01:06:07,970 --> 01:06:09,270

That's him over there.

1568

01:06:09,270 --> 01:06:10,270

I'm sorry for your loss.

1569

01:06:10,270 --> 01:06:11,630

Be careful.

1570

01:06:11,630 --> 01:06:13,090

I'll took a look at it.

1571

01:06:13,090 --> 01:06:17,280

So we're going to have to
cut in about 5 or 10 minutes.

1572
01:06:17,280 --> 01:06:20,360
Anything else you wanted to ask?

1573
01:06:20,360 --> 01:06:24,320
No, I think I asked
most of my questions.

1574
01:06:24,320 --> 01:06:25,790
No.

1575
01:06:25,790 --> 01:06:28,340
You remember more
than you think you do.

1576
01:06:28,340 --> 01:06:28,910
I do.

1577
01:06:28,910 --> 01:06:31,640
Oh, that's what I was going to
talk to you about and I forgot.

1578
01:06:31,640 --> 01:06:34,430
OK, going back to
Dr. Kestenberg,

1579
01:06:34,430 --> 01:06:36,930
she said she wanted
to interview me.

1580
01:06:36,930 --> 01:06:38,657
So I said, no, I was young.

1581
01:06:38,657 --> 01:06:39,740
I don't remember anything.

1582
01:06:39,740 --> 01:06:41,870
She says, yeah, yeah,
yeah, you'd be surprised.

1583

01:06:41,870 --> 01:06:42,450
I said, OK.

1584
01:06:42,450 --> 01:06:43,850
I agreed.

1585
01:06:43,850 --> 01:06:46,490
I had two 4-hour
meeting with her?

1586
01:06:46,490 --> 01:06:48,350
Two 4-hours meeting.

1587
01:06:48,350 --> 01:06:51,410
She had a way of
asking questions,

1588
01:06:51,410 --> 01:06:54,410
and she was able to
get things out of you.

1589
01:06:54,410 --> 01:06:58,700
She got a lot of
details out of me.

1590
01:06:58,700 --> 01:07:02,000
I wonder if that
Institute is still there.

1591
01:07:02,000 --> 01:07:04,340
I could find out how to--

1592
01:07:04,340 --> 01:07:07,430
Eva Fogelman is the one.

1593
01:07:07,430 --> 01:07:08,640
Do you know who she is?

1594
01:07:08,640 --> 01:07:09,570
I don't, but--

1595
01:07:09,570 --> 01:07:12,090

Eva Fogelman, she's
a psychologist.

1596
01:07:12,090 --> 01:07:14,570
She has to do a
lot with the ADL.

1597
01:07:14,570 --> 01:07:17,000
She interviewed a lot
of hidden children.

1598
01:07:17,000 --> 01:07:21,020
I think she worked with
the Dr. Kestenberg.

1599
01:07:21,020 --> 01:07:24,090
If anybody you want that
has some information,

1600
01:07:24,090 --> 01:07:25,160
she would be the one.

1601
01:07:25,160 --> 01:07:26,330
Dr. Eva Fogelman.

1602
01:07:26,330 --> 01:07:28,370
She lives in a place
here on the West side.

1603
01:07:28,370 --> 01:07:29,270
OK.

1604
01:07:29,270 --> 01:07:31,190
And she also works with the ADL.

1605
01:07:31,190 --> 01:07:36,380
So the one that knows a lot
or has an enormous amount

1606
01:07:36,380 --> 01:07:39,890
of information, I mean, Dr.
Kestenberg, she's dead now,

1607

01:07:39,890 --> 01:07:42,590

but that institute, I
don't know what happened

1608

01:07:42,590 --> 01:07:44,090

to all those interviews.

1609

01:07:44,090 --> 01:07:46,970

There's thousands of interviews.

1610

01:07:46,970 --> 01:07:49,160

Very interesting to find out.

1611

01:07:49,160 --> 01:07:50,687

I can ask the
people at the Museum

1612

01:07:50,687 --> 01:07:51,770

what they know about that.

1613

01:07:51,770 --> 01:07:52,490

They would know.

1614

01:07:52,490 --> 01:07:54,470

Absolutely right.

1615

01:07:54,470 --> 01:07:56,120

It'd be interesting
to see if I could

1616

01:07:56,120 --> 01:07:58,760

get hold of that interview.

1617

01:07:58,760 --> 01:07:59,400

Sure.

1618

01:07:59,400 --> 01:08:02,990

Can you-- you can
look at my interview.

1619

01:08:02,990 --> 01:08:09,350

Can you look that up for
me, my interview with the--

1620
01:08:09,350 --> 01:08:10,370
what's it called?

1621
01:08:10,370 --> 01:08:13,970
The one-- the ones that
interview a lot of people?

1622
01:08:13,970 --> 01:08:14,680
What's it called?

1623
01:08:14,680 --> 01:08:16,670
Shoah Foundation?

1624
01:08:16,670 --> 01:08:18,350
The Shoah Foundation, right.

1625
01:08:18,350 --> 01:08:21,060
I have an interview with them.

1626
01:08:21,060 --> 01:08:26,870
Can you see how much different
it is than this interview?

1627
01:08:26,870 --> 01:08:30,870
Are you able to
access that or not?

1628
01:08:30,870 --> 01:08:32,300
Do you have a copy of it?

1629
01:08:32,300 --> 01:08:35,689
I have a tape, but I--

1630
01:08:35,689 --> 01:08:37,520
can I-- am I finished?

1631
01:08:37,520 --> 01:08:38,689
Just like--

1632
01:08:38,689 --> 01:08:39,350
I'll leave it--

1633
01:08:39,350 --> 01:08:40,810
Would you like to
be finished now?

1634
01:08:40,810 --> 01:08:41,310
Hold on.

1635
01:08:41,310 --> 01:08:42,590
Yeah, yeah.

1636
01:08:42,590 --> 01:08:43,649
Why don't we finish?

1637
01:08:43,649 --> 01:08:44,149
Right.

1638
01:08:44,149 --> 01:08:44,670
OK.

1639
01:08:44,670 --> 01:08:45,170
Sure.

1640
01:08:45,170 --> 01:08:49,010
Well, thank you so much, Ava,
for talking with me today.

1641
01:08:49,010 --> 01:08:50,300
Did I give enough information?

1642
01:08:50,300 --> 01:08:51,200
Yes, you were wonderful.

1643
01:08:51,200 --> 01:08:51,700
Yeah?

1644
01:08:51,700 --> 01:08:52,859
Thank you very much.

1645

01:08:52,859 --> 01:08:53,880

Maybe I give too much.

1646

01:08:53,880 --> 01:08:54,680

I don't know.

1647

01:08:54,680 --> 01:08:56,530

[LAUGHTER]